

Vol. 217
No. 16

Wednesday
23 July, 2009
01 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
CONTENTS

Obituary Reference (pages 1-2)

Re. VIP Security (pages 2-4)

Written Answers to Starred Questions (pages 4-26)

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 26-156)

Papers Laid on the Table (pages 157-62)

Statements by Minister—

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-sixth and the One Hundred Thirty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (page 162)

Re. Security cover provided to the Leaders of Political Parties (pages 162-64)

Announcement by the Chair regarding security cover provided to the Leaders of Political Parties (page 165)

Matters raised with permission—

Disappearance of children from various cities. (pages 165-66)

Forthcoming free trade agreement with ASEAN countries. (pages 166-67)

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment –
Discussion concluded (pages 167-84)

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology – *Discussion concluded and the Minister to reply* (pages 184-230)

Special Mentions

Demand to commemorate the victory of Kargil every year (page 230)

Demand to relax the norms for construction of bridges of over 50 meter length under
the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (page 231)

Demand for a special financial package for development of Kurukshetra in Haryana as
a tourist place (page 231)

Demand to extend the Mid Day Meal Scheme to all the students upto class ten in
Andhra Pradesh (pages 231-32)

Demand to develop Tamiya in Chhindwada District as a tourist Place (page 232)

Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee (page 233)

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 23rd July, 2009/1 Shrawana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer, with profound sorrow, to the passing away of Dr. M.N. Das, a former Member of this House, on 18th July, 2009, at the age of 83 years. Born in January, 1926, Dr. Das had his education at Ravenshaw College, Allahabad University and London University. An eminent historian and an academician of repute, Dr. M.N. Das began his academic career in the Orissa Educational Service in 1948. He served as Professor and Head of Department of History in the Utkal University from 1961 to 1983 and as Vice-Chancellor of that University from 1983 to 1985. He was also Research Associate in the University of London, Visiting Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, Visiting Professor in the United States of America and National Fellow of the University Grants Commission. Dr. Das was also deputed by the Government of India in 1962 to the erstwhile Soviet Union to deliver lectures on Indian History in the Universities of Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent. He was widely travelled and had attended seminars and conferences on History and other subjects within the country and abroad.

Dr. Das was a prolific writer, who wrote on History, both in English and Oriya, and had several publications to his credit. He had also contributed to various journals of repute and published research papers and articles in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Grolier Encyclopaedia*.

Dr. M.N. Das represented the State of Orissa in this House from July, 1998 to July, 2004.

In the passing away of Dr. M.N. Das, the country has lost an eminent historian, a distinguished academician and an able parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. M.N. Das.

I request hon. Members to rise in their seats and observe silence for one minute as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our deep sense of sorrow and sympathy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 281, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, पहले ही हमने नोटिस दिया था कि क्वेश्चन आवर को स्थगित करके...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र: सर, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र: सर, बहुजन समाज पार्टी की राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्षा के बारे में न्यूजपेपर में आया है कि...(व्यवधान).... उनके लिए सेक्योरिटी...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could you, please, resume your places? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र: सर इसे आप देखिए...(व्यवधान).... सर, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister wishes to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

----- RE. VIP SECURITY

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, we discussed this issue in the morning and I had a few minutes to discuss it with the Home Minister. I can assure the House that no proposal, whatsoever, has come to the Home Minister. He is investigating as to what happened. But, Sir, I must also inform the House that over the last 15 years, every six months, a review of the security arrangements takes place. This could be one of those routine reviews. But I can assure you that no proposal has come to the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, this is not a satisfactory reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the clarification has been given. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, this is not a satisfactory reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Minister...*(Interruptions)*...have decided to scale down the security of Ms. Mayawati...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can't listen to twenty people at a time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Mishra, please ask your Party Members to resume their places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please request your Members to sit down.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, this is not an answer. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is said that the Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, request your Members to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am appealing to you to let the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: This is a more important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not an answer. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not an answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: As I informed you, Sir, after the issue is brought to my notice, I spoke to the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... But he has very categorically told me that nothing has come to him. But it is also a fact that routine review of security arrangements take place every six months for the last fifteen years not only today. ...*(Interruptions)*... No decision is taken...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't disrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, the Home Minister has himself written a letter. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is an issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a question of eliminating ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not a method. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*..., आप बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए! ...*(व्यवधान)*... Silence please. Hon. Members, a particular issue has been raised. The Government was sensitized to it in the morning. The Minister has given a clarification on the issue. I think that should suffice for the moment. Let us get on with the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... And I cannot have a situation ...*(Interruptions)*... Misraji, please ask your party members to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Hon. Prime Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has to give a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Misraji, you are a party leader. You get all the respect from the Chair as a party leader. But it is neither the practice nor desirable that every time you stand up to speak twenty other people automatically stand up to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... You please request your people to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: They will not speak. But you permit me to speak for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is an issue. The party president of a national party is not secured and it is being said that the Home Minister has not received the file, and it has come from the Home Secretary that NSG is sought to be withdrawn. If NSG is sought to be withdrawn, this will not be tolerated. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Home Minister himself had written a letter to Ms. Mayawati three months back that you are under terrorists attack; you keep yourself secure. ...*(Interruptions)*... And you are under risk. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already raised that point and he has responded to it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: He is only saying that the Home Minister has not received the file. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: There should be an assurance that NSG would not be downgraded instead of upgrading the security. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an extraordinary example of indiscipline in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: If it is sought to be downgraded, this will not be...*(Interruptions)*... This system is not justifiable. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rights of Members are being violated. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have no choice but to adjourn the House till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at eight minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN is the Chair

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Camps of Tamil victims in Sri Lanka

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

- (a) the ranks of Indian officers sent to inspect the camps of Tamil victims in Sri Lanka;
- (b) whether Government is satisfied with their report;
- (c) the total number of the victims alongwith number of women and children separately;
- (d) whether voluntary organizations of Indian origin are also operating there; and
- (e) whether Government of India is providing relief material to them also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) High Commissioner of India and other officials from the High Commission have visited IDP camps in Northern Sri Lanka. Government has continued to press the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil their commitment to resettle the bulk of the IDPs within 180 days. Government and the High Commission are monitoring the situation and providing extensive humanitarian assistance to IDPs in relief camps.

(c) According to the UN Resident Coordinator, Colombo, the total number of Internally Displaced Persons is around 287,970 as of 2 July, 2009. Gender-wise break up or break up of the number of children are not separately available.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) According to available information, there are no Indian NGOs operating in relief camps in Sri Lanka.

(e) Does not arise.

Funds sanctioned to States under UNDP

*282. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) with regards to protection of rural tourism how much funds have been sanctioned under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), State-wise;

(b) the number of such sites in the N.E. Region;

(c) whether the rural areas near Sarthebari, Barpeta, Hajo in Assam would be included under UNDP assistance; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development in rural sites having core-competency in art, craft, culture, handlooms/textiles etc. Community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are supported through Government of India-United Nations Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Project and Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects for development of 142 rural tourism sites to date. Out of these UNDP has extended support for capacity building in 36 rural tourism sites. The list of all Rural Tourism Projects sanctioned, including 33 projects in the North-East region, is given in the enclosed Statement. (See below).

No project proposal for development of rural tourism sites in Sarthebari, Barpeta, Hajo in Assam has been received from the State Government. However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 9 projects for Rs. 3379.51 lakh during the first two years of Eleventh Five Year Plan to Assam including one project for the development of Tourism Circuit Dhubri-Mahamaya-Barpeta-Hajo for Rs. 497.94 lakh in 2007-08.

Statement

Details of sanctioned Rural Tourism Project

Sl. No.	States/Union Territory Administrations	No. of rural tourism projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Infrastructure + Capacity Building) (Rs. In lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	349.20

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	182.12
3.	Assam	4	230.08
4.	Bihar	1	70.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	488.80
6.	Delhi	2	46.08
7.	Gujarat	5	365.03
8.	Haryana	1	70.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	170.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	1103.13
11.	Jharkhand	2	134.77
12.	Karnataka	5	300.00
13.	Kerala	6	376.80
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	495.65
15.	Maharashtra	2	140.00
16.	Manipur	3	149.75
17.	Meghalaya	2	123.29
18.	Nagaland	10	665.15
19.	Orissa	8	489.25
20.	Punjab	5	261.46
21.	Rajasthan	3	209.32
22.	Sikkim	6	387.74
23.	Tamil Nadu	8	478.23
24.	Tripura	5	295.83
25.	Uttarakhand	11	668.31
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3	165.41
27.	West Bengal	5	327.30
TOTAL		142	8742.70

Demand for water in the country

***283. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:**

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any estimate of the demand for water in the country for various purposes including irrigation, drinking and energy has been made;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has also directed Government to immediately constitute a high powered committee of scientists to evolve ways to overcome any water crisis; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has assessed the total water requirement for various purposes as 694 to 710 billion cubic meter (BCM), 784 to 843 BCM and 973 to 1180 BCM by the years 2010, 2025 and 2050 respectively depending on the low demand and high demand scenario. Total water requirement for different uses as assessed by NCIWRD is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to constitute a Committee with Secretary, Department of Science and Technology as its Chairman and has directed the Committee to do scientific research on a war footing to solve the water shortage in the country and in particular to do the following:—

- “(i) Scientific research on a war footing to find out inexpensive methods of converting saline water into fresh water. This will be very useful in the coastal states because the sea has almost an infinite amount of water reserves and the only problem is to find out an inexpensive methods to convert it in to fresh water. The present methods like distillation, reverse osmosis etc. are very expensive methods and cannot be afforded by a poor country like India. Hence we have to find out inexpensive methods and this is only possible by scientific research.
- (ii) Scientific research to find out methods of harnessing and managing monsoon rain water and also to manage the flood waters and also to do research in rain water harvesting, and treatment of waste water so that it may be recycled and available as potable water.
- (iii) Any other methods or suggestions including for matters for protection and preservation of wet lands and matters connected thereto.”

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Ministry of Science and Technology has constituted a Technical Expert Committee on 29.6.2009.

Statement

*Total water requirement for various uses as assessed by National Commission
on Integrated Water Resources Development*

(In billion cubic meters)

Sl. No.	Uses	Total water demand by 2010		Total water demand by 2025		Total water demand by 2050	
		Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
1.	Irrigation	543	557	561	611	628	807
2.	Domestic	42	43	55	62	90	111
3.	Industries	37	37	67	67	81	81
4.	Power	18	19	31	33	63	70
5.	Inland Navigation	7	7	10	10	15	15
6.	Flood Control	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Environment(1) Afforestation	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Environment(2) Ecology	5	5	10	10	20	20
9.	Evaporation losses	42	42	50	50	76	76
TOTAL		694	710	784	843	973	1180

Grant for Maharashtra

*284. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the grant given by his Ministry to the State Government of Maharashtra during the last three years for various projects;

(b) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has used this grant for the particular project(s) or diverted this fund to the other project(s); and

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has been submitting expenditure account to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development does not provide grant to State Governments for projects from its own budget.

However, the Government of India had approved the Brihanmumbai Storm Water Drainage (BRIMSTOWAD) project in 2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1200.53 crore, grant for which is provided entirely by the Ministry of Finance on recommendation of the Ministry of Urban

Development, and progress of which is monitored by the Ministry of Urban Development. So far Rs. 500 crore has been released. Brihanmumbai Mahanagarpalika has reported financial progress of Rs. 241.20 crore in respect of Phase I and Rs. 223.02 crore in respect of Phase II, totalling Rs. 464.22 crore upto June, 2009.

The Government of India had launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005 for focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in select 65 Mission cities *inter alia* with emphasis on water supply including sanitation, sewerage, solid waste management, road network, urban transport and redevelopment of inner (old) city areas with a view to upgrading infrastructure therein, shifting industrial/commercial establishments to conforming areas etc. There are also subcomponents under JNNURM to cater to similar needs of the small towns and cities. The Mission makes available reform linked Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States over the Mission period of seven years beginning from 2005-06. The Central releases for JNNURM are made by the Ministry of Finance from its own budget, after these are approved by the specific empowered committees set up at the Central and State levels for the purpose for the respective sub-components of JNNURM.

The Ministry of Urban Development is entrusted to implement the Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM in the 65 Mission cities. The five Mission cities in Maharashtra are Greater Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Nanded and Pune.

The details of ACA in respect of the State Government of Maharashtra for the last three years (2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009) under the UIG component of JNNURM for the five Mission Cities are as follows:—

Year	Number of projects sanctioned	Cost of sanctioned projects (Rs. in lakh)	ACA admissible (Rs. in lakh)	ACA released (Rs. in lakh) (till 31.3.2009)
2006-2007	39	591512.31	279033.96	41358.21
2007-2008	12	187467.61	75275.77	56827.52
2008-2009	21	354302.26	141678.39	88349.54

Further, as part of second stimulus package, in January, 2009, the Government had decided to fund purchase of buses for the Mission cities under JNNURM, and till March, 2009, purchase of 2,530 buses for Maharashtra was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 727.93 crore of which permitted ACA was Rs. 302.75 crore, and Rs. 142.67 crore was released till March, 2009.

Also, the Ministry of Urban Development is entrusted to implement the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) scheme, which is a subcomponent of JNNURM for all other towns and cities. The details of ACA in respect of the

State Government of Maharashtra for the last three years (2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009) for UIDSSMT are as follows:—

Year	Number of projects for which ACA was released	No. of towns covered	Cost of Sanctioned projects (Rs. in lakh)	ACA admissible (Rs. in lakh)	ACA released (Rs. in lakh) (till 31.3.2009)
2006-2007	21	15	33644.50	26915.60	14894.22
2007-2008	5	4	19739.00	15791.20	8980.25
2008-2009	68	67	216621.39	173297.11	86337.03

The ACA given by the Central Government are project-specific, and no instances have come to the notice of the Ministry of Urban Development about diversion of ACA by the State Government of Maharashtra for purposes other than for which these were released. All State Governments are required to furnish utilization certificates as per prescribed schedule for claiming further installments of releases of ACA, and the State Government of Maharashtra has also been sending such utilization certificates, only on receipt of which further releases of ACA are being made.

Rain water harvesting

*285. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) when was the concept of rain water harvesting introduced in the country;
- (b) whether any scientific advancements have been introduced in the concept since then;
- (c) whether Government has made any assessments about the gains from this concept;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether any scientific advancements are proposed to be added to the concept; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Rain Water Harvesting in India is an old tradition. Rain water harvesting was traditionally used for water storage. Now, Rain Water Harvesting is also being used for augmentation of ground water recharge. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), first took up the scheme of Rain Water Harvesting during the Fifth Five Year Plan. There has been continuous improvement and scientific advancement, in designs of harvesting structures and techniques of ground water

recharge. CGWB has employed advanced techniques of water spreading, injection well recharge and subsurface dykes for artificial recharge to ground water.

The impact assessment of demonstrative recharge projects carried out by Central Ground Water Board has revealed rise in ground water level in the range of 0.15 to 12 meter in different parts of the country.

(e) to (f) A demonstrative scheme on “Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water” has been sanctioned during Eleventh Five Year Plan. The scheme includes further development of area specific rain water harvesting and recharge methodologies as its objective.

Outcome of visit of Indian officials to Sri Lanka

*286. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisor and India’s Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka to secure a ceasefire in the war torn Sri Lanka, between Government forces and the Tamils;

(b) if so, the outcome of their visit indicating details of the ceasefire agreement brought about;

(c) whether Government has taken cognizance of internally displaced Tamil population there; and

(d) if so, in what way Government is helping so that they settle back in their homes at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) The National Security Advisor and Foreign Secretary visited Colombo on April 24, 2009 to convey India’s concerns about the situation in Northern Sri Lanka, particularly at the casualties caused among Tamil civilians as a result of ongoing operations. Following their visit, on April 27, 2009, Sri Lanka announced conclusion of combat operations and end to the use of heavy weapons, combat aircraft and aerial weapons which could cause civilian casualties. Sri Lankan Forces were to confine their attempts to rescue the civilians.

The National Security Advisor and Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka again on May 20-21, 2009 after the end of military operations and held talks with the Sri Lankan Government. The necessity of reaching a lasting political settlement was emphasized. They stressed that the Sri Lankan Government must focus attention on the issues of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, and reconciliation. The President and Government of Sri Lanka have assured that Sri Lanka is resolved to resettle most of the displaced persons in their original homes within six months.

In addition to the humanitarian assistance provided to the Internally Displaced Tamil population in Northern Sri Lanka so far, the Government of India has earmarked Rs. 500 crores

for the relief and rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka. With a view to facilitating rehabilitation, Government is taking several steps including demining assistance, field hospital, medical assistance, shelter material and provision of housing and other civil infrastructure etc.

Tourist spots in Rajasthan

*287. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of main tourist spots in Rajasthan;
- (b) the details of income accrued from them and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years;
- (c) the tourist (domestic/foreign) arrivals during the last three years;
- (d) whether tourist traffic declined after 13 May, 2008 serial blasts in Jaipur and 26 November, 2008 attacks in Mumbai;
- (e) the new places which are being demanded to be developed as tourist spots;
- (f) the plans in this regard; and
- (g) whether any proposals from Rajasthan are pending for clearance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism and maintenance and upkeep of the State owned tourist spots is the responsibility of the State Government.

The number of tourism infrastructure projects sanctioned in the Eleventh Plan by the Ministry of Tourism are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakh)		
Sl. No	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
Rajasthan		
2007-08		
1.	Development of Shekhawati as a tourist destination	754.46
2.	Development of Floodlighting of monuments as a tourist circuit	800.00
2008-09		
1.	Conservation, Restoration of Parkota and various Building Shergarh, Baran	461.44

1	2	3
2.	Conservation, Restoration and Development of Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur	432.06
3.	Ajmer-Pushkar Mega Project	1069.68
4.	Conservation and Restoration of Muchkund, Dholpur	441.21
5.	Conservation and Restoration of Hawa Mahal PH-II	360.66
6.	Conservation and Restoration of Jantar Mantar PH-II	193.90
7.	Conservation and Restoration of Bala Qila and Kankarwari Fort, Alwar	480.61
8.	Integrated Development of Udaipur	241.37
9.	New BG-II Palace on Wheels train under Large Revenue Generating scheme	750.00

The implementation of the tourism projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) and (d) The number of foreign and domestic tourist visits in Rajasthan during last three years *i.e.*, from 2006 to 2008 as per information provided by the State Government of Rajasthan is as follows:—

2006		2007		2008*	
Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
23483287	1220164	25920529	1401042	28358918	1477646

*tentative

The number of Foreign Tourist Visits in Rajasthan declined from 864543 during the period May to December, 2007 to 737165 during the corresponding period of 2008.

(e) to (g) Following proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan, have been examined as per the extant guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism. The sanction of the project(s) is subject to adherence to the guidelines, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

Sl. No.	Name of the project
1	2
1	Infrastructure development for Golf Course in Jaipur
2	Refurbishment of Sawai Mansingh Townhall, Jaipur
3	Amer Fort development project, Jaipur

1	2
4.	Project for conservation and development of Mayla Bagh, Jaipur
5.	Conservation, restoration and development of Ghat ki Guni Complex, Jaipur
6.	Hathi Gaon, Phase II Amer, Jaipur
7.	Conservation, Restoration and Development work of Taragarh Fort, Ghanta Ghar and Shaheed Smarak at Ajmer
8.	Conservation and restoration of Shiv Temple, Bandevra Ramgarh, Baran

Market share of BSNL and MTNL

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

- (a) the present status of the telecom connections, both landline and wireless lines, in the country;
- (b) the market share of BSNL and MTNL in this respect;
- (c) whether the market share of BSNL and MTNL has increased or reduced;
- (d) if it has been reduced, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether any remedial measures are being taken to restore the market share?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As on 31.05.2009, there are 37.66 million landline and 415.25 million wireless telephone connections in the country.

(b) As on 31.05.2009, market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is as follows:—

Market share in percentage				
		Landline	Wireless	Total Telephones
BSNL		76.93	12.91	18.23
MTNL	Delhi	59.8	9.09	14.17
	Mumbai	70.19	12.39	19.69

(c) and (d) The market share of BSNL and MTNL has reduced. The decline in the share of public sector companies is due to the increasing competition and greater participation of the private telecom service providers. However, the subscriber base of BSNL has increased from 55.16 million as on 31.03.2006 to 82.58 million as on 31.05.2009 and that of MTNL from 5.92 million to 8.13 million.

(e) Following are the steps taken/being taken by the BSNL and MTNL to improve the market share:—

Steps by BSNL: Following measures are being taken by BSNL to improve its market share:—

1. During 2009-10, BSNL has planned to provide 18 million cellular mobile connections.
2. BSNL has planned to deploy newer technologies like Fixed Mobile Convergence (FMC) and Next Generation Network (NGN) etc.

Steps by MTNL: MTNL is taking lot of measures to improve its market share by way of expansion of network, improvement in services, customer care, provision of Value Added Services, revision of tariff etc. such as:

1. The Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) network in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai has been expanded by 7,50,000 lines alongwith 111 BTS (in Delhi) and 57 Base Trans-receiver Station (BTS) (in Mumbai) during 2008-09. GSM capacity of 5,00,000 lines is under installation each at Delhi and Mumbai.
2. Additional 200 GSM towers in Delhi and 291 GSM towers in Mumbai are proposed to be installed during 2009-10 to provide better coverage.
3. MTNL has already launched 3G GSM services in Delhi and Mumbai (soft launch) for which a capacity of 2,50,000 (3G) has been installed each at Delhi and Mumbai.
4. MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for both land line and Mobile subscribers like news, songs, e-ticketing, SMS, Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) etc. in line with the emerging trends.
5. MTNL is reviewing its tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
6. MTNL has launched Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Services to provide international calls at lower tariff.

Road from Dwarka to NH-10

*289. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2597 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th September, 2007 and Starred Question 305 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th December, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government has given compensation to the families who are going to be displaced due to the construction of the proposed road from Dwarka to NH-10;

(b) whether a large number of plots in the affected areas have been purchased on Power of Attorney basis and the owners have pledged their life-time savings;

(c) whether Government proposes to grant adequate compensation to all such Power of Attorney holders; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has informed that land of 12 villages was notified for acquisition and award has been announced in all the 12 villages. Notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 was issued on 17.6.2005 in respect of two villages viz. Bakkarwala and Mundka and, on 7.4.2006 in respect of remaining ten villages. Notification under Section 6 of the Act was issued on 31.5.2006 in respect of Bakkarwala and Mundka, and on 4.4.2007 in respect of other ten villages. Compensation has been disbursed to persons in respect of two villages viz. Bakkarwala and Mundka where the possession of the awarded land has been taken over and for the remaining ten villages the possession is yet to be taken over. Compensation has been disbursed partially to 219 persons out of 251 persons in case of village Bakkarwala and to 142 persons out of 147 persons in case of village Mundka. In the remaining cases, compensation has not been paid.

(b) to (d) GNCTD has further informed that at the joint survey conducted for acquisition of the road, plotting has been noticed in eight villages and that compensation for the acquired land is paid to the recorded owner/title holder of the land as per provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. In case of any dispute, the Land Acquisition Collector may refer such disputes to the decision of the Court and shall deposit the amount of compensation in the Court, as per the provisions of the Act.

Affordable houses for common man

†*290. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) the action plans of Government for providing affordable houses to the common man;

(b) the extent to which these action plans have been successful in achieving the target;

(c) whether the prevailing home loan interest rate is right enough to provide affordable houses to the common man; and

(d) if not, the further steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) and (b) The Union Government formulated the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2007 with the aim of providing 'Affordable Housing for All' with particular emphasis in meeting the housing needs of the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

This policy seeks to promote sustainable development of the urban habitat with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society.

In 2005, Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), to make provision, *inter-alia*, of housing and basic services for the urban poor by a holistic and integrated development of slums in 65 specified cities under the Sub Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). A total of 461 projects under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and 839 projects under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) have been approved all over the country so far envisaging construction/upgradation of 9,93,523 and 4,61,887 dwelling units respectively.

In December, 2008, Government started a new scheme Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing for the Urban Poor (ISHUP) for providing interest subsidy to make housing loans affordable and within the repayment capacity of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/Low Income Group (LIG). The scheme makes available loans upto Rs. 1 lakh through Commercial Banks/Housing Finance Companies for the purposes of construction/acquisition of houses with an interest subsidy of 5%.

With a view to encourage allotment of land for EWS housing, another Scheme for 'Affordable Housing in Partnership', was started under which Central Government assistance is available for infrastructure connectivities for housing projects which provide houses upto 80 Sq.mt. carpet area of which at least 25% are for EWS/LIG.

In June, 2009, Government announced the intention to comprehensively address the issue of slums, and to provide a Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for housing in urban areas along the lines of the Indira Awas Yojana, wherever states are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas.

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

In addition, keeping in mind the interests of the common man, an incentive package was announced for the housing sector on 16.12.2008 by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) under which the public sector banks are providing new housing loans upto Rs. 5 lakhs at a rate of interest which is not to exceed 8.5% per annum for the first five years. For housing loans from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs, the rate of interest is not to exceed 9.25% per annum for the first

five years. As a further incentive, there are no processing charges, no pre-payment charges/penalty and a free insurance cover is to be provided to the borrower for the entire amount of outstanding loan. The package is presently available till 31.12.2009.

Reservation for physically handicapped persons

***291. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentages of reservation for physically handicapped persons in each of the category of posts in Central Government offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the total number of posts reserved for physically handicapped persons in Central Government offices and PSUs, separately, during each of the last three years and the number of them filled up; and

(c) the reasons for not filling up the remaining posts and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Three per cent vacancies in all Groups of posts in case of direct recruitment and three per cent vacancies in Groups C and D posts in case of promotion are reserved for persons with disabilities of which one per cent each is reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision, (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

As per information received from 68 Ministries/Departments, 1866 vacancies were earmarked reserved for persons with disabilities during 2005 of which 862 were filled up. In the year 2006, as per information received from 58 Ministries/Departments, 1615 vacancies were earmarked reserved of which 556 were filled up and in the year 2007, as per information received from 53 Ministries/Departments, 1135 vacancies were earmarked reserved of which 378 were filled up. Information in respect of public sector undertakings is not maintained centrally.

Some vacancies remain unfilled for reasons like non-availability of suitable candidates for the posts, time gap between the notification of vacancies and their filling up etc.

Assessment of RTI Act

***292. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:**

SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made to assess the working of the Right to Information (RTI) Act;

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

(c) whether the general public faces undue hardship in getting the information within the stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the mechanism proposed to be developed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) A study has been conducted through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The study points out that there is inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas is much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functionaries etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

The Act provides for imposition of penalty on the public information officer in case of delay in supply of information in time. It ensures timely supply of information. The Government has issued various guidelines for different stakeholders which have enabled the information seekers to get information as per provisions of the Act.

Annual growth rates of States

†*293. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2259 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2008 and state:

(a) the details of annual growth rate of those States which are at the bottom of the list in terms of economic and social indices;

(b) the details of Central assistance given to these States under various legislations for correction of imbalance since year 2004-05, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the names of sectors and growth rate achieved as a result of Central assistance, in comparison to the period between 1998-2003, and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The annual growth rates of states that are at the bottom of the list in terms of economic indicator (measured in terms of per capita income) and social indices (measured in terms of literacy rate and infant mortality rate) is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Annual Growth Rates of selected States (% over previous year)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Annual average growth rate
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	4.9	7.0	6.1	6.0
2.	Bihar	1.5	22.0	8.0	10.5
3.	Jharkhand	2.8	12.5	6.2	7.2
4.	Madhya Pradesh	6.5	4.8	5.2	5.5
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.9	8.0	8.6	7.9
6.	Orissa	6.4	12.1	5.9	8.1
7.	Rajasthan	6.7	7.8	7.1	7.2
8.	Uttar Pradesh	5.2	7.2	7.2	6.5
ALL -INDIA GDP (99-00 base)		9.5	9.7	9.0	9.4

Note: Growth rates of states are measured by growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices.

Source: Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

(b) Central Assistance to states under various statutes helps in removing regional imbalances. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been conceived under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The central assistance provided to different states under NREGS during the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The growth performance of states depends on a number of socio-economic factors such as investment, status of infrastructure, education and literacy, health indicators, central assistance, etc. These factors have a cumulative impact on the state level growth performance and it is not possible to disaggregate the impact of these factors on state level growth performance. As such, the contribution of central assistance alone to the achievement of growth rate cannot be quantified.

Statement*Central release under NREGS (Rs. crores)*

States	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1025.41	1371.05	3219.1

1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	14.51	12.65	29.49
Assam	265.51	521.75	958.72
Bihar	548.31	467.08	1388.19
Chhattisgarh	718.51	1144.16	1664.49
Goa	—	1.14	6.18
Gujarat	74.34	59.16	164.19
Haryana	35.89	48.41	136.57
Himachal Pradesh	46.68	127.54	409.75
Jammu and Kashmir	41.36	70.71	104.73
Jharkhand	558.55	650.69	1805.80
Karnataka	248.51	252.98	398.51
Kerala	37.40	69.01	198.87
Madhya Pradesh	1909.44	2602.80	4061.12
Maharashtra	218.16	29.24	187.56
Manipur	16.93	61.84	365.41
Meghalaya	32.25	59.19	78.03
Mizoram	20.24	33.43	151.94
Nagaland	9.10	44.00	268.06
Orissa	783.80	536.96	878.44
Punjab	34.46	29.72	67.75
Rajasthan	780.41	1056.00	6521.57
Sikkim	6.92	6.30	40.97
Tamil Nadu	184.09	516.09	1401.27
Tripura	27.55	170.16	460.37
Uttar Pradesh	569.15	1665.90	3933.90
Uttarakhand	44.71	110.04	101.16
West Bengal	388.69	882.63	922.75
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	1.35	7.03
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	0.45	0.45

1	2	3	4
Daman and Diu	—	0.90	0.22
Lakshadweep	—	0.45	2.62
Puducherry	—	0.45	4.19
Chandigarh	—	0.45	0.20
TOTAL	8640.86	12604.68	29939.6

CBI plan to complete investigations

*294. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI plans to complete investigations of all cases within one year from date of registration;

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

(c) the number of cases that are pending as on 31 December, 2008 for investigation;

(d) whether CBI is creating a “Virtual Private Network” for web-based online investigations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The time taken to complete investigation of cases depends on the nature of cases, number of witnesses to be examined and number and type of documents to be scrutinized. Though it is the endeavor of CBI to complete investigation in all cases at the earliest no specific time frame can be prescribed for completion of investigation. There is a laid down system in the CBI of regularly reviewing the progress of cases under investigation with a view to finalize them early.

(c) As on December 31, 2008, 1005 cases were pending investigation in CBI.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 3.08 crores has been sanctioned during the year 2008-09 under the Plan Scheme of CBI e-Governance for setting up a Wide Area Network and other e-Governance applications for the CBI.

Report on labour and employment

*295. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in their Report on Labour and Employment, released during February, 2009, predicted that “worst hit would be the elderly in rural areas

where 1.40 crore senior citizens, including 44 lakh women” would be forced to work, mostly as casual labour, for their subsistence; and

(b) if so, whether the collective wisdom of our planners would do perspective planning so that after 62 years of independence, our senior citizens are not forced to work for their subsistence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) and (b) The Technical Note on Employment prepared for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) by the Planning Commission has made projections for labour force and its participation rates. The note projects the number of 60+ persons that will remain in labour force at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan as 1.43 crore including 33.49 lakh women. These projections are based on the 61st round of National Sample Survey. This Technical Note provided the statistical and analytical base for the estimates and projections of Labour Force and Employment for the Eleventh Five Year Plan Document. The above projections are not classified by levels of income or consumption expenditure.

The Government of India has initiated a number of programmes to provide social security to senior citizens like Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) etc.

Lord Ganesha's picture on beer bottle

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a US beer company has depicted Lord Ganesha on one of its brand bottles;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) the action so far taken by Government in respect of this outrageous act; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in order to check acts hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Government is aware that a beer company in the US — Lost Coast Brewery, Eureka, California has labeled one of its beer brands with the portrait of Lord Ganesha.

(b) to (d) As is Government's practice, the matter was taken up by our Mission in the US with the US Government and the company expressing outrage at the incident, and asking that the product be immediately withdrawn.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Status of BPL families

† *297. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government to review the number of families which are to be accorded the status of BPL families under the guidelines of BPL Census-2002; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development in association with the State Governments and UTs conducts the BPL Census to identify the rural households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) which could be assisted under its various programmes. The actual exercise relating to the identification of poor in rural areas for BPL Census 2002 was related to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 of the Planning Commission inasmuch as that the total number of BPL families identified by the States should not exceed the Poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission. Subsequently, to address some of the concerns of the States, the option was given to the States for deciding the total number of rural BPL households equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 of Planning Commission or the Adjusted Share as worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition to this, the States were also given the flexibility of another 10% to account for the transient poor. This position continues. An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to suggest a suitable methodology to conduct BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period to identify the BPL households in the rural areas.

Implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes

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

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Centrally sponsored schemes are implemented by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has devised a system to ensure that unless the first installment is utilized to achieve the target in time, further funds would not be released and that the right to implement be taken over by Central agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the stringent measures to ensure proper implementation of Central schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are implemented by States or their agencies, irrespective of their pattern of financing.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at the present. The modalities in respect of the implementation of these Schemes are worked out by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments of Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. Releases to the states for CSS are made in installments by Administrative Ministries concerned and the details of releases about these schemes are available with them. The criteria for allocation of funds under CSS to individual States is finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments and Planning Commission. The monitoring is done by the respective administrative Ministries.

Interview dates based on community

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the selected candidates for UPSC Exam are allotted interview dates on the basis of community, that is OC, OBC, SC and ST, and that this segregation has resulted in SC and OBC candidates invariably getting lower marks than the candidates from OC category;

(b) whether this segregation is not against the spirit of Social Justice enshrined in the Constitution of India;

(c) whether the Interview Boards are aware of the communal background of the candidates; and

(d) if so, what is the guarantee that marks awarded would not be from bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The segregation is as per the MHA's OM No. 1/1/70-Estt (SCT) dated 31st July, 1970 which provides that the interview for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates should be held on a day or sitting of the Selection Committee other than the day or sitting on which general candidates are to be interviewed so that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are not judged in comparison with other general candidates and the interviewing authority/board is/are prominently aware of the need for judging the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates by relaxed standards. Thus the Question of getting lower marks by the reserved community candidates due to this segregation does not arise.

(b) The segregation of candidates, in fact, is aimed at reinforcing the spirit of social justice enshrined in the Constitution of India.

(c) and (d) The community status of the reserved category candidates are not divulged before the members of the Interview Board except the Chairman of the Interview Board. Therefore, the question of being biased in awarding marks due to awareness of communal background of candidates by the Board of Interview does not arise.

E-District Project

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

(a) the number of districts that have been included in Mission Mode Project (MMP); and

(b) the number of districts of Orissa that have been included in pilot implementation of E-District Project and the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 35 Districts in 14 States have been included in the e-District Pilot Project.

(b) One District (Ganjam) of Orissa has been included in the implementation of pilot e-District project. This e-District pilot project is being implemented by Orissa Computer Application Centre (OCAC) at a cost of Rs. 323.87 lakhs. The State has floated the RFP (Request for Proposal) and is in the process of selecting the Application Development Agency.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Uranium mining

2106. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has shown keen interest in starting with uranium mining and setting up an N-Power Plant in the near future;

(b) if so, whether, in view of precarious petroleum product position and constant fluctuation of prices of crude oil all over the globe, ONGC's diversion to altogether a different activity will not adversely affect the exploration of crude and gas from our reserves both on-shore and off-shore; and

(c) the estimated reserves of uranium in India and quantity of uranium produced through mining during 2006 and 2007 by Uranium Corporation of India or others engaged in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has signed a MoU with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) on 11th November, 2008 for sharing of exploration data within India and exploration and exploitation of uranium outside India.

(b) ONGC has clarified that Exploration and Exploitation of uranium will not interfere with their Exploration and Production business.

(c) The total in-situ reserve of uranium ore explored by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) in the country is 1,29,511 te of U_3O_8 . At present uranium is produced only by UCIL and the quantity is not disclosed in public interest.

Do-Call-registry

2107. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

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

(a) whether Government has already introduced the new scheme of Do-Call registry instead of Do-Not-Call registry; and

(b) if so, give details how this registry works and how the subscribers can be immediately benefited?

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

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

Post Office Saving Schemes

2108. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

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

(a) whether it is true that Government plans to make Post Offices Saving Schemes more attractive by increasing the interest rates; and

(b) whether people are withdrawing their money from Post Offices due to unpopular schemes in Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Presently there is no proposal to revise the interest rates on Post Office Saving Schemes. Investors have several alternative instruments for effecting personal saving and investment is therefore a function of investor's exercise of choice. The number of Post Office Saving Bank accounts has been increasing every year.

Unwanted calls

2109. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that most mobile subscribers are harassed by unwanted calls by different advertisers, etc.; and

(b) whether Government plan to make it easier for the subscribers so that such calls can be stopped completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, cases of unsolicited telemarketing calls have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. To curb such unsolicited telemarketing calls on mobile phones, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) Regulations, 2007 (4 of 2007) dated 5th June, 2007 and a scheme of National Do Not Call (NDNC) Registry has been put in place since October, 2007.

The registration process in the NDNC Registry is very simple. Any mobile subscriber willing to register in NDNC Registry needs only to either make a call to 1909 or send SMS "TART DND" to 1909, where DND stands for Do Not Disturb.

The efficacy of the UCC Regulations is reviewed by TRAI from time to time.

Pricing of 3G spectrum

2110. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) the details of two rounds of discussions held between the officials of his Ministry and the Ministry of Finance over pricing of 3G spectrum; and

(b) the main contention points between the two Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Department of Telecom has proposed Pan India reserve price of Rs. 2020 crores for auction of one block of 3G spectrum as agreed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The Ministry of Finance has suggested further revision of reserve price of 3G spectrum.

An empowered Group of Ministers (eGOM) has now been constituted to look into issues relating to auction of 3-G Spectrum which *inter-alia* include reserve price, administrative charges and annual spectrum charges.

Mobile towers

2111. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile towers are great health hazard to the people;

(b) if so, the details up to what distance and the kind of risk people living around are exposed to;

(c) whether Government plan to educate the people all over the country on such health hazards; and

(d) if so, give details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines has been adopted by Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) of DOT regarding basic restriction and response levels for limiting Electro Magnetic Field exposures. Epidemiological studies on exposed workers and the general public have shown no major health effects associated with typical exposure environments.

In this regard, it is also mentioned that the World Health Organization (WHO) fact sheet No. 304 of May, 2006 states that from all evidences accumulated so far no adverse short-or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base stations. Since wireless networks produce generally lower RF signals than base stations, no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to them. It is further mentioned that the report of the committee constituted to study the effects of radiation from mobile towers and related aspects, under Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from Mobile Base Stations.

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

Rural telephony

2112. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom regulator released a draft recommendations on rural telephony for overcoming various constraints coming in way of increasing telecom penetration in rural areas in India;

(b) whether there is need for evolving policy and regulatory environment necessary to encourage service providers to move to these apparently less lucrative markets;

(c) whether total telecom subscribers as on January, 2009 were 400.05 million out of which only 26.6 per cent is contribution from rural India that constituted 70 per cent of total population of country; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government has taken to improve situation in rural areas?

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

(b) to (d) Against the envisaged target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by 2010 under New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99), the present teledensity is 16.54% as on 31.05.2009 as a result of various initiatives of the Government. As on 31.01.2009, out of the total telecom subscribers of 400.05 million, the contribution of rural subscribers was 28.17%.

In order to provide further better connectivity to rural and remote areas of the country, Government is taking the following steps:—

- (i) Subsidy support is being provided by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for installation of Individual Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1,685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country, where cost of providing telephones is more than the revenue earned. As on 31.05.2009, about 64.6 lakh RDELs have been provided in the country.
- (ii) Subsidy support is also being extended by USOF for setting up of 7,440 Sharable Infrastructure Sites in the country for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Out of these, 5,624 towers in the country have already been commissioned under this scheme as on May, 2009. The remaining towers are likely to be commissioned by September, 2009. Besides, USOF is also likely to launch shortly second phase of setting up 10,128 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas.

Recovery of dues

2113. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL and MTNL are yet to recover crores as dues from its customers including Government departments;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the BSNL and MTNL have since taken any effective steps to recover the outstanding dues; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL are yet to recover several crores as dues from its customers including Government departments.

(b) The details of the outstanding dues to be recovered by BSNL and MTNL as on 30.04.2009 is as follows:—

(Amount in Rs. crores)

	State Government	Central Government	Defence	Other Subscribers	Total
BSNL	144.60	90.25	29.44	4484.67	4748.96
MTNL *	2.89	14.26	3.01	1159.68	1179.84

*For GSM and CDMA, MTNL does not compile these figures category-wise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL have taken many effective steps to recover the outstanding dues, the details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of the effective steps taken to recover the outstanding dues by BSNL and MTNL

BSNL and MTNL have taken following steps to recover the outstanding dues:—

- (1) Automatic payment reminders are issued through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones.
- (2) Phones are disconnected as per the prescribed schedule in case of non payment of dues by customers. This is followed by permanent closure of telephone and adjustment of security deposit against the outstanding dues.
- (3) Unit-wise and year-wise targets are fixed for recovery/liquidation of outstanding dues and progress in this regard is closely monitored at the Corporate level and suitable instructions are issued from time to time to field units for improving the recovery of dues.
- (4) Recovery Agents are employed for making recoveries.
- (5) Various discount/incentive schemes are launched for recovery of outstanding from defaulting subscribers.
- (6) Legal proceedings wherever required are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues;
- (7) BSNL has requested various State Government to amend their respective land revenue Acts, so that outstanding telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.
- (8) MTNL is implementing a Revenue Assurance program to maximize the revenue billing and revenue realization. It has also deployed a reputed firm to conduct Revenue Assurance Audit of its landline interconnect billing process. Convergent billing system is also being introduced by MTNL for improving of dues.

2G spectrum allocation

2114. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has recently decided to fix responsibilities for large scale irregularities unearthed by it in the controversial 2G spectrum allocations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CVC has alleged that large scale bungling have been made in the spectrum allocation to private parties; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Such decision has not yet been taken by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). However, the CVC has recently taken up the matter relating to the alleged irregularities in the 2G spectrum allocations for direct investigation and the investigation is under progress.

(d) The Government is waiting for the report of the above said investigation and shall initiate appropriate action based on the report.

Indian Telephone Industries

2115. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has recently decided to write off several crore losses that the State run Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) has accumulated over the past three years;

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

(c) whether the factors responsible for losses in ITI have been assessed and if so, the steps taken to prevent such losses;

(d) whether Government now propose to hive off some units of ITI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. ITI has been incurring losses for many years, as telecommunication manufacturing sector is a highly competitive, research oriented market with rapidly changing technology leading to short product life and high obsolescence rate. To enable ITI to compete in such an environment, it has been decided to take following measures:—

- (i) To set up three Joint Venture/Special Purpose Vehicle by inducting strategic partner(s) for manufacturing new products such as WiMax, IP core network and Gigabit Ethernet Passive Optical Network (GEAPON) at Rae Bareilly, Naini and Bangalore. The Government also provide additional proportionate equity in the Special Purpose Vehicles/Joint Ventures apart from making some of the existing infrastructure with ITI at Rae Bareilly, Naini and Bangalore available for immediate carrying out of such activities *i.e.* land, building and manpower selected by the strategic partner(s).

- (ii) To discharge the liabilities of ITI to the tune of Rs. 2820 crores, to clean up the ITI balance sheet.
- (iii) In principle decision to provide support of Rs. 180 crore to ITI for working capital margin.

Modernization of post offices

2116. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether after successful completing modernization of 500 post offices, mostly in rural areas, the Department has now decided to extend this ambitious project to 4500 more post offices across the country offering efficient services to customers through use of modern technology;
- (b) whether Department will spend Rs. 900 crores for upgrading infrastructure of post offices giving them better connectivity through broadband and providing internet facilities to customers; and
- (c) if so, the total number of post offices at present modernized and to what extent it has improved their efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. However Department of Posts is extending the scheme "Project Arrow" to another 500 post offices across the country during 2009-10 with financial outlay of Rs. 65 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under project Arrow, Department of Posts has modernized 500 Post Offices in 2008-09 and is modernizing another 500 Post Offices in 2009-10 with a aim to improve the "Look and Feel" of the post offices and strengthen core business by providing quality services to customers within stipulated time. A significant quality important has been registered in core business after modernization of these post offices for e.g.. Money Order delivery has improved from 76% to 94.5% , Registered Mails delivery from 84% to 97.3%, Speed Post delivery from 89% to 98.2% and Ordinary Mail delivery from 97% to 99.7%.

Independent spectrum regulator

2117. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry wants an independent spectrum regulator to oversee all the related issues like allocation, pricing, monitoring and withdrawal of airwaves;

- (b) if so, the details of the proposal;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is going to introduce a Bill in Parliament for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the other salient features of the proposed Bill?

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

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

Tele density in rural areas

2118. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that though India is a fast growing telecom markets in the world, the tele density in rural areas is very low; and
- (b) if so, the details and measures that are being taken to accelerate telecom growth in rural India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The percentage of tele-density in the rural areas of our country is 16.54% as on 31.05.2009 against the target of 4% rural tele-density by year 2010, as per New Telecom Policy 1999. However, following steps are being taken by the Government to further increase the telecom facilities in rural areas of the country:—

1. To meet the demand of wireline telephones in rural areas, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is now laying cable up to 5 Kms. of exchange against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms.
2. BSNL has deployed Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and far-flung rural areas. It now plans to further expand its WLL network (MSC based).
3. Remote and far-flung areas, which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology, are planned to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).
4. Support is being provided from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
5. A scheme has been launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7440 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States, for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage in the country. Also about 10128 number of additional infrastructure sites (towers) are proposed to be installed in the second phase.

Rural telephone system

2119. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgradation work in rural telephone sector in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh has been done by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued in the rural sector due to system upgradation in rural telephone system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of upgradation work, carried out by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), of small and medium exchanges, Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) Village Public Telephone (VPT) in rural areas of the country including in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement-I and II (*See below*). The status of MARR replacement as on 30.6.2009 is given in the Statement-III (*See below*). In addition, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in the country including Uttar Pradesh has been expanded with MSC based Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA). WLL capacity added during the last three years in the country including Uttar Pradesh (East and West) circles are given in the Statement-IV (*See below*). Subsidy support is also being extended by USOF for setting up of 7,440 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in the country including 656 towers in Uttar Pradesh for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile-coverage. Out of these, 5,624 towers in the country including 649 towers in Uttar Pradesh have already been commissioned under this scheme as on June, 2009.

(c) The upgradation of work in telecom sector in rural areas of the country will result in better telecom connectivity and services in these areas thereby leading to improved socio-economic activity.

Statement-I

Upgradation of small and medium exchanges

Year	Conversion of Single Base Module (SBM) to Remote Subscriber Unit (RSU)	Conversion of C-DOT RAXs to AN-RAXs
2006-07	393	425
2007-08	462	272
2008-09	5	38
TOTAL	860	735

In Uttar Pradesh, all C-DoT RAX Exchanges have been converted to AN-RAX and SBM type exchanges to RSUs.

Statement-II

Replacement of MARRs during last three years

Sl. No.	Year	MARR Replaced
1	2006-07	24958
2	2007-08	6991
3	2008-09	775

In Uttar Pradesh State all MARR VPTs have been replaced by terrestrial technology.

Statement-III

Details of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) Village public telephones replacement as on 30.6.2009

Sl. No.	Circle	MARR VPTs to be replaced by BSNL (Agreement revised by USOF— November, 2008)	Achievement upto previous month (May, 2009)	Replaced/ Reported during June, 2009	Cummulative replacement till June, 2009	Balance MARR to be replaced
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	72	72	0	72	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10335	10335	0	10335	0
3.	Assam	9294	9166	5	9171	123
4.	Bihar	7431	7431	0	7431	0
5.	Jharkhand	3570	3570	0	3570	0
6.	Gujarat	4106	4092	0	4092	14
7.	Haryana	1423	1423	0	1423	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	949	947	1	948	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2295	2271	0	2271	24
10.	Karnataka	14571	14571	0	14571	0
11.	Kerala	4	4	0	4	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21111	21069	42	21111	0
13.	Chhattisgarh	5021	4843	0	4843	178
14.	Maharashtra	15222	15150	2	15152	70
15.	Meghalaya	1056	686	7	693	363
16.	Mizoram	527	455	0	455	72
17.	Tripura	318	318	0	318	0
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	440	394	0	394	46
19.	Manipur	547	491	2	493	54
20.	Nagaland	544	536	2	538	6
21.	Orissa	11912	11813	18	11831	81
22.	Punjab	2135	2135	0	2135	0
23.	Rajasthan	14574	14564	2	14566	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	6000	6000	0	6000	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	27339	27339	0	27339	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	9957	9957	0	9957	0
27.	Uttaranchal	2876	2851	1	2852	24
28.	West Bengal	11492	11492	0	11492	0
TOTAL		185121	183975	82	184057	1064

Statement-IV

Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipped capacity in rural areas

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Achievement in WLL capacity in rural		
		during 2006-07	during 2007-08	during 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	10,750	3,500
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13,500	15,250	31,500
3.	Assam	84,750	56,000	4,500
4.	Bihar	71,250	69,000	21,000

1	2	3	4	5
5	Chhattisgarh	12,000	49,500	-10,900
6.	Gujarat	47,000	18,300	11,750
7.	Haryana	35,800	32,500	11,600
8.	Himachal Pradesh	24,250	36,000	21,250
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	29,200	20,750	13,500
10.	Jharkhand	23,750	24,000	14,000
11.	Karnataka	31,100	1,65,450	24,800
12.	Kerala	66,750	1,90,350	54,500
13.	Madhya Pradesh	39,750	75,600	1,09,650
14.	Maharashtra	1,63,500	1,56,750	67,000
15.	NE-I	34,500	9,750	12,000
16.	NE-II	21,500	-5,000	6,250
17.	Orissa	61,000	38,250	8,000
18.	Punjab	9,000	18,000	27,200
19.	Rajasthan	1,06,500	1,04,550	68,450
20.	Tamil Nadu	27,000	82,250	-5,250
21.	Uttaranchal	24,500	11,750	15,500
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	84,000	63,500	18,000
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	35,250	3,500	28,500
24.	West Bengal	53,100	1,19,250	27,500
25.	Kolkata	0	0	0
26.	Chennai	5,250	6,000	250
TOTAL		11,04,200	13,72,000	5,84,050

Telecom regulator's recommendations

2120. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DOT is opposing telecom regulator's recommendations of a three year lock-in-period on stake sale by the owners of the companies who had acquired telecom licence in early 2008 and were allocated spectrum at throw away prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of the companies who were allocated spectrum during the said period;

(c) the present status of the spectrum allocated to each of the company;

(d) penal action proposed for off-loading their stakes alongwith the price and quantum thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to recover the windfall profits made by these companies?

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

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

(c) Present status of spectrum allocated to the companies who has been issued Unified Access Services (UAS) licence(s) in year 2008 is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(d) and (e) As per present provisions of the UAS licence agreement, there is no restriction on sale of equity/issuance of additional equity shares by the licensee company. However, such transactions including the ceiling limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are subject to extant guidelines of the Government/Statutory Bodies.

The issue relating to lock-in-period for sale of promoter's equity of the UAS licensee company was under consideration of the Government and the recommendations of Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were also sought on 24.11.2008 which was received on 12.03.2009. It has now been decided by the Government that there shall be a Lock-in-period for sale of equity of a person whose share capital is 10% or more in the UAS licensee company on the effective date of the UAS licence till completion of three years from the effective date of the licence or till fulfillment of all the rollout obligations, whichever is earlier, subject to certain other conditions. Necessary amendment in the UAS licence agreement(s) is under process of issuance.

Statement

Status of spectrum allocated to the companies who have been issued Unified Access Services (UAS) licence(s) in year 2008 — Status as of 15.07.2009

Sl. No.	Service Area	Name of Licensee Company	Type of Technology	Date of allocation of start-up spectrum*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	27.05.2008
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	27.05.2008
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	27.05.2008

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Spice Communications Ltd.	GSM	27.05.2008
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	27.05.2008
7.	Assam	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	22.12.2008
8.	Assam	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	22.12.2008
9.	Assam	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	22.12.2008
10.	Assam	S Tel Ltd.	GSM	22.12.2008
11.	Assam	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	03.04.2008
12.	Assam	Tata TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	03.04.2008
13.	Assam	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	22.12.2008
14.	Bihar	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	03.10.2008
15.	Bihar	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	03.10.2008
16.	Bihar	S Tel Ltd.	GSM	03.10.2008
17.	Bihar	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
18.	Bihar	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	03.10.2008
19.	Bihar	Allianz Infratech (P) Ltd.	GSM	03.10.2008
20.	Delhi	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	Not yet allocated
21.	Delhi	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	28.08.2008
22.	Delhi	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	Not yet allocated
23.	Delhi	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	28.08.2008
24.	Delhi	Spice Communications Ltd.	GSM	Not yet allocated
25.	Delhi	Unitech Wireless (Delhi) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	Not yet allocated
26.	Gujarat	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	25.09.2008
27.	Gujarat	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	25.09.2008
28.	Gujarat	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	09.03.2009
29.	Gujarat	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	29.05.2008
30.	Gujarat	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	25.09.2008

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Haryana	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
32.	Haryana	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
33.	Haryana	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
34.	Haryana	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
35.	Haryana	Spice Communications Ltd.	GSM	06.05.2009
36.	Haryana	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
37.	Himachal Pradesh	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
38.	Himachal Pradesh	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
39.	Himachal Pradesh	S Tel Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
40.	Himachal Pradesh	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
41.	Himachal Pradesh	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	04.12.2008
42.	Jammu and Kashmir	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	24.12.2008
43.	Jammu and Kashmir	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	24.12.2008
44.	Jammu and Kashmir	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	24.12.2008
45.	Jammu and Kashmir	S Tel Ltd.	GSM	24.12.2008
46.	Jammu and Kashmir	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	03.04.2008
47.	Jammu and Kashmir	Tata TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	03.04.2008
48.	Jammu and Kashmir	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	24.12.2008
49.	Karnataka	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	30.05.2008
50.	Karnataka	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	30.05.2008
51.	Karnataka	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	30.05.2008
52.	Karnataka	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	30.05.2008
53.	Karnataka	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	29.05.2008
54.	Karnataka	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	30.05.2008
55.	Kerala	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	15.05.2008

1	2	3	4	5
56.	Kerala	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	15.05.2008
57.	Kerala	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	15.05.2008
58.	Kerala	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	14.05.2008
59.	Kerala	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	15.05.2008
60.	Kolkata	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
61.	Kolkata	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
62.	Kolkata	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
63.	Kolkata	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	29.05.2008
64.	Kolkata	Unitech Wireless (Kolkata) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
65.	Madhya Pradesh	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	28.12.2008
66.	Madhya Pradesh	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	28.12.2008
67.	Madhya Pradesh	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
68.	Madhya Pradesh	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	28.12.2008
69.	Madhya Pradesh	Allianz Infratech (P) Ltd.	GSM	28.12.2008
70.	Maharashtra	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
71.	Maharashtra	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
72.	Maharashtra	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	14.11.2008
73.	Maharashtra	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	14.05.2008
74.	Maharashtra	Spice Communications Ltd.	GSM	06.05.2009
75.	Maharashtra	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
76.	Mumbai	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.09.2008
77.	Mumbai	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.09.2008
78.	Mumbai	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	28.08.2008
79.	Mumbai	Unitech Wireless (Mumbai) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.09.2008
80.	North East	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
81.	North East	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
82.	North East	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
83.	North East	S Tel Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
84.	North East	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	03.04.2008
85.	North East	Tata TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	03.04.2008

1	2	3	4	5
86.	North East	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
87.	Orissa	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	24.04.2008
88.	Orissa	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	24.04.2008
89.	Orissa	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	24.04.2008
90.	Orissa	S Tel Ltd.	GSM	24.04.2008
91.	Orissa	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	29.05.2008
92.	Orissa	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	24.04.2008
93.	Punjab	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
94.	Punjab	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	06.05.2009
95.	Punjab	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	09.03.2009
96.	Punjab	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	25.07.2008
97.	Punjab	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
98.	Rajasthan	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
99.	Rajasthan	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
100.	Rajasthan	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
101.	Rajasthan	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	23.12.2008
102.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	22.04.2008
103.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	22.04.2008
104.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	22.04.2008
105.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	22.04.2008
106.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
107.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai Service Area)	Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	22.04.2008

1	2	3	4	5
108.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
109.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
110.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	21.01.2009
111.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
112.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	10.09.2008
113.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	25.09.2008
114.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	25.09.2008
115.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	26.12.2008
116.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
117.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	25.09.2008
118.	West Bengal	Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
119.	West Bengal	Idea Cellular Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
120.	West Bengal	Loop Telecom Private Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009
121.	West Bengal	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	CDMA	11.04.2008
122.	West Bengal	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	GSM	09.01.2009

*Start-up spectrum is 4.4MHz in case of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) technology and 2.5 MHz in case of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) technology, subject to availability.

Income of GSM operators

2121. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that DOT has sought clarifications from GSM operators for not showing income from bundling handling handsets alongwith the connections, for the purpose of calculating revenue share payable to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the response of the GSM operators thereto;

(c) the details of the findings of investigations conducted in this regard;

(d) the total revenue lost during the year 2006-07 on this account; and

(e) efforts made to recover the share of Government from these operators for the period specified above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that DoT has sought clarification from Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Essar and Idea Cellular for not showing income

from bundling handsets along with the connections, for the purpose of calculating revenue share payable to the exchequer.

(b) The Operators have responded that they are not selling handsets directly and hence there is no revenue earned under this head. The same is being done through handset vendors or their agents.

(c) to (e) The reply of the telecom operators as at (b) is a subject matter of the special audit being conducted for these operators. The report is awaited.

Agents in post offices

†2122. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post offices of country no longer offer such environment that a common man could get his work done there;

(b) if not, reason for long queues of harassed persons inside the post offices to get their work done whereas the agents can be seen getting the same work done early and whether the employees of post offices have been directed to do the work of agents quickly thus forcing the public to approach the agents for their work;

(c) whether Government is now contemplating to get all postal savings work through the agents; and

(d) if not, the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The reason for long queues inside some post offices is not linked to the presence of agents for whom separate business hours have been prescribed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Quality of mobile signals

2123. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of mobile signals of MTNL/BSNL is unsatisfactory and there is frequent breakdown in mobile communication system in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India (TRAI) monitors the performance of the service providers against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks laid down by it through the quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) and monthly congestion reports submitted by the service providers. As per the PMR for the quarter ending March, 2009, MTNL/BSNL Cellular Mobile Telephone services are generally meeting the benchmarks for network related parameters such as Service Access Delay (Benchmark Average of 100 calls = <15 sec.), Stand-alone Dedicated Control Channel (SDCCH) Congestion (Benchmark ~ <1%), Traffic Channel (TCH) Congestion (Benchmark ~ <2%), Call Drop Rate (Benchmark ~ <3%), Connection with good voice quality (Benchmark ~ >95%) and Point of Interconnection (Pol) Congestion (Benchmark ~ <0.5%) with the following exceptions:—

Service Provider	Parameters	Service Area
BSNL		Karnataka (2.70%)
MTNL	TCH congestion <2%	Delhi (2.35%)

Regarding the breakdown in mobile communication, there is a parameter in the above regulation on accumulated down time of community isolation, the benchmark of which is <24 hours in a quarter. BSNL and MTNL complies with the benchmarks for this parameters in all the service areas.

(c) TRAI has been taking various steps to ensure quality of service by Basic Service and Cellular Mobile Service providers. Some of these steps are given below:—

1. TRAI has been monitoring the performance of Basic Service and Cellular Mobile Service against the benchmarks given for the various parameters laid in Quality of Service Regulations through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports. In addition, Pol congestion is being monitor on monthly basis.
2. TRAI also undertakes objective assessment of the Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Service through an independent agency. A customer satisfaction survey is also conducted quarterly through this agency. The results of these audit and survey were widely published for public/stakeholders knowledge.
3. Apart from monitoring of the QoS through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports and objectives assessment of QoS and customer satisfaction survey through an independent agency, TRAI has issued number of Regulations and Directions to ensure QoS of Cellular operators.

Postal services

2124. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the postal services, particularly the delivery system in the country in general is getting deteriorated;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

- (c) the measures proposes to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is regular monitoring of mail transmission and delivery carried out in all the post offices. Efforts are made to deploy adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomerations through rationalization/restructuring of delivery. Surprise checks are also carried out by the supervisory staff and officers with respect to delivery of mail.

Regulatory body for private mobile towers

2125. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry prepared any regulatory body for erection of private mobile towers in residential areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware about public protest against erection of mobile towers which are adversely affecting the health of residents in neighbourhood; and
- (d) if so, the actions that are proposed to regulate the system?

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

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Government has also inserted a clause in the Service Licence Agreement stating “Licensee shall conduct audit and provide self certificates annually as per procedure prescribed by Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)/or any other agency authorized by Licensor from time to time for conforming to limits/levels for antennae (Base Station Emissions) for general public exposure as prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) from time to time.”

Special Purpose Vehicle

2126. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to set up a Special Purpose vehicle (SPV) to provide Information Technology (IT) services to rural India; and
- (b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Government is setting up Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the Common Service Centres (CSC) Scheme for channelising Government content and for aggregating services.

(b) The proposed SPV will be a Public Ltd. Company under the Companies Act 1956. It will have an authorized capital of Rs. 90 crores with a initial paid up capital of Rs. 50 crores. The major equity participants will be State Governments, service centers agencies (SCAs), financial institutions and banks. The SPV will be chaired by the Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Government of India.

IT export

2127. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an appreciating rupee is likely to affect the performance of IT export;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total earnings in percentage of the revenue and value of the Indian IT exporters in the last five years;
- (d) the impact of the jump in rupee on the operating margins in IT exporters; and
- (e) the factors on which margins receive impacts and the role of Government in this regard to help the IT exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) With almost 70 per cent of India's external trade invoiced in dollars, any change in the dollar's rupee value has a disproportionate effect on the various stakeholders in the rupee's external value such as importers, exporters, borrowers, lenders and consumers of imported goods in the short run. During 2007-08, IT-BPO exports to US were about 60% of the total exports of IT and ITES. Growth in IT Export in Rupee terms during 2007-08 has moderated compared to the previous year.

(c) The IT industry's contribution (including hardware) as percentage of the national GDP and the value of the IT software and services exports from the country in the last five years is given below:—

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
Total IT industry revenue (including hardware) in billion US \$	28.2	37.4	48.0	64.0	71.7
Software and services exports (in billion US \$)	17.7	23.6	31.1	40.4	47.0
Percentage share of the Total IT revenue in the National GDP	4.1%	4.8%	5.2%	5.5%	5.8%

*estimated.

(d) As per the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), in the case of most companies, the impact of appreciation in Rupee has resulted in a reduction of operating margins mainly because of the reduction in Foreign Exchange earned being converted to Rupees while the expenses are largely in Rupees.

(e) Margins are impacted by increases in costs without corresponding increase in revenue figures. Hence any reduction of revenue (either resulting from lesser Rupees earned after converting Foreign exchange or otherwise) would have a negative impact on operating margins. To promote IT exports, Government of India has taken a series of initiatives which include among others, Market Development Assistance Scheme, Market Access initiatives scheme of the Department of Commerce. In addition,, tax benefits under Section 10A and 10B is provided to the IT exporters operating under Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme and Export Oriented Units (EOUs).

Customer protection

2128. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate steps have been taken for the customer protection in view of the mushrooming of private mobile phone operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the implementing mechanism for the same;

(c) the number of complaints received against the MTNL, BSNL and private mobile phone operators during the last three years regarding faulty bills, particularly inflated bills, year-wise;

(d) the number of complaints resolved by them to the satisfaction of the subscribers; and

(e) the action being taken on mobile phone operators on faulty and inflated bills?

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

(b) Government has taken various steps from time to time for protecting the interest of customers. Some of the important steps taken by Government for protecting the interest of customers are given below:—

1. For addressing concerns of customers regarding Redressal of their grievances, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the Telecom Consumers Protection and Redressal of Grievances Regulations, 2007 on 04.05.2007. As per this regulation, the access service providers and broadband service providers have established Call Centre, Nodal Officer and appellate authority.
2. TRAI has laid down the quality of service standards for basic service (wireline) and cellular mobile telephone through Quality of Service Regulations, from time to time. TRAI has been monitoring the performance of service providers against the

benchmarks laid down by TRAI for various parameters through quarterly performance monitoring reports. TRAI also undertakes audit and assessment of quality of service and assessment of customer satisfaction through survey by independent agencies.

3. TRAI has issued several orders and directions relating to tariff termination of service provision of Value Added Service to protect the interest of customers.
4. TRAI has also issued the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations to address customers' concern relating to telemarketing telephone calls/SMSs. Under these regulations a National Do Not Call (NDNC) registry has been established. Customers who do not wish to get unsolicited commercial communications can register the telephone numbers with the registry through their service providers.
5. TRAI has a process of consumer education on various aspects of telecommunication service through regional workshops organized by TRAI and also by Consumers Advocacy Groups registered with TRAI.

(c) The total number of complaints received by the Department of Telecom against MTNL, BSNL and private mobile phone operators during the last three years regarding faulty bills including inflated bills are given below:

Period	No. of complaints
July, 2006 – June, 2007	123
July, 2007 - June, 2008	212
July, 2008 - June, 2009	57

(d) As per latest Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) for quarter ending March 2009 by TRAI, all the mobile phone operators have resolved all the billing related complaints within the benchmark period of 4 weeks.

(e) As per the Quality of Service (Code of Practice for metering and Billing Accuracy), Regulation 2006 dated 21.03.2006, the metering and billing system of all service providers are being audited annually through any one of the Auditors in the panel notified by the TRAI. The service providers have to file audited report with TRAI by 30th June of every year and the action taken reports on the observations of the auditors have to be filed by 30th September of every year. This Audit of Metering and Billing System has enabled service providers to have a control on billing inaccuracies.

Broadband facilities to rural areas

2129. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present broadband penetration in India stands at a meagre 2.6 per cent with even lower figure for rural areas;

(b) whether BSNL with over 73 per cent of the available optical fiber route KM network has more than 32000 of its telephone exchanges connected by fiber;

(c) if so, whether the wireless technology can deliver broadband facilities to rural areas from these fiber terminal exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) As on 31 May, 2009, about 64 lakh broadband connections including about 3 lakh rural broadband connections have been provided in the country. BSNL has provided 3 lakh rural broadband connections out of a total of about 1.04 crore Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) representing the penetration of about 2.9% in rural areas.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. For delivering broadband facilities in rural areas, BSNL has planned to provide Broadband connectivity in 63,000 Rural Common Service Centres covering 7863 Rural Blocks through WiMAX and 3G(GSM) technologies using optical fibre network in a phased manner. BSNL has also planned to build a capacity of about 32.9 lakh connections on 3G network having broadband capabilities.

Telecom network expansion contract

2130. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cautioned the BSNL on the security related aspects of awarding telecom network expansion contracts to China based Huawei;

(b) whether the Government has insisted on testing the equipment made by Huawei for trap doors, black boxes and malwares;

(c) whether Government is also insisting on tests for susceptibility of Huawei equipments to remote hacking; and

(d) if so, where the matter stands at present and by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (d) Sir, the tenders for procurement of 93 million lines for GSM equipment was floated by the four zones of BSNL on 01.05.2008. The tenders were further divided into four parts as detailed below:—

- (i) Part I for 2G elements, Core and VAS elements.
- (ii) Part II for 3G elements.
- (iii) Part III for infrastructure items.
- (iv) Part IV for operation and billing sub-systems.

Ministry of Home Affairs/Intelligence Bureau have raised concern over the presence of foreign companies, especially from certain countries in the critical and sensitive border areas, that may have national security implications. Accordingly, a security guideline was issued to BSNL. As per the security guidelines:—

- Before operationalisation of all the new systems, irrespective of origin of manufacturing, extensive security audit should be carried out to the effect that networks and its elements are free from any trapdoors/black boxes/malwares and susceptible to remote hacking. A self-certificate to that effect shall be submitted to TERM Cell of DoT for carrying out the security audit and issuance of certificate.

The bids are still under evaluation and no award of contract has been done.

Problem of congestion

†2131. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are the worst sufferer of the problem of congestion of mobile signals;

(b) if so, the reasons for congestion and the rules in this regard; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to solve the problem of congestion and by when this problem would be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) As per the latest Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) for the quarter ending March, 2009 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh are not the worst sufferer of the problem of congestion of mobile signals.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) TRAI has prescribed Parameters for congestion of mobile signals in terms of Stand-alone Dedicated Control Channel (SDCCH) congestion and Traffic Channel (TCH) congestion. TRAI monitors these parameters through quarterly Performance Monitoring Report. To meet the benchmarks of congestion parameters, network augmentation and optimization is done by the service providers, which is a continuous process.

Ancient rock paintings

2132. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ancient rock paintings have been found in Srisailem hill ranges of Mahaboob Nagar district and Thadwai Mandal of Warrangal district of Andhra Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the paintings date back to 3,000 years BC; and

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

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

(c) Department of Archaeology, Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that some prehistoric rock paintings in the Akkamahadevi Guhalu have been noticed in the forest at about 10 km. from Srisailam, Mahaboob Nagar District and at Narsapur and Badia Villages in Warrangal District of the State. The paintings depict animal motifs such as antelopes, peacocks and human figures painted in red colour.

Monuments of Muslim rulers

2133. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that ASI is deliberately allowing the monuments pertaining to Muslim rulers to decay; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps which are being taken to correct the approach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The monuments are not classified on the basis of any religion. All protected monuments are equally treated. The monuments protected by ASI pertaining to Muslim rulers are in good state of preservation.

Findings of Indus Valley

2134. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study conducted by Indian scientists in the Indus Valley has revealed new findings of the language and script like Tamil, Sanskrit and English used by the Indus Valley civilization;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to reach the bottomline about the emergency and evolution of human civilization in Indus Valley and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any such study. However, scholars like Shri I. Mahadevan (1970), R. Madhivanan (1993) claim that the Indus Script was Proto-Dravidian whereas Swamy Shankaranand (1964), Dr. S.R. Rao (1982) claim it to be Sanskrit (1996).

Further scholars B.B. Chakravorty (1976), Shanker Hazra (1976) say that the Indus Script was Indo-European.

In February, 2007, an International Symposium “Indus Civilization and Tamil Language” was organized at Chennai by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Several scholars had participated in it but they failed to arrive at any consensus.

(c) Does not arise.

Monuments and archaeological sites in NER

2135. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ancient monuments and archaeological sites under the protection of Central Government in N.E. Region in details;

(b) whether the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has taken into consideration the heritage site area of the district of Barpeta, Assam;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in the interest of the development of heritage sites of various Municipal and Town areas like Barpeta, Sivsagar, Gauripur, etc. can be identified for the basic infrastructure facilities, urban services under the JNNURM;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if so, the details of initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There are 82 monuments/sites declared as of national importance in the N.E. Region. State-wise details are as under:—

Arunachal Pradesh	:	03
Assam	:	55
Manipur	:	01
Meghalaya	:	08
Nagaland	:	04
Tripura	:	08
Sikkim	:	03

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Under the centrally sponsored Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), which is implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development, all eligible towns as per Census 2001 excluding those covered under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM, are eligible for access to financial assistance for the infrastructure development projects on admissible components. A list containing details of the projects and financial assistance granted to the towns of Assam including Barpeta and Gauripur is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)

Project-wise release as on 0.06.09

Overall allocation (Rs. in crore)	101.29
Total ACA committed so far (including incentive) (Rs. in crore)	189.53
ACA released so far (Rs. in crore)	99.56

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl . No.	Name of towns/cities	Scheme/Name of component	Cost approved by SLSC	Total eligible Central Share (90%)	Amount of 1st instalment	ACA recommended to <i>M/o</i> finance	Incentive @ 1.5% for DPR preparation	1st instalment of ACA released during 2006-07	1st instalment of ACA released during 2007-08	1st balance instalment of ACA released during 2008-09	Total release	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Assam						1st	2nd					
1.	Hoiyai	Water Supply	1055.54	949.99	474.99	474.99	15.83	490.82	0.00	0.00	490.82	
2.	Titabar	Storm Water Drains	828.85	745.97	372.98	372.98	12.43	385.41	0.00	0.00	385.41	
3.	Pathsala	Storm Water Drains	503.06	452.75	226.38	226.38	226.37	7.55	233.93	0.00	226.37	460.30
4.	Bokakhat	Storm Water Drains	545.74	491.17	245.58	245.58	245.59	8.19	253.77	0.00	245.59	499.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5.	Lakhipur	Water Supply	815.88	734.29	367.15	367.146	0.50	0.00	367.65	0.00	367.65
6.	Lakhipur	Storm Water Drains	632.1	568.89	284.45	284.45	9.48	0.00	293.93	0.00	293.93
7.	Hailakandi	Storm Water Drains	783.64	705.28	352.64	352.64	11.75	0.00	364.39	0.00	364.39
8.	Hojai	Storm Water Drains	992.98	893.68	446.84	446.84	14.9	0.00	461.74	0.00	461.74
9	Sarthebari	Storm Water Drains	274.14	246.73	123.36	123.36	4.11	0.00	127.47	0.00	127.47
10.	Dhekiailuli	Storm Water Drains	722.88	650.59	325.30	325.30	0.00	0.00	30.04	295.26	325.30
11.	Mariqaon	Storm Water Drains	423.77	381.39	190.70	169.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	169.51	169.51
12.	Hamren	Storm Water Drains	226.47	203.82	101.91	90.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.59	90.59
13.	Chabua	Storm Water Drains	226.91	204.22	102.11	90.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.76	90.76
14.	Gosaiqaon	Storm Water Drains	201.98	181.78	90.89	80.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.79	80.79
15.	Barpeta Road	Storm Water Drains	328.57	295.71	147.86	131.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	131.43	131.43
16.	Lanka	Storm Water Drains	399.11	359.20	179.60	159.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	159.64	159.64
17.	Lakhipur	Storm Water Drains	264.18	237.76	118.88	105.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.67	105.67
18.	Howraqhat	Storm Water Drains	262.75	236.48	118.24	105.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.10	105.10
19.	Digboi	Storm Water Drains	1074.97	967.47	483.74	483.74	16.12	0.00	0.00	499.86	499.86
20.	Basugaon	Storm Water Drains	756.09	680.48	340.24	340.24	11.34	0.00	0.00	351.58	351.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
21.	Maibong	Storm Water Drains	492.61	443.35	221.67	221.67	7.39	0.00	0.00	229.06	229.06	
22.	Lala	Storm Water Drains	612.21	550.99	275.49	275.49	7.96	0.00	0.00	283.45	283.45	
23.	Barpeta	Storm Water Drains	1871.96	1684.16	842.38	842.38	28.08	0.00	0.00	870.46	870.46	
24.	Udalquri	Storm Water Drains	743.50	669.15	334.58	334.58	11.15	0.00	0.00	345.73	345.73	
25.	Simaluquri	Storm Water Drains	667.74	600.97	300.48	300.48	10.02	0.00	0.00	310.50	310.50	
26.	Gauripur	Storm Water Drains	547.64	492.88	246.44	246.44	8.21	0.00	0.00	254.65	254.65	
27.	Jorhat	Storm Water Drains	1592.42	1433.18	716.59	716.59	23.89	0.00	0.00	740.48	740.48	
28.	Sapatqram	Storm Water Drains	565.06	508.55	254.28	254.28	8.48	0.00	0.00	262.76	262.76	
29.	Dhubri	Storm Water Drains	710.17	639.15	319.58	319.58	9.23	0.00	0.00	328.81	328.81	
30.	Derqaon	Storm Water Drains	1660.36	1494.32	747.16	747.16	21.58	0.00	0.00	768.74	768.74	
28	30		20783.28	18704.95	9352.48	9235.79	471.96	248.19	1363.93	1645.22	6946.79	9955.94

Renovation work in Goa

2136. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has financed the renovation work of churches in Goa;
- (b) if so, the names of the churches and their location;
- (c) the expenditure involved in each of the renovation works;
- (d) by what date the work is expected to be completed and the kind of work being undertaken under renovation; and
- (e) the names of other structures in Goa taken for renovation, if any, and cost involved in each case?

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

(b) and (c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).

(d) The ongoing conservation and structural repair works on these monuments are targeted for completion by March, 2010.

(e) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Churches under the jurisdiction of Goa Circle and details of expenditure/allocation for conservation

(Amount in rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Churches	Location	Expenditure incurred during the last three years			Provision for the year
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Church of St. Augustine	Old Goa	12,20,886	8,97,053	17,50,122	15,00,000
2.	Basilica of Bom Jesus,	Old Goa	13,38,437	12,51,941	16,32,996	16,50,000
3.	Se' Cathedral	Old Goa	20,82,495	14,65,910	24,65,966	19,00,000
4.	Church of St. Cajetan	Old Goa	2,15,858	12,09,797	16,23,170	14,00,000
5.	Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi	Old Goa	11,78,549	10,81,181	18,98,367	15,00,000
6.	Chapel of St. Catherine	Old Goa	4,51,003	1,77,403	1,02,933	7,00,000
7.	Church of Our Lady of Rosary	Old Goa	7,29,331	1,87,803	8,60,345	3,00,000

Statement-II

Other Protected Monuments in Goa taken for conservation

(Amount in rupees)

Sl. No.	Names of the other protected monuments	Estimated cost
1.	Upper Fort, Aguada	11,67,000
2.	Safa Masjid, Ponda	11,70,000
3.	Mahadev Temple, Kurdi	2,21,800
4.	Rock cut Caves, Arvalim	76,800
5.	Mahadev Temple, Tambdisurla	2,18,000
6.	Excavated Site, Chandore	70,728
7.	St. Paul Gate	95,713
8.	Viceroy's Arch and Adilshah Gate	65,540
9.	Lower Fort, Aguda	10,18,900

World heritage list

2137. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities which have attained World Heritage Site status by UNESCO's World Heritage List, since such status will increase the number of foreign tourists and develop our tourism sector;

(b) whether Government has taken initiatives to increase the number of heritage cities in the list of UNESCO;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The World Heritage Convention, 1972 of UNESCO has not defined a heritage-city. However, a group of buildings of a city or an ancient site can be inscribed as 'cultural-heritage' if it has Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) from the view point of history, art or science. On this line, group of buildings at ancient cities of Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) and Champaner-Pavagarh (Gujarat) have been inscribed on the world heritage list of UNESCO.

It is a continuous process to get more and more sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Chambers of Taj Mahal

2138. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain chambers of the world famous Taj Mahal at Agra are kept closed by construction of brick walls as the chambers contain irrefutable evidence of the pre-Shahjahan construction of the monument;

(b) whether Government proposes to open these chambers at the time for the Commonwealth Games as a part of the campaign to make tourist sites more attractive; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The underground chambers of Taj Mahal, containing the mortal remains of Emperor Shahjahan and Begum Mumtaz Mahal, are closed since their burial for safety and security reasons. There is no plan to open these chambers.

Power generation from ocean thermal energy

2139. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the research for generation of electrical energy by conversion of ocean thermal energy;

(b) if so, the stage up to which the research has reached; and

(c) by when such mode of power generation is likely to be put into practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (b) The Ministry of Earth Sciences through its technical arm, National Institute of Ocean Technology has been experimenting an generation of electrical energy by ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), utilising difference in temperature in ocean surface and ocean bottom. The generation of electricity using OTEC is not yet successful on commercial scale so far due to high capital cost, low level of power generation and other technical reasons.

(c) Does not arise.

Long crack in the earth

2140. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 1 metre wide and 1 kilometre long crack in the earth took place in July, 2008 in Balasore district;

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

(c) does it indicate a possible earthquake in the near future in the local area; and

(d) the precautions being taken to minimize any potential loss of life or property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir. Cracks due to land subsidence took place in July, 2008 close to the right bank of the river Burhablanga, Purana Balasore, Orissa. It happened at place called Kahnu Behera Sahi (latitude 21° 29' 02"N; longitude 86° 57' 25"E). As per the Geological Survey of India (GSI) team that visited the affected site on 25th July, 2008 noted that crescent shaped cracks of about 5-27m wide and 200m long were observed.

(b) The details of the land subsidence and the reasons thereof, based on the assessment of various visiting teams are given below:—

1. This was a common event that naturally happens with meandering rivers in alluvial ground (right side bank of the river prone to erosions).
2. All the crescent shaped depressions are bounded by major planes of failure, with a number of radiating cracks at high angles to the major planes of failure, have also been recorded at the affected site.
3. The development of the subsidence and cracks are caused by deepening of river channel by turbulent flow/eddies possibly caused by collision of flowing water against the spurs built across the river leading to the scouring of the material on the right bank resulting in removal of material from the toe of the bank as weeks earlier the river experienced heavy flooding.
4. After the water level dropped down, sudden drainage of ground water from the failed zone has taken place leading to the shrinkage of soil mass, causing formation of fissures/cracks and subsidence of the ground between the cracks.

(c) No Sir. Significant seismic activity is neither reported nor is any apparent signature of regional fracturing, reactivation of paleo-channel or neotectonic activity in the area reported.

(d) The following measures were suggested to the local authorities by the GSI for minimizing any potential loss of life or property:—

1. Prevent construction of heavy structures in close proximity of the right bank of the river.
2. Suggested to construct suitable spurs of adequate height at the right bank.
3. Minimize urbanization/alongside crescent shaped bends of the river from safety point of view.

Ganga water treaty with Bangladesh

2141. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had signed Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, whether the issue of Tipaimukh dam project remain unresolved with Bangladesh;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to have bilateral discussions with Bangladesh and to resolve the Tipaimukh dam project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. India and Bangladesh signed a treaty on sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka on 12th December, 1996.

(b) to (d) Government of India has shared information on the Tipaimukh Dam Project with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government has also invited a Bangladesh Parliamentary Delegation to visit India in this connection.

Stockpile of nuclear weapons by Pakistan

2142. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Pakistan has been increasing its stockpile of nuclear weapons and crossing its minimum deterrent threshold;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government on such reports of Pakistan;
- (c) whether stockpiling of nuclear weapons by Pakistan is causing grave concern for India; and
- (d) if so, the preventive/counter steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. Government has seen reports in the public domain that Pakistan is enhancing its nuclear weapons production capacity.

(b) to (d) Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

New treaty with Nepal

2143. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite the current political crisis in Nepal, India and its Himalayan neighbours are considering to review their 60 years old trade treaty as India Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950;

- (b) if so, whether both countries are willing to talk and discuss;
- (c) if so, whether India is considering to improve its relations with Nepal;
- (d) if so, the total investment of the country in Nepal in regard to education, health and tourism; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of Nepal Government in signing a new treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a), (b) and (e) The existing Trade Treaty between India and Nepal was signed in 1991 and subsequently amended in 1996 and 2002. The two sides are currently reviewing the Trade Treaty to further boost bilateral trade.

During the visit of the former Prime Minister of Nepal to India in September 2008, both sides agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. It was agreed that a High-Level committee at the level of Foreign Secretaries would be set up for this purpose. There has been no further development in this matter.

(c) India and Nepal share close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties, which are unique and have stood the test of time. Our relations with Nepal will continue to be a matter of highest priority for India. During the visit of Foreign Secretary to Nepal on June 20-21, 2009, our commitment to support Nepal was reiterated to the new government of Nepal. Both sides also agreed to take the bilateral relations forward.

(d) Indian investment in Nepal in regard to health, education and tourism amounts to over Rs. 380 crore. In addition, GOI's economic cooperation programme in Nepal is broad based, and includes education and health sectors.

Discussion held with China

2144. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian and Chinese officials discussed host of issues related to expansion of defence, economic ties and trade;
- (b) if so, whether Chinese have expressed interest in the deepening economic ties with India by helping build infrastructure for 2010 Commonwealth Games also;
- (c) if so, the outcome of the discussions held and to what extent and both have agreed for extension of defence and economic ties;
- (d) whether any agreement was signed; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (e) Government officials of India and China have been regularly discussing the entire range of issues related to bilateral relations including economic

and defence ties in various dialogue mechanisms. In these interactions, both sides have agreed to a trade target of US\$ 60 billion by 2010. They have also agreed to strengthen defence relations in accordance with the MoU for Exchanges and Cooperation in the field of Defence signed in 2006. The two sides have held two rounds of annual defence dialogue and conducted joint military exercise in 2007 and 2008. The two sides have not discussed China's participation in building infrastructure for the Commonwealth Games of 2010.

Nuclear test by North Korea

2145. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of nuclear test by North Korea, recently;
- (b) if so, whether Government has described the nuclear test by North Korea as a development of serious concern;
- (c) if so, whether in view of such developments, Government proposes to have eternal vigilance to meet any challenge to the national security from any quarter; and
- (d) if so, the further reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) In a statement on 25th May, 2009 External Affairs Minister said, "We have seen reports that DPRK has conducted a nuclear test on 25 May, 2009. For the DPRK to conduct such a test in violation of its international commitments would be unfortunate. Like others in the international community we are concerned at the adverse effect on peace and security in that region of such tests. We continue to monitor the situation."

(c) and (d) Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

List of Pakistan's citizens involved in terror attacks

†2146. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has handed over the list of Pakistani citizens alleged to be involved in terrorist attacks in the country to Government of Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the total number of people included in this list upto June, 2009;
- (c) whether it has been requested to hand over these people to India or to prosecute them in Pakistan; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Since August, 2004, lists of individuals including Pakistani nationals wanted for terrorist acts in India have been handed over 10 times to the Government of Pakistan, and most recently on 25-26 November, 2008 during the Home Secretary level talks with Pakistan. This lists 10 Pakistani nationals in a total list of 42 persons.

(c) and (d) It has been the stand of the Government that all those wanted for terrorist crimes should be brought to justice.

Malpractices in passport offices

2147. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI P.R. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are incidents of malpractice in issuing passport in passport office in the country for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details including the action taken on the complaints of the passport offices for the last five years, State-wise, year-wise and incident-wise;

(c) if so, the details of passport issued on the recommendations of authorized signatories *i.e.* without the proper channel for the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if so, the allegations, if any, on the passport issued under above category in details; and

(e) the steps taken to nail such incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected along the requested lines.

(e) Government has taken various steps including:—

(i) sanctioning prosecution by the concerned investigating agencies; appropriate departmental action against the errant officials;

(ii) periodic surprise inspections, including vigilance inspections of Passport Offices;

(iii) under the Passport Seva Project, passports will be tracked from the India Security Press till issue to applicants. National level index checking will also be introduced to ensure that an applicant does not take a second passport from a different Passport Office; and

(iv) computerization of Passport Offices; computerized monitoring of processing of applications; and improvements in the security features in the passport.

Ties with USA and Russia

2148. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present policy *vis-à-vis* USA and Russia; and
- (b) the steps that are proposed to further strengthen the ties with those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Government of India desires to strengthen and deepen relations with the United States of America in the existing areas of bilateral cooperation such as defence and security, energy, space, education, economy and commerce, science and technology, health, people to people contacts among others and to identify possible areas of collaboration in newer areas of cooperation to take the bilateral ties to a higher level of engagement. It also seeks to intensify engagement with the US on global issues of common concern such as Climate Change, Disarmament, international terrorism and maritime security to strengthen Indo-US strategic partnership.

Russia is a strategic partner of India. India-Russia strategic partnership provides a solid framework for long-term and all-round development of relations. Mutual development and prosperity of our peoples are core objectives of this partnership. Rashtrapatiiji will pay a State Visit to Russia in September, 2009. The India-Russia Annual Summit meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia will take place in Moscow in December, 2009. The 15th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia will take place in Moscow in October, 2009. The 9th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC), co-chaired by the Defence Ministers of India and Russia will take place in Moscow in October, 2009. During these visits, discussions will take place with the Russian leadership on all strategic areas of bilateral cooperation with Russia such as defence, space, energy including nuclear energy, science and technology and trade and economy.

Religious protection to Sikhs in US

†2149. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs in American army have been banned from using their religious symbol;
- (b) if so, whether Government plans to take any concrete initiative to provide religious protection to overseas Indians; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) No. The Religious Accommodation Policy of the Government of the United States of America, as contained in Army Regulation 600-20, dated 18 March, 2008 of the US army provides for officers and soldiers to practice their religious preferences in terms of dress, food, worship etc.

Haj quota for MPs

2150. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Members of Parliament have been given quota to recommend two persons for Haj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all MPs utilize this every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, MP-wise;

(e) whether Government would increase the Haj quota of MPs from 2 to at least 25 per year who represent the constituency where ratio of Muslim population is higher; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes. Each Member of Parliament can recommend two persons for Haj.

(c) and (d) No. Not all MPs utilize it every year. However, the requests received are given due consideration.

(e) and (f) No. At present there is no proposal for increasing the Haj quota of MPs from 2 to 25 per year since the overall quota allocated by Saudi Government to India is based on the Muslim population of the country. The quota made available is accordingly distributed among various States in proportion to the Muslim population there.

Haj quota for States

2151. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase Haj quota to those States or areas where Muslim population is comparatively more concentrated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Currently, the Haj quota is distributed among various States in the ratio of their Muslim population based on 2001 census. As such, the States where the concentration of Muslim population is more get more quota than the States where the concentration of Muslim population is less.

Construction work on Tipaimukh dam

†2152. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has asked India to stall construction work at Tipaimukh dam until its Parliamentary Committee visits the site;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reactions of Government to remarks made by the Bangladeshi water experts to the effect that construction of dam unilaterally is a violation of the Ganga Water Treaty; and

(d) the steps taken so far by Government against this reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) In response to requests from the Bangladesh Government, Government has shared information on the Tipaimukh project with the Government of Bangladesh and have invited a Bangladesh Parliamentary Delegation to visit India to discuss the issues. Government are aware of reports indicating varied opinions in Bangladesh on the Tipaimukh project and remains ready to clarify issues whenever necessary.

Rehabilitation of Sikhs in Pakistan

†2153. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of Sikh families displaced from tribal areas of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has approached Pakistani Government for rehabilitation of Sikh families displaced from tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) There have been reports about Sikh families being driven out of their homes and being subjected to Jaziya and other such impositions.

(c) and (d) On seeing such reports, the Government of India had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson commented in response that Sikhs living in Pakistan were Pakistani citizens and hence of no concern to India. He also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

said that the Government of Pakistan was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly, the minority community.

Security of Sikhs in Pakistan

‡2154. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taliban terrorist in Pakistan have forced the Sikhs out by occupying their homes;

(b) if so, the details of wrongs being faced by Sikhs in Pakistan and current situation of Sikhs there;

(c) whether Central Government has approached Government of Pakistan for security of Sikhs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) There have been reports about Sikh families being driven out of their homes and being subjected to Jaziya and other such impositions.

(c) and (d) On seeing such reports, the Government of India had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson commented in response that Sikhs living in Pakistan were Pakistani citizens and hence of no concern to India. He also said that the Government of Pakistan was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly, the minority community.

960 MW project of Pakistan on Kishenganga River

2155. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Pakistan is contemplating to build a 960 MW project to dam the Kishenganga River on the other side of the Line of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would impact our Kishenganga Hydropower Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Pakistan has awarded a 969 MW project called Neelum-Jhelum Hydroelectric Project (near Mazzafarabad) with a dam at Nauseri on River Neelum (Kishenganga) on the other side of the Line of Control, to a Chinese Consortium for implementation.

(c) and (d) Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project is upstream of the proposed Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project. Pakistan has objected to the construction of the Kishenganga

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Hydroelectric Project *inter-alia* alleging that the power generation at the proposed Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project would be adversely affected. India has conveyed to Pakistan that in terms of the relevant provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, there is no existing hydroelectric use by Pakistan on the river Kisjenganga and that India's Kishenganga HE Project is fully in accordance with the Treaty.

New route for Mansarovar Yatra

2156. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering opening of a new route for Mansarovar Yatra *via* Himachal Pradesh passing through Shipkila pass on Tibet border;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received a representation from Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh to this effect;
- (c) if so, the action Government has taken, or plans to take on it; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) Government has received a representation from Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for opening of a new route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra passing through Shipki La Pass. During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India from November 20 to 23, 2006, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route. We have proposed additional routes to the Chinese side for their consideration.

Participation in disarmament talks

2157. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister has recently assured Japan of Government's "constructive" participation in nuclear disarmament talks;
- (b) if so, the details regarding it thereof;
- (c) whether the country has sought Japan's co-operation in the civil nuclear sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) During his visit to Japan in 3rd-4th July, 2009 for the third round of India-Japan Strategic Dialogue, External Affairs Minister held discussions with his Japanese counterpart on various issues, including nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and civil nuclear cooperation. In his remarks, EAM said that India has consistently supported the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Japanese side said that Japan is aware of future opportunities in civil nuclear energy which could be considered after taking into account various factors.

Nuclear deal with Canada

2158. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is venturing out for a nuclear deal with Canada; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) India and Canada are discussing a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. The most recent round of discussion was held in Mumbai on 21-22 May, 2009.

Erection of watch tower on Katchatheevu Island

2159. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka proposed to construct a watch tower with military presence on Katchatheevu Island where the Sri Lankan army has been harassing Tamil Nadu fishermen;

(b) if so, whether Government would urge the Sri Lankan Government to refrain from construction of watch tower;

(c) whether Government would also come forward to take initiatives for regaining of our Katchatheevu Island which was endowed to the Sri Lanka in the year 1974;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Sri Lanka has denied any plans to build a military base in Katchatheevu. The issue was raised with the Sri Lankan Government during the visit of a delegation led by Senior Advisor to Sri Lankan President, Basil Rajapaksa, on June 24, 2009. The delegation again clarified that it does not contemplate putting up any military structures at Katchatheevu.

(c) to (e) The Government of India considers its maritime boundary with Sri Lanka settled under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976. Under the Agreements, the Island of Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Both these Agreements were subsequently laid before Parliament.

Bringing back the treasure of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

†2160. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is making efforts to bring back treasure including private articles of Maharaja Daleep Singh son of Sher-e-Punjab Ranjit Singh and the last emperor of Sikh empire;

(b) whether Government is aware that a Sikh organization has written a letter recently to Queen to bring back Maharaja's treasure along with his letter, diaries and articles which were taken to Britain during 19th century;

(c) whether Government has any list of other legacies plundered from India and taken to Britain; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to bring them back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Slum free India

2161. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project to make India slum free in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for no improvements in civic amenities in slums all over the country;

(d) whether his Ministry has prepared action-plan for cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently announced a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. The scheme is aimed at providing support to States that are willing to provide property rights to the slum dwellers with an effort to create slum free India.

(c) to (e) Urban development/slum upgradation is a State subject. The reasons for no improvements in civic amenities in slums include the lack of adequate investment in housing and basic amenities by States/Urban Local Bodies in slums in addition to continued migration and other factors. It is upto the concerned States/Cities to prepare action plans for improvement in civic amenities in their respective States/cities. The Ministry has not prepared any city-specific action plan.

Dialogue on IPI pipeline project

2162. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has re-started its dialogue with Iran on the \$8 billion Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipe line project during the visit of Secretary of Iran's National Security Advisor also;

(b) whether the country has reiterated its stand "cost-wise" by asking Iran to put the clause "Supply or Pay" in the Indo-Iran agreement as well as to ensure New Delhi's fears for proper safety of pipe line through Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the time period that Iran would take to sell the required gas to India and Pakistan as per IPI gas pipe line project agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Government of India has been discussing with the Government of Iran the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas (IPI) Pipeline project since 2005 and also did so during the visit of the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council to New Delhi on June 12, 2009.

(b) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline project. Various issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, assured supplies and security of the pipeline, transportation tariff, transit fee for passage of natural gas through Pakistan etc., are involved in the discussions between the participating countries. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interest and to avoid problems in the future for the successful operation of the pipeline.

(c) Work on the Project can commence only after satisfactory resolution of issues under discussion amongst the participating countries. As such, completion schedule of the Project cannot be laid down at this stage.

Relations with Canada

2163. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral, multilateral or international arrangements for improving our relations with Canada; and

(b) the more steps that are envisaged to further strengthen the ties with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) India and Canada have several bilateral mechanisms for dialogue such as Foreign Office Consultations, Strategic Dialogue, Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism, Trade Policy Consultations, Joint Committee on Science and Technology, Environment Forum, and Working Group on issues related to agriculture. Both countries have signed Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding in areas such as agriculture, science and technology, avoidance of double taxation, environment, air-services, extradition, and mutual legal assistance.

(b) Efforts are being made to ensure that both countries fully realise the potential and opportunities for bilateral cooperation, based on their commonalities and complementarities.

Problems of Indian brides

2164. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of Law Commission to tackle the problem of abuse of Indian brides by NRI husbands merits urgent implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cases registered, State-wise;

(d) the action taken against guilty persons so far; and

(e) the compensation paid to the victims so far in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) These recommendations are under examination of the Ministry of Law and Justice. Main recommendations with regard to marriage of Indian brides with NRI husbands are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The number of such complaints received in the Ministry is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See below*). Action on guilty persons can be taken only based on court orders in each case.

(e) There is no scheme to pay compensation to the victims of fraudulent NRI marriages.

Statement-I

Details of complaints received

A. Registration of marriages must be made compulsory;

B. Dissolution of marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage be introduced in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954;

C. Where one of the spouses is an NRI, parallel additions must be made in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to provide for provisions for maintenance and alimony of spouses, child custody and child support and as also settlement of matrimonial property;

D. In the matter of succession, transfer of property, repartition of NRI funds etc., the respective State governments must simplify and streamline procedures;

E. The Commission has already recommended in its 218th Report as to the need to accede to the Hague Convention on the Civil aspects of International Child Abduction;

F. Inter-country Child Adoption Procedures must be simplified and a single uniform legislation must be provided for in the matter of adoption of Indian children by NRIs India has also ratified

the Convention of 29 May, 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption. Thus a simplified law should be enacted on the subject in the light of this Convention.

Statement-II

Total number of Complaints received in MOIA State wise up to June, 2009

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of cases
1	Punjab	86
2	Delhi	56
3	Haryana	20
4	Uttar Pradesh	18
5	Andhra Pradesh	31
6	West Bengal	13
7	Maharashtra	15
8	Gujarat	16
9	Tamil Nadu	21
10	Kerala	12
11	Jammu and Kashmir	7
12	Bihar	4
13	Rajasthan	6
14	Karnataka	3
15	Madhya Pradesh	3
16	Assam	2
17	Orissa	2
18	Chhattisgarh	1
19	Uttaranchal	1
20	Uttarakhand	1
21	Himachal Pradesh	1
TOTAL		319

Assistance to Pakistani citizens uprooted due to military operation

2165. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent developments in Pakistan when its army is rooting out Taliban and terrorist outfits who are waging furious war in that country due to which millions of Pakistani citizens are suffering and became homeless and living in refugee camps; and

(b) if so, whether Government of India plans to help such people who are suffering due to war between Taliban and Pakistan's army, on humanitarian grounds?

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

(b) No request has been received from the Government of Pakistan for assistance in this regard.

Amenities in urban areas

2166. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in a recent report published by UNDP, India: Urban Poverty Report, it has been mentioned that India will have over 41 per cent of its population, around 575 million people living in urban areas by 2030, from the figures of 286 million;

(b) if so, whether Government has envisaged any plan for the requirement of housing and their living conditions in these urban places; and

(c) the present situation in this regard and the amenities and housing infrastructure Government proposes to have for the present 80 million population in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) Yes, Sir. The "India: Urban Poverty Report" predicts that if the existing conditions prevail, the urban population of India may go up from above 315 million in 2005 to about 650 million in 2030.

(b) and (c) Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005 with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the urban poor/slum dwellers in identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States for taking up projects for housing and infrastructural facilities for slum dwellers/urban poor in 65 select cities in the country under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). Other cities and towns are covered under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Government has also launched new scheme of Affordable Housing in Partnership with an outlay of Rs. 5000 crores for construction of 1 million houses for EWS/LIG/MIG with at least

25% for EWS category. The scheme aims at partnership between various agencies/ Government/parastatals/Urban Local Bodies/developers. The Government has also launched the scheme for Interest Subsidy for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) that envisages the provision of interest subsidy to EWS and LIG segments to enable them to buy or construct houses.

Furthermore, the Government has proposed to launch a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. It aims at providing support to States that are willing to provide property rights to the slum dwellers. The Government's effort would be to create Slum free India through implementation of RAY.

Poverty alleviation for beggars, slum dwellers

†2167. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of the number of beggars and the people sleeping on footpaths and living in slums;

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

(c) the measures being taken by Government to solve their problems and alleviate poverty?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) and (b) As per the figures of Census of India, 2001 the slum population of 1743 towns/cities of the country (having population 20,000 and above) was 52.4 million. The data of the number of beggars and the people sleeping on footpath are not available in this Ministry. The State-wise slum data is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from December 3, 2005 to address the issues of provision of housing and civic amenities to slum dwellers/urban poor, in addition to city-wide infrastructure facilities. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme addresses housing and civic amenities in 63 Mission cities. Similar problems of non-Mission cities are addressed through the scheme of Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The mission period is 2005-2012.

Under the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), Central assistance is provided to States to enable the urban poor including slum dwellers to undertake self-employment ventures, develop/improve skills and access wage employment opportunities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise slum data

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of cities/towns reporting slums	Total Urban population of State/UT	Population of cities/towns reporting slums	Total slum population	Percentage of slum population to total	
						Urban population of State/UT	Population of cities/town a reporting slums
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	INDIA**	1,743*	286,119,689	222,957,784	52,371,589	18.5	23.5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	2,516,638	1,677,549	373,898	14.9	22.3
2.	Punjab	59	8,262,511	6,685,183	1,483,574	18.0	22.2
3.	Chandigarh	1	808,515	808,515	107,125	13.2	13.2
4.	Uttaranchal	19	2,179,074	1,465,610	350,038	16.1	23.9
5.	Haryana	49	6,115,304	5,213,913	1,681,117	27.5	32.2
6.	Delhi	16	12,905,780	11,277,586	2,029,755	15.7	18.0
7.	Rajasthan	93	13,214,375	9,966,057	1,563,063	11.8	15.7
8.	Uttar Pradesh	238	34,539,582	26,711,243	5,756,004	16.7	21.5
9.	Bihar	92	8,681,800	7,148,152	818,332	9.4	11.4
10.	Tripura	4	545,750	262,832	47,645	8.7	18.1
11.	Meghalaya	4	454,111	240,008	109,271	24.1	45.5
12.	Assam	12	3,439,240	1,591,703	89,962	2.6	5.7
13.	West Bengal	89	22,427,251	16,199,327	4,663,806	20.8	28.8
14.	Jharkhand	23	5,993,741	2,908,552	340,915	5.7	11.7
15.	Orissa	57	5,517,238	4,358,521	1,089,302	19.7	25.0
16.	Chhattisgarh	34	4,185,747	3,178,335	1,097,211	26.2	34.5
17.	Madhya Pradesh	142	15,967,145	12,685,621	3,776,731	23.7	29.8
18.	Gujarat	79	18,930,250	14,029,468	1,975,853	10.4	14.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Maharashtra	176	41,100,980	37,807,986	11,975,943	29.1	31.7
20.	Andhra Pradesh	118	20,808,940	18,215,536	6,268,945	30.1	34.4
21.	Karnataka	154	17,961,529	15,980,763	2,330,592	13.0	14.6
22.	Goa	3	670,577	216,023	18,372	2.7	8.5
23.	Kerala	21	8,266,925	3,524,479	74,865	0.9	2.1
24.	Tamil Nadu	242	27,483,998	20,123,606	4,240,931	15.4	21.1
25.	Pondicherry	5	648,619	581,232	92,095	14.2	15.8
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	116,198	99,984	16,244	14.0	16.2

* Including 640 cities/towns having population 50,000 and above and reported slum during 2001 Census.

Note: Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep have not reported slum in 2001 Census.

** Total urban population of India includes urban population of the States/UTs which have not reported slum population.

Source: 'Census of India 2001'.

BSUP

2168. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects/programmes covered and undertaken under Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) indicating locations of projects/programmes and components of assistance provided to the States for implementation thereof at respective sites;

(b) the details of projects/programmes under implementation in the State of Jharkhand indicating separately the details of projects/programme proposals received, if any, from the State during the last two years but pending clearance; and

(c) the details of total fund provided to the State under BSUP Scheme since its inception and estimated funds required to be provided for implementation of pending projects/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) The main thrust of the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) is on integrated development of slums through projects for providing housing at affordable prices and other related basic amenities to the urban poor. State-wise details indicating locations of the projects/programmes and components of assistance under BSUP are given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).

(b) and (c) 11 Projects with total project cost Rs. 370.67 crores and central share Rs. 251.59 crores have been approved under BSUP for the State of Jharkhand. ACA of Rs. 42.90 crores has been released for implementation of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in the State of Jharkhand. No proposal from Jharkhand is pending. The details of projects/programmes under implementation in the State of Jharkhand are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

*JNNURM-Basic Services to the Urban Poor (Sub-mission-II)
Total projects approved*

Status as on 15.07.2009

Rs. in crores

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Mission dis	Projects approved	Total project cost approved	Total No. of dwelling units approved (New + Upgradation)	Total Central Share approved	Total State Share approved	Total ACA released by Mo/ Finance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	36	3010.18	134694	1497.42	1512.77	668.77
2.	Assam	1	2	106.44	2260	97.60	10.84	24.40
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	49.25	852	43.95	5.31	10.99
4.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	2	564.94	25728	396.13	168.81	99.03
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	5	420.23	28864	335.21	85.02	78.05
6.	Bihar	2	18	709.98	22372	312.76	397.23	78.19
7.	Delhi	1	16	1814.49	66504	768.73	1045.76	173.50
8.	Gujarat	4	16	1436.88	95084	691.74	745.14	360.99
9.	Goa	1	1	10.22	155	4.60	5.62	1.15
10.	Haryana	1	2	64.23	3248	31.18	33.05	23.38
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	24.01	636	18.27	6.74	4.57
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	5	162.39	6677	134.44	27.95	33.61
13.	Jharkhand	3	11	370.67	12226	251.59	119.08	42.90
14.	Karnataka	2	18	747.18	28118	407.97	339.21	101.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Kerala	2	7	343.67	23577	233.56	110.11	58.44
16.	Madhya Pradesh	4	22	704.65	41446	344.26	360.48	107.36
17.	Maharashtra	5	55	5874.75	168518	2766.12	3108.63	913.87
18.	Manipur	1	1	51.23	1250	43.91	7.32	10.98
19.	Meghalaya	1	3	51.74	768	40.35	11.39	10.09
20.	Mizoram	1	4	91.32	1096	80.11	11.21	20.03
21.	Nagaland	1	1	134.50	3604	105.60	28.90	52.80
22.	Orissa	2	6	74.62	2508	54.18	20.44	13.54
23.	Punjab	2	2	72.43	5152	36.15	36.28	9.04
24.	Puducherry	1	2	43.97	1304	32.31	11.67	8.08
25.	Rajasthan	2	2	277.14	17337	169.20	107.95	42.30
26.	Sikkim	1	3	33.58	254	29.06	4.52	7.26
27.	Tamil Nadu	3	51	2327.32	91318	1041.80	1285.53	275.71
28.	Tripura	1	1	16.73	256	13.96	2.77	6.98
29.	Uttar Pradesh	7	67	2330.84	67992	1138.84	1192.00	317.14
30.	Uttarakhand	3	8	36.12	773	28.01	8.12	7.00
31.	West Bengal	2	91	3293.04	140052	1607.42	1685.62	473.29
TOTAL		60	461	2320.76	98833	1256.43	1494.44	485.44

Statement-II

JNNURM-Basic Services to the Urban Poor (Sub-mission-II) Total projects approved in Jharkhand

Status as on 15.07.2009

Rs. in crores

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Mission Cities	Name of Projects	Total project cost approved	Total No. of dwelling units approved (New + Upgradation)	Total	Water Supply	Sewerage	Drainage/ storm water drains	Roads/ Pavements	Electrification	Community Hall and other facilities	Parks and Open Spaces/land-scaping/ Site development	Total Central Share approved	Total released by M/o Finance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Dhanbad	20.51	758	6.46	0.30	0.87	0.18	0.27	0.21	0.70	0.34	9.77	
2.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad (Phase-II)	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Dhanbad (Phase-II), Jharkhand	34.28	1090	9.61	0.60	1.16	0.24	0.29	0.26	0.92	0.99	16.32	
3.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad (Phase-III)	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Dhanbad (Phase-III), Jharkhand	20.55	672	5.98	0.37	0.71	0.09	0.21	0.19	0.56	0.37	9.79	
4.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad (Phase-IV)	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Dhanbad (Phase-IV), Jharkhand	16.65	442	4.69	0.55	0.24	0.10	0.20	0.13	0.18	0.12	7.93	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur (Phase-I)	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Jamshedpur (Phase-I), Jharkhand	15.09	336	3.6455	0.2663	0.2822	0.1877	0.8609	0.1082	0.3214	0.0937	7.19	
6.	Jharkhand	Ranchi (Phase-II)	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Ranchi (Phase-II)	67.47	2358	32.14	1.83	4.24	0.94	4.77	1.14	3.47	2.07	51.90	1
7.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Ranchi, Jharkhand	34.13	1616	20.56	0.56	1.56	0.23	0.36	0.00	1.59	0.44	25.28	
8.	Jharkhand	Ranchi (Phase-III)	BSUP Services for the Urban Poor at Ranchi (Phase-III)	38.89	1396	19.68	2.12	2.04	0.21	0.38	0.32	0.62	1.21	29.63	
9.	Jharkhand	Ranchi (Phase-IV)	Basic Service for the Urban Poor at Ranchi (Phase-IV)	27.56	856	12.13	1.77	0.85	0.18	0.25	0.17	0.61	1.23	21.00	
10.	Jharkhand	Ranchi (Phase-V)	BSUP scheme for Ranchi (Phase-V), Jharkhand	40.14	1080	16.45	0.77	1.61	0.92	1.87	0.42	1.67	0.33	30.58	1
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi (Phase-VI)	Basic Services for the Urban Poor at Ranchi (Phase-VI), Jharkhand	55.40	1622	24.65	1.06	2.33	0.69	2.07	0.47	1.95	0.31	42.21	1
				370.67	1226.00	155.99	10.21	15.88	3.96	11.53	3.42	12.61	7.50	251.59	4

SJSRY

2169. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether urban population in the State of Jharkhand comprises of a large number of poor and BPL families;
- (b) whether Government has carried any enumeration of the same;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether programmes, namely the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), etc. under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are being implemented in Jharkhand;
- (f) if so, the details thereof indicating the volume of funds provided to the State and number of persons benefited therefrom, year-wise; and
- (g) whether any review of quality and quantity of the projects implemented has been conducted?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is carried out by the State Governments from time to time on the basis of State specific poverty lines made available by the Planning Commission. Government of Jharkhand has reported that it has issued Resolution No. 1387 dated 8-6-2009 for the identification of BPL families.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Central funds released to Jharkhand under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), year-wise, are as under:—

Year	Central funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2
Opening balance available from Bihar	519.63
2000-2001	202.10
2001-2002	66.64
2002-2003	0.00
2003-2004	0.00
2004-2005	0.00

1	2
2005-2006	0.00
2007-2008	480.90
2008-2009	0.00
TOTAL	1269.27

Regarding the number of beneficiaries under the scheme, a report has been called from the State Government of Jharkhand.

(g) The scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is reviewed at the Government and Urban Local Body (ULB) level from time to time.

Migration and unemployment in urban areas

2170. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of villagers coming to metros and big towns for livelihood has been increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has evolved any strategy to deal with the situation to minimize unemployment in urban areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) and (b) As per the Census of India 2001 data, total migrants population between 1991-2001 was 98.30 million. Out of this about 22% comprises of rural to urban migrants. Contribution of rural-urban migration to urban population growth has been relatively small in India compared to many developed and developing countries. However, there are considerable regional variations in the patterns of migration. In States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Delhi, migration has contributed significantly to the process of urban growth.

(c) and (d) In the urban areas, in order to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, an employment-oriented urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is being implemented on all India basis since 01.12.1997. Under SJSRY, the urban poor are assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises for self-employment and also provided wage employment by utilizing their labour in the construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been comprehensively revamped with effect from 2009-2010.

Low cost housing

2171. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has urged the developers to enter mid-income and low cost housing project to exploit the potential of that segment to help the minority people in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the developers in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) to (c) The newly launched Scheme of Affordable Housing in Partnership aims at operationalising the strategy envisaged in the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP) 2007, of promoting various types of public-private partnerships — of the government sector with the private sector, the cooperative sector, the financial services sector, the state parastatals, urban local bodies, etc. for realizing the goal of affordable housing for all.

Central Government assistance under this scheme which would cover Middle Income Group (MIG) dwelling units also, will be provided for the provision of civic services such as water supply including ground level/overhead service reservoirs, storm water drainage, solid waste management, sewerage including common sewerage treatment facilities, rain water harvesting, approach roads, electricity lines including electricity transformers, parks and playgrounds and other amenities.

Central Assistance under the scheme will be limited to least of following:—

- a. Rs. 50,000 per Dwelling Unit for all dwelling units taking Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) units together which are proposed in the project; and
- b. 25% of the cost of all civic services (external and internal) proposed in the project.

Subject to the above, Central Assistance would be computed in the following manner:—

Sl. No.	Built up area for EWS/LIG as a percentage of total constructed area	Subsidy Amount*
1.	25%	Rs. 60,000 per EWS/LIG unit
2.	>25% and upto 30%	Rs. 60,000-70,000 per EWS/LIG unit
3.	>30% and upto 35%	Rs. 70,000-80,000 per EWS/LIG unit
4.	>35% and upto 40%	Rs. 80,000-90,000 per EWS/LIG unit
5.	>40%	Rs. 90,000-1,00,000 per EWS/LIG unit

*An Additionality of 12.5% may be provided for North Eastern States including Sikkim and Special Category States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand).

No project has so far been sanctioned under the Scheme.

Manual Scavenging

†2172. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the evil practice of manual scavenging has been completely abolished by March, 2009;
- (b) whether these people have been included in other developmental schemes; and
- (c) the names of primary schemes in which these people have direct participation?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the Government of India implements the "Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)". The Scheme which started in January, 2007, aims at rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupation by providing them training and loan at concessional rates of interest for starting their self employment ventures. Capital subsidy of upto Rs. 20,000/- is also provided to them. In addition, all Safai Karmacharis, including manual scavengers and their dependents, are also eligible under the schemes of self employment and training of the National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation.

Urban poverty and deprivation

2173. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that with globalization of economy urbanization has increased in India and so has the poverty and deprivation in all urban areas;
- (b) whether Government has analysed this trend and also the factors like migration of labour, their working conditions in urban areas;
- (c) if so, the details and action taken in this regard;
- (d) whether Government has analysed the gender dimensions of urban poverty; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard and schemes/financial help provided to women?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) Yes, Sir. As per the Planning Commission estimates of urban poor for the years 1993-1994 and 2004-2005, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the absolute number of urban poor has increased from 76.34 million to 80.80 million during this period whereas the absolute number of rural poor has decreased from 244.03 million to 220.92 million.

(b) and (c) The Report on Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) brought out in August, 2007, has deeply analyzed the trends of economy and its effect

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on poor/informal sector. It reveals that in 2004-2005, out of India's total workforce of 457.5 million, 92% or 422.6 million worked in unorganized economy *i.e.* informal sector. In case of gender break-up, the figure was 90.7% for male and 95.9% for female workforce respectively.

(d) and (e) The India Urban Poverty Report 2009, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, critically analyses the gender dimension of urban poverty in one of its chapters. The report says that women in urban areas are affected due to poverty as well as gender discriminations. The analysis made in the chapter, based on data over 1993-1994 and 2004-2005, emphasizes the need for a specific focus on urban poor women, given the increasing incidence of poverty in terms of absolute numbers of poor women and their high compound growth rate. Further the Head Count Ratio (HCR) of poverty among female headed households is higher in urban areas when compared to male headed householders.

With regard to the schemes targeting women urban poor, the Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) component of the revamped Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) targets the urban poor women for assistance in setting up group enterprises as well as support in the form of revolving fund for Self-help groups/Thrift and Credit Societies for meeting their micro-credit needs. Also 30% of the beneficiaries under the Urban Self Employment Programme (targeting individual urban poor for setting up micro-enterprises) and Skill training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) components of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) must be women.

Slums in metropolitan cities

†2174. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of slums present in the metropolitan and big cities has been assessed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) this number five years ago and what would be their number after five years; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
(a) to (c) Urban development/slum being a State subject, it is upto concerned States/cities to assess the details regarding the number of slums in metropolitan cities and big cities of the country. No such assessment about the number of slums is available with this Ministry. Data on the number of slums and other relevant details are maintained by respective States/Municipal Authorities.

Urban wage employment programme

2175. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether urban wage employment programme is being implemented in the urban local bodies of the State of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of socially and economically useful public assets created during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) the details of wages paid to the labourers during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
 (a) and (b) The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) component of the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is being implemented in all urban local bodies in the country, including that of West Bengal, where the population of a town/city is less than five lakhs as per the 1991 census.

(c) and (d) The progress of the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is monitored at the Central level through the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) received from the States/UTs, which provide cumulative data since the inception of the scheme and upto the last quarter of a particular year. Under the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) component the data received in the Quarterly Progress Reports from the States indicates the cumulative expenditure made in this component, total number of mandays of work generated under the programme (cumulative) and prevalent rate of minimum wages in the State. As per the Quarterly Progress Report received from the State Government of West Bengal for the Quarter ending 31st March, 2009 these details are as under:—

Total expenditure incurred in the UWEP component.	—	Rs. 20403.30 lakhs
Total number of mandays of work generated.	—	Rs. 93.31 lakhs
The prevailing rate of minimum wages in the State.	—	Rs. 100/-

Urban poverty alleviation

2176. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the poverty ratio in urban areas of the country as of now, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that slums in the urban areas of the country remain without any significant change despite the claims of Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken for the alleviation of poverty in urban areas of the country;
- (d) whether any specific steps are proposed to be taken by Government for the hygienic environment in slum areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA):
 (a) Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the

national sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). From the latest large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) (61st Round), covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005, two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 have been obtained. The first one is from the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions. As per these estimates, number and percentage of urban poor both by URP method as well as MRP method, State-wise as well as all India are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Government launched in December, 2005 the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers of the identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs for taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 65 select cities under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). For other cities/towns, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) have been introduced.

Further, with a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, an employment-oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The programme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures and secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

(d) and (e) The projects sanctioned under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) strive for a holistic slum development with focus on a garland of seven basic minimum services (7-point charter) to the slum dwellers in the form of affordable shelter, access to land tenure, water, sanitation, primary health, primary education and social security. Further the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS) scheme, revised in 2008, focuses on providing hygienic environment in slums by converting/constructing low cost sanitation units through sanitary two pit pour flush latrines with super structures.

Statement

Number and percentage of population below poverty line urban areas (2004-05) (Based on URP and MRP-Consumption)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	By URP Method		By MRP Method	
		% age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28.00	61.40	20.70	45.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.30	0.09	2.40	0.07
3.	Assam	3.30	1.28	2.40	0.93
4.	Bihar	34.60	32.42	28.90	27.09
5.	Chhattisgarh	41.20	19.47	34.70	16.39
6.	Delhi	15.20	22.30	10.80	15.83
7.	Goa	21.30	1.64	20.90	1.62
8.	Gujarat	13.00	27.19	10.10	21.18
9.	Haryana	15.10	10.60	11.30	7.99
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3.40	0.22	2.60	0.17
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.90	2.19	8.50	2.34
12.	Jharkhand	20.20	13.20	16.30	10.63
13.	Karnataka	32.60	63.83	27.20	53.28
14.	Kerala	20.20	17.17	16.40	13.92
15.	Madhya Pradesh	42.10	74.03	39.30	68.97
16.	Maharashtra	32.20	146.25	29.00	131.40
17.	Manipur	3.30	0.20	2.40	0.14
18.	Meghalaya	3.30	0.16	2.40	0.12
19.	Mizoram	3.30	0.16	2.40	0.11
20.	Nagaland	3.30	0.12	2.40	0.09
21.	Orissa	44.30	26.74	40.30	24.30
22.	Punjab	7.10	6.50	3.80	3.52
23.	Rajasthan	32.90	47.51	28.10	40.50
24.	Sikkim	3.30	0.02	2.40	0.02
25.	Tamil Nadu	22.20	69.13	18.80	58.59
26.	Tripura	3.30	0.20	2.40	0.14

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Uttar Pradesh	30.60	117.03	26.30	100.47
28.	Uttarakhand	36.50	8.85	32.00	7.75
29.	West Bengal	14.80	35.14	11.20	26.64
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22.20	0.32	18.80	0.27
31.	Chandigarh	7.10	0.67	3.80	0.36
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19.10	0.15	19.20	0.16
33.	Daman and Diu	21.20	0.14	20.80	0.14
34.	Lakshadweep	20.20	0.06	16.40	0.05
35.	Pondicherry	22.20	1.59	18.80	1.34
	ALL INDIA	25.70	807.96	21.70	682.02

Note:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty
3. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Island.
4. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
5. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is used to
6. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.
7. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Scholarship scheme for NRI children

2177. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) the details of the scholarship schemes for the NRI children;
- (b) the annual details of number of students availing such schemes;
- (c) the details of the countries from where largest number of student avail these scholarships;
- (d) whether it is a fact that these schemes are being operated by multiple agencies/ Ministries;

- (e) if so, the rationale for such multiplicity; and
- (f) whether Government would consider creating one nodal agency to operate these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was launched in the academic year 2006-2007 with the objective to make higher education in India accessible to the children of overseas Indians and to promote India as a centre for higher studies.

Under the scheme, upto 100 PIO/NRI students are awarded scholarship of up to a maximum of US\$ 4,500 per annum for undergraduate courses in Engineering, Technology, Humanities, Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry etc. It is open to NRIs/PIOs from 40 identified countries having substantial Indian Diaspora population.

(b) and (c) The details given in enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(d) No, Sir. The scholarship scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs through EdCIL(India) Ltd., a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

The country wise details of students availing of scholarship scheme is as follows

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
UAE-18	Kuwait-18	Oman-15
Kuwait-14	UAE-15	Saudi Arabia-12
Saudi Arabia-10	Oman-12	UAE-11
Bahrain-7	Saudi Arabia-12	Kuwait- 6
Qatar-4	Bahrain-9	Sri Lanka-5
Oman-4	Qatar-6	Qatar-4
Indonesia-1	Indonesia-1	Bahrain-3
Guyana-1	Tanzania-1	Malaysia-3
South Africa-1	Thailand-1	USA-2
		Canada-1
		France-1
		Myanmar-1
		Nigeria-1
		Tanzania-1
		Trinidad-1
Total-60	Total-79	Total-67

Steps against serial attacks

2178. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether with recent attacks on Indian students in Australia and Canada, racism against India is back again;

(b) if so, whether there has been past incidents of similar attacks in US, UK, Canada and other European nations;

(c) if so, whether travel sector is latest to be accused of racial discrimination against India; and

(d) if so, whether Government is seriously considering to take some steps, so that such type of incidents does not occur on large scale in other countries also?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir. While some of the attacks on Indian nationals, including students, in Australia could have racial connotations, there are not been any racial attack on Indian nationals in Canada recently.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Steps to check fraud in overseas recruitment

2179. SHRI N. K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

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

(a) whether in view of recent uptrend in fraud in overseas recruitment, Government proposes to check out the credibility of the recruiting agencies and veracity of the job offers with Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several job frauds by overseas agencies have come to the notice of Government in the past few years;

(d) if so, the numbers in the last five years, year-wise; and

(e) the facts thereof and steps taken by Government to check such frauds by overseas recruitment agencies?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) While Government has not noticed any recent uptrend in fraud in overseas recruitment, the Government has put in place a mechanism for monitoring and for stringent action against persons indulging in irregular recruitment for overseas employment.

The Government has taken various steps to assess the credibility of Registered Recruiting Agents and verify job offers with the help of Indian Missions. Before granting registration, the verification of the credibility and suitability of the recruiting agent is done through inspection of the actual location of the office, office facilities, staff, functioning etc., through police verification about his/her antecedents and finally through personal interview by the registering authority to assess his/her overall ability to perform business, awareness about emigration related matters and financial position. Government has recently amended the Emigration Rules to strengthen the same. E-Governance is on the anvil, which will keep track of the recruitment for overseas employment on real time basis and detect any malpractice. Under the existing system, any employment contract for women domestic/unskilled workers is attested by the Indian Missions.

Complaints regarding fraudulent offer of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers are received by the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints include fraudulent advertisements announcing job vacancies overseas, recruitment on behalf of dubious employers and offers of exaggerated benefits. These complaints are received against Registered Recruiting Agents, unauthorized intermediaries as well as some foreign employers. Complaints against foreign employers regarding violation of terms and conditions of the work contract are also received from time to time. In the case of Registered Recruiting Agents (RA), on receipt of a complaint, a show cause notice is issued and comments of concerned office of Protector of Emigrants is called for. If the RA fails to redress the grievances of overseas Indian workers, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration and forfeit his Bank Guarantee. During the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of Registered Recruiting Agents were 41 during 2005, 167 during 2006, 98 during 2007, 118 during 2008 and 81 during 2009 (upto June).

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

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised to instruct all Police Stations to keep a strict vigil on the activities of unscrupulous agents.

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

Exploitation of PIOs

†2180. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any discussion has been held on the issue to exploitation of persons of Indian origin and protection of their human rights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether international treaties are big hurdle in this direction; and
- (d) the efforts being made by Government to bring these issues under the purview of National Human Rights Commission?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, reports are often received about the exploitation of overseas Indian workers at the hands of unscrupulous employers and intermediaries. To lay down a framework of bilateral cooperation to address this problem, the Government has signed labour MOUs with the major receiving countries like the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Malaysia. These MOUs also provide for a joint working group to resolve bilateral labour issues.

(c) and (d) India is a party to the core international conventions on human rights namely — International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000. These conventions/treaties facilitate the protection of human rights of Indians, that includes PIOs and are in no way an obstacle/impediment.

Workers returning due to work loss

2181. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Indian workers working abroad are forced to return to India due to loss of work in the respective countries for the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details of above workers who returned to India from various countries for the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, country-wise, category-wise; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to rehabilitate the above workers and the fund allotted and spend for the same in last five years, year-wise, State-wise, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Ninety percent Indian emigration is to the Gulf Countries. Indian workers return after the period of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

employment contract. Indian Missions in Gulf Countries have informed that there is no report of large scale return of Indians even in the context of the global economic slowdown. The report from United Arab Emirates (UAE) indicates that, though the exact figure is not available, about 50,000 to 1,50,000 emigrants have returned because of delay in execution of projects. They have come on leave without pay expecting to return when the economic situation improves.

(b) Such information is not maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment in RTI Act

2182. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some reservation against the proposal has been expressed by several quarters; and

(d) if so, in what manner it proposed to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. In this regard, it is proposed to review the second schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005 and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities. Government has received representations expressing doubts about the proposed amendments. Non-Government Organisations and social activists will be consulted on the proposed amendments.

Cases forwarded to CBI by Maharashtra

2183. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that have been forwarded to CBI for investigation by the State Government of Maharashtra since 2001 along with the list of such cases;

(b) the details of such cases that have been investigated and completed so far;

(c) the number of cases pending with CBI untouched; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of

Maharashtra has recommended 7 cases for investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) since 2001, out of which 5 cases have been entrusted to CBI for investigation. Out of these 5 cases, investigation has been completed by CBI in 3 cases as follows:—

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------------------|
| (1) | CRM/2205/4/POL-11 | dated 11.01.2005 |
| (2) | PCR-1103/CR/332/SPL-6 | dated 20.11.2006 |
| (3) | EAR-0306/C-112-POL-09 | dated 11.01.2007 |
| (c) | None. | |
| (d) | Does not arise. | |

Functioning of public grievances hearing mechanism

2184. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment of the functioning of public grievances hearing mechanism in various departments of Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in most of the departments the mechanism is not effective and it exists only for name's sake;
- (c) whether Government has issued any guidelines, in this regard; and
- (d) whether any legislation for regulating public grievances mechanism is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not made any assessment of the functioning of public grievance hearing mechanism in various departments of Government. Each Ministry/Department has a Director of Public Grievance, who ensures that grievances of citizens are redressed. Steps are being taken to strengthen the internal redress machinery of individual Ministry/Department. Guidelines have been issued from time to time to Ministries/Departments including guidelines to redress grievances of citizen within a period of two months and also to give a reasoned reply within the said period if a grievance cannot be redressed.

- (d) No, Sir.

Frequent transfer of Civil Servants

2185. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that most of the IAS, IPS and All India officers working in the States are frequently transferred without substantial reasons and mostly due to political reasons;
- (b) if so, whether Government would make model transfer policy giving officers fixed tenure and ask the States to abide by the norms of fixed tenure;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is also aware that due to frequent transfers, morale of officers is affected and also the development work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) Transfers/postings of the All India Service officers working in connection with the affairs of the State Government, falls within the purview of the State Governments. However, as the Central Government is concerned about the frequent transfers of the All India Service officers, especially in the States and in order to ensure sustainable development, two years' minimum tenure of postings for all the cadre posts of the IAS, except the post of Chief Secretary has been notified in the first instance for 13 States/Joint cadres.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Environment and Forest have been requested to take similar action for the IPS and IFS officers.

Closing cases against LTTE Chief

2186. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has closed all pending cases against LTTE Chief Prabhakaran in Indian Courts after his death; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation for women in Government jobs

†2187. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to introduce reservation system for women in Government jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of this reservation and for which category of women it would be applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Amendments in RTI Act

†2188. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposed amendments in the Right to Information Act, 2005 are going to be implemented;
- (b) if so, whether these amendments are under consideration keeping in view the widespread protest therefor;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the proposed amendments in the Act; and
- (e) the details of the amendment provisions against which protest is being lodged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. In this regard, it is proposed to review the number of organizations in the second schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005 and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities. Government has received representations expressing doubts about the proposed amendments. Non-Governmental Organisations and Social activists will be consulted on the proposed amendments.

Discontinuation of central schemes in Bihar

†2189. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has urged to discontinue central schemes;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and whether through this request, financial assistance has been sought for schemes proposed to be formulated by the State Government for the needs of the State; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and the decision taken by Government to take action upon this proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Annual growth rate of GDP

†2190. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product during 2008-09 is estimated to be around 5.8 per cent;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that increase in expenditure incurred by public sector has led to increase in above growth rate;

(c) if so, the increase in Government expenditure in 2008-09 against the one in 2007-08; and

(d) the percentage of increase in expenditure made by private sector during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices during 2008-09 is estimated to be 6.7 percent as per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization on May 29th, 2009. This growth rate of GDP is largely contributed by high growth rate of 13.1 percent in 'community, social and personal services sector' which includes public administration and defence.

(c) As per the Union Budget, 2009-10, the Central Government expenditure increased from Rs. 712671 crores in the year 2007-08 to Rs. 900953 crores (Revised Estimates) in the year 2008-09 accounting for 26.4 percent increase.

(d) As per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization on May 29th, 2009, the private final consumption expenditure (at current prices) in 2008-09 was 12.2% higher than that in 2007-08.

Wages of Safai Karamcharis

†2191. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has acknowledged that safai workers and employees are getting very low wages;

(b) whether this commission has recommended to enhance their wages; and

(c) whether Government is agree thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) had recommended fixing and payment of minimum wages to Safai Karamcharis.

(c) The Central Government *vide* notification dated 7th August, 2008 has fixed the minimum rates of wages per day payable to the employees engaged in [Employment of sweeping and cleaning excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993]. The basic rates of minimum wages notified for "A", "B" and "C" areas are Rs. 180/-, Rs. 150/- and Rs. 120/- per day respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

People spending less than Rs. 20 a day

2192. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that 77 per cent of people are unable to spend even Rs. 20 a day;
- (b) whether Government proposes to recognize these 77 per cent people as poor ones;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a vast portion of these poor people remain deprived of the opportunities admissible for 26 per cent of people termed as BPL; and
- (d) the policy of Government to do justice of the poorer section of people not coming under BPL category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) No, Sir. Around 60.5 per cent of the population in India had per capita consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 20 per day in the year 2004-05.

(b) Government has no such proposal.

(c) and (d) There are several programmes of Government of India that are meant to benefit all persons and not just persons living below the poverty line. There are schemes where the BPL criterion does not have a role such as Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS); Mid-day meals programme (MDM), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), etc. These schemes are open to all.

People living on less than 2 Dollar a day

2193. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 80 per cent of Indians live on less than 2 Dollar a day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) As per the estimates provided in the 'Global Economic Prospects — 2009' published by the World Bank, 75.6 percent of the Indian population lived below 2 Dollar a day in the year 2005.

(c) The Government of India does not use the poverty estimates on the basis of International Poverty line, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different states of the country.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2194. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation now;
- (b) the name of the schemes which are routed through State Government's budgets, directly through para-State agencies, local bodies and non-Governmental agencies; and

(c) the budget outlay and actual expenditure under each of these schemes in 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) The number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in operation is 138.

(b) and (c) Statement-18 on “Direct transfer of Central Plan Assistance to State/District level autonomous bodies/implementing agencies” of Expenditure Budget Vol. I of the Ministry of Finance, contains the names of schemes. However, the details of the budget outlay and actual expenditure under each of these schemes in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are available with the Ministries/Departments responsible for implementing these schemes.

Plan allocation for Assam

2195. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make plan allocation State-wise on the basis of their need arising out of being affected by natural calamities every year;

(b) whether annual plan allocation of the State of Assam appears to be inadequate on the basis of its need arising out of post flood situation every year;

(c) whether his Ministry is monitoring the utilization of fund allocated to every States on the basis of their demand; and

(d) whether the report on the utilization of fund by the States are satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) to (d) The size of the Annual Plan of States is decided by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments and assessment of resource availability. The total resources available to the State for funding its Annual Plan is the sum of its own resources, its borrowings and the Central Assistance provided. Normal Central Assistance for the Annual Plans of States is allocated on the basis of Gadgil Mukherjee Formula. Scheme-wise Central Assistance is allocated according to the Guidelines of each scheme. The sectoral allocations of the overall Annual Plan as proposed by the State Governments are discussed with the Planning Commission and thereafter approved. The needs of each State for reconstruction of assets and infrastructure damaged by natural calamities is assessed by the States and included in the sectoral allocations based on the State's scheme of priorities of plan expenditure.

State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. These funds are allocated and spent under the Non-Plan head and do not form part of the Annual Plan of the State. Financial assistance is provided from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and it is supplemented by the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the

event of the natural calamity categorized as of severe nature. These funds are operated as per scheme notified by the Ministry of Finance from time to time based on the recommendations of Finance Commission for a period of five years. The allocated funds in CRF are contributed by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. Releases from NCCF are fully contributed by the Centre in accordance with the laid down procedure.

Under Assam's Annual Plan (2008-09), Rs. 83.33 crores has been provided by the State for flood control activities.

Based on the Guidelines circulated by Planning Commission to State Governments, a proportionate cut in Central Assistance is imposed by the Ministry of Finance, in the following year for States which record lower expenditure than the Revised Approved Outlay and also on account of shortfalls in the earmarked outlays, during the previous year, with a view to ensuring that the Plan projects are implemented as per the time schedule envisaged.

Allocation of fund to Orissa

2196. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total fund allocated to Orissa in last five years under various Central Schemes and the utilization thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The approved outlays of the Government of Orissa for the last five years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Years	Approved Outlays
2004-05	2500.00
2005-06	3000.00
2006-07	3500.00
2007-08	5105.00
2008-09	7500.00

State-wise releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as well as monitoring their utilization by each State, is undertaken by the Central Government Ministry implementing the scheme. Details of funds disbursed, and utilized from these schemes, state-wise, are available only with the Central Ministries concerned.

Development programmes in Andhra Pradesh

2197. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the economic development programmes undertaken in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the funds allocated and utilized so far, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh backward regions like Warangal; and

(c) the programmes to be taken up in the current year in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) to (c) Economic development programmes are taken up in each State, including in Andhra Pradesh, both under Non Plan and Plan heads. Details of these programmes are contained in their budget estimates placed before their respective legislatures. The funds allocated and utilized for economic development programmes, State-wise, are available only in the budget documents of each State and the accounts that are compiled by the Accountants General and placed before the State legislatures.

Proposal from Karnataka

2198. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of the State Government of Karnataka for the grant of a rehabilitation package for the 201 families staying in revenue enclosures of Kudremukh National Park has been pending with the Planning Commission for necessary approval since September, 2006 and the clarification sought by the Commission was furnished in February, 2007; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be cleared and necessary funds released for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. A proposal of the State Government of Karnataka for the grant of a rehabilitation package for the rehabilitation of 201 families staying in revenue enclosures of Kudremukh National Park was received in Planning Commission in 25.09.2006 and a reply to the clarification sought by the Commission was received from the State Government on 23.02.2007. Thereafter, a final reply was sent to the Government of Karnataka on 11.07.2007, in which the State Government was requested to include this project in the One Time Additional Central Assistance (OTACA) for 2007-08 for further consideration in Planning Commission. So far, the State Government has not included this proposal in the OTACA allocated to it at the time of the Annual Plans 2007-08 onwards.

Census for BPL beneficiaries

2199. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fresh census for BPL beneficiaries is likely to increase the number of BPL in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the implications thereof, and action proposed by Government to mitigate their miseries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to suggest a suitable methodology including the parameters to be used for identification of BPL families living in rural areas for the fresh BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period to identify the BPL households in the rural areas. Outcome of the fresh Census for BPL beneficiaries cannot be predicted at this point of time.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Common disasters

2200. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the common disasters that are occurring in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that India's vulnerability to landslide and snow avalanches is substantial and striking during monsoon season; and

(c) the major measures initiated or being initiated to tide over the landslide and snow avalanches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The common natural disasters that are occurring in India are earthquakes, landslides, cloudbursts, flash floods, snowstorm, snow avalanches, ice fall, cyclone, flood, tsunami, rock fall, mud flow/debris flow, crevasses, glacial lake out bursting, and lightening.

(b) Yes sir, our country is vulnerable to various types of natural disaster viz. 55% of its land is prone to earthquake, 8% is vulnerable to cyclone, 5% vulnerable to flood and landslides affects 15% of our country covering over 0.49 million square kilometers. Majority of landslides occur during monsoon season whereas the snow avalanches phenomena is dominant during winter however only in rare and exceptional circumstances it takes place in remote locations during the monsoon season.

(c) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has recently issued guidelines on management of landslides and snow avalanches which recommends some structural and non-structural measures to tide over the impact of these disasters. These measures *inter alia* primarily include landslide hazard zonation, mapping of landslide prone areas, treatment measures for selected hazards, landslides, early warning system, capacity building and strengthening the emergency capabilities. Further Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) is working in the field of avalanche mitigation in the country. Civilians and troops are forewarned about the impending danger by SASE and also it provides Information about all round danger to the Government. Besides Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is also engaged in investigating the major causative factors for landslides in Himalaya.

Regulatory authority for bio-technology

2201. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up regulatory authority for biotechnology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is in the process of setting up of a regulatory authority for biotechnology product and processes. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been entrusted to act as the nodal agency to establish "National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority" (NBRA) through an act of Parliament. Accordingly, a consultative group of experts have prepared draft establishment plan of NBRA and the proposed Bill. Both the draft documents were put in public domain for review and comments. Several consultative meetings were held with concerned stakeholders representing farmers and consumer's organizations, industry, legal experts, media and academia/scientists from research institutions/universities. State Governments were also consulted for their feedback. An Interdisciplinary and Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee was also constituted to oversee and advise on all matters related to drafting, reviewing the comments of experts and stakeholders as well as preparing final documents. The governmental process of inter-ministerial consultation has been completed for obtaining necessary approvals for the NBR Bill by the Cabinet and subsequently the Parliament as per procedure.

Disability certificates

2202. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether only 22 per cent of physically challenged people are in possession of the prescribed disabilities certificates;
- (b) if so, whether Administrative Reforms Commission in its 12th Report has attributed this to non-existence of simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures;
- (c) whether "The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995" has adequate provisions for this; and
- (d) if not, the steps for one week issuance norm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Information was given by State Government in 2007 that about

22% of persons with disabilities had been provided disability certificates, out of the total population of persons with disabilities, as per Census, 2001.

(b) to (d) The Administrative Reforms Commission in its 12th Report has referred to the need to devise simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures for issuance of disability certificates.

Under Section 2 (p), The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for certification of disability. Further, there are guidelines for evaluation and assessment of various disabilities and for issuance of disability certificates to persons with disabilities. These guidelines are revised from time to time.

A revised simplified, transparent and client-friendly procedure has been prepared for incorporation in The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996, which includes a provision for a time limit for issuance of disability certificates.

Survey of beggars

2203. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a survey conducted by Delhi Social Work Department of about 3500 beggars, has revealed that four are Degree holders, six have completed college courses and many of them earn around Rs. 500 a day, which is higher than what several blue and white collar workers make;

(b) if so, how Government proposes to deal with growing menace of begging, in Delhi itself, where they are 75000, so that educated and literate are not forced to resort to begging; and

(c) the perspective planning to end begging menace all over India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) A survey on beggary was conducted by Department of Social Work, University of Delhi on the request of Government of NCT of Delhi. Out of surveyed beggars, 6 were found to be graduates and 4 were post graduates. As per the report, 22 beggars earn between Rs. 200/- to 500/- per day.

(b) and (c) As per above report it is difficult to assess the exact number of beggars at any given time in Delhi as beggar population is floating and they keep migrating in and out of Delhi. As per the figures collected from different areas at different times, the average number of beggars in Delhi was 58,570.

Government of Delhi have reported earlier that regular raids are conducted to apprehend Beggars under Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi. Many other steps like mobile courts under the Act, Opening of Shelter Homes, involvement of NGOs in training

and rehabilitation of Beggars, Public Awareness Campaigns to make people desist from giving alms have been part of perspective plans to end begging menace.

Social security programmes

2204. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to the upliftment of weaker sections of the society and ensuring social security of elderly and disabled persons; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes implemented for the purpose in Uttar Pradesh and achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government implements several schemes for social security for the weaker sections including elderly and disabled. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has many schemes such as Integrated Programme for Older Persons for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units, Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aid's/Appliances (ADIP) and provides grant in aid for rehabilitation/empowerment of persons with disabilities through projects such as Special Schools for Mentally Retarded/Hearing Impaired/Visually Handicapped, Vocational Training Centres etc. under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.

The Ministry of Rural Development also administers the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which was launched from 1995-96 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Later on, NSAP was transferred to the State Plan *w.e.f.* 2002-03 and funds are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. At present NSAP comprises of following schemes:—

(i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

(iii) Annapurna Scheme

(iv) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)

(v) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

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

Recognition as SC

2205. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received representation from Namasudra community for recognition as Scheduled Caste;

(b) if so, the details of the same and the action taken on it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Proposals to include Namasudra community in the list of Scheduled Castes were received from State Government of Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

The proposal of Government of Uttarakhand was processed in accordance with the approved modalities. On the basis of comments of the Registrar General of India, the State Government was requested to provide requisite ethnographic information, which has not been received.

The proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh to include Namasudra Community in the list of Scheduled Castes was returned to them for clarification of certain inconsistencies found in the proposal.

Grants for Orissa

2206. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the total grants released by Government in Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme in the country and in Orissa for the year 2008-09 and the per cent of utilization, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): The State-wise details of Special Central Assistance funds released to States/UTs including Orissa during 2008-09 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5167.85
2.	Assam	1089.04
3.	Bihar	4009.15
4.	Chhattisgarh	547.21
5.	Gujarat	959.52
6.	Haryana	1213.48
7.	Himachal Pradesh	517.08
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	230.48
9.	Jharkhand	574.94
10.	Karnataka	3605.30

1	2	3
11.	Kerala	813.12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4806.42
13.	Maharashtra	4222.80
14.	Orissa	2832.14
15.	Punjab	1004.07
16.	Rajasthan	3331.86
17.	Sikkim	40.06
18.	Tamil Nadu	6002.81
19.	Tripura	311.42
20.	Uttar Pradesh	14351.57
21.	West Bengal	4503.80
22.	Chandigarh	25.00
TOTAL		60159.12

As per the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the States/UTs should provide Utilization Certificates within 12 months. It is ensured that funds are released after receiving the Utilization Certificates from State Governments for the financial year for which they are due.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

‡2207. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is working on basic requirements of all Safai Karamcharis;

(b) the time by which the report submitted by National Commission for Safai Karamcharis would be put on the table of Parliament; and

(c) the reasons for delay therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) has so far submitted seven annual reports, out of which four reports pertaining to the years 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (combined) and 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (combined), alongwith Action Taken Memorandum (ATM), have been laid on the Table of the House. Necessary action is

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

being taken to lay other Reports, alongwith the ATM, on the Table of the House, in accordance with the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.

Assistance to Disabled Persons

2208. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons provided assistive devices in the State of Tamil Nadu under Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADP) during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for providing assistive devices to the differently abled persons in the State;

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

(d) whether any monitoring is being done by the Union Government to ensure that the targeted persons actually benefit under the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme), the total number of disabled persons provided assistive devices in the State of Tamil Nadu during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are 3762, 45643 and 9500 (estimated) respectively. The State Government of Tamil Nadu also provided Aids and Appliances for 7397, 17942 and 7861 beneficiaries respectively, in the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

(b) and (c) No State-wise target is fixed under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme). However, efforts are made to cover as many beneficiaries as possible within the budget allocated. The Government of Tamil Nadu fixed targets for the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 to the extent of 7105, 18514 and 8358 beneficiaries respectively.

(d) and (e):

(i) 5-10% of beneficiaries are test checked by the recommending agencies *i.e.* State Governments/National Institutes under the Ministry.

(ii) Grants are released only after Utilization Certificates of previous grants are obtained, so as to ensure that the amount was utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Discrimination against Dalit students

2209. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey by NGO Jansahas and UNICEF in 24 villages of four districts of Madhya Pradesh as published in the media has revealed that more than 63 per cent Dalit children were discriminated against at schools and in anganwadi centres;

(b) whether as per the report the Dalit students were served last, they must use separate plates and cannot occupy front benches;

(c) whether the Dalit boys hold out their hands for bread tossed to them and they are not allowed metal plates which are reserved only for upper-caste students and they must use plates made of leaves;

(d) if so, Government's reaction to the above survey report; and

(e) the corrective/punitive steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (e) Findings of an NGO, Jansahas, in this regard, were published in the media, in May, 2009. The matter was taken up with Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Government has reported that they have inquired into it and statements made in the report of the NGO are not based on the ground reality. Senior State Government officials had also visited three villages and did not find any discrimination against these children at schools and in Anganwadi Centres.

Preparations and hotels for tourists for Commonwealth Games

†2210. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mega event, the 2010 Commonwealth Games are about to be organized in our country in which thousands of foreign players and tourists would be visiting our country;

(b) if so, the preparations made by Government for boarding and lodging, etc. of such a large number of foreign tourists visiting India, and the total amount of money likely to be spent thereon;

(c) since the event is to be organized in Delhi, the capital of the country, the works being done for the beautification of Delhi; and

(d) keeping in view the facilities for the tourists, the number of low budget/medium budget/five-star hotels proposed to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism has assessed that approx. 40,000 rooms under various categories in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) would be required to meet the demand of the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity and highly capital intensive with a long gestation period. In order to address the shortage of hotel rooms in Delhi NCR for the Games, projects are being implemented by various agencies in NCT of Delhi and States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. These projects are being monitored by the concerned land owning agencies and are also reviewed regularly by the Ministry of Tourism through the 'Task Force' set up for this purpose.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Proposals from Rajasthan

2211. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for tourism development have been received from the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received alongwith the funds required;

(c) whether necessary clearances have been granted to the projects submitted by the State;

(d) if so, the details of the project clearances granted and the projects still pending for clearance; and

(e) the funds so far released against each project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

The details of the Central Financial Assistance sanctioned and amount released to the State Government of Rajasthan for tourism infrastructure projects are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
2007-08	Floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan	800.00	640.00
	Development of Shekhawati	754.46	603.57
2008-09	Conservation, Restoration of Parkota and various buildings of Shergarah, Baran	461.44	369.15
	Conservation, Restoration and Development of Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur	432.06	345.65
	Development of Hawamahahal, Phase-II	360.66	288.52
	Development of Jantar Mantar, Phase-II	193.90	155.12
	Bala Qila and Kankarwari Fort	480.61	384.48
	Ajmer-Pushkar (as a mega destination)	1069.68	319.84

1	2	3	4
	New BG-II Palace on wheels (under Large Revenue Generating scheme)	750.00	750.00
	Conservation and Restoration Muchkund Dholpur	444.21	352.00
	Integrated Development of Udaipur	241.37	193.07

Global and domestic tourism

2212. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the share of global and domestic tourism in our tourism industry; and
- (b) the steps which are being taken to promote domestic tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals and domestic tourist visits in India during 2008 are estimated at 5.37 million and 563 million respectively.

The Ministry of Tourism plays a crucial role in coordinating and supplementing the efforts of State/UT Governments in tourism promotion, catalyzing private sector investments, strengthening promotional and marketing efforts in domestic and overseas markets, and in providing trained manpower resources for the tourism sector.

The Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been recently expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Domestic Tourism in the country.

Decline in foreign tourists

2213. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the last and current year, there has been a sharp decline in the number of foreign tourists coming to visit heritage centres in the country due to global recession;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government proposes to implement special package to woo foreign visitors; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2007, 2008 and January-June, 2009 and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year are given below:—

Period	FTAs (in Million)	Growth over previous year
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008 *	5.37	5.6%
2009 * January-June	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2007 and 2008 show a rising trend, during the period January-June, 2009 there has been a decline. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008.

The decline in FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial melt-down and terrorist activities.

Ministry of Tourism, through its India-tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities with the objective of increasing FTAs. These activities include advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars and workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

The Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical and Convention and Conference Tourism in the country.

Clearance for Starwood Hotels

2214. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Starwood Hotels and Resorts propose to open some hotels in the country by 2011;
- (b) if so, the locations identified; and
- (c) whether Government has given clearance for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. The Government has permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the field of hotel sector thus allowing the entry of international hotel brands into the country. Ministry of Tourism approves hotel projects at implementation stage as per the laid down 'Guidelines'. However, no application for approval of hotel project from Starwood is pending with Ministry of Tourism.

Grants for tourism development

‡2215. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides grants to State Governments for raising the quality of tourism development;

(b) if so, the central financial support provided to Madhya Pradesh so far alongwith the places for which the same has been provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines subject to *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

The details of the funds sanctioned for tourism infrastructure projects in Madhya Pradesh during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2007-08		
1.	Destination development of Salkanpur	426.55
2.	Destination development of Sanchi	463.50
3.	Destination development of Shivpuri	297.08
4.	Destination development of Ujjain	473.34
5.	Destination development of Orchha	106.09
6.	Conservation and Restoration of Kilakothi	47.17
7.	Development of tourism circuit, Chitrakoot, Dev Talab, Deo-kothar	782.13
8.	Development of Bhubela Distt. Chattarpur	454.54
9.	Destination development of Tamia	335.68
10.	Village Dev Pur, Distt. Vidisha (Rural Tourism Project)	40.34
11.	Village Siondha Distt. Datia (Rural Tourism Project) 2008-09	50.00

1	2	3
2008-09		
1.	Development of Burmanghat Narsinghpur	180.67
2.	Destination development of Datia M.P.	475.92
3.	Integrated development of Narsinghgarh Distt Rajgarh	447.78
4.	Development of Nalkheda as a tourist destination	429.20
5.	Development of Dewas as a tourist destination	441.89
6.	Development of Kundeswar Distt Tikamgarh	374.66
7.	Integrated development of Hoshangabad as a destination	284.59
8.	Dest. development of Mandu Ph II as a tourist destination in M.P.	426.84
9.	Destination development of Jata Shankar Dham	361.72
10.	Village Budhni, Distt. Sehore (Rural Tourism Project)	50.00
2009-10		
1.	Destination development of Vidisha	489.00
2.	Development of Maheshwar (Phase-II) as a tourist destination	390.81

Visit India 2009

†2216. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreign tourists in India has declined, if so, the details of the inflow of foreign tourists from June, 2006 to 2009;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has launched Visit India, 2009, the nature of the scheme indicating the places benefited by the scheme alongwith the time when the same was launched?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2006, 2007, 2008 and January-June, 2009 and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year are given below:—

Period	FTAs (in Million)	Growth over previous year
1	2	3
2006	4.45	13.5%
2007	5.08	14.3%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
2008*	5.37	5.6%
2009* January-June	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional

The number of FTAs in June, 2009 was 0.34 million as compared to 0.28 million in June, 2006. While the number of FTAs during the period January-June, 2009 has observed a decline over the corresponding period of previous year, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008.

The decline in FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial melt-down and terrorist activities.

(c) Yes, Sir. A "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been launched in April, 2009 by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year. The incentives being offered by the stakeholders to all tourists from overseas, include complimentary air tickets, hotel rooms, local tours, etc.

Tourism projects in Rajasthan

2217. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects completed/being executed by her Ministry to develop tourist spots in Rajasthan during the last two years and till date during the current year;

(b) whether her Ministry has so far monitored the progress of projects with officials of Rajasthan State Government through site visits and review meetings;

(c) if so, by when, on going projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the details of new tourism projects likely to be undertaken in the State during current financial year indicating Central financial assistance proposed to be given to Rajasthan during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The tourism infrastructure projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in the last two years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
2007-08	Floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan	800.00	640.00
	Development of Shekhawati	754.46	603.57

1	2	3	4
2008-09	Conservation, Restoration of Parkota and various buildings of Shergarh, Baran	461.44	369.15
	Development of Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur	432.06	345.65
	Development of Hawamahahal, Phase-II,	360.66	288.52
	Development of Jantar Mantar, Phase-II	193.90	155.12
	Bala Qila and Kanakwari Fort	480.61	384.48
	Ajmer-Pushkar (as a mega destination)	1,069.68	319.84
	New BG-II Palace on Wheels (under Large Revenue Generation Project scheme)	750.00	750.00
	Conservation and Restoration of Muchkund, Dholpur	444.21	352.00
	Integrated Development of Udaipur	241.37	193.07

No project was sanctioned to State Government of Rajasthan during the current financial year till now.

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

Implementation of the tourism projects is done by the State Governments/UTs. However, Ministry of Tourism monitors such projects through meetings with the State Governments/UT administrations and through site visits.

Regularisation of colonies

†2218. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether thousands of people are residing in many unauthorised colonies in Delhi;
- (b) the number of colonies which have not been regularized by Government so far and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has prepared any plan to regularise these colonies;
- (d) if so, the outlines of such plan and the names of the colonies which are planned to be regularized by Government; and
- (e) the details regarding the outlines and time frame of the said plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has informed that out of the 1639 applications of unauthorized colonies received by it, provisional regularisation certificates have been issued by them to 1218 unauthorized colonies as on 04.10.2008. 421 unauthorized colonies could not be provided provisional regularization certificate by GNCTD since these colonies did not fulfill the conditions laid down in the Notification dated 16.06.2008. The Revised Guidelines-2007 for regularisation of unauthorized colonies issued by this Ministry and the Notifications dated 24.03.2008 and 16.06.2008 for regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi contain the plan for regularisation of these colonies which, *inter-alia*, outlines the criteria, the procedure, the documents to be submitted, the steps to be taken by the local bodies, the parameters etc. for regularisation.

The list of such 1218 unauthorized colonies is being prepared.

Gujarat cities under JNNURM

2219. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 1155/Unstarred Question 1544 answered in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2008 and 13th March, 2008, respectively regarding inclusion of Capital city Gandhinagar, Porbandar and Karamsad in Gujarat under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and state:

(a) since when all the capital cities of State Governments have been included under JNNURM, the reasons as to why only Gandhinagar, Capital city of Gujarat has been left out of the Scheme;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for including Porbandar and Karamsad under JNNURM; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not including Porbandar and Karamsad even under category 'B' or 'C' of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched on 3rd December, 2005 and capital cities of all States have been included except Gandhinagar. Decision to keep the number of cities covered under Urban Infrastructure Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to around 60 was approved by Government when the Mission was launched. Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara are covered under Sub-Mission-I of the JNNURM. However, cities not covered under Sub-Mission-I have been covered under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) of JNNURM.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Gujarat has requested for inclusion of Porbandar and Karamsad. Porbandar has been included as Mission City under JNNURM. However, Government has decided to restrict the number of cities covered under JNNURM to around 60. Karamsad can avail funds through Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) under JNNURM.

Procurement of buses and extension of roads under JNNURM

†2220. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national level scheme to procure buses for improving public transport system had been formulated under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) if so, the outline of the scheme, and the number and value of buses, the provision for procurement of which was made under this scheme;

(c) whether extension of roads has been planned before procurement of buses for improving the public transport system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) and (b) Under the second stimulus package announced by the Government on 02.01.2009, as a one time measure upto 30.06.2009, this Ministry has launched a scheme for funding of procurement of buses meant for Urban Transport Systems under JNNURM for the mission cities.

The scheme is exclusively for urban transport *i.e.* city bus service and/or BRTS for the city/urban area for which buses are procured.

So far, 15260 buses have been sanctioned for 61 mission cities across the country at a total estimated cost of Rs. 4735.50 crore (approximately) out of which admissible Central Assistance is estimated as Rs. 2093.28 crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

World bank loans

2221. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has assured India of providing a loan amounting to Rs. 25,000 Crores for urban development;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the main items on which this amount would be spent;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been asked to submit their plans for urban development;
- (d) if so, how much out of it has been distributed among States; and
- (e) whether World Bank has put a condition that the loan should be utilized towards development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) to (e) Ministry of Urban Development has sent a proposal to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to seek external assistance of \$ 5.3 billion from the World Bank for development of Urban Infrastructure, Urban Water and Sanitation and Urban Transport. As the proposal for World Bank assistance is in preliminary stage, the State Governments have not been asked to submit plans so far.

Complaints against CPWD officers

‡2222. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount spent on maintenance and repair of residences of Ministers and Members of Parliament in the last five years;
- (b) whether complaints of corruption against officers of Central Public Works Department (CPWD) have been received by his Ministry; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by Government against them till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Metro Rail at Kochi

2223. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proposal for Metro Rail in Kochi is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal for Metro Rail in Kochi covering a total length of 25.3 kms (fully elevated) from Alwaye to Petta at an estimated cost of Rs. 2991.5 crore has been received by the Central Government.

- (b) and (c) The proposal have not yet been approved by the Government of India.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Group-Housing Societies

2224. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any religious, linguistic or other type of community can set up and run a cooperative group-housing society restricted only to the persons belonging to the same community;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that some Registrar of Cooperative Societies are refusing this constitutional right;

(c) if so, whether Government is aware that Registrar of Cooperative Societies Delhi has unilaterally amended bye-laws of Golden Cooperative Group-housing society by rejecting the bye-laws of the Society;

(d) if so, whether Registrar of Cooperative Societies Delhi had powers to unilaterally amend bye-laws; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has informed that cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons, capable of using their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without discrimination on the basis of gender, social inequality, racial, political ideologies or religious consideration.

(b) to (e) RCS, GNCTD has further informed that the amendment to the Bye-laws of the Golden Cooperative Group Housing Society was done at the request of the Society and in consonance with the provisions of the Delhi Cooperative Societies (DCS) Act, 2003 and rules made there-under. According to RCS, Amendment of Bye-laws of a cooperative society and compulsory amendment of Bye-laws by the Registrar is permissible as per the, provisions of Section 12(6) and 12(7) of the Act.

Private participation in development

2225. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to involve private sector in Delhi's development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is likely to be extended to other States also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Master Plan for Delhi-2021 provides for review of land policy in

Delhi as one of the critical and focal points, and states that the land policy would be based on optimum utilization of available resources, both public and private, in land assembly, development and housing. It is also proposed to adopt multi-pronged housing strategy for provision of housing stock and for delivery of service involving private sector to a significant extent. The policy is yet to be framed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Land is a subject listed in the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Metro Rail for Kochi

2226. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for Metro Rail in Kochi, Kerala, has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the nature of the investment; and
- (c) whether it is a Centre-State Government joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) No Sir, the proposal has not been approved by the Government of India so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal envisages a joint ownership model of Centre and State Government on lines of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Urban infrastructure development

2227. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the target of spending on the urban infrastructure development in each city like Hyderabad;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the amount spend in the current five year plan in Andhra Pradesh and State-wise; and
- (d) the preference being given to the SC/ST colonies in Andhra Pradesh in East and West Godavari districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 50,000 crore has been committed as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for the Mission period of seven years, beginning from 2005-06. State-wise indicative allocation under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM made by the Planning Commission for seven years period as per detail at enclosed Statement-I (*See below*). In 2008-09, an additional amount of Rs. 100 crore for all Million Plus Cities and State Capitals and Rs. 50.00 crore for other cities was allocated under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(c) List containing details of amount spent during the current five year plan State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under Sub-Mission-II of JNNURM adopts whole slum approach and all slum dwellers including SC/ST are covered under the Scheme. A minimum of 12% beneficiary contribution is stipulated, which in the case of SC/ST/BC/OBC/PH and other weaker section is 10%. The details of projects sanctioned under IHSDP for East Godavari District is at enclosed Statement-III (*See below*). No project in West Godavari District has been sanctioned.

Statement-I

Indicative allocation of funds by Planning Commission to State/UTs for 2005-12 under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Allocation for 7 years (2005-2012) (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1718.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.40
3.	Assam	173.20
4.	Bihar	442.41
5.	Chandigarh	170.87
6.	Chhattisgarh	148.03
7.	Delhi	2723.18
8.	Goa	20.94
9.	Gujarat	2078.81
10.	Haryana	223.32
11.	Himachal Pradesh	30.66
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	338.36
13.	Jharkhand	641.20
14.	Karnataka	1374.59
15.	Kerala	474.76
16.	Madhya Pradesh	978.50
17.	Maharashtra	5055.55

1	2	3
18.	Manipur	52.87
19.	Meghalaya	56.68
20.	Mizoram	48.22
21.	Nagaland	16.28
22.	Orissa	172.35
23.	Punjab	507.75
24.	Puducherry	106.80
25.	Rajasthan	598.69
26.	Sikkim	6.13
27.	Tamil Nadu	1950.66
28.	Tripura	40.18
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2119.41
30.	Uttarakhand	205.34
31.	West Bengal	3018.40
TOTAL		25499.99

Statement-II

State-wise details of amount spent during current five year plan

Sl. No.	Name of State	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) released (Rs. in crores)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48916.54	21398.95	3157.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2006.94	2053.91	2006.94
3.	Assam	791.26	6321.15	0.00
4.	Bihar	461.93	1955.62	7441.39
5.	Chandigarh	1544.92	405.20	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	1272.80	0.00	6072.80
7.	Delhi	0.00	2220.58	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
8	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Gujarat	24563.54	47035.34	4348.02
10.	Haryana	1339.84	9147.46	0.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1447.20
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	6877.36	2500.00	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	0.00	6682.46	5384.66
14.	Karnataka	18955.86	12992.94	9483.36
15.	Kerala	6319.93	3350.50	0.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	7914.35	15931.43	1013.20
17.	Maharashtra	56827.52	88349.54	32702.71
18.	Manipur	580.66	0.00	577.09
19.	Meghalaya	0.00	4904.04	0.00
20.	Mizoram	378.41	0.00	0.00
21.	Nagaland	179.00	389.26	0.00
22.	Orissa	9978.37	3338.00	2491.60
23.	Punjab	4145.29	4939.22	2774.37
24.	Puducherry	4068.00	993.20	0.00
25.	Rajasthan	10654.03	20280.78	2826.10
26.	Sikkim	538.20	538.20	0.00
27.	Tamil Nadu	16093.02	28446.11	982.37
28.	Tripura	0.00	1760.85	0.00
29.	Uttar Pradesh	21365.55	43078.75	2028.11
30.	Uttarakhand	1523.85	2678.56	1485.25
31.	West Bengal	5687.25	22857.17	1595.83

Statement-III

State-wise Report for Andhra Pradesh (IHSDP)

Rs. in crores

Named the State	Named District Total No. of projects	Total project cost approved	Total Central Share approved	Total State Share approved	1st instalment ment (50% of Central Share approved)	2nd instalment ment approved	Total ACA released by M/o Finance	Date of sanction	Project Duration (in months)	Completion date	Due first instalment with ULB	Fund utilised	% Fund utilised	Total roof new dwelling units approved for construction	Disb progress	Disb completed	Project status (Said)	Time Over- run in months
Andhra Pradesh	Rajhumudry	41.63	25.64	15.99	12.82	0.00	12.82	11/10/2006	12	11/4/2008	20.81	11.31	54.34%	3192	2008	1184	Yes	15 months
	East Godavari (Samalkota)	13.51	8.62	4.89	4.31	0.00	4.31	11/10/2006	12	11/4/2008	6.76	2.54	37.52%	912	912	0	Yes	15 months
	East Godavari (Kakinada)	10.52	6.69	3.83	3.34	0.00	3.34	11/10/2006	12	11/4/2008	5.26	3.79	72.05%	720	562	158	Yes	15 months
	Ramchandra Purum	9.96	6.15	3.81	3.08	0.00	3.08	11/10/2006	12	11/4/2008	4.98	3.07	61.64%	768	520	248	Yes	15 months
	Samalkot City	36.61	18.60	18.01	9.30	0.00	9.30	21/1/2009	10	21/1/2011	0.00	0.00		2008	0	0	No	0
	Peddapurum	34.50	15.98	18.53	7.99	0.00	7.99	21/1/2009	18	21/1/2011	0.00	0.00		1831	0	0	No	0
	Rajhumudry	55.69	24.88	30.82	12.44	0.00	12.44	21/1/2009			0.00	0.00		2832	0	0	No	0
	7	202.42	106.56	96.88	53.28	0.00	53.28	Year 2009			37.81	20.71		12263	0	0	0	0

Second phase of JNNURM

2228. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed a massive outlay of Rupees one lakh crore for the second phase of JNNURM to run over seven years to cater to cities with a population of over five lakh;

(b) whether for the proposed second phase of JNNURM, Government has evolved a new funding pattern; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) to (c) The hundred days agenda of the Ministry refers to a concerted effort to include cities with population of 5 lakh and above under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The proposal is under formulation/consideration.

Transfer of DDA colonies to MCD

2229. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) transfers its newly built colonies to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) from time to time;

(b) whether the transfer of Rohini colony Sector 20, 21 and 22 is under consideration for sometime; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in transfer and by when Government proposes expeditious transfer in the interest of its residents for availing civic services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. DDA has informed that 12 housing pockets have already been handed over to MCD, and that there is delay on part of MCD in taking over of services. DDA has further informed that the matter has been pursued with Engineer-in-Chief, MCD, and handing over of peripheral storm water, drains of Sector 20, 21 and 22, Rohini is under process of transfer and is likely to be handed over shortly. DDA has stated that the other remaining services, viz. roads, paths, storm water drains, horticulture and street lighting of plotted schemes will be handed over on priority basis.

Balconies in DDA colonies

2230. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the open balconies upto 3 feet breadth meant for providing shade, protecting windows, doors, etc. from sun and rain to the houses on plots in DDA colonies are unauthorized, although DDA flats have balconies;

(b) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi allows such balconies in their colonies with some minor penalties and the Haryana Government proposes to allow the same for its colonies under HUDA in NCT of Delhi; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to allow DDA also for uniformity, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) and (b) The Building Bye-laws relating to projections into open spaces *inter-alia* provide that:—

- (i) Every open space provided either interior or exterior shall be kept free from any erection thereon and shall be open to the sky nothing except cornice, Chajja or weather shade (not more than 0.75mtrs, wide) shall overhang or project over the said open space so as to reduce the width to less than the minimum required. Such projections shall not be allowed at a height more than 2.2m from the corresponding finished floor level.
- (ii) In case of Residential Buildings only, a balcony or balconies at roof level of a width of 0.9m over hanging in set-backs within one's own land and courtyards provided the minimum area required shall not be reduced by more than 30% of such open spaces as in Bye-law No. 12.3 and 12.4.

MPD 2021 was modified on 12.8.2008 to provide that projections/Chajjas/covered Chajjas, built up portion which existed before 07.02.2007 upto 1 m above 3 m height from the ground level shall be regularized for plot size upto 175 sqm on roads below 24 m ROW in pre-1962 colonies (except for A and B category), in unplanned areas (including special area, village abadi and unauthorized regularized colonies) and re-settlement colonies.

The Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) has informed that balcony, Chajja or Sun-shade have been defined in Clause 1(vii), Clause 1(xv) of the HUDA (Erection of Buildings) Regulations, 1979 and the same are allowed on HUDA plots.

(c) No such decision has been taken in respect of DDA colonies and the amendment to the Master Plan dated 12.08.2008 was restricted to pre-1962 colonies, unplanned areas and re-settlement colonies.

Status of third floor under MPD-2021

2231. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the third floor in Delhi, as per Master Plan 2021 and Supreme Court directions;

(b) whether due to MPD-2021, the threat of demolition on such properties that was hanging for long has finally receded;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals that benefit such property owners;

(d) whether Government has informed the local bodies of the benefits that MPD-2021 brings to third floor property owners so that they can modify their policies/decisions accordingly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) to (c) MPD-2021, notified on 7.02.2007, *inter-alia*, prescribes the Development Control Norms for buildings in residential plotted housing on different size of plots in respect of maximum ground coverage, Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and maximum height of the building as 15 metres. These parameters subject to fulfillment of other terms and conditions, determine the number of floors which could be constructed on a given size of plot. The Supreme Court in W.P.No. 4677 of 1985 in the case of M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India and others *vide* orders dated 14.03.2008 has permitted construction of third floor subject to fulfilling the requirements of height and FAR permitted under MPD-2021 with reduction in number of dwelling units from 6 to 5, 9 to 7 and to 10 in respect of categories providing more dwelling units under MPD-2021. This is further subject to filing of an undertaking that no equity shall be claimed, if ultimately it is found that the MPD-2021 suffers from infirmity, and demolition of unauthorized and or impermissible construction is to be made, the same shall be carried out.

(d) and (e) The provisions of MPD-2021 are in the knowledge of the Government of NCT of Delhi and local bodies who are also parties in the said Court case.

Regularization charges

2232. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had notified regularization charges that are to be paid by property owners in Delhi who have done excess coverage or built additional dwelling units in plotted residential housing plots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the regularization charges that have been proposed are extremely high;

(d) whether Government is considering bringing down the proposed regularization charges so that more and more people make use of the policy and get their unauthorized constructions regularized;

(e) if so, the details thereof, of reductions, category-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) and (b) DDA *vide* Gazette Notification S.O. No. 2955(E) dated 23.12.2008, with the approval of the Central Government had notified the rates to be applied for use conversion, mixed land use and other charges for enhanced FAR arising out of MPD-2021 *inter-alia* in

respect of (i) Residential property including basement under mixed use (ii) Cooperative Group Housing Society allotted by DDA (iii) NDMC Residential areas (iv) Commercial property (excluding hotels and parking plots) (v) Industrial plots (vi) Institutional plots including hospital plots and (vii) Change of land use from industrial to commercial for commercial activities including banquet halls.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above.

Inclusion of Gwalior under JNNURM

†2233. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States covered under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) whether Gwalior city has been included among the cities of Madhya Pradesh under JNNURM; and

(c) if so, the funds allotted for the development of Gwalior city alongwith the development works to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) A list of States/UTs covered under the Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Gwalior city of the Madhya Pradesh State is not covered under UIG component but is covered under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). One Sewerage Project at a cost of Rs. 6650.00 lakhs has been approved for Gwalior city and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) amounting to Rs. 2660.00 lakhs towards 1st installment has been released during 2008-09 to the State under the UIDSSMT scheme.

Statement

Details of States/UTs covered under JNNURM

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs covered under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)/
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
4.	Bihar
5.	Chandigarh
6.	Chhattisgarh
7.	Delhi
8.	Goa
9.	Gujarat
10.	Haryana
11.	Himachal Pradesh
12.	Jammu and Kashmir
13.	Jharkhand
14.	Karnataka
15.	Kerala
16.	Madhya Pradesh
17.	Maharashtra
18.	Manipur
19.	Meghalaya
20.	Mizoram
21.	Nagaland
22.	Orissa
23.	Punjab
24.	Puducherry
25.	Rajasthan
26.	Sikkim
27.	Tamil Nadu
28.	Tripura
29.	Uttar Pradesh
30.	Uttarakhand
31.	West Bengal

Metro Rail for Rajasthan cities

†2234. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start Metro Rail services in two main cities of Rajasthan, namely Jaipur and Jodhpur;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary survey has been carried out in these cities; and

(c) if not, whether Government is contemplating any such scheme in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) No, Sir. Government of India has not initiated any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present no metro rail project is under consideration for Jaipur cities in Rajasthan.

Study of BRT projects

†2235. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities for which Government has conducted study to launch BRT projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted a comparative study on the advantages and disadvantages of BRT as it has been opposed to in most of the cities and it has been a failure; and

(d) whether Government proposes to continue it in future and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) to (d) The concerned State Governments/Urban Local Bodies carry out studies for Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) projects for their cities and submit Detailed Project Reports to the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India for sanction of their projects under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Since urban transport is primarily a State subject, it is for the concerned State Government to carry out the required studies for their project proposals.

BRTS is an established mode of public transport successfully running in a number of countries world-wide for the last 30 years. Furthermore, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development in its 37th Report presented to the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha in December, 2008 has also recommended that considering its low cost, ease of implementation, wide area coverage, flexibility and overall sustainability, this system should be encouraged. As such, no further study on this particular aspect is contemplated.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sardar Sarovar Project

2236. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has been requesting time and again to grant a status of Infrastructure Project to Sardar Sarovar Project and also declared it as National Project;

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

(c) the reasons for Sardar Sarovar Project not being declared as a national asset alongwith 14 river projects declared as national asset in February, 2008 in the country, even though it is the largest water resource development project of its type in the country and also in the wider interest of four States, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(d) the criteria for deciding a River Project as a 'National Project'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per guidelines for implementation of the scheme of the National Projects, the State Governments are required to submit the proposals for inclusion of new projects in the list of National Projects in prescribed format and as per procedure prescribed in the guidelines. Accordingly, no proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat for declaring Sardar Sarovar Project as National Project. Inclusion of a project as a national project is made by the Union Cabinet on case to case basis. Inclusion of any specific project as national project depends on submission of the proposal by the concerned State Government and approval thereto of the Union Cabinet after following due procedure prescribed in the guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sardar Sarovar Project is already eligible for 90% Central Grant for the irrigation component of the project falling under drought prone and tribal area. The Power Houses of the project had already been completed. Till date, the Sardar Sarovar Project has been provided with Central Assistance of Rs. 5375.3585 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) which is highest Central assistance provided to any project in the country.

As per guidelines, the following are the criteria for declaring a project as National Project:—

1. International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.
2. Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of Inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.

3. Intra-State projects with additional potential of more than 2.00.000 hectare (ha) and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Metallic substances as ground water

2237. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the groundwater in most parts of the country contain arsenic, chemical and metallic substances;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has since taken any steps to check/protect the groundwater from such hazardous chemicals etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per information received from Central Ground Water Board, groundwater quality problems like high salinity, fluoride contamination, arsenic, iron, nitrate etc. have been observed in some parts of the country as per details given in enclosed Statement-I (See below).

(c) and (d) The steps taken in view of the groundwater quality problems include the following:—

- (i) Exploratory drilling by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic/Fluoride and other geogenic contaminants.
- (ii) Financial and technical assistance to help provision of safe drinking water under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).
- (iii) Financial assistance is provided to States under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) for provision of safe drinking water.
- (iv) Notification of effluent standards for various industries and monitoring of compliance thereof.
- (v) Preparation of Environmental Management Plan for restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas.

Statement

State-wise number of districts where problem of groundwater contamination has been reported in Isolated pockets

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of districts
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1

1	2	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23
3.	Assam	18
4.	Bihar	29
5.	Chhattisgarh	15
6.	Delhi	9
7.	Goa	2
8.	Gujarat	22
9.	Haryana	17
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	10
12.	Jharkhand	14
13.	Karnataka	22
14.	Kerala	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	49
16.	Maharashtra	32
17.	Manipur	2
18.	Orissa	28
19.	Punjab	19
20.	Rajasthan	35
21.	Tamil Nadu	30
22.	Tripura	4
23.	Uttar Pradesh	59
24.	Uttarakhand	3
25.	West Bengal	20

Loss by flood

2238. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some parts of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and

Bihar are affected by floods every year resulting in loss of lives and properties and crops;

(b) if so, the facts thereof with reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government in consultation/discussion with the concerned State Government propose to take steps to tackle the flood problem in such States particularly flood from the rivers originating from Nepal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some parts of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are affected by floods almost every year in varying magnitudes. Major causes of floods in these states are (i) inadequate capacity of the rivers to contain high flows within its banks (ii) bank erosion and silting of river beds (iii) synchronization of floods in various tributaries (iv) poor natural drainage system and (v) cloud bursts.

(c) and (d) The flood being a State subject, the flood management schemes are planned and executed by the State Governments, as per their own priorities and from own resources. However, in order to provide financial support to the States, a State sector scheme "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" amounting to Rs. 8,000 crore was approved, in principle, by the Cabinet for Eleventh Plan period on 02.11.2008 for undertaking river management, flood control, anti-erosion works, drainage development, flood proofing, flood prone area development programme, anti-sea erosion works, restoration of damaged flood management works, etc., in critical reaches. These scheme are considered for central assistance under FMP scheme, provided the schemes have secured all mandatory clearances.

A permanent solution from floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is possible by construction of storage/reservoir schemes on the rivers flowing from Nepal. As most of the reservoir sites are situated in the Nepal's territory, these can be implemented only with the consent of Government of Nepal. Indian Government is in constant dialogue with Government of Nepal for implementation of large storage schemes, on river Mahakali (Sarda), Kamali (Ghaghra), West Rapti, Bagmati, Kamala and Kosi in Nepal.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2239. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and status of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by Government to solve the water scarcity problem in the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated by Government and spent therefrom, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments have sent any proposals to Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Ministry of Water Resources is not implementing any Centrally Sponsored Scheme. However, a Centrally Sponsored “Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)” for providing safe drinking water in all rural inhabitations across the country on sustainable basis is being implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply (DoDWS), Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) Details of State-wise funds allocated and released during 2008-09 under ARWSP is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Does not arise as the allocations under ARWSP are based on interstate allocation formula prescribed in the guidelines of the Programme.

Statement

*State-wise funds allocated and released by Gol during 2008-09 under
Accelerated Rural water Supply Programme (ARWSP)*

(Amount in lakh rupees)

Sl. No	Name of States	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39453	40274
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14612	16388
3.	Assam	24644	18776
4.	Bihar	42538	46357
5.	Chhattisgarh	13042	12529
6.	Goa	398	0
7.	Gujarat	31444	49994
8.	Haryana	11729	11795
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14151	14494
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	39786	39937
11.	Jharkhand	16067	8089
12.	Karnataka	47719	47995
13.	Kerala	10333	10905
14.	Madhya Pradesh	37047	38362
15.	Maharashtra	57257	65577
16.	Manipur	5016	4523

1	2	3	4
17.	Meghalaya	5779	6338
18.	Mizoram	4144	5435
19.	Nagaland	4253	4315
20.	Orissa	29868	30178
21.	Punjab	8656	8678
22.	Rajasthan	97013	100374
23.	Sikkim	1745	3245
24.	Tamil Nadu	24182	28970
25.	Tripura	5125	4109
26.	Uttar Pradesh	53974	61805
27.	Uttarakhand	10758	8587
28.	West Bengal	38939	39062

Alaknanda river

†2240. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the snowy peaks of Alaknanda have a special role in the flow of Ganga river;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Ganga's flow has got affected because of hydro-power projects near Alaknanda;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the number of power generation projects approved for construction in the aforesaid hilly area and their capacity for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Madam. The snow and glacier melt has considerable contribution in the river flow of Alaknanda.

(b) and (c) The analysis of flow data of river Alaknanda upto Rudraprayag does not indicate any significant change in the average annual flow.

(d) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Power, eight hydro power projects on river Alaknanda or its tributaries have been approved. The details of the project are given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of Hydro Power Projects on Alaknanda and its Tributaries

Sl. No.	Name of Project	River/Tributary	Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Alaknanda	Alaknanda	3 × 100 = 300
2.	Vishnupryag	-do-	4 × 100 = 400
3.	Vishnugad Pipalkoti	-do-	4 × 111 = 444
4.	Srinagar	-do-	4 × 82.5 = 330
5.	Kotlibhel Stage-IB	-do-	4 × 80 = 320
6.	Lata Tapovan	Dhauliganga	3 × 57 = 171
7.	Tapovan Vishnugad	-do-	4 × 130 = 520
8.	Singoli Bhatwari	Mandakini	3 × 33 = 99

Contamination of water with arsenic

†2241. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quantity of arsenic in water should be 10 particle per billion particles as per standards of World Health Organization but it is found to be 150 particles in Survey Report;

(b) whether havoc of arsenic has become most threatening in West Bengal where 20 lacs of people of 20 districts are forced to drink water contaminated with arsenic; and

(c) whether due to drinking arsenic polluted water, various diseases like cancer of intestine, kidney and urinary tract and gangrene are about to spurt out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per WHO Guidelines, the permissible limit of Arsenic in drinking water is 10 parts per billion (0.01 milligrams per litre) and as per the information received from All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIIPH), Kolkata, presence of Arsenic in drinking water supplies have been noted at the level higher than permissible limit in certain areas.

(b) As per the information received from AIIPH and PH, quoting Government of West Bengal, population of 166.54 Lakh in 79 Blocks of 8 Districts of West Bengal (Rural) are affected or at Risk and population of 103.94 Lakh in 79 Blocks of 8 Districts is being served with Arsenic safe water.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) As reported by AIH and PH, the consumption of Arsenic contaminated water causes diseases and disorders which have various manifestations including skin cancer, cancer of vital organs and gangrene etc.

Drying up of rivers

†2242. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forty per cent of the small rivers in the country are on the verge of drying up and some of them have already turned extinct;

(b) if so, whether Government is working on any effective plan to protect and restore the rivers, considered to be source of lives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Analysis of available river flow data do not indicate that the small rivers are not the verge of drying up. Further, there are no information about small rivers becoming extinct.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Walson Water Project

†2243. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the work on Walson Water Project in Darjeeling; and

(b) whether the work on this project is expected to be completed within the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per information available in this Ministry, there is no Major or Medium irrigation project under execution with the name Walson in West Bengal. However, as informed by the Ministry of Urban Development there is one scheme namely Darjeeling Drinking Water Project of Balasan in West Bengal. An expenditure of Rs. 16.44 crore has been incurred on this project till 31.3.2008. The project is being executed by the State Government of West Bengal. As such, the completion of the project depends upon the Budget outlays provided by State Government and priority assigned by the Project Authorities for its execution.

Pay scales in N.P.C.C.

†2244. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that all officers of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) are getting the latest pay scales and other facilities;

(b) if so, then, whether it is also a fact that the workers of NPCC Ltd. are still getting the old pay scales and facilities fixed in 1989;

(c) if so, whether Government will take any effective measures to iron out this pay scale related anomaly between officers and workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Treat to riverside villages

2245. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several riverside villages in Orissa are facing threat of being wiped out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villagers that are being affected; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As informed by the State Government of Orissa, several villages located in the vicinity of different rivers are acting threat of damages due to bank erosion, bank sliding, flood water entering into the villages and inundation etc.

(c) The details regarding the villagers affected are maintained by the State Government.

(d) A state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" has been approved in 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02.11.2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore for Eleventh Plan period for providing central assistance to the States. Under the FMP Scheme, a total of 69 flood management/anti-erosion/drainage development schemes amounting to Rs. 163.63 crore from Orissa have been included and 1st instalment of central assistance amounting to Rs. 45.90 crore has been released to the state in July, 2008.

Watching of Kosi river through satellite

2246. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kosi river is now being watched through satellite;
- (b) if so, the names of the agencies that are doing the job;
- (c) whether any data has come up suggesting risky flow of water in the months ahead and/or any embankments still needing repairs; and
- (d) if so, the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), under the Department of Space, Government of India is collecting remote sensed photos periodically of the critical areas including river Kosi under the national programme. There is no information which suggests risk to the existing embankments.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

2247. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CGWB in association with the concerned State Governments makes periodical assessment of the availability of ground water in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the latest assessment made in this regard has shown that the level of ground water is depleting year after year in almost every State;
- (c) if so, the comparative figures of the last three assessments, State-wise;
- (d) whether some remedial steps have been proposed by CGWB to the States to raise the ground water table at the requisite level; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out in consultation with the States in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with State Governments carries out periodic assessment of the availability of ground water in the country. As per latest assessment made in year 2004, decline in the levels of ground water has been observed in certain parts of the country. State-wise details of ground water resource assessment as per last three assessments are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(d) and (e) The steps taken for augmentation of ground water recharge include, circulation of a Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate ground water regulation and water harvesting for artificial recharge, circulation of a Master Plan on artificial recharge of ground water, implementation of schemes on repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, implementation of a Scheme on demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water, implementation of a scheme on artificial recharge of ground water through dugwells.

Statement

*State-wise details of ground water resource assessment as
per last three assessments*

in Billion Cubic Meter (BCM)

Sl.	States/Union No.	Replenishable Ground Water Resource		
		(1980)	Territories (1995)	(2004)
1	2	3	4	5
States				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46.10	35.29	36.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA	1.44	2.56
3.	Assam	13.60	24.72	27.23
4.	Bihar	29.10	33.52	29.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	* *	* *	14.93
6.	Delhi	NA	0.29	0.30
7.	Goa	NA	0.22	0.28
8.	Gujarat	16.30	20.38	15.81
9.	Haryana	7.70	8.53	9.31
10.	Himachal Pradesh	NA	0.37	0.43
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.50	4.43	2.70
12.	Jharkhand	* *	* *	5.58
13.	Karnataka	13.70	16.19	15.93
14.	Kerala	10.50	7.90	6.84
15.	Madhya Pradesh	82.00	50.89	37.19
16.	Maharashtra	49.30	37.87	32.96
17.	Manipur	NA	3.15	0.38
18.	Meghalaya	NA	0.54	1.15
19.	Mizoram	NA	NA	0.04
20.	Nagaland	NA	0.72	0.36
21.	Orissa	19.50	20.00	23.09
22.	Punjab	14.00	18.66	23.78

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Rajasthan	14.30	12.71	11.56
24.	Sikkim	NA	NA	0.08
25.	Tamil Nadu	26.00	26.39	23.07
26.	Tripura	NA	0.66	2.19
27.	Uttar Pradesh	95.80	83.82	76.35
28.	Uttaranchal	**	**	2.27
29.	West Bengal	21.50	23.09	30.36
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	NA	NA	0.330
2.	Chandigarh	NA	0.03	0.023
3.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	NA	0.04	0.063
4.	Daman and Diu	NA	0.01	0.009
5.	Lakshadweep	NA	0.00	0.012
6.	Pondicherry	NA	0.03	0.160
GRAND TOTAL		461.90	431.89	433.017

Note: NA — Not Assessed

** — States bifurcated

Percentage of irrigated land

2248. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of irrigated land in the country; and
- (b) whether effort is being made to allot more funds to backward States to equalize the percentage of irrigated land in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per the information received from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, the percentage of net irrigated land is 43.38% of the net cropped area.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the respective State Governments as per their own priority. However, Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments under various programmes namely Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM) and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. As per the AIBP guidelines, new projects are included in the

programme only on completion of an ongoing project on one to one basis. However, the guidelines provides for inclusion of the projects benefiting (a) drought-prone areas; (b) tribal areas; (c) States with lower irrigation development as compared to national average; and (d) Districts identified under the PM's Package for agrarian distress districts in relaxation to the one to one criteria. The central assistance is 90% of the project cost in case of special category States, projects benefiting drought prone area, tribal area and flood prone area and 25% of project cost in case of Non-special category States.

Farmer Participatory Action Research Programme

2249. PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Farmer Participatory Action Research Programme to maximize yield and income per every drop of water and the results achieved so far; and

(b) the steps that have been taken to spread the Jal Kund (Water harvesting and saving) movement in Sohra (Cheerapunji) and other parts of the North East region considering the behavior of the South West Monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Ministry of Water Resources approved Farmer Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) in 25 States/UTs of the country. Funds amounting to Rs. 17.36 crore have been released for implementation of the programme.

(b) FPARP in the State of Meghalaya was taken up with the help and assistance of ICAR, Barapana, . They, in turn, demonstrated water harvesting technology (Jalkund) in the Ri-Bhoi, East Khasi, West Khasi hills and Jantia hills districts of Meghalaya. Government of Meghalaya have been advised to scale up the programme in other areas of the State.

Laws to prevent over exploitation of ground water

2250. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government instructed State Governments to initiate strict laws to prevent over exploitation of ground water causing lowering of ground water table and deterioration water quality;

(b) if so, the response received by Government to save ground water level in the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Central Government has circulated to the States/UTs the Model Bill to facilitate regulation and control of ground water development.

(b) and (c) Eleven States/UTs have enacted ground water legislation. 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.

Loans for 24 x 7 water supply

2251. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has extended loans for the 24 x 7 water supply in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the facts thereof;
- (c) the amount utilized so far, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the role of NGOs in this regard in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The World Bank approved a loan of US\$ 39.5 million for the Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project (KWSIP) during the year 2004. No other loans for 24 x 7 water supply are reported to have been financed by the World Bank in India. So far, US\$ 31.92 million has been disbursed for the Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project (KWSIP).

- (d) Does not arise.

Narmada project

2252. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware about the unsatisfactory progress in the Narmada Project (SSY) in the State of Gujarat;
- (b) would the Ministry give details about monetary assistance given by Central Government in the Narmada Dam Project; and
- (c) when will the fruits of money spent both by Central and State Governments be available to the farmers of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes Sir.

- (b) Total Central Assistance provided to the Government of Gujarat for Sardar Sarovar Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) so far is Rs. 5375.3585 crore.

(c) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution and funding of irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Government. Union Government provides Central Assistance under AIBP to assist State Government in expeditious completion of the Project. Of the ultimate irrigation potential of 17.92 lakh ha of the Sardar Sarovar Project, irrigation potential of 4.641 lakh ha is reported to have been created upto March, 2008.

Artificial recharge of ground water

2253. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a scheme for artificial recharge of ground water through Dugwells in overexploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units of States is in operation;
- (b) if not, the Dugwells operated, amounts spent, irrigation potential created and total area of land newly covered thereby; and
- (c) the total area of cultivable land in the country, and out of that how much has access to irrigation by surface water and ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) A scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" has been approved for implementation in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

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

(c) As per the information of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, net sown area in the country during the year 2006-07 was 140.298 Million hectare (M.Ha.) and the area under irrigation was 60.857 M.Ha., which comprised of 15.35 M.Ha. from canal, 2.044 M.Ha. from tanks, 7.554 M.Ha. from other sources, 24.056 M.Ha. from tubewells, 11.856 M.Ha. from other wells.

Standard of football team

†2254. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ranking of Indian football team is 140th;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the facilities provided by Government to improve the standard of Indian football team during last three years;
- (d) whether the coach of Indian football team has suggested to discontinue tournaments like Durend and Santosh Trophy keeping in view World Cup and Olympics; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and special steps being taken by Government to improve the standard of football?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The current FIFA ranking of Indian football team is 147th, which is decided on the basis of performance of various teams at international level.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government has up-graded football to “Priority” category from “General” category in May, 2007. Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 30.55 lakh during 2006-07, Rs. 68.15 lakh during 2007-08, Rs. 52.58 lakh during 2008-09 and Rs. 38.15 lakh during 2009-10 (till date) for foreign competition exposure and holding of national championships. The Government has allocated Rs. 10.00 crore for preparation of Indian football team for the forthcoming Asian Games 2010, which would cover training and coaching, procurement of equipment and consumables, international competitive exposure and supporting personnel.

(d) Although, the coach of the national team has suggested discontinuance of these tournaments, the All India Football Federation has indicated that they would like to restructure these tournaments.

(e) The Government is willing to provide all possible support to lift the standard of football in the country.

Schemes for tribal children for sports

†2255. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state whether Government has any scheme to select tribal children in the age group of 9 to 14 years for their latest sports talents and then to provide them intensive training throughout the year and establishing an academy for popular games of the State so that maximum utilization of their talents may be attained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): A scheme of Special Area Games (SAG) is implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI) under which, sports talent in tribal areas is identified and nurtured. The trainees, who are in the age group of 14 to 21 years, are admitted in the training centres on residential and non-residential basis. They are provided with sports kit, sports equipments, competition exposure, insurance, medical expenses, etc. There are 21 centres wherein 1142 boys and 775 girls are now being trained.

Assistance for sports infrastructure

†2256. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance provided for construction of sports infrastructure by Central Government, which has been discontinued would be started again or the States would be provided funds separately for the said purpose;

(b) the reasons for the slow pace of the construction work of central regional centre of Sports Authority of India and by when the same would be implemented; and

(c) whether the services of National Institute for Sports (NIS) trained instructors earlier provided for the Central schemes as well as State schemes by Sports Authority of India which have been discontinued presently would be started again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Government has now introduced a centrally

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sponsored scheme with national coverage for the promotion of basic sports infrastructure and sports competitions in all village and block panchayats of the country. The Eleventh Five year Plan outlay for this scheme, which was launched in the financial year 2008-09, is Rs. 1500 crore. The scheme envisage to cover around 2.50 lakh village panchayats and 6400 block panchayats (including their equivalent units) in a phased manner over a period of 10-years at an annual coverage of 10%. The scheme is implemented through the state governments/UTs. Administrations.

(b) The construction work of the Central Regional Centre of Sports Authority of India (SAI) is progressing as per plan, the details of which is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) Out of 1289 coaches deployed under various sports promotion schemes of SAI, 309 coaches are deployed in State Coaching Centres. There is no proposal to resume deployment of coaches to District Coaching Centres.

Statement

*Details of infrastructure works done in the SAI's Central Regional
Centre in recent past*

Name of the work	Approx. cost (Rs. in lacs)	Funds released by SAI (Rs. in lacs)	Present status
1	2	3	4
External Water Supply at CRC Bhopal	99.50	99.50	Completed
Installation of transformer for Water Supply at CRC Bhopal	4.50	4.50	Completed
144-bedded hostel building at CRC Bhopal	195.00	195.00	Completed
Compound wall at CRC Bhopal	45.00	45.00	Completed
Multipurpose hall at CRC Bhopal	490.00	490.00	Completed
3 nos. basketball courts at CRC Bhopal	18.00	18.00	Completed
1 Grassy football field at CRC Bhopal	65.00	65.00	Completed
Cinder Athletic Track with grassy football at CRC Bhopal field	90.50	90.50	Completed
Grassy Hockey field with chain link fencing at CRC Bhopal	43.20	43.20	Completed
Electrical installation i/c catwalk for MP Hall at CRC Bhopal	58.34	20.00	Work in progress
Maple wooden flooring for MP Hall at CRC Bhopal	130.00	35.00	Work in progress

1	2	3	4
Survey site plan at CRC Bhopal	16.77	16.77	Completed
2 nos Syn. Hockey surface at CRC Bhopal	585.00	585.00	Completed
Main Building — Civil and Elect at CRC Bhopal	71.21	71.21	Completed
Peripheral RCC drain and chain link fencing at CRC Bhopal	39.46	39.46	Completed
Floodlights and electrical works at CRC Bhopal	557.52	557.52	Completed
Boundary wall at CRC Bhopal	19.60	19.60	Completed
Staff Quarters at CRC Bhopal	131.70	131.40	Completed
Ponds etc. and Rainwater at CRC Bhopal	46.99	42.04	Completed
Providing External Water Supply at CRC Bhopal	47.43	47.43	Completed
Providing Elect. Supply of MP Hall at CRC Bhopal	14.69	14.69	Completed
Change room including toilets at CRC Bhopal	29.48	29.48	Work in progress
Convenient shopping centre at CRC Bhopal	43.83	43.83	Work in progress
Providing barbed wire fencing on the boundary wall at CRC Bhopal	7.80	7.80	Completed
Administrative block at CRC Bhopal	208.52	92.00	Work in progress
2 nos 52-bedded hostels at CRC Bhopal	300.00	300.00	Completed
16-Units of type-III staff quarters and 2-units of type IV at CRC Bhopal	145.40	89.00	Work in progress

Country's performance in sports

2257. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is something inherently and basically wrong in India gauging from its performance in sports and games despite its huge manpower resource;

(b) whether Government would make a Strength, weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) analysis and suggest the way out by which the situation can be fully exploited and improved;

(c) whether there is a perspective plan to improve this long neglected area and bring forth the image of India; and

(d) whether there would be an overall review in terms of policy, structure manpower and operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (d) Government of India, for the first time, has introduced a centrally sponsored scheme with national coverage for the promotion of basic sports infrastructure and sports competitions in all village and block panchayats of the country. The Eleventh Five Year Plan outlay for this scheme, which was launched in the financial year 2008-09, is Rs. 1500 crore. The scheme envisage to cover around 2.50 lakh village panchayats and 6,400 block panchayats (including their equivalent units) in a phased manner over a period of 10 years at an annual coverage of 10%. The scheme is implemented through the State Governments/UTs administrations. Apart from broad-basing sports, it is expected to, in the long run, expand the talent base for the promotion of excellence in sports.

National Games 2010

2258. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Games 2010 would be held at Kerala;

(b) if so, whether there was consensus with various officials of Centre and State Government that Kerala should focus on upgradation of existing infrastructure for the National Games 2010;

(c) if so, the Competent Authority of Kerala had submitted proposal and request for financial assistance for upgradation of existing stadium and modernizing a few existing SAI training centres of Kerala;

(d) if so, the action taken in details;

(e) if so, whether steps would be taken in affirmative for the same;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) A Central Team with representatives from Department of Sports, Planning Commission, Indian Olympic Association and Sports Authority of India has visited the State of Kerala from 19th to 22nd May, 2009 to evaluate the proposal of Government of Kerala for Central assistance to host the 35th National Games. The Central Team has recommended that Planning Commission may consider grant of Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 110 crore (50% of the project cost) to the State Government of Kerala for conduct of 35th National Games.

States in PYKKA

‡2259. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked on a new plan called Panchayat Yuva Krida Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) for sports;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the names of the States which have been included in this project and the basis for their inclusion; and

(d) the form of economic aid to be provided to States under this plan and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes Madam, Government has, for the first time, introduced a centrally sponsored scheme with national coverage for the promotion of basic sports infrastructure and sports competitions in all village and block panchayats of the country. The Eleventh Five Year Plan outlay for this scheme, which was launched in the financial year 2008-09, is Rs. 1500 Crore. The scheme envisage to cover around 2.50 lakh village panchayats and 6,400 block panchayats (including their equivalent units) in a phased manner over a period of 10 years at an annual coverage of 10%.

(d) The financial assistance under the Scheme being provided to State Governments/ Union Territories is as under:—

Sl. No.	Component	Village Panchayat	Block Panchayat
1	2	3	4
1.	One-time Capital Grant (75:25) basis between centre and state government; (90:10) basis in the case of special Category States/North Eastern States.	Rs. 1 lakh	Rs. 5 lakh
100% central grant			
2.	Annual Acquisition Grant	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 20,000/-
3.	Annual Operational Grant	Rs. 12,000/-	Rs. 24,000/-
4.	Annual Competition Grant		
	a. Block Level Competition	Rs. 50,000/-	
	b. District Level Competition	Rs. 3 lakh	

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
	c. State Level Competition	Rs. 10 lakh for State Rs. 5 lakh for Union Territory	
	d. National Level Competition	Rs. 70 lakh (Rs. 3.5 Lakh per disciplines for 20 disciplines) to host State	
5.	Prize money for winners in the block and district level competitions		
	a. Block level competition	Rs. 25,000/-, Rs. 15,000/- and Rs. 5,000/- prize money for village panchayats securing first three positions;	
	b. District level competition	Rs. 50,000/-, Rs. 30,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- for block Panchayat securing first three positions	
6.	North East Sports Festival/games	As per admissible grant	

Performance charts of core group athletes

2260. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance charts of all the core group athletes received from all sports federations whose disciplines are in the 2010 Commonwealth Games, have been processed;

(b) if so, whether intensive training in various disciplines has started;

(c) the number of disciplines in which foreign coaches have been involved in the training; and

(d) whether physical fitness and other test reports have been made mandatory and taken into consideration every month so that large number of our athletes win medals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After due scrutiny, the Government has identified 1135 elite core group of athletes for the disciplines of Commonwealth Games, 2010 and their intensive training/competition in India and abroad is continuing regularly.

(c) Foreign Coaches have been approved for 15 sports disciplines, out of which coaches of 12 disciplines are in place.

(d) Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, the Minister has to come and give a statement ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the papers be laid first.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Bangalore and related papers

II. Accounts (2006-07) of the Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. 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 Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), Bangalore, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 495/15/09]

II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 25 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957:—

(a) Annual Accounts of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), New Delhi, for the year 2006-07 and the Audit Report thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

(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. 494/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 44 of the Emigration Act, 1983, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs Notification G.S.R. 511 (E), dated the 9th July, 2009, publishing the Emigration (Amendment) Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 404/15/09]

I. MOU (2009-10) between Government of India and the WAPCOS Limited

II. Outcome Budget (2009-10) in respect of the Ministry of Water Resources

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Water Resources) and the WAPCOS Limited, for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 405/15/09]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget for the year 2009-10 in respect of the Ministry of Water Resources.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 406/15/09]

Statements showing the action taken by the Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I lay on the Table, the following statements (in English and Hindi) showing the action taken by the Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during Session, as shown against each:—

1. Statement No. XLIII Hundred and Sixty-first Session, 1991

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 701/15/09]

2. Statement No. XXXII Hundred and Eighty-fifth Session, 1998

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 702/15/09]

3. Statement No. XXXVI Hundred and Ninetieth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 703/15/09]

4. Statement No. XXX Hundred and Ninety-third Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 704/15/09]

5. Statement No. XXIII Hundred and Ninety-fourth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 705/15/09]

6. Statement No. XXX Hundred and Ninety-fifth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 786/15/09]

7. Statement No. XXV Hundred and Ninety-seventh Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 787/15/09]

8. Statement No. XXIII Hundred and Ninety-eighth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 788/15/09]
9. Statement No. XXII Hundred and Ninety-ninth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 789/15/09]
10. Statement No. XVI Two Hundredth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 710/15/09]
11. Statement No. XVIII Two Hundred and Second Session, 2004
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 711/15/09]
12. Statement No. XVII Two Hundred and Third Session, 2004
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 712/15/09]
13. Statement No. XVII Two Hundred and Fourth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 713/15/09]
14. Statement No. XIV Two Hundred and Fifth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 714/15/09]
15. Statement No. XIV Two Hundred and Sixth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 715/15/09]
16. Statement No. XIII Two Hundred and Seventh Session, 2006
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 716/15/09]
17. Statement No. XI Two Hundred and Eighth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 717/15/09]
18. Statement No. X Two Hundred and Ninth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 718/15/09]
19. Statement No. IX Two Hundred and Tenth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 719/15/09]
20. Statement No. VIII Two Hundred and Eleventh Session, 2007
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 720/15/09]
21. Statement No. VI Two Hundred and Twelfth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 721/15/09]
22. Statement No. V Two Hundred and Thirteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 722/15/09]
23. Statement No. II Two Hundred and Fourteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 723/15/09]
24. Statement No. I Two Hundred and Fifteenth Session, 2009
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 724/15/09]

- I. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Delhi Public Library, New Delhi and related papers
- II. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi and related papers
- III. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Allahabad Museum, Allahabad and related papers
- IV. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and related papers
- V. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna and related papers
- VI. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh and related papers
- VII. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Delhi Public Library (DPL), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Library.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 725/15/09]

- II. (a) Annual Report of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 414/15/09]

- III. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Museum.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 412/15/09]

- IV. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Akademi.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 413/15/09]

- V. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Library.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 416/15/09]

- VI. (a) Thirty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Library.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 415/15/09]

- VII. (a) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Library.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 417/15/09]

I. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack and related papers

II. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 379/15/09]

- II. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 380/15/09]

**Outcome Budget (2009-10) in respect of the Department of
Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget for the year 2009-10 in respect of the Department of Information Technology in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 381/15/09]

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-sixth and One Hundred Thirty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): Sir, I beg to make the following statements regarding:—

- I. Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture; and
- II. Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Thirty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

**RE. SECURITY COVER PROVIDED TO THE LEADERS OF
POLITICAL PARTIES**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Prithviraj Chavan to make a statement.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, we have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it was a Special Mention. It has not been accepted...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, we have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: वह नोटिस आप यहां उठा नहीं सकते। चैयरमेन साहबन ने जो accept किया है, वही नोटिस लिया जाएगा।...*(Interruptions)*... Your notice has not been accepted...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, if a senior Minister of Assam Government has passed certain derogatory remarks against a political party; and if he cannot raise this matter here, where else can he raise it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That has been examined. There is no evidence. Please, sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, in view of this attitude, we walk out in protest.

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, this notice was received in the morning requesting suspension of the Question Hour. Notice has expressed apprehension that the Government was proposing to downgrade security of some senior political leaders. Sir, since last thirty years, periodic review of security cover of all leaders is done. I would like to assure the House that the Government is deeply concerned about security of all political leaders and I assure the House that security provided to the leaders of political parties mentioned in the notice will not be reduced.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Kindly take the names. This was agreed. Sir, this was agreed. Sir, he had agreed to give the names. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री वीर पाल सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can it be? ...*(Interruptions)*... You have given the notice. The notice is the property of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र: आपने agree किया था कि नाम देंगे। सर, नाम देने के लिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... Sir, at least, the names can be given. Why is he shying away to give the names? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I am equally concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*... He can mention the names. He is aware of the names. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. Please. Mr. Ahluwalia, please.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, he is aware of the names. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is aware of the names but. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र: सर, इनको नाम देने में क्या दिक्कत है?...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: आपने नोटिस दिया है...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot ask the Minister to give the names because he says that the notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... आपको मालूम है

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, this is not the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, it was agreed that he would give the names. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was agreed that he would read out the names. ...*(Interruptions)*... इनको नाम देने में क्या दिक्कत हो रही है?...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, all the political parties...*(Interruptions)*... He should give the names of the leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: मिनिस्टर क्या statement देंगे, the Chair will not decide.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the names of the leaders who are having this security cover. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Then, he has to mention all the leaders? ...*(Interruptions)*... What he has said is that whatever names have been given in the notice, their security has not been downgraded. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot ask the Minister to make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्र: सर, इनको नाम देने में क्या दिक्कत है?...*(व्यवधान)*....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, the Minister has already...*(Interruptions)*... It is not possible to...*(Interruptions)*... for a particular leader...*(Interruptions)*... Beyond this, what reply they want?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: आप जाइये ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, we want the Minister to give us the names. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at seven minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at twenty-two minutes past twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR REGARDING SECURITY COVER
PROVIDED TO THE LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the Chairman had received notices in the morning about the security cover for four leaders, namely, Kumari Mayawati, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. On these notices, Shri Prithviraj Chavan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs said during the Zero Hour "Government is deeply concerned about the security of all political leaders. I assure the House that the security provided to the leaders of the political parties mentioned in notice will not be reduced". I think the statement is quite clear and no further elucidation is required. It clinches the issue. All objections raised, therefore, are not necessary.

We will now take up Zero Hour. Shri Kalraj Mishra.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान): सर, सुबह से सब zero ही हो रहा है, जवाब भी करा देते।

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, we are greatly obliged to the Chair for resolving this issue.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Disappearance of Children from various Cities

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण विषय की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। कानपुर में फरवरी से लेकर जून तक 60 बच्चे गायब हो गए हैं और वे मिल नहीं रहे हैं। रिपोर्ट दर्ज कराने के लिए अभिभावकगण गए, कई जगह रिपोर्ट दर्ज हुई, कई जगह नहीं हुई। इनमें से स्वयं अभिभावकों ने ही 20 बच्चों को तो ढूंढ लिया, फिरौती देकर या बाकी सब चीजें करके, लेकिन अभी भी 40 बच्चे ऐसे हैं जिनका कुछ पता नहीं है। उपसभापति जी, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि यह केवल कानपुर का प्रश्न नहीं है, उत्तर प्रदेश का ही प्रश्न नहीं है, पूरे देश भर में जिस तरह बच्चों की और मानव तस्करी की जा रही है, उसी कड़ी के अंतर्गत ये सारी चीजें विद्यमान हैं। अभी हम देख रहे थे एक trafficking in India के बारे में स्टडी करके 'शक्तिवाहिनी' ने जो आंकड़े दिए हैं, उनमें उन्होंने कहा है कि देश के 593 जिलों में से 378 जिलों में इसका प्रभाव काफी दिखाई दे रहा है। इनमें 10 प्रतिशत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानव तस्करी तथा 90 प्रतिशत राज्यीय तस्करी है और इसमें 18 वर्ष की उम्र से नीचे वाले बच्चों की संख्या ज्यादा है। इसी तरीके से UNICEF के अनुसार प्रति वर्ष 12 बिलियन की मानव तस्करी होती है और उसमें से 1.2 बिलियन बच्चे होते हैं। हिंदुस्तान में जिस तरीके से तस्करी चल रही है, बच्चों का अपहरण, मानव की तस्करी, जिस व्यापक मात्रा में चलाई जा रही है, उसको जिस ढंग से रोकना चाहिए, वह नहीं रुक पा रही है। चाहे प्रदेश सरकार के द्वारा बनाई गई योजनाएं हों, चाहे केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा बनाई गई योजनाएं हों, ये योजनाएं निष्प्रभावी होती जा रही हैं। कानपुर की हालत तो ऐसी हो गई है कि वहां का सामान्य नागरिक इससे बड़ा आतंकित है। पहले किरण माहेश्वरी नाम का बच्चा गायब हो गया था, पुलिस को रिपोर्ट की गई। तब वहां की महिला डी.आई.जी. ने उसके परिवार में जाकर बड़े ही ममतायुक्त वातावरण का निर्माण किया था, उन्होंने कहा था कि मैं भी मां हूं और मैं मां का दर्द समझती हूं, यह कहकर उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि मैं उसको ले आऊंगी, लेकिन उसकी हत्या हो गई। उसी की नहीं, कानपुर में और कइयों की हत्या हो गई तथा कानपुर के साथ-साथ और भी कई स्थानों

पर, कई जिलों में इस प्रकार की हत्याएं हुई हैं। यह नियंत्रित नहीं हो पा रहा है। इस पर कैसे नियंत्रण किया जाए, इसकी चिंता करने की आवश्यकता है। इसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार, स्वयं राज्य सरकार से सहयोग करके उसको व्यवस्थित करने का प्रयत्न करे, कानून-व्यवस्था स्थापित करने का प्रयत्न करे, इसके बारे में चिंता करने की आवश्यकता है। कानपुर के लोगों सहित, उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों के मन से यह डर निकालने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के द्वारा भी समुचित कार्यवाही करने की आवश्यकता है।

श्रीमती वृन्दा कारत (पश्चिमी बंगाल): मैं अपने को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): मैं अपने को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैं अपने को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All the hon. Members have associated themselves with it.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान): उपसभापति जी, organs की भी तस्करी हो रही है।

श्री उपसभापति: Organs का कल तो डिस्कस हुआ है।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: उपसभापति जी, सब agree कर रहे हैं कि organs की तस्करी होती है, बच्चों के organs निकाल लेते हैं, किडनी निकाल लेते हैं, आंखें निकाल लेते हैं, इसके ऊपर सबको ध्यान देना चाहिए।

Forthcoming Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN Countries

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very serious development which is going to affect the livelihood of lakhs of our farmers and our fishermen.

There are reports in the paper today that the Cabinet is slated to discuss and to approve of a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN countries. This will mean that approximately 4000 goods, including palm oil, pepper, tea, coffee, rubber, cashew and marine products, will see the elimination of all customs tariffs.

Sir, with the experience of the conditions we accepted when we joined the WTO of removal of quantitative restrictions, we have seen its impact on our own agriculture once we accepted all those conditions.

Today, in the State of Kerala where we are already seeing a huge crisis for many of the producers of these products, and in other parts of the country also, signing of this agreement with ASEAN countries is going to be devastating for lakhs of our farmers who are already facing acute distress because of the agrarian crisis in this country.

In this House, we had the occasion to discuss what was reported as 'a surrender' to those countries which have been insisting on the conditions to start the Doha round of negotiations in the WTO. We had occasions in this House also to protest against it and to ask the Government to come clean on it.

Sir, we have drought in this country and, in some areas, there are floods. We are already deeply concerned about the state of the entire farming community. In such a situation, if the Government goes ahead and signs this agreement and imposes these conditions on our country, it is going to be disastrous.

Secondly, Sir, at a time of global recession, our friends, the UPA Mark-II, who are ruling this country today, find inspiration from one country. Their President himself is talking about Buffalo and Bangalore. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is outsourcing. They are already talking about that. They themselves are looking at ways, and every country in the world is looking at ways, to protect the livelihood of their own people. *(Time-bell rings)* That is what I said, including America. And in such a situation for us to go ahead, it is going to be disastrous. ...*(Interruptions)*...

I demand from the Government that please come to the House, discuss this agreement that you want to reach in the House and let Parliament be taken into confidence. Only then, a final decision be taken. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र): सर, मैं इस विषय से अपने आप को एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We all associate ourselves.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has concluded and the hon. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to reply.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, I am extremely happy that the House yesterday could find time to discuss the working of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Yesterday, for more than four hours, there were deliberations and 24 hon. Members could participate in this discussion. I can say at this point of time that the discussion was very informative, it went into different aspects concerning the Ministry and, I think, that in the days to come, the suggestions, the various points which were raised during the discussion shall guide me in improving further the functioning of the Ministry which, I believe, is entrusted with the task of working for the cause of those sections of the society which are deprived, disadvantaged and vulnerable. The mandate of this Ministry is the educational, economic and social empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. This Ministry also has the mandate to deal with issues concerning persons with disabilities, the senior citizens as well as to deal with concerns arising out of drug abuse.

Sir, as has been pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri D. Raja, while he initiated the discussion on the working of this Ministry, he rightly pointed out that the Preamble of the Constitution of India aim secure — justice, social, economic and political, which is also the mandate basically of this Ministry. Article 46 relating to the Directive Principles of the State Policy further directs to promote with special care, the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Shri D. Raja was absolutely right that this is what is the mandate and this is what is expected from the Ministry. And, therefore, I understand the spirit in which he had made certain references. But, there is no lack of vision; there is no lack of mission. The vision of this Ministry emanates from the Constitution of India which clearly mandates the Ministry to perform for these vulnerable sections of the society and to fulfil that vision, is the mission of this Ministry. I understand that there can be large expectations and we may not be able to live up to those expectations. The mission we are talking about is a mission which deals with the most deprived sections and, therefore, I would like to accept in all humility that though there may be shortcomings, we will march towards achieving those goals in a much more determined manner and this Government is determined to move in this direction with firm resolve. As this Ministry is concerned with the development of the Scheduled Castes, which constitute 16.2 per cent of the total population, a large number of Schemes of this Ministry are around the development of the Scheduled Castes, and so is the allocation also. In the current year, which is almost 75 per cent of the allocation goes towards the Schemes meant for the educational development of the Scheduled Castes. There are a large number of scholarship schemes — the Post-Matric Scholarship, the Top Class Education , Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, National Overseas SC Scholarship, and we have also scholarship schemes like Pre-Matric Scholarships for children of those parents engaged in unclean occupations. We also have been supporting construction of hostels under the Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana for, both, boys and girls. Because of all these Schemes, through which we have been assisting the State Governments, about 35 lakh students get scholarships under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Under the Top Class Education and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Schemes, approximately 2,500 students have benefited for pursuing professional education in premier institutions and for research programmes. We are also providing assistance to students under National Overseas Scholarship Schemes. Almost 1,064 hostels have been sanctioned for the Scheduled Caste students in different parts of the country, in the last five years, which has added 79,000 seats to the existing hostels. I think, this is, broadly, what could have been achieved in the last few years.

Several Members have expressed their concern about the state of affairs in regard to the Scheduled Castes. Many of the concerns which have been expressed, I do share those concerns. I do agree with most of the things which have been expressed. But, at the same time,

I would like that the House should also be aware of as to what progress, what achievement we have been able to do in the last few years.

One important thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the House is in regard to the literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes. That has increased from 52.2 per cent, in 1991, to 64.8 per cent, in 2001.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) in the Chair]

Specially, in regard to the female literacy among Scheduled Castes, the rate which was a mere 3.3 per cent, in 1961, jumped by almost 13 times in the year 2001. This reference I am making because correspondingly, the total female literacy rate which was 15.4 per cent, in 1961, rose up to 53.7 per cent in 2001; the increase was three-and-a-half times. In total female literacy, as far as female literacy among Scheduled Caste girls is concerned, that went up by almost 13 times. So, I think, the efforts of the Government in this direction have paid. We are not satisfied where we have reached. We have to go beyond that. But this I, specifically, wanted to bring to your notice, Madam, because all of us are concerned about female literacy and National Literacy Mission is also, now, going to be the National Female Literacy Mission because we believe that if we are able to empower the women, and empower them through education, by making them literate, that will make our efforts to reach the goal much more easier.

The gross enrolment ratio among Scheduled Castes, in the age group of 6-14 years, has increased from 85.6 per cent, in 2001-02, to 105.89 per cent, in 2006-07. The poverty ratio among SCs, which was 48.1 per cent, in rural areas, and 49.5 per cent, in urban areas, in 1993-94, has gone down to 36.8 per cent and 39.9 per cent in the year 2004-05. I am aware that we have a long way to go. But I just want to bring to the notice of this House that this is an area where we have been able to move in a much better manner.

The strategy of the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan, which quite a number of Members had pointed out yesterday, was started in the year 1979. This is also an area of concern. The guidelines in this regard have been issued by the Planning Commission from time to time. As per the Planning Commission guidelines of 2005-06, the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan has to be formulated by the States, Union Territories and Central Ministries to channelise the flow of outlay and benefits from the Plan in proportion to the population of the Scheduled Castes. As per the available reports — these reports are basically sent by the State Governments — the flow to the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan during 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 16 per cent and 15.71 per cent respectively as against the Scheduled Castes population of 16.2 per cent, on an aggregate basis at the national level. It may, however, be noted that the guidelines on the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan have been issued by the Planning Commission and compliance to these guidelines need to be ensured. We, as a nodal Ministry, will make every possible effort to ensure that these guidelines issued by the Planning Commission are properly followed and the Planning

Commission should also keep these guidelines in view while approving the annual Plan of different Ministries and Departments. The Ministry monitors allocation under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and we have been taking up this issue with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the requisite funds are earmarked for this particular Scheme.

Shri D. Raja, yesterday, made a mention that the Special Central Assistance for the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan was reduced. But the fact is that it has not been reduced. What was provided last year was Rs. 480 crores as Special Central Assistance. However, at the end of the year, instead of Rs. 480 crores, we spent Rs. 600 crores because there were savings in other divisions of the Ministry. This year, the same amount of Rs. 480 crores has been retained.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): I said that it was getting stagnant.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: No. On the Special Central Assistance, you made a specific mention that it had been reduced. The other issue that the allocation was stagnant is a different issue altogether. But there was a particular reference to this issue. If you had not said that ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Bringing it down from Rs. 600 crores to Rs. 400 crores is a reduction.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: I understand it. I knew that this would be pointed out. But the point is that what was provided last year as Plan allocation was Rs. 2,400 crores. This time, the Plan allocation is 2,500 crores. Therefore, unless and until the same type of a situation happens, like it happened in other divisions in the Ministry, savings will not be there and, therefore, the figure will not go up to Rs. 600 crores. Nevertheless, I have taken the point in the spirit in which it has been mentioned. But I just want to correct the facts and, therefore, I have mentioned it.

The funds provided to the State Government under this particular Scheme are just an additive to their SCSP with an objective to give a thrust to the family-oriented schemes for the economic development of the Scheduled Castes below the poverty line. The two finance and development corporations, that is, the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, have been providing loans for selfemployment to Scheduled Caste beneficiaries at concessional rates between 4 per cent and 6 per cent, normally. The NSFDC and NSKFDC have disbursed, approximately, Rs. 1,058 crores to provide loans to 3.65 lakh beneficiaries in the last five years.

Some hon. Members raised an issue in regard to atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes. This is a matter of great concern to all of us. This is a matter which came up for discussion during the Question Hour on the first day of this Session. We all are concerned about it. The Prime Minister, himself, in a meeting of the Inter-State Council, which was held, especially, on the topic of 'Offences of Untouchability and Atrocities' had, clearly, expressed his concern that these types of things cannot happen and should not happen. Subsequently, the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, had also taken

up this issue and suggested that the Ministry should constitute a Committee in order to make a constant review of the progress of implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister was constituted with representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and some other non-officials and that Committee went to different States and conducted a review. These meetings were held, generally, at the zonal level, but almost all the States were covered. We intend now to further intensify the exercise of reviewing the implementation because the statistics which are before us, are a matter of great concern. This information has been provided by the National Crime Records Bureau, which says that in 2004, the number of cases registered was 26,523; in 2005 — 25,836; in 2006 — 26,665; in 2007 — 29,825. And similar figures, somewhat lesser, were for the year 2008. There has been a reduction. But our concern is not just mere statistics; our concern is the mindset. Our concern is that if there is violence in our society today, and the violence is of this nature, then this thing shall not be allowed to continue. We have taken it very seriously. So far as coordination and implementation of these Acts, the PCR and the Prevention of Atrocities, is concerned, some provisions are allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the case of some other provisions, we are responsible but ultimately implementation is with the State Governments. Nevertheless, all of us will have to make a joint effort to see that what is provided in the legislation is implemented at the field level and towards that end, we stand committed and we will try and do whatever is possible.

Hon. Member, Shri B.K. Hariprasad, was very passionate in putting across his views regarding manual scavenging. This is a very serious issue. As of now, the situation is that, at the beginning of the year, 1,15,000 manual scavengers and their dependents remained to be rehabilitated to alternative occupations. This information is provided by the State Governments. So far as the definition of 'manual scavenging' is concerned, there is a lot of difference. The State Governments take it in a different manner. There are a large number of NGOs working for the welfare of manual scavengers and they view it in a different manner. Yesterday, Shri Praveen Rashtrapal raised this issue and he had mentioned about a report which talks about 13 lakh manual scavengers. He wanted to know what figures the Government had on it. Now, as far as the Government is concerned, the State Governments have reported 1,15,000; out of these, up to May this year, 44,536 persons have been rehabilitated under the Selfemployment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers. The scheme envisaged rehabilitation of all the remaining manual scavengers and their dependents by 31st March, 2009. This could not be possible. Now, the scheme has been extended up to 31st March, 2010. Knowing the gravity of the issue and knowing the concern of the hon. Members in this regard, we have been constantly taking it up with the State Governments, and I have also written to the Chief Ministers that they should pay the required attention to this so that we are able to come out of this situation as early as possible. Shri B.K. Hariprasad had also raised an issue with regard to sanitation workers and

their working conditions. We are also concerned with the working conditions of the sanitation workers, who are exposed to various hazards, in regard to their health and safety. Within the Ministry, we are trying to study what their working conditions are, what equipments they have been provided with, what kind of training they are provided, what safety measures have been taken, what diseases or illnesses they are prone to, what the mortality rate among the sanitation workers is, etc. We are trying to study all these issues. But, in the meanwhile, as none of the existing labour laws regulate the working conditions of sanitation workers, from the health and safety angle, and to provide for their welfare, as a distinct group, the Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Labour the need for bringing in a comprehensive legislation for this group. Now, quite a number of hon. Members raised their concerns in regard to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). According to Mandal Commission, 52 per cent of the total population is from the OBCs...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): It is 58 per cent.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: There are different figures now. Some figures talk about 52 per cent. The National Sample Survey Organisation comes up with a lesser figure. But it constitutes a large section of the Indian population. Almost 1963 castes are included in the Central List of OBCs. The Educational Development Programmes for OBCs include pre and post matric scholarships and construction of hostels. Approximately, 25 lakh students are supported by this scholarship given by the Ministry through State Governments. In the last five years, 400 hostels have been sanctioned, adding the capacity further to 32,600 seats. Some hon. Members raised the issue of granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes. Now, definitely, we believe that there is scope to further empower the Commission, and its functions need to be enlarged. How, and in what manner, the Commission's functions have to be enlarged, we are going into that matter. And, once we are able to firm up our views in this regard, we can come back on this issue. For the economic empowerment of the OBCs, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation provided loans at concessional rates to encourage and support self-employment schemes. Nearly 5.5 lakh beneficiaries have been provided loans up to Rs. 618 crores in the last five years.

Another important area of concern, and which has been mandated to this Ministry, is the persons with disabilities. Madam, you had raised this issue. According to the 2001 Census, 2.2 per cent of the population comes under this category of persons with disabilities. Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 enacted by Parliament defines 'disability' as 'blindness, low vision, leprosy cured, hearing impairment, locomotor disability, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and mental illness' and there are details as to who will be considered as a disabled and all that. The National Trust Act also came into being in the year 1999; it covers two additional disabilities, that is, autism and multiple disabilities.

1.00 P.M.

Strategy for empowerment of persons with disabilities include their rehabilitation, education, employment in Government through reservation and in private sector, through incentives and self-employment through concessional loans. The Government has taken a series of initiatives over the last five years. Even yesterday, some hon. Members had raised the issue of the backlog of disabled people in Government services. The Department of Personnel and Training had taken up this matter, issued certain instructions and, I understand, had planned a time-bound programme to fill up vacancies under this particular category.

Then, we have the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities which was announced in 2006 to focus attention on the need for action regarding rehabilitation, accessibility and other important issues. Meanwhile, the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted. India was among the first countries to sign the UN Convention — and this came into force in the year 2008 — which cast certain obligations as a signatory country towards enforcement of various rights for persons with disabilities.

The Ministry implements two major schemes for assistance to persons with disabilities: assistive devices and putting up vocational training centres, special schools and half-way homes. There is a scheme to provide assistive devices through NGOs. The eligibility criteria has been revised. There is a new scheme to provide incentives to employers in the private sector for employing persons with disabilities. The Central Government has been providing employers' contribution towards EPF and ESI for the first three years for every person with disability employed after 1st April, 2008 and drawing monthly emoluments up to Rs. 25,000. However, the response so far to this incentive scheme has not been up to the mark. The private sector needs to respond handsomely to this scheme, employ persons with disability in large numbers and avail of the incentive available under this scheme.

Then, in the area of social defence, the Ministry primarily focuses on the welfare and maintenance of senior citizens. According to 2001 Census, there are 7.6 crore senior citizens in the country. Demographic changes are taking place on a huge scale and, by 2026, the percentage of senior citizens in our population will go up to 12.4 per cent and this will be a major section of the population.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: What? Sir, 7.6 crore senior citizens?

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Yes, 7.6 crore senior citizens, that is, people above 60 years of age, according to the 2001 Census.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Strange. It can't be only 7.6 crore, Sir.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: That is what it is. That constitutes 7.5 per cent....*(Interruptions)*... Those are the figures available with me. It is 7.5 per cent of the population which falls in the category of senior citizens. And this will go up to 12.5 per cent by the year 2026. These demographic changes are taking place, and the main problem of the senior citizens, as the

House is aware, is in regard to their security, healthcare and need for their care and maintenance. There has been an enactment, namely, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens, which Madam you had referred to yesterday, and I would like to inform the House that 21 States and six Union Territories have brought the Act into force. The model rules have been prepared and circulated to the States for adoption. States like Gujarat, West Bengal and Tripura have already framed rules and other States are in preparation of these rules.

Madam, the Scheme for Integrated Programme for Older Persons also came up for discussion yesterday. That Scheme has different subschemes; almost 13 Schemes are there. The allocation on this particular Scheme is Rs. 22 crores. Many hon. Members had expressed their concern that the available allocation is too meagre. I share their concern, and I am in full agreement to the sentiments which they had expressed. About 450 NGOs covering almost 45,000 beneficiaries are implementing the different schemes available under this particular scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

Then, Madam, some hon. Members, especially, I think, it was hon. Shri Narayan Singh who had raised the issue of drug abuse and as to how this matter should get the desired attention. About 400 Non-Governmental Organisations are implementing the Scheme of the Ministry in regard to the prevention of drug abuse. We have made certain changes that apart from the NGOs to involve the local bodies both urban and rural, we have made changes so that they can also be assisted. A National Consultative Committee on De-addiction and Rehabilitation was constituted in July 2008, which has various stakeholders as members, including agencies dealing with supply and demand reduction. In order to address the issue of drug abuse among children in schools, the Ministry is implementing a scheme which also provides for programmes focussing on children and youth both in as well as outside educational institutions. The Programme would start at the school level, addressing adolescent groups and also covers college students. Parents and teachers would be sensitised to understand the psychology of youth and to help them to keep away from drug abuse. The Ministry has a National Awareness Campaign on Drug Abuse on 26th June, every year, which is observed as International Day Against Drug Abuse. But, we are aware that a day's campaign is not good enough. The problem is serious. Our concerns are there. Several Members have talked about that, and 26th June is not the day when the educational institutions are open. It is the students in schools and colleges who have to be sensitised, who have to be made aware and, therefore, we are preparing a programme of a massive awareness campaign in educational institutions during the rest of the year as well, so that we are effectively able to reach to this section of the society which is the most vulnerable. Hon. Members have raised several issues. I have tried to cover some of them. I will briefly mention some of the important priorities, which the Ministry will be focussing in the next couple of years. Some Members had mentioned, I think, it was Mr. D. Raja mentioned about the scholarship rates; Hariprasadji had also talked about post-matric

scholarship; Shri Jesudasu Seelam had also talked about the post-matric scholarship. The scholarship rates for the OBC students have not been revised since the year 1999, and the scholarship rates for the Scheduled Caste students have not been revised since the year 2003. Therefore, we will focus our attention to revise the scholarship rates because we also are in full agreement with the sentiments which were expressed by the hon. Members. A new pilot scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, is being started this year. The announcement to this effect was made by the hon. Finance Minister while presenting the Budget. This will be basically convergence of different schemes of different Ministries and Departments. The pilot project will be for a thousand villages with more than 50 per cent Scheduled Caste population. A mention was made that these thousand villages is too small a number, Rs. 100 crore is too small an amount, but this is just meant to be a pilot project. Based on the experience of implementing this project, further in the days to come, this will be expanded. As envisaged, this scheme, which is meant for villages for more than 50 per cent Scheduled Caste concentration, these villages according to the 2001 census, is 44,000. There was a dispute in the figures but we have the information that it is 44,000. Even if you take the Rs. ten lakh which will be provided as gap filling other than what will happen by converging different developmental schemes, this ten lakh will itself mean that on this scheme the allocation will have to be not less than Rs. 4500 crores. This we are going to try and focus and see that it is effectively implemented.

We shall revise the scheme to provide assistive devices to persons with disabilities by increasing income ceiling for eligibility and upper limit of the cost of assistive aids and will streamline its implementation. We will also make an attempt to increase the number of beneficiaries because a large number of people still remain uncovered and when I had a discussion with the hon. Prime Minister he was also expressing his concern and made it very clear that we have to do everything possible to lessen the burden on the lives of the people who are disabled. Procedure for certification of disability is also a major issue. Today the certificates are issued at the district level. The disabled find it very difficult to reach there. The first thing to do for a disabled to get any advantage of the Government scheme is that the certificates are required and...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): I am not saying anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... You know the word 'disabled' is not used now. They use the word 'differently abled' because the word 'disabled' is not being used any more. So, you use the word 'differently abled'.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: We will have to take a formal position on this matter. I do agree with what the hon. Member, Najmaji, has pointed out, but as of now the position is that we have the Persons with Disabilities Act, we have a United Nations Convention on Rights with Persons with Disability. But we have taken this suggestion in the spirit with which it has been expressed. This

process of certification of disability will be simplified, decentralised and streamlined. A comprehensive Bill to amend the Persons with Disabilities Act with a view to strengthening its provisions in the light of the last 14 years experience and to bring it in line with the provisions of the UN Conventions will be brought before the Parliament this year. We have already begun the process and just a day before we had a meeting of the Central Coordination Committee where we had a threadbare discussion, the process is on.

A new scheme is proposed to be launched for providing assistance for construction of old age home for indigent senior citizens at the district level. A review of the national policy For Older Persons — 1999, is necessary as ten years have passed since then. We are conducting a review what we have achieved, what more needs to be done and keeping in view that the share of the older citizens in the population is going to increase substantially, we will also be preparing a long-term perspective plan to meet the requirements of the older people. Yesterday a mention was made by Shri Shanta Kumarji about the mandate of the Ministry having beggary also as a subject but nothing was said on this subject in the Annual Report. Beggary is also an important issue, which needs urgent attention. Many States have enacted legislation on this subject. We propose to have a national consultation on this issue in order to prepare a strategy to address this problem. We are aware about the seriousness of this issue. A National Awareness Campaign, as I have mentioned earlier, on drug abuse will be taken up in a big way. Collection of authentic data on the extent,

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

pattern and trends of substance abuse is essential in order to devise effective strategies to address the problem. A pilot survey will be launched shortly through the NSSO in this regard. A National policy on prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: You are looking at the right direction.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: I don't know why there was a big smile, but a National Policy on Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance abuse will be evolved for implementation. We are also going to come up with a mechanism to assess the performance of the NGOs in implementing different schemes of the Ministry. There had been a mention about the NGOs' role. Some of the NGOs have been doing exemplary work and some may have been the black sheep. But, I think, that we will have to come up with a mechanism, one, to assess and secondly to assist, to train, to support the NGOs in the discharge of their responsibilities because we believe that the civil society will also have to play a major role in carrying forward this agenda and towards that end we will come up with mechanisms to make them more effective and more accountable. Then, there was a mention about Dr. Ambedkar Foundation. Shri D. Raja had talked about the awards. The awards have not been given for quite some time but we are going to revive the award scheme. About the National Library also we have already taken up with the concerned authorities to make available to us the bungalows for this purpose and we are following on that.

Then, we will also be conducting a study on the various recommendations and suggestions of different Commissions and Committees so that we are able to prepare comprehensive strategies and to evolve more effective mechanisms. If there is any need we can further create rights. Today there are several rights enshrined in the Constitution, several rights created through in different legislations. How far we have been able to enforce those rights, to what extent we have achieved, where are the gaps, how do we fill up those gaps, what more needs to be done, which other rights have to be created, we are going to go into that issue in detail so that on the one hand it will be the focus on effectively implementing the schemes and programmes and on the other hand it will be the enforcement of the rights of the Scheduled Castes, other backward classes, the persons with disabilities, the senior citizens and rights of these vulnerable sections of the society. Now, I think, I have already taken substantial amount of time. Concerns were expressed about the allocation which has remained around where it had been. I think, I do agree with those sentiments. The passionate appeal which was made, that more focus needs to be there. We take those views very seriously. I can tell you for sure that...

DR. EJAZ ALI: What about the *Dalit* reservation? ...(व्यवधान)... Several members had raised this issue. Yesterday many Members had raised this issue.

श्री उपसभापति: ऐजाज़ अली साहब, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... बैठिए। आप बाद में बोलिएगा। ...(व्यवधान)... Let the Minister complete. ...(व्यवधान)... Please sit down.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Now, the suggestions which were made yesterday will definitely help me, guide me in the functioning of the Ministry and I am grateful that a large number of hon. Members participated in the discussion and I thank all the Members, I thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no...(Interruptions)... Mr. Raja, he has covered all the issues...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA: No, no. Sir, I have to seek only a couple of clarifications. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I request you all to sit down...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I have a point to make. It is regarding credit to Scheduled Castes and...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all there, Mr. Seelam...(Interruptions)... One minute...(Interruptions)... One minute...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, do you know that an MP quarrelled with a bank Manager?... (Interruptions)... We are concerned about the flow of credit from public sector banks and private institutions. I would like to know what efforts the Government is making in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. That is all right.

Mr. Raja, take only one minute. Please, be brief.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I will be brief. It is good that we have two young and energetic Ministers — Mr. Mukul Wasnik and Mr. Napoleon. I would like to seek a couple of clarifications.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not couple, just one.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the first one is with regard to Special Central Assistance. It was Rs. 577.71 crores in 2008-09 and now it is 469 crores in 2009-10 Budget. If my figures are wrong, I stand corrected. If your figures are wrong, you must correct your figure, because you have made a pointed reference to it. That is why I pointed out that the allocation to the Special Central Assistance is going down and is getting stagnant. This is first point.

Secondly, Sir, the hon. Minister has made a reference to the Planning Commission. I would like to know whether the Planning Commission keeps a tab on all the Ministries whether they are keeping a separate Sub-Plan Account for SCs. It is reported — even the Planning Commission has said it — that many Ministries claim that the Sub-Plan is indivisible. The Budget is indivisible.

श्री उपसभापति: आप ने तो participate नहीं किया, Clarifications could be sought by only those Members who have participated in the discussion...*(Interruptions)*... Let us follow certain rules.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, when we are discussing the working of Ministry, we should be allowed to seek clarifications...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Madhu, 24 Members have spoken on this. I have no objection if the entire House wishes to seek clarifications from the Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We don't want...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the other issue is about drug addicts, alcohol addicts and even the people with different abilities or disabilities. My suggestion is, this Ministry is handicapped to deal with these sections. I think, these people can be put in a separate category or department and be clubbed with the Ministry of Health.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, please conclude...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Raja, you always co-operate...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I also have a point to make. You please give me an opportunity...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Seelam, please...*(Interruptions)*... While requesting for time, you have already made your point...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, finally, I request for formation of a separate Ministry for drug addicts, alcohol addicts, persons with different abilities, senior citizens, because this Ministry cannot address their concerns. This Ministry needs to focus on Scheduled Caste and Other Backward

Classes. Sir, for Minorities, there is a separate Ministry. It is focussing on Minorities. It gets more Budget allocation. Sir, in the same way, Tribal affairs has got a separate Ministry. It is focussing on tribals. It gets more Budget allocation. But, this Ministry lacks focus. That is why I make an appeal to both the young and energetic Ministers to take up this issue...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, I think, you just seek clarification.

SHRI D. RAJA: ...and focus on Scheduled Castes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hariprasad. You have one minute. Be pointed.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I have only one point to make ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One minute. I have got the list.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, there is no dearth of programmes in this Ministry.

श्री उपसभापति: वही मैं कह रहा हूँ।

डा० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए हेपतुल्ला: आप वहाँ से कहिए।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं वही कह रहा हूँ। देखिए, The Minister, while replying, cannot address all the issues raised by the hon. Members. But that does not mean that the Minister has not taken note of that. He has already said that he has received a lot of suggestions. He will attend to them.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: But, Sir, in the House of Elders, the percentage of elderly people has been given wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*... At least, in the House of Elders, the percentage of elderly people should be given correctly. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Pardon please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: In the House of Elders, the percentage of elderly people, in the country, should be given correct. That is my only request to the hon. Minister. He has given a wrong figure. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, my point is this. There are a lot of programmers for the weaker sections of the society. But at the implementation point, there are a lot of flaws. That's why I had requested the hon. Minister about the possibility of evolving a system, in the Ministry, to have vigilance through a Monitoring Committee. Is the hon. Minister going to constitute such a committee?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rangarajan. Only one query please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the reservation for disabled people has not even been mentioned. I need a reply from the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay that's all. ...*(Interruptions)*... आपने तो participate नहीं किया। ...*(Interruptions)*... I have the list of all the participants. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Rangarajan, it's okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... Next, Mr. Praveen Rashtrapal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: the CBI inquiry should be reviewed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rangarajan, you seek your clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*...
You can say, but we have business to carry on. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Praveen Rashtrapal.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, I will make a mention about one and-a-half problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not know why the hon. Minister has very tactfully avoided the basic issue of not filling up of backlog posts for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in spite of directions from the hon. Prime Minister to complete all backlogs before the end of September, 2006. The Central Government may not take action against a State Government. But the Prime Minister is capable of taking action against the Central Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, one small thing more. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is about manual scavenging. Hon. Minister should know how manual scavenging is allowed to go on in the Indian Railway tracks. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has covered this.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: No, he has not answered this. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Central Government...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All that has been covered. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Action should be taken against them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that the entire credit flow...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have been requesting the Members to cooperate.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, आप adjourn कर दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं वही करूंगा।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, adjourn तो आप करेंगे।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Madam, do you want me to speak or not.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Seelam, you put on question.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the total credit flow from the public sector banks and other financial institutions has drastically come down to just a meager amount of Rs. 15,000 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Don't go into details. ...*(Interruptions)*... नंदी येल्लैया जी, आप बैठिए न, मैंने आपका तो नाम नहीं पुकारा?

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: We request the Minister to take it up with the Ministry of Finance that there should, at least, be 10 per cent credit flow. For the minorities, it is 15 per cent.

We welcome it. But for *dalits*, at least, 10 per cent of credit flow has to be ensured. (*Time-bell rings*) Part 'b' of my question is this. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There cannot be any part in this. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Is there any scheme to sensitize, mobilize, and motivate the *dalit* community for capacity building. There should be a scheme. It should not be a one-way process, but a two-way process. ...(*Interruptions*)... The receiving mechanism should also be sensitized. There should be motivation, mobilization through a Government scheme. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are making a speech. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, Mr. Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, objecting to the exclusion of the creamy layer, while providing reservation to the OBCs, I had, yesterday, urged upon the hon. Minister to take necessary steps that social backwardness should be the sole criterion for providing reservation to the OBCs, irrespective of economic status. Sir, I had also mentioned that the Census for the OBCs was taken only in 1931. Nearly 80 years have passed. Therefore, while taking 2011 Census, the Minister should take initiatives so that the OBC Census is also taken at that time.

डा. नारायण सिंह मानकलाव (नाम-निर्देशित): महोदय, मंत्री जी ने सारे सवालों का जवाब बहुत स्पष्ट और अच्छी तरह से दे दिया। मेरा एक सवाल था घुमक्कड़ जातियों के बारे में, उनके विकास के बारे में, इसे शायद वे नोट नहीं कर पाए, मैं इस पर उनका स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ।

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, in my speech also I had mentioned about this. ...(*Interruptions*)... Will the hon. Minister clarify the Government's stand on reducing the rate of interest on educational loans to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate. ...(*Interruptions*)... This is not correct...(*Interruptions*)... This is not followed.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there was Bill for reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which was passed in this House, but it could not be passed in the Lok Sabha because of some discrepancies in the Bill. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that Bill will be reviewed, anomalies sorted out and re-introduced here. Also, there is another Bill, which is for reservation for OBCs. Will that be, again, brought forward? Sir, he did not mention about the reservation in private sector. What is the status of that? Then, will the Report of the Natchiappan Committee be implemented so that we could have reservation in judiciary as well?

श्री वीर पाल सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, पिछड़े वर्ग के लोग नौकरियों में अब भी 6% से ज्यादा नहीं हैं और इस संबंध में मैंने मंत्री जी से कल निवेदन भी किया था, कि वे इस संबंध में भी कुछ कहें। दूसरा, मैंने पिछड़ों से संबंधित संसदीय समिति के बारे में भी जो कहा था, उस बारे में भी कुछ मंत्री जी कहें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you want to reply?

श्री नंदी येल्लेया (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आपने नहीं पूछा, You did not participate in the discussion ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नंदी येल्लेया: सर, हमें टाइम नहीं मिला ..(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: देखिए, मैं अगर आपको समय देता हूँ तो मुझे दूसरों को भी देना पड़ेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

Please excuse me, आप बैठिए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, हम लोगों ने इसाई और मुस्लिम समाज के...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: जी, आपने पूछा था।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों के बारे में रंगनाथ मिश्र आयोग की अनुशंसा के बारे में भी...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow you, because others are also asking for but I have refused them. ...(Interruptions)... I have refused others; so, I will not allow...(Interruptions)...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : उसके बारे में भी स्पष्टीकरण चाहेंगे कि इसाई अनुसूचित जाति और मुस्लिम अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों को भी वे आरक्षण देने जा रहे हैं या नहीं?... (व्यवधान)...

श्री नंदी येल्लेया: सर, प्लीज़।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं। वह आपकी पार्टी का मसला है, हमारा नहीं। Mr. Minister, would you like to clarify all these points or would you like to write to them?

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: सर, एक मिनट।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं, किसी को नहीं, बिल्कुल नहीं।...(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, there are quite a number of concerns which have been expressed again and stress has been laid that those points should also be replied, but I am afraid to say that what Shri D. Raja was mentioning in regard to the allocation of Special Central Assistance is not correct. I think, what I had stated earlier, that figure stands correct. The allocation which was Rs. 480 crores last year stands to be Rs. 480 crores this year. ...(Interruptions)... So, this is the position. On the second issue, yesterday, while initiating the discussion, he elaborated how from the mid 1985, the then Ministry which was carved out of the Ministry of Home Affairs was further divided into the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Now, he is suggesting that this Ministry should be further divided and a division of this should be taken out and given to the Ministry of Health. I don't know why he wants that this Ministry should be further divided. The position, as it stands today, in regard to disability and drug abuse is that the Ministry of Health is concerned with the treatment of these sections while the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is concerned with their rehabilitation. So, that difference is there. That is all I wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. Member. Then, as far as

the guidelines of the Planning Commission are concerned, there are specific guidelines. We also keep monitoring; we also keep getting information from the State Governments as to allocation which they have made under the Schedule Castes Sub Plan; the Planning Commission is also monitoring it. So, we are on that; and I have the correspondence between my Ministry and the Planning Commission and the information that we have got from the States as far as this particular matter is concerned.

Hariprasadji has mentioned whether we have any intention to have a vigilance type of mechanism in the Ministry, I am afraid that I will not be in a position to respond to that instantaneously; but as I mentioned earlier while replying, we will go into the entire issue and work out a mechanism where we are able to implement our schemes in a much more effective manner. So, while doing that, his suggestion will also be taken into consideration.

Rangarajanji has mentioned about the CBI enquiry. I readily don't have information about this. But I will collect the information and I can send this information to him.

Praveen Rashtupalji has mentioned about the SC/ST backlog. I think, the hon. Member, who is very well informed, is aware that the Government had undertaken a Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog. Almost 53000 vacancies in backlog for the Schedule Castes were filled up. However, I don't have the latest information. But about the Railways also, which he has mentioned, in regard to manual scavenging, definitely, we will view these sentiments with all the seriousness it deserves.

Jesudasu Seelamji has talked about the flow of credit to the Scheduled Castes which should not be less than ten per cent of the total credit. I cannot respond to this. But we have noted his concerns and we will communicate it to the concerned Minister.

As far as the Reservation Bill is concerned, Ramadossji has pointed out about this, last time, it could not be legislated though it was passed by the Rajya Sabha, but the concerns which were expressed during that point of time, will be addressed while this thing will be taken up again. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: What about the figures of elderly persons?

SHRI D. RAJA: Tell us the exact figures of elderly persons. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: I don't want to get into a situation where I am...
...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, yesterday, there was a mention of deaf and dumb. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: But since you have pointed out and you are insisting that the figure which I have quoted is a wrong figure, though I feel that I am right, but still because you are insisting, I will find out, verify and inform you accordingly.

Yesterday, Dr. Pilaniaji had mentioned about the deaf and dumb problem. Ahluwaliaji has raised it again. Sir, this issue had come to the Ministry earlier. We had taken it up with the Finance Ministry which did not accept the suggestion as was made. But we will definitely take it up again because the manner in which and the sentiment in which it has been expressed, we agree with that sentiment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, what about the creamy layer?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Wait, wait.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: About the creamy layer, the hon. Member is aware that it was right from the initial days in 1993 when the Supreme Court had decided on the issue. The creamy layer had come into effect since that time. Subsequently, in a different matter, in the year 2008 also, this issue had come up. What is with me at the moment is that, from time to time, whenever there is a need to revise the scales, the National Commission for Backward Classes goes into the issue. Recently, there was an enhancement of income criteria for the creamy layer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-four minutes past one of the clock

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-six minutes past two of the clock

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhat Jha to start the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के कार्यकरण के संबंध में अपनी चर्चा को आरम्भ कर रहा हूँ। बुनियादी तौर पर मनुष्य का स्वभाव जिज्ञासु होता है। वह जानना चाहता है, वह सुनता है, देखता है और महसूस करता है और उसके बारे में जानने की कोशिश भी करता है। जाने-पहचाने दो दिल, चाहे पास रहें या दूर, लेकिन ऐसा कभी नहीं हो सकता कि वे एक-दूसरे के बारे में न जानना चाहते हों। यही कारण है जिसकी वजह से आदिकाल से संचार व्यवस्था की शुरुआत हो जाती है। विभिन्न युगों में इसकी व्यवस्थाएं अलग-अलग रही होंगी, लेकिन संचार कभी रुका नहीं है। जब मानव पढ़ा-लिखा नहीं था, तब वह मोम से, लकड़ी से, नुकीले लोहे से, पत्थर की नोंक से अपनी बातें लिखता था और संवाद करता था। पेरु में जो स्पैनिश लोग होते हैं, वे गांठदार रस्सी से कितनी गांठें बंधी हैं, उसके द्वारा संदेश भेजते थे और जिसको संदेश मिलता था, वह समझता था कि इन गांठों का क्या अर्थ होता है। इसी प्रकार प्राचीन काल में जब युद्ध होता था तो युद्ध के समय हरकारा राज्यों में दौड़ा दिए जाते थे। उसके साथ वह घोड़े पर चढ़कर जाता था और साथ में नुकीला भाला होता था। उस भाले पर मशाल जलती थी और रस्सी लटक रही थी। इसका मतलब यह होता था कि जो लोग युद्ध में भाग नहीं लेंगे, उनका घर जला दिया जाएगा, जो लोग लड़ाई में भाग नहीं लेंगे, उन्हें फांसी पर चढ़ा दिया जाएगा।

महोदय, अब मैं डाक विभाग पर आता हूँ। 1836 में पहली बार रोलेट हिल ने डाक व्यवस्था का सर्वेक्षण किया। आखिर डाक भारत की जिंदगी क्यों है, यह विभाग जिंदगी क्यों है, उसका एक उदाहरण है। 1836 में

रोलैंड हिल ने जब सर्वेक्षण किया तो उसने कहा कि जितनी दूरी पर डाक जाती है, उस दूरी के हिसाब से पैसा नहीं लेना चाहिए। उसने सर्वेक्षण पर रिपोर्ट दी कि पैसा पत्र के वजन के आधार पर लेना चाहिए। उसी समय से जितना पत्र का वजन होता है, उतना पैसा लगने लगा। इससे जाहिर होता है कि संचार जो है, जो डाकतार है, यह सांस्कृतिक, सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास के लिए भारत का एक समर्थ साधन है। इसीलिए मुझे लगता है कि इस विभाग की महत्ता सिर्फ मंत्रालय के नाते नहीं है, विभाग के नाते नहीं है। डाक गांव में एक परिवार के रूप में काम करता है। मुझे याद है, आप सबको भी याद होगा — पांच मिनट के लिए आप अपने गांव की तरफ चले जाएं या शहर के किसी इलाके में चले जाएं — वह डाकघर, वह डाक बाबू, वह डाकिया, उसकी साइकिल, उसकी खाकी पैंट, खाकी कुरता, खाकी शर्ट, लाल धारी वाली टोपी, उसकी घंटी की आवाज सुनते ही आंगन से दौड़ता हुआ बच्चा बाहर आता है और कहता है, डाकिया काका, क्या लाए हो? वह कहता है कि यह चिट्ठी लाया हूं। उस गांव का डाकिया कोई नौकर नहीं हुआ करता था, डाकिया वहां पर कोई employee नहीं था, वह उस पंचायत का, उस गांव का, अपने इलाके का एक संदेशवाहक होता था, परिवार का सदस्य होता था। कोई उसे काका कहता था, कोई उसे मामा कहता था और कोई उसे चाचा कहता था। इतने बड़े परिवार में, आपको आश्चर्य होगा कि अगर कोई निरक्षर होता था तो डाकिया उसकी चिट्ठी स्वयं पढ़ता था। अगर तार पर कोई दुखद समाचार होता था तो उसके हाथ कांपते थे कि मैं कैसे चाची को बताऊं कि परदेस में उसका जो रिश्तेदार रहता है, वह expire हो गया है। वह बताने में समर्थ नहीं होता था। आपको सुनकर आश्चर्य होगा कि इतने बड़े डाक विभाग में 6 लाख लोग काम करते हैं। इसलिए मैंने पहले कहा कि डाक विभाग संस्कृति और परम्परा का हिस्सा हुआ करता था। आप सब कल्पना कर रहे होंगे तो आपको भी ऐसा ही लगा होगा। आज किसी बच्चे से पूछिए कि डाकिया क्या होता है, कौन है? वह कहेगा कालिया का भाई है। उसको पता ही नहीं है कि डाकिया क्या होता है। हमने एक संस्कृति को पूरी तरह से चौपट कर दिया है। इस विभाग में लगभग 6 लाख लोग काम करते हैं और इसमें नियमित कर्मचारियों के अलावा ग्रामीण डाक सेवकों की लाखों में संख्या है। उपसभापति महोदय, इस ओर जब देखते हैं तो भारत में एक लाख पचपन हजार पैंतिस डाकघर हैं। यह 2008 की रिपोर्ट में है। इसमें एक लाख उन्तालिस हजार एक सौ तिहत्तर ग्रामीण डाकघर हैं 15,862 शहरी डाकघर हैं। जरा इन डाकघरों की स्थिति तो जाकर देखिए। अभी जैसे बरसात हुई तो वहां पानी टपकेगा। तो डाकघर की स्थिति क्या है? यह लाखों-करोड़ों रुपया आपको देता है, लेकिन उन डाकघरों की स्थिति देखकर आपको अजीब लगेगा। मैंने एक डाकघर में जाकर पूछा कि मॉडर्नाइजेशन के नाम पर आपके यहां क्या-क्या हुआ है? उसने बताया कि कभीकभी भी पुताई हो जाती है, कभी-कभी रंगाई हो जाती है, यही हमारा मॉडर्नाइजेशन है। हम भारत को किस युग में ले जाना चाहते हैं? मैंने वहां एक और चीज देखी। हमने जो आधुनिकतम संचार व्यवस्था में मोबाइल वगैरह शुरू की है, तो इस संदर्भ में हमने सोचा कि चिट्ठियां बहुत कम जाती होंगी। मैंने इसकी भी जानकारी ली। तो उन्होंने बताया कि वोल्यूम और क्वांटिटी में कोई कमी नहीं आई है, चिट्ठियां उतनी ही आ रही हैं, अन्तर इतना हुआ है कि पर्सनल चिट्ठियां बंद हो गई हैं, बिजनेस की चिट्ठियां ज्यादा आने लगी हैं, लेकिन चिट्ठियों की संख्या में कोई कमी नहीं आई है। चिट्ठियां निरन्तर जा रही हैं, उसका स्वरूप बदल गया होगा, स्पीड पोस्ट से जाने लगा होगा, लेकिन उसमें कोई कमी नहीं आई है। आप लोगों को लगता है कि डाक का काम बंद हो गया है। सरकार का जो मंत्रालय है, वह भी लगभग उसी दिशा में चल रहा है, वह अन्य चीजों में जाने लगा है। आपको सुनकर आश्चर्य होगा कि सन् 1984 से इस डाक तार विभाग में एक भी नियुक्ति नहीं है, इक्का-दुक्का हुई हो, तो हो सकती है, लेकिन 1984 के बाद कोई परमानेंट नियुक्ति नहीं हुई है। अब देश की जनसंख्या कितनी बढ़ती जा रही है? लेकिन आप देखेंगे कि डाकघर में नियुक्ति नहीं हुई है, डाकियों की संख्या नहीं बढ़ी है, डाक बाबू की संख्या नहीं बढ़ी है, जनसंख्या भले ही बढ़ गई हो, काम उतना ही है, इससे सारे लोग परेशान हैं। अब यहां पर एक और विडम्बना देखिए। इस विभाग में अगर कोई अनुकम्पा नियुक्ति होती है — मरसी अपोइंटमेंट, तो यह सदन सुनकर

आश्चर्य करेगा कि सौ डाक परिवारों में अगर कोई मृत्यु होती है, तो यह सरकार, यह मंत्रालय पांच लोगों को ही नौकरी देता है। यहां पर पांच परसेंट मरसी अपोइंटमेंट है। तो उन 95 परसेंट लोगों ने आपका क्या बिगाड़ा है? क्या अन्याय किया है उन्होंने? फिर यह पांच परसेंट अपोइंटमेंट किसकी मरसी पर होगा? कौन देगा इनको नौकरी, इसका क्या क्राइटेरिया है? मुझे लगता है कि इस तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। अगर ग्रामीण डाक सेवकों की मृत्यु हो जाए, तो अनुकम्पा की तो बात ही नहीं है, क्योंकि उन्हें तो ये मानकर ही नहीं चलते कि वे कोई हमारे कर्मचारी हैं। महोदय, आपने देखा होगा कि पहले रेलगाड़ी में एक लाल डिब्बा हुआ करता था। उस पर लिखा होता था - छडाक तार विभागाछ उस डिब्बे में चिट्ठियां बोरी की बोरी रहती थीं तथा पूरी बोरी में लोग छंटाई करते थे। डाकिये उसमें जाते थे, छंटाई कर चिट्ठियां अलग कर देते थे। लेकिन अब यह देखिए कि रेलगाड़ी में वह डिब्बा बन्द हो गया है तथा कुछ बोरी चिट्ठियां रखने के लिए छोटा सा स्पेस दे दिया गया है और उस स्पेस में चिट्ठियां रहती हैं, परन्तु उनकी छंटाई नहीं होती है। इसीलिए आज आपकी चिट्ठी दो दिन में नहीं पहुंचती है वह चार दिन में, पांच दिन में, दस दिन में पहुंच रही है। उसका बहुत बड़ा कारण है छंटाई न होना। 1986 से छंटाई होना ही बंद हो गया और जो लोग रिटायर्ड हो रहे हैं उनके बदले में किसी को नहीं रखा जा रहा है। डाक विभाग में एक आर.एम.एस. यानी शौर्टिंग ऑफिस छंटाई यह सब-विभाग हुआ करता था। वह पूरी तरह से बंद है।

एक बहुत बड़ी विडम्बना है कि संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के एक विभाग का काम आज भी मैनुअल हो रहा है। स्पीड पोस्ट के बारे में बहुत कुछ कहा जाता है, लेकिन इसकी भी हालत खराब है। मुझे यह सुनकर आश्चर्य लगा, और यह मुझे डाकतार विभाग के लोगों ने ही बताया, कि भारत में जो प्राइवेट कूरियर सेवा है, यह डाकतार विभाग के अधिकारियों द्वारा बेनामी रूप से उनके द्वारा चलाई जाती है। 27 परसेंट डाक कूरियर से प्रभावित है। अब एक ताजा उदाहरण देख लीजिए। नई दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन पर डाक विभाग का TMS office है। वहां कर्मचारियों की बहुत कमी होने के कारण ओवर टाइम करना पड़ता है। वहां के एक कर्मचारी ने मुझे बताया कि साहब, अगर हम काम से एक दिन की छुट्टी ले लेते हैं, तो डायजनाल पनिशमेंट मिलती है। जब मैंने डायजनाल नाम सुना, तो मुझे लगा कि वह किसी दवाई का नाम बता रहा है। यहां डायजनाल का मतलब दवाई से नहीं है, आपको सुनकर आश्चर्य होगा कि अगर वह कर्मचारी एक दिन की छुट्टी लेता है, तो उसको ओवर टाइम भी नहीं मिलता है और जो उसने एक दिन पहले काम किया था, उसका भी पैसा काट लिया जाता है। यह इस डाकतार विभाग की कहानी है।

सर, मैं यहां संचार मंत्रालय के डाक विभाग में कार्यरत ग्रामीण सेवकों के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। वे तीन से पांच घंटे तक काम करते हैं। पहले इन्हें ई.डी.पी. कहा जाता था, इन्हें काम नियमित कर्मचारियों की तरह से करना पड़ता है, लेकिन इनकी तरफ कोई नहीं देखता है, इनकी कोई सुनवाई नहीं होती है। इनकी पेंशन नहीं है, ग्रेजुविटी नहीं है, कोई चीज इनके लिए नहीं है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में एक मुकदमा गया और EDA को उन्होंने सिविल पोस्ट माना। उन्होंने कहा — They are the civil servant. लेकिन उसके बाद भी डाकतार विभाग कहता है कि हम ग्लोबल सर्विस सेंटर्स खोलने वाले हैं। आप इनको खोलिए, लेकिन आपके जो भारत में सेंटर्स हैं, पहले उनकी हालत सुधारिए। मेरा इतना ही निवेदन है। डाकतार विभाग के लिए वर्ष 2009-10 में 6021.26 करोड़ रुपये की मांग रखी गई थी। इस विभाग में 2008-09 के लिए संशोधित बजट 4228.78 करोड़ का था। आपने बजट को कुछ बढ़ाया है, लेकिन आपने परिवहन में क्या किया है? आपने परिवहन का बजट कम कर दिया है। गांव में जो गाड़ियां चिट्ठी लेकर जाती थीं, उनके लिए आपने बजट कम कर दिया है। आप किसी भी मुख्य पोस्ट ऑफिस में जाइए, आपने सेविंग वाले मामले में क्या किया है? आपको सुनकर आश्चर्य होगा कि चिट्ठी बांटने वाले से कहा जा रहा है कि सिनेमा के टिकट बेचो, रेल के टिकट बेचो, नरेगा में लगे। नरेगा में पूरे पोस्ट ऑफिस के लोग काम करते हैं। आपने क्या कर दिया है? आप एक संस्कृति को पूरी तरह से बदलने में लगे हुए हैं। केश सर्टिफिकेट के काम में काफी लापरवाही बरती जा रही है, यहां करोड़ों का घपला और भ्रष्टाचार जारी है। यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूं, यह 2006-07 की सीएजी की रिपोर्ट में लिखा है। उन्होंने कहा है कि आप यहां ध्यान दीजिए। यहां करोड़ों का भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है, लेकिन इस

तरफ आगाह करने के बाद भी कोई काम नहीं हो रहा है। आज़ादी के 62 वर्ष बाद भी एक संस्कृति और परम्परा से जुड़े इस विभाग की बहुत ही दयनीय हालत है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह विभाग कितना मजबूत विभाग है। वर्ष 2003-04 में प्रीमियम सेवाओं की अतिरिक्त अधिकृत आय 425.74 करोड़ रुपये थे, आज 2008-09 में यह बढ़कर 2141 करोड़ रुपये हो गयी है। आपकी स्पीड पोस्ट की कमाई बढ़ गई है। नरेगा के दो करोड़ खाते आपके पास हैं, लेकिन न आपका डाकघर ठीक है, न आपके डाकिए की हालत ठीक है, न आपके डाकबाबू की हालत ठीक है, न डाक विभाग के ग्राम सेवकों की हालत ठीक है। आप इसके लिए क्या करेंगे? इतना ही नहीं है, कुछ यूनियन्स हैं, उन सभी यूनियनों को एक समान दर्जा दिया जाना चाहिए, आपके द्वारा वह भी नहीं दिया जा रहा है। डाककर्मियों के सभी वर्गों के लिए ए.सी.पी. योजना लागू होनी चाहिए, वह भी लागू नहीं हो रही है। आउटसोर्सिंग समाप्त होना चाहिए, वह भी नहीं हो रही है। भ्रष्ट सरकारी कर्मचारियों पर कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए, लेकिन लिखित शिकायतों के बावजूद पता नहीं आपका मंत्रालय क्या कर रहा है? महोदय, यह तो थी डाकतार विभाग की कहानी। अब आ जाइए सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी पर। मैं आपको सुना रहा हूँ जुलाई, 2009 में संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय को 2008 तक आईटी सुपर पावर बनाने का दावा हो रहा है। मैं फिर से कहना चाह रहा हूँ, क्योंकि यह अद्भुत लाइन है। यह मेरा कहा हुआ नहीं है। यह वेब साइट पर है। जुलाई 2009 में संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय भारत को 2008 तक आईटी सुपर पावर बनाने का दावा कर रही है। Department of Information Technology की वेब साइट पर मंत्रालय का विज़न लिखा है। “to make India an IT super-power by the year 2008.” इसका रेफ़रेंस भी है, जब स्वयं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग की वेबसाइट अपडेटेड न हो, तो यह मंत्रालय किस प्रकार की सूचना क्रांति इस देश में लाएगा, आप इसका अंदाज़ा स्वयं लगा सकते हैं। भारत को सन् 2008 तक IT Super Power बनाने की बात कही जा रही है। यह 2009 का जुलाई का महीना चल रहा है और सन् 2008 को बीते सात महीने हो गए हैं, लेकिन अभी भी आपका वही विज़न है और वही बात इस पर चल रही है। महोदय, मैं राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण के बारे में बता रहा हूँ। इस UPA की सरकार के सत्ता में आने के बाद इस सदन में तीन डाक्युमेंट्स आए हैं। राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण में कहा गया है कि अगले तीन वर्षों में अपनी पंचायतों में भारत निर्माण सेवा केन्द्रों के माध्यम से इलैक्ट्रॉनिक शासन व्यवस्था होगी। मैंने आज तक यह नहीं सुना है कि कौन सी इलैक्ट्रॉनिक शासन व्यवस्था है। मैंने ई-गवर्नेंस तो सुना था, लेकिन इलैक्ट्रॉनिक शासन व्यवस्था, आदमी नहीं होगी, इलैक्ट्रॉनिक वस्तुएं काम करेंगी। इसके सिवाय अभिभाषण में एक भी बात Information Technology के बारे में नहीं कही गई है। जब कि आप इसको इतना महत्वपूर्ण मानते हैं। दूसरा इकोनोमिक सर्वे है। आपने इकोनोमिक सर्वे में भी इन्टरनेट की बात की है, ब्रॉडबैंड की बात की, बाकी किसी चीज़ की बात नहीं है। और छोड़िए, जो आपका बजट पत्र है, उसमें भी आपने क्या किया है, इसमें Information Technology, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी कोई शब्द नहीं है। आप कैसे 21वीं सदी लें जाएंगे और कैसे सुपर पावर बनाएंगे? यह आपका डाक्युमेंट है, मेरा नहीं है। महोदय, अभी तक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 5666 टावर लगाए गए हैं। मैं आपको 21वीं सदी के भारत की ओर ले जा रहा हूँ। दूसरी तरफ शहरी क्षेत्रों में इन टावरों की संख्या 4 लाख से ऊपर है। हर महीने शहर में 10 हजार से अधिक टावर लगाए जाते हैं, लेकिन एक-दो साल बीतने के बाद गांवों में 10 से 15 हजार टावर लगाए जाते हैं। आप देखिए कि गांवों में कम टावर लग रहे हैं, लेकिन आप पैसा किससे ले रहे हैं? ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में दूर संचार विकास हेतु 5 परसेंट लेवी जो USO universal service obligation के अंतर्गत संग्रहित की जाती है, उसका 30 परसेंट भी सरकार ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों पर खर्च नहीं कर पाई है। महोदय, इससे भारत के अंदर एक digital divide पैदा हो रहा है। ग्रामीण और शहरी भारत के बीच एक गहरी खाई बैठती जा रही है। इसका यह परिणाम हो रहा है कि आज हम कितनी बातें करते हैं, लेकिन आपको जानकर आश्चर्य होगा कि हम पाकिस्तान से भी इन्टरनेट यूज़ में बहुत पीछे हैं। इन्टरनेशनल टेलीकॉम्युनिकेशन यूनियन के अंतर्गत Nilson online अध्ययन के अनुसार कहता है कि जहां भारत में जनसंख्या का 7.14 प्रतिशत इंटरनेट का उपयोग करता है, वहीं पाकिस्तान में 10.01 प्रतिशत है और चीन में 22.4 फीसदी इंटरनेट का प्रयोग होता है।

आखिर ग्रामीण लोगों ने आपका क्या बिगाड़ा है? भारत के गांवों ने आपका क्या बिगाड़ा है? आप इस तरह का क्यों भेदभाव करते हैं? आपको इसके लिए प्रयास करना होगा कि गांवों का भेद मिटे और आपका मंत्रालय गांवों के साथ भेदभाव न करे। आप इन बेसिक चीजों पर नहीं जाते हैं।

उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आप से एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में जो कुछ भी होता है, सब जोश खरोश में हो जाता है। पहले निर्णय फिर घोषणा होती है और इम्प्लीमेंट के जितने तरीके हैं, उनमें यह नहीं देखा जाता है कि यह होगा या नहीं होगा। मैं आपको एक किस्सा सुनाना चाहता हूँ। मैं मुम्बई में पढ़ता था और यह सन् 1964 की बात है। मैं 1964 में अपनी बहन की शादी में बिहार गया था। मैं मुम्बई जैसे शहर से गांव में गया था और मैंने वहां देखा कि सब जगह अंधेरा ही अंधेरा था। मैंने अपने बाबा से पूछा कि बाबा आपके गांव में बिजली क्यों नहीं है? उन्होंने कहा कि देखो यह बिजली का पोल आ गया है और उन्होंने मेरे मुंह में गुड़ का ढेला डाल दिया तथा कहा कि चुप रहो। उन बातों को दो साल बीत गए और सन् 1966 का वर्ष आया तथा मेरे बाबा नहीं रहे। मेरे पिता जी उस उम्र में पहुंचे और मैं भी थोड़ा बड़ा हुआ। मैंने पिता जी से कहा कि अभी तक वह बिजली नहीं है, तो उन्होंने कहा कि तुम्हें ज्यादा गर्मी लग रही है तो तालाब में, पोखर में जाकर नहा आओ, लेकिन ज्यादा बोलो मत और मैं चुप हो गया। महोदय, इसके बाद थोड़ा और आगे चलें, सन् 1993 में मेरे पिता जी की भी मृत्यु हो जाती है तो मेरा पांच साल का बेटा मराठी संस्कृति से है, वह मुझसे पूछता है कि बाबा तुम्हारे गांव में लाइट नहीं है? मैंने कहा कि फिर बेटा हम क्या करें? हमने कहा कि हमारे पिता जी के पिता जी ने बिजली नहीं देखी। मेरे पिता जी के पिता जी ने नहीं देखी, मैंने नहीं देखी....। मेरे पिताजी ने नहीं देखी, मैं तेरा पिता हूँ, मैंने नहीं देखी, पता नहीं तेरी शादी के बाद जब तू पिता बनेगा तो बिजली देखेगा कि नहीं देखेगा। हम इस युग में कम्प्यूटर की बात कर रहे हैं। साठ हजार गांवों में बिजली नहीं है, आप कम्प्यूटर कहाँ लगाओगे? मैं आधुनिकतम चीजों का, मॉडर्नाइजेशन का विरोधी नहीं हूँ, खूब संचार कीजिए, लेकिन आप पहले इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर तो तय कर लीजिए। आप यह सब नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसका बेसिक कारण क्या है, हमारे देश में कम्प्यूटर का उपयोग क्यों नहीं बढ़ रहा है, कम्प्यूटर के प्रति लगाव क्यों नहीं बढ़ रहा है? कारण यह है कि भाषाओं के ऊपर हमने कोई प्रयत्न ही नहीं किया है। हमारी भाषा हिंदी है, अंग्रेजी के माध्यम से चलना चाहिए, लेकिन हम कर क्या रहे हैं? हमने इस तरफ कोई ध्यान ही नहीं दिया कि सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र में हिन्दी तथा अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं की प्रभावी उपस्थिति दिखा सकें। चीन में भारत से अधिक लोग अंग्रेजी समझते और बोलते नहीं हैं, उनकी अपनी भाषा है। वे अपनी भाषा के आधार पर देखते हैं और आज भी वहां हम से तीन गुणा लोग इंटरनेट का उपयोग करते हैं। भारत में हम इंटरनेट और दूर संचार के साधनों के माध्यम से अगर अंग्रेजी को बाहर करने का सोचें तो सब डंप हो जाएगा, बंद हो जाएगा। हम इस तरफ प्रयत्न क्यों नहीं करते हैं? हमारा मंत्रालय इस तरफ क्यों नहीं देखना चाहता है? हम छोटे-छोटे गांवों में पहुंचना चाहते हैं, तो हमें भाषा का सहारा लेना होगा। भाषा तकनीक के विकास के लिए आप इस विभाग की मज्जेदार कहानी देखिए कि भाषा के विकास के लिए या तकनीकी डेवलपमेंट के लिए जितना पैसा पिछले वर्ष रखा गया था, उतना ही पैसा इस बार रखा गया है। आपकी किसमें रुचि है? आप विकास करना नहीं चाहते हैं। आपने अपना 2600 करोड़ का बजट प्रस्तुत किया है। आपने कहा सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी बजट में पिछले वर्ष 7.89 करोड़ की राशि थी, उतनी ही राशि आपने इस वर्ष भी तकनीकी विस्तार के लिए रख दी है। आगे आइए — जनता के लिए सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी के लिए 6 करोड़ रुपए थे, इस बार भी 6 करोड़ रुपए हैं। यह आखिर है क्या? आप क्यों महिला अनुसूचित-जाति, अनुसूचित-जनजाति पर अन्याय करना चाहते हैं? क्या आप वहां तक आई.टी. को पहुंचाना नहीं चाहते हैं? क्या इन चीजों को गांव से महरूम रखना चाहते हैं? यह आपको देखना पड़ेगा। मैं आपके अच्छे निर्णयों का स्वागत भी करना चाहता हूँ। आपने कहा है, बिहार में घोषणा भी की है, दस पैसे प्रति मिनट पर टेलीफोन कॉल्स की बात कही थी, लेकिन देखकर आश्चर्य होगा कि अभी तक कुछ नहीं हुआ है। आपने घोषणा की है, यह अच्छी बात है, लेकिन आप इसको पूरा कीजिए। मैं आपसे इसके आगे कहूंगा कि अगर दस पैसे प्रति कॉल

3.00 P.M.

के हिसाब से आप लेते हैं तो उसी रेट से, काफी कम रेट पर गांव के लोगों को इंटरनेट भी उपलब्ध हो सकता है। मोबाइल नम्बर प्रोटेबिलिटी (एम.एन.पी.) की घोषणा तो आपने कर दी, लेकिन यह कहाँ है? आपका यह एम.एन.पी. कहाँ चला गया? वाइस ओवर इंटरनल प्रोटोकॉल पर आज तक आपने कोई प्रभावी कदम नहीं उठाया है, जबकि इसे उठाए बिना आप गांव में जा नहीं सकते हैं। आज विदेशी कंपनियां भारत में वी.ओ.आई.पी. धड़ल्ले से बेच रही है, परंतु भारत में कुछ निहित स्वार्थों को संरक्षित करने के लिए इसे अभी तक लागू नहीं किया गया है। जहां आपकी अनेक योजनाओं की बात है, आप घोषणा करते रहिए, सब ठंडे बस्ते में पड़ा हुआ है। दूसरी ओर आप देखिए, ध्यान से सुनिए कि एम.टी.एन.एल. और बी.एस.एन.एल., जो नवरत्न कंपनियों में गिनी जाती हैं, आज अपना बाजार प्राइवेट ऑपरेटर्स के हाथों में खोती जा रही हैं। प्राइवेट ऑपरेटर्स को मंत्रालय ने अनावश्यक और अनैतिक छूट दे रखी है, जबकि एम.टी.एन.एल. और बी.एस.एन.एल. को इनके साथ नियमों के अधीन प्रतिस्पर्द्धा करनी पड़ती है। अब आप देखिए कि प्राइवेट ऑपरेटर्स 128 केबीपीएस स्पीड को ब्रॉड बैंड कहकर खुले आम बेच रहे हैं, जबकि 256 केबीपीएस से कम स्पीड को ब्रॉड बैंड कहा ही नहीं जा सकता। इस तरह आम जनता के साथ कौन फ्राँड कर रहा है? आपका मंत्रालय, आपका विभाग। यूरोपियन देशों में जहां आज भी 64, 128 एमबीपीएस इंटरनेट की बात कही जा रही है, भारत में अभी भी 16 एमबीपीएस तक ही सोचा जा सकता है। मैं आपको एक मिनट के लिए एनडीए शासन में ले जाना चाहता हूँ। आप देखिए, उस समय कितना काम हुआ था और आज आपके कंप्यूटर के युग में, इन्फोर्मेशन टेक्नॉलॉजी के युग में कितना काम हो रहा है। होस्टिंग कंपनियों का मामला आपके सामने आया होगा। यू.एस. में पच्चीस हजार से अधिक होस्टिंग कंपनीज हैं और भारत में बमुश्किल बारह सौ कंपनियां होंगी। सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से देखें तो जो बारह सौ कंपनियां हैं, उनका सर्वर यू.एस. में है, भारत में नहीं है, यानी यह सुरक्षा के लिए कितना घातक है। यदि हमारे सभी तरह के डाटा, सरकारी, गैर सरकारी, व्यापारिक से लेकर सुरक्षा तक की संवेदी सूचनाएं यू.एस. के सर्वर पर उपलब्ध है, तब यह हमारी सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से बहुत घातक है।

यह आपको सोचना होगा। Hosting का काम भारत में हो सकता है, परन्तु आपका मंत्रालय इसे करना नहीं चाहता है और करने नहीं देना चाहता है।

अब देखिए, सॉफ्टवेयर/हार्डवेयर की बहुत बातें होती हैं। मैं आपको उसकी कहानी सुना देता हूँ। **(समय की घंटी)** जहाँ तक सॉफ्टवेयर का प्रश्न है, देश ने निजी कंपनियों के माध्यम से प्रगति की है। हम इसकी सराहना करते हैं। यह सराहनीय है, परन्तु यह प्रगति मूल सॉफ्टवेयर के आधार पर एप्लिकेशन सॉफ्टवेयर में है। आज तक सरकारी क्षेत्र में सरकार द्वारा कोई भी ऐसी संस्था नहीं खोली गई है, जो मूल सॉफ्टवेयर के निर्माण के लिए विश्व में विशिष्ट तौर पर कार्य कर रही हो। दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि मूल सॉफ्टवेयर अर्थात् सिस्टम सॉफ्टवेयर, जिसमें आपरेटिंग सिस्टम हो, डाटा बेस मैनेजमेंट हो, सिस्टम नेटवर्क हो, कम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम हो, यूआरबी हो, इन क्षेत्रों में भारत देश के रूप में हम कहीं भी ऐसा नहीं कहते। उपरोक्त सिस्टम सॉफ्टवेयर में एक भी सॉफ्टवेयर में भारत का अपने नाम का ब्रांड है ही नहीं।

महोदय, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करने के पहले दो मोटी-मोटी बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। आप बीएसएनएल की स्थिति देखिए। इसमें 97% की भारी गिरावट आई है। 20 जुलाई 2009 को टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया में, टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया मेरे पास है, बीएसएनएल के निष्पादन पर एक रिपोर्ट छपी है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि मात्र 2 सालों के भीतर बीएसएनएल के लाभांश में 97 फीसदी की भारी गिरावट आई है। गौरतलब है कि सेना और रेलवे के बाद बीएसएनएल में सर्वाधिक सरकारी कर्मचारी काम करते हैं। बीएसएनएल का देश के आर्थिक विकास में काफी अहम रोल है, क्योंकि सरकार को हर वर्ष कर व लेवी के रूप में 24 हजार करोड़ से 30 हजार करोड़ रुपए तक इसका योगदान होता है। उपसभापति महोदय, 2008-09 में बीएसएनएल का शुद्ध लाभ मात्र 104 करोड़ रुपए था, जबकि 2007-08 में इसका शुद्ध लाभ 3,009 करोड़ रुपए था, जबकि 2006-07 में बीएसएनएल का शुद्ध लाभ 11,806 करोड़ रुपए था।

अब एमटीएनएल पर आ जाइए। (समय की घंटी) मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। ऐसा पहली बार हुआ है कि मुम्बई और दिल्ली में टेलीफोन सेवाएँ मुहैया कराने वाली सार्वजनिक उपक्रम एमटीएनएल का एक तिमाही के दौरान घाटा 83 करोड़ रुपए से भी ज्यादा है। एमटीएनएल के खस्ताहाल की असली वजह सरकार की बदइंतजामी है, न कि वैश्विक मंदी। हम कह देते हैं कि वैश्विक मंदी के कारण यह सब हो रहा है। ऐसा नहीं है। एमटीएनएल के पूर्व सीएमडी एस. राजगोपालन का मानना है कि आने वाले वर्षों में एमटीएनएल की तरह बीएसएनएल की स्थिति भी खराब हो जाएगी। उन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है, “If we do not free MTNL from the control of the Government, it is going to be doomed soon. BSNL will also follow the same path and will become ran player in few years.” It is given on page 27 of Telecom LIVE June, 2009. यह हालात है आपकी दुनिया की और आप कह रहे हैं कि हम भारत को 21वीं सदी में ले जाएंगे। यह धोखा आप न भाजपा को दे रहे हैं, न सांसदों को दे रहे हैं, यह धोखा भारत को है और भारत को धोखा देना बहुत बड़ा पाप है। आप इन सब चीजों से मुक्ति पाना चाहते हैं। अगर आप सॉफ्टवेयर की दुनिया में गुलामी से मुक्ति चाहते हैं, तो आपको अपनी चीजें खड़ी करनी होंगी। मुझे लगता है कि यह विभाग निश्चित तौर पर इस पर ध्यान देगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are here discussing the working of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to salute our great leader Shri Rajivji who brought in this concept of modern India through the medium of electronics. He started with television, mobile, etc. When Rajivji was picking up internet, a great leader of a political party remarked that Rajivji is moving with a *dabba*. राजीव जी, इस डिब्बे से क्या कर लेंगे। He was humiliated at that stage and today, that *dabba* or that internet system has created wonders in every field of life, not only for the elite class, but also for farmers, labourers and everyone in every nook and corner of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... That will not go on record. जो अपनी सीट से नहीं बोलेंगे, वह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: They know it and everybody understands it. Sir, I need not name who said that. Sir, in spite of the world recession, it is a good sign that our information technology industry has not suffered to that extent. Indian information technology business shows a substantial growth in 2008-09; revenue aggregate of ITDPO industry is expected to grow at 12 per cent in 2008-09; Indian IT software and service export is estimated, in 2008-09, to grow at 16.3 per cent, and service export, by 16.5 per cent. This is a brief scenario of information technology.

Now, Sir, there are three or four concepts which come for our help. These are National e-Governance Plans, State Wide Area Networks (SWAN), State Data Centres and Common Service Centres. It is with these instruments and with these programmes that the country is marching ahead. But I would like to tell the hon. Minister that these programmes are overlapping and, sometimes, it becomes difficult for us to understand which is the area of each of these

*Not recorded.

programmes. Ultimately, it means, we would like to have e-governance in the entire country, whereby information concerning any activity of the Government is available. Suppose the Government or the Parliament enacts rules and regulations. They will be immediately available on the network, whoever wants to use them. Details about schemes of the Government, specially schemes with prescribed forms, are, partly, made available by some Departments. But all that can be made available through this system because there will be Common Service Centres throughout the country, and these Common Service Centres are going to help the common men in every village of the country. If a person desires to take a loan for some purpose, he will have to fill up a prescribed form under the scheme; he need not have to go to the *taluka* office. He will have to only pay some minimum amount to these Service Centres for getting that form. He can fill it up then and there, and even submit it to the Service Centre. This is the system which is envisaged and which is going to come in the future. Therefore, it is going to create a revolution. I would like to suggest, although this does not, directly, come under this Ministry, that all those concerned should place the Government of India gadget on the website. I do not know whether it is available today. If a gadget is available, if all the issues of the gadget are available, then, by just one stroke, you can provide information concerning all the Government activities, throughout the country, in just one hour's or two hours' time. Therefore, the Departments concerned will have to use this technology for the purpose of providing information.

To start with, Sir,—it concerns the Chair also—we, in the Parliament, have also to use this technology to a greater extent. Sir, I have always been submitting that at 12 o'clock, we get Unstarred Questions' copies here. If the same questions, in electronic forms, are provided on the website, it will help us a lot. They are available on the website only after three days! When, through this technology, hard copies are available, I don't think it is difficult for them to supply, at the same time,...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for the Ministries to send soft copies to the Parliament. Then, we will happily do that!

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: You will be surprised to know, Sir, that we have been searching for these Annual Reports and we have been pleading with the distributing centres for getting Annual Reports. Why is the Annual Report of our Ministry, which deals with information technology, not available on the website of the Ministry? This is very shocking, I would say.

I can excuse other Ministries. But if the Annual Report of the Information Technology Ministry is not available on the website, what can I say, Sir? Therefore, Sir, I would like to submit that Annual Reports of Ministries and Standing Committee Reports should be made available on the website immediately. Sir, the Chair should give a direction in this regard. I would like to point out that we get replies, from the Ministers, to letters we write, and other things, only after two months or three months. Now, they can start a system of e-mail by which they can reply to those who give the option so that the one or two lines, whatever the reply that they give — on

ninety per cent of the occasions they give negative reply — let that reply come through e-mail so that we can have it speedily.

Another issue is — I am referring to my State of Goa; I have mentioned it to the hon. Minister; I am confident that he will do it — that the Telecom Department and the Postal Department are treating the fullfledged State of Goa as a district. When we are constitutionally a State, we are entitled to have a circle. You can't reduce our status to a district. Therefore, I plead with the hon. Minister that Goa should be given an independent telecom and postal circle or whatever it is. Just because it is a small State, you can't merge it with Maharashtra. We fought against and opposed merger with Maharashtra politically also. Now, the Postal Department is treating us as a district which is not fair. I urge upon the Minister to create a separate circle for Goa.

Another important aspect of e-governance is computerisation of land records. Many States are doing it. Survey plans, land records and rights, etc., should be available on computers. Now, the survey plans are available on computers. They have to go ahead with computerisation of transfer deeds, sale deeds, gift deeds, etc. They should be made available on computers. In Goa there is a system called land registration which is not available anywhere in the country. The property is registered under land registration which is a title. This system should be computerised and made available on computers so that the information would be available by pressing a button.

Regarding the BSNL Mobile System, everyone is suffering from it. We have been given the Dolphin cards. If you dial for three minutes or if you get a call for three minutes, there will be interruptions, at least, twice or it will be disconnected twice. The GPRS system is not working at all. It works sometimes at a very few places and sometimes it does not work at all. There is no speed at all. The speed of broad band is also not satisfactory. If you want to download from a video clipping, the speed and the system is of no use. Now, 3G System is coming. I hope that the 3G System will be effective and, at the same time, the hon. Chair will grant us this facility and provide this facility to all the Members of Parliament. Shri Raja will ensure that the 3G System is a perfect system.

As far as translation of data from one language into other languages is concerned, it is very important. I think some programme or some software is being developed whereby you can have the translation. Suppose there is something in English language. I want a translation of it in my language Konkani, it should be available. It should be available in all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I understand that a software is being developed. I urge upon the hon. Minister that this technology should be made available at the earliest. It would be useful to all print media and electronic media, those who do research, etc. This is a very useful system. I don't know what the present status of this software or programme is. I would like to urge upon the Minister to refer to this aspect when he replies to the debate.

Similar is the case with Grandhalayas. E-Grandhalayas will be the future of libraries in the villages because purchasing books will be very costly. The village libraries can't afford to purchase books. If they have a computer and they have internet connection, it is so simple. With this electronic books will come in and this will go a long way in helping the people.

Cyber crimes are a matter of concern. The Information Technology Act has been amended recently and certain good provisions have been incorporated. Regarding cyber crimes, I think some knowledge should be imparted to the students in schools and colleges. The students who go to porn sites and other sites, they are not aware of the consequences. They are not aware of the law, that if you get access into somebody's system, with malicious intent, you can be arrested. So, there will be cases of young boys and girls being arrested and put in jail because the offence is of serious nature. Therefore, in every school and college, students must be imparted knowledge about these cyber crimes. Otherwise, police will bring to book hundreds of students every year, and that will also be a social problem. Now, as far as unsolicited calls and unsolicited SMSs are concerned, I made a submission last time that in case of companies, which send these unsolicited SMSs, their Directors should be arrested and put in jail. Also, they should be given a mobile phone with only the incoming facility, and for the whole month, such SMSs should be sent repeatedly to them. Only then will they understand the problem. This is a serious thing. It so happens that even at night time, we get such SMS; thinking that it could be an urgent message, we open it. Kindly take it seriously.

Then, there was one proposal for mobile number portability. It is that even if we change the service provider, the number would not be changed. I note that such a scheme is there in the pipeline. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the position is about the mobile number portability. It will be very useful that even if we change the service provider, we will get a different card, but the number will not change.

As far as the Right to Information Act is concerned, — it is a connected issue — it is going on well in the country. Various countries are praising us for this. The NGOs are using it; the common citizens are using it. But, what happens is that officers get constantly engaged in this task of supplying the information. I would say that almost 80 per cent of the information can be put on the web site. If this is done, then, there will be no need for getting the information manually from various departments. I can understand that some notings, etc. have to be supplied. But if most of the statistics and data are made available on the web site, then, there will be no need for anybody to make a separate application for obtaining the information. Therefore, some initiatives have to be taken at the Centre to advise the State Governments also to see to it that important data, which the people would normally like to have, are made available on the internet.

Now, Sir, in the Information Technology, my learned colleague also referred to postmen. While speaking of the internet and other advancements that we have in this field, I would not like

to forget the poor postmen who have played an important role in our lives. I still consider that postmen are the lifelines of villages in this country. In this connection, I remember a song which glorifies a postal letter.

सर, आपने यह गाना सुना होगा,
चिट्ठी आयी है, वतन से चिट्ठी आयी है
बड़े दिनों के बाद, हम बेवतनों को याद,
वतन की चिट्ठी आयी है, चिट्ठी आयी है।
ऊपर मेरा नाम लिखा है, अंदर ये पैगाम लिखा है,
ओ परदेश को जाने वाले,

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: तरन्नुम में सुनाते तो ज्यादा अच्छा होता।

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक: लौट के फिर न आने वाले

सात समुंदर पार गया तू,
हम को जिंदा मार गया तू,
खून के रिश्ते तोड़ गया तू,
आंख में आंसू छोड़ गया तू,
कम खाते हैं, कम सोते हैं,
बहुत ज्यादा हम रोते हैं।
चिट्ठी आयी है, वतन से चिट्ठी आयी है।

I honour the postmen of our country. With these words, I conclude. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, at the beginning of my speech, I would like to mention, very quickly, an aspect relating to the Demands for Grants. Now, this is with respect to Demand No. 14. I see that there is a huge amount of financial relief for the ITIs, which is to the extent of Rs. 2,820 crores for 2009-10. But I have seen here that nothing was allotted for the year 2008. These ITIs have been working in our country since 1947. In the year 2007, there was an allotment of Rs. 729 crores. I do not know the planning of the Government. There are six of these ITIs. One is in Palakkad which is in profit. But the other five are in losses. There is the issue of revival or closure. Please come to the House with a clear concept so far as these ITIs are concerned.

Then, under Demand No. 15, Item No. 11 is regarding Manpower Development and there is no enhancement in the allocation meant for this. In Item No. 11, meant for Development Programmes, it is stated, "The objective of the programme is to create and strengthen the specialized manpower required to support the growing software export industry and to achieve the targeted export". But, there is no increase in the allocation this year. I do not know how it will be possible. Then, there is another item under Demand No. 15, namely, Item No. 20, 'IT for Masses' where you talk about women empowerment and reducing the gender bias as also manpower development of Weaker Sections (SC/ST). But, again, there is no enhancement in

allocations as compared to the last year. In that case, how will this Ministry perform so far as these objectives are concerned? Then, Item No. 24 is about the National Knowledge Network. The allocation last year was Rs. 91 crores. This year, the allocation is of Rs. 540 crores which means a 493 per cent increase as compared to the last year. It is a big jump. Then you talk of multiple gigabit bandwidth to connect knowledge institutions across the country. I do not now how it will be possible in one year. Then, for the entire North-East, there is a lump-sum allocation in this Budget. There is a big jump in comparison to the previous year. I would like to have the hon. Minister's reply as far as my observations pertaining to Demand No. 14 and 15 are concerned.

My next point is about the working of the BSNL. Already, many hon. Members have mentioned this. But I have a break-up of the data which I want to share with you. Eighty-five lakh wired lines have been surrendered. Seventy lakh mobile connections of BSNL have been surrendered. Sir, 12.7 lakh WLL connections have already been surrendered. Taking all these together, 1.68 crore subscribers have already surrendered BSNL connections of different types. There are two factors responsible for this. One is the inefficient customer care and the second one is the non-payment. Now, what is the planning of the Government? Sir, BSNL, is an important public sector unit. And, all this has happened in less than two years. What is the planning of the Government? There is one other thing that I would like to mention here, Sir. Sir, there is a noise in the market and the noise is that BSNL is in a poor financial situation. Just after it started in 2000, it had earned profits to the extent of Rs. 8000 crores, 10,000 crores, Rs. 11,000 crores. And suddenly, one fine morning, you find that the profit has gone down to just Rs. 104 crores. I must say that the Government has already started making efforts for listing BSNL in the Stock Market and it is before that that this noise about declining profits has come, maybe to depress the market sentiment and to sell the shares at cheap prices.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

I am afraid; this is being done there. Sir, there is a funny thing, so far as the BSNL is concerned. Here, I would like to say that in the cash reserves section, the BSNL has Rs. 37,000 crores. It has deposited money in the bank at six per cent interest rate. But, it is also said in the Report that the BSNL borrowed money from the financial institutions at 14 per cent interest rate. Why is the Government doing this? It is a public sector unit; people's money is involved in it. Why are you not caring for people's money? I am saying here that many people are not using the BSNL. Why? It is because there is a phrase, so far as the BSNL name is concerned. 'भाई साहब, नहीं लगेगा — BSNL'. In the remote villages, there is no connectivity; in the entire North-East area, BSNL is not performing well; in the border area, BSNL is not performing properly. In this perspective, BSNL should strengthen itself. So, I hope that the hon. Minister would come up with a comprehensive reply. Sir, C-dot was started in 1984, as I remember. Then, what is the

performance of C-dot, which belongs to this Ministry? The CAG Report says 'that out of 23 projects, technology was developed only in 11 projects, partially in four projects'. I can give the para number also. It is said in para number 1.6.4. Two, internal revenue generation of C-dot has declined by 78.5 per cent from Rs. 33.11 crores in 2000-01 to Rs. 7.12 crores in 2005-06. There is a sharp decline in royalty, which is 96.1 per cent. The revenue from DOT declined by 95.73 per cent. It is stated in the CAG Report of 2007. 'Provide market orientation to research and development activities and sustain C-dot as a centre of excellence'. It was one of the objectives of C-dot when it was started, but the Ministry is declining to help C-dot to improve its performance.

Sir, now I would like to say something about the PSUs in the telecom sector. These PSUs are our national property. The role of telecom PSUs in regard to overall expansion of telecommunication is reducing. It is a very dangerous sign. A very dangerous situation is ahead of us. In 2007, December, Sir, it was 27.64 per cent, and in 2008, May, it is 25.25 per cent. Big giants are in the field; they are in the picture. Bharti, Reliance, Tata, Vodafone, etc., who have banned Indian presence, the Department itself gives them space. I would like to know about the plan of the Government to make the PSUs competitive. The Government should save our national property. You are talking of aam aadmi; everybody is talking about the common man. Everybody is talking about the aam aadmi, but, you cannot deny that aam aadmi's money, hard-earned money, is in the public sector units. Don't try to sell it; don't try to do anything, so far as the PSUs are concerned.

Sir, the Village Telephony, VTP is one of the important sections of this Department, but till date, as I remember, nearly 3000 villages are not yet connected by telephone. Many times, we have seen the reports in newspapers that they are trying their best to provide telephone in every village. I have seen in the Annual Report for the year 2008-09 also. But there are about 3000 villages, which do not have even a single connection. It is one thing. The other thing is that I have seen the Annual Report of this Department in which they are saying 56,000 or 57,000 villages are covered by telephony. I do not know whether there is any monitoring system or not. Villages covered under this scheme have been provided with one single telephone but these telephones are not working and the common people are not getting the facility of talking to their relatives like brothers and sisters who are living outside the village. Another point is about teledensity in the rural areas. Rural connectivity is the thrust area. Every time the Minister has told that it is planned that in the Eleventh Plan period up to 2011-12, there will be connectivity for 200 million people till 2012. But what is happening is that performance as on 31st January, 2008, is 8.68 persons for 100 people. So, target for teledensity is 25 per 100 hundred people. This shows that this Department has utterly failed. Teledensity is going up in the urban areas as has been told by the initiator of the debate but in the rural areas teledensity is not growing so fast. It is very much required in the rural areas. So far as the teledensity is concerned, what is the plan of the Government for the rural areas? ...*(Interruptions)*...*(Interruptions)*... *(Time-belling)* Sir, what is my time?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) You have only one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Out of 14 minutes, you have taken 13 minutes. Take two more minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: I am your very obedient Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, another point is about sharing of infrastructure of mobile service scheme. What is happening? It was announced by the Government that 7871 towers were to be set up for mobile phones in 500 districts of 27 States. It is also for the mobile service in the remote areas and rural areas also. Everybody is waiting for that. But what is happening? It is reported in the Annual Report that up to March 2009 installation has taken place for 4755. It is only installation and not commissioning. I know they have been installed but not commissioned. There is a huge number of remaining towers. What is the opinion of the Department through their Annual Report? It says that remaining towers are now in different stages of installation. What is this 'different stages' about that no clear-cut indication has been given as to when these towers will be installed and commissioned. The Ministry must explain because there is already a considerable delay. There is no doubt about it. One thing that I submit is that I have a fear that delay is for nothing but in the meantime, the private provider will take over in these remaining areas. It is for this reason that this delay is taking place. Another point is when the initiator started very eloquently in Hindi, he told about what was the dak system in our country especially in the village areas. The system we had during our boyhood is no more there. It was very much assimilated in our culture. It is no more a Government system now. That culture has lost. It has lost its credibility. A parallel system is going on. **(Time-bellring)** Post offices are being used for other purposes. They are in a vulnerable situation. In the name of modernisation, nothing is happening. The village dak system should be revived. The ED, Extra-departmental personnel should be made permanent. Those ED personnel who are working in the rural areas should be made permanent. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): श्री कमाल अख्तर। कमाल अख्तर साहब, आपकी पार्टी का पूरा समय 13 मिनट है और आपकी पार्टी की तरफ से दो नाम दिए गए हैं।

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, आधा-आधा बांट दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): ठीक है। पहले स्पीकर को सात मिनट मिलेंगे और दूसरे स्पीकर को 6 मिनट मिलेंगे।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: हमने पहले नाम लिखवाया था।...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): ठीक है। आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद महोदय, मैं संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के कार्यकरण पर चर्चा के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि communication sector दुनिया भर में सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन का बहुत बड़ा कारण और रूप रहा है। वास्तव में आईटी और टेलीफोन ने पूरी दुनिया के सामाजिक और आर्थिक ढांचे में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव किया है। मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हैं, मैं उनके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि वर्ष 2009-10 में एमटीएनएल को 1725.02 करोड़ और बीएसएनएल को 14015

करोड़ रुपए का आबंटन हुआ था। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि भारत की 70 प्रतिशत आबादी गांवों के अंदर रहती है। एमटीएनएल शहरों के अंदर काम करता है जबकि बीएसएनएल ज्यादातर गांवों और देहातों के अंदर टेलीकॉम की सुविधा मुहैया कराता है। उसके बावजूद उसका बजट एमटीएनएल की तुलना में प्रति उपभोक्ता बहुत कम है। आंकड़ों के हिसाब से 41.5 करोड़ मिलियन मोबाइल कनेक्शन और करीब 30 मिलियन लैंडलाइन कनेक्शन हैं। हम 3जी की बात करते हैं। एक करोड़ मिलियन कनेक्शन हर महीने जनता अपने लिए लेती है। चाहे किसी भी कम्पनी के मोबाइल का कनेक्शन हो, आज लोग बहुत परेशान हैं क्योंकि कोई भी जब कहीं मोबाइल मिलाता है, किसी से बात करना चाहता है तो मालूम होता है कि दूसरी जगह मोबाइल मिल गया। एक दिन मैंने कहीं फोन मिलाया और जब मैं उनसे बात करने लगा तो उधर से किसी महिला का फोन मिलता है और सुनाई देता है कि आज कौन सी सब्जी आपके यहां पकी है। इसमें सिग्नल्स की यह हालत है कि जैसे हम लोग मुम्बई या कोलकाता से कभी शाम के समय आते हैं और एयरपोर्ट पर जब जहाज लैंडिंग के लिए पहुंचता है तो एक घंटे का सफर होता है और एक घंटा कंजेशन की वजह से लैंडिंग नहीं हो पाती है। वही स्थिति मोबाइल की है। शाम को 7 बजे से लेकर 9 बजे तक आप कितना ही नम्बर मिलाते रहिए, कहीं आपको फोन नहीं मिलेगा। दूसरा, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि signal failure और network connection की समस्या से सभी रूबरू हैं। TRAI ने 2005 में service providers को इस संबंध में कुछ directions दी थीं। इस संबंध में 6 मोबाइल ऑपरेटर्स के खिलाफ show cause notice भी दिया गया। TRAI ने 1 जुलाई, 2009 से call drop rate तीन से घटाकर दो प्रतिशत कर दिया पर इस दो प्रतिशत को 8 प्रतिशत पर क्यों नहीं लाया जा सकता? सरकारी और प्राइवेट कम्पनियां जानबूझ कर यह सब कर रही हैं। सर, मैं आपका ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज बीएसएनएल की फुल फॉर्म हो गयी है “भाई साहब नहीं लगेगा”, क्योंकि फोन लगता ही नहीं है, चाहे कोई कितना ही फोन मिला ले। आज हम लोगों के पास इतना बड़ा स्ट्रक्चर है, इतना बड़ा ढांचा पूरे देश के अंदर हम लोगों के पास है, लेकिन प्राइवेट कम्पनियां हम लोगों से connectivity और clarity दोनों चीजें अच्छी दे रही हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कहीं यह एक साजिश तो नहीं है? कहीं इस संस्था को, इतनी बड़ी कम्पनी को प्राइवेट सेक्टर के अंदर ले जाने की या उन लोगों को लाभ पहुंचाने की इन लोगों की साजिश तो नहीं है? कहीं जो सरकारी लोग हैं और जो प्राइवेट सेक्टर के लोग हैं, ये लोग मिल तो नहीं गए हैं? हमारे पास इतना बड़ा ढांचा है कि वे हमारे सामने हर मायने में, हर मुकाबले में कमजोर हैं। सर, मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के अंदर फोनों की सुविधा का बुरा हाल है। सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक 2009 को 16.54 प्रतिशत tele density है और भारत निर्माण कार्यक्रम के तहत सरकार द्वारा 66,822 गांवों में से 57,595 गांवों में विलेज पब्लिक टेलीफोन द्वारा टेलीफोन सुविधा मुहैया कराई गई है। बाकी गांवों में नवम्बर, 2009 तक वी.पी.टी. सुविधा मुहैया करा दी जाएगी। वास्तविक स्थिति यह है कि अधिकांश फोन या तो काम नहीं करते या लाइन व्यस्त पड़ी रहती हैं या आउट ऑफ ऑर्डर हैं या डेड हैं। सर, स्थिति यह है कि जो टॉवर हैं उनको ऑपरेटर रात को बंद कर देते हैं। वे इसलिए बंद कर देते हैं कि उनको डिपार्टमेंट से जो तेल मिलता है उसको चोरी कर लेते हैं, क्योंकि उन ऑपरेटर्स वगैरह को वहां पर एक-एक हजार रुपए में रखा गया है, जिसके कारण वे तेल चोरी करते हैं, जिस कारण टॉवर बंद हो जाता है और इस तरह से लोगों को सुविधा नहीं मिल सकती है। मैं मंत्री जी का इस ओर ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा कि इन सारी चीजों को हम लोग जब तक नहीं देखेंगे, यह स्थिति सही नहीं हो जाएगी। आज स्थिति यह है कि आप कोई शिकायत कर दीजिए, और आप दो दिन बाद जाकर पूछिए कि हमारा लैंड लाइन सही क्यों नहीं हुआ तथा हमारे मोबाइल में यह प्रोब्लम है, यह क्यों सही नहीं हुई? तो उनके पास सीधा-सीधा जवाब है कि आप की शिकायत आई नहीं है और इसके ऊपर अभी कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई है। सर, इस संबंध में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि कोई ऐसा सिस्टम विकसित हो जाए कि जब उपभोक्ता अपनी कम्प्लेंट करे तो वह रजिस्टर्ड हो जाए तथा उसकी शिकायत पर क्या-क्या काम हुआ, यह सूचना उपभोक्ता को पता चल जाए, जिससे उनको परेशान नहीं होना पड़े। सर, मैं एक और

दूसरी स्थिति से अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहां मोबाइल सैट बाहर से आते हैं और एक बड़ी खतरनाक चीज है, जो चाइनीज मोबाइल आज देश के अंदर फैला पड़ा है, कम पैसे की वजह से इनका एम.आई.ई. नम्बर नहीं है।...(समय की घंटी)...

सर, मुझे बोलने दीजिए, साहू साहब दो मिनट लेंगे, मुझे मालूम है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You take only one more minute. Only one minute. साहू जी, आप बैठिए, जब आपका नम्बर आएगा, तब बोलें।

श्री कमाल अख्तर: इन पर एम.आई.ई. नम्बर नहीं है। आज अपराधी और आतंकवादी इनका बड़ा इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। यह हमारी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है। इसके खिलाफ 30 जून, 2009 को एक सर्व्यूलेर के जरिए इसका इस्तेमाल बेन किया गया। लेकिन आज भी पूरे देश के अंदर ऐसे मोबाइल का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। यह हमारी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है। इन हैंडसेट्स को बाजार में आने से रोकने के लिए कोई प्रभावी कदम उठाना चाहिए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मोबाइल हैंड सेट की वजह से जो आज विदेशों में करोड़ों रुपया जा रहा है, सरकार को चाहिए कि कोई सस्ता मोबाइल जो एम.आई.ई. नम्बर वाला हो, वह यहां बनाए और गरीब लोगों को जो उससे सुविधा है, वह उसको मिल सके। सर, दूसरी चीज और है।...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please conclude. खत्म करें।...(व्यवधान)... next is Shri Ganga Charan. You should know how to speak within the allotted time.

श्री कमाल अख्तर: प्राइवेट ऑपरेटर प्रीपेड और सिम कार्ड वाले मोबाइल कनेक्शन बिना उनकी इंकवायरी किए हुए तथा बिना आई.डी. प्रूफ के उनको दे रहे हैं।...(समय की घंटी)... सर, या तो आप टाइम मत दिया करें या बोलने दिया जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आपकी पार्टी के 13 मिन थे, दो मेम्बर्स को टाइम दिया है, हम क्या करें?...(व्यवधान)... आपकी पार्टी ने दो नाम दिए हैं।

श्री कमाल अख्तर: मैं पांच मिनट बोला नहीं, तीन बार घंटी बज गई।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): मैं क्या करूँ, बैठिए-बैठिए।

श्री कमाल अख्तर: सर, मैं अभी पांच मिनट बोला हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): पांच मिनट नहीं, सात मिनट हो गया है, अब बैठिए।

श्री कमाल अख्तर: सर, अब मैं दो मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त कर देता हूँ। लास्ट में सजेशन देकर दो मिनट में खत्म कर देता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): बस, हो गया। I called the other Member. ...(व्यवधान)... His time will be deducted.

श्री राम नारायण साहू: मैं अपना टाइम नहीं देता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Tiwariji, one second ...*(Interruptions)*... Tiwariji, I have called the name of other Member. Now, it is not possible.

श्री कमाल अख्तर: सर, लास्ट में मैं अपनी बात खत्म कर देता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. I called the next name. Now, it is not possible. You could have intervened earlier. I called him. Now, it is not possible. I cannot help. Once I called the name, then I cannot go back. If I go back, it will be a wrong practice. I

am sorry. I would have considered you. But, I have already called the next name. I am sorry. Now, Shri Ganga Charan. आपका टाइम दस मिनट है।

श्री गंगा चरण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, दस मिनट से पहले disturb मत करिएगा। सर, मैं संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के काम पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। आपने मुझे इस पर बोलने का समय दिया है, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं दोनों युवा मंत्री श्री ए. राजा और श्री सचिन पायलट को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। इन को भ्रष्ट से भ्रष्टतम विभाग मिला है और इस विभाग को पैसा कमाने की मशीन माना जाता है। हमारे गरीब देश में Information Technology को बढ़ावा देने के नाम पर गरीब की जेब से पैसा निकाला जा रहा है और वह पैसा देश की बड़ी-बड़ी प्राइवेट कम्पनियों की जेब में जा रहा है। बीएसएनएल को साजिशन कमजोर करके, उसके नेटवर्क को वीक करके, प्राइवेट कम्पनियां अपना नेटवर्क अच्छा करके गरीब जनता का पैसा सरकारी खजाने में न जाकर के प्राइवेट कम्पनियों की जेबों में जा रहा है, यह बहुत ही दुःखद है और यह एक साजिश है। यह अच्छी बात है कि गांव-गांव में आज मोबाइल कनेक्शन पहुंच गया है। गांव के किसानों को बिजली, पानी, नहरों और गोदामों की जरूरत थी, लेकिन सरकार ने इस ओर ध्यान न देकर Information Technology को ज्यादा बढ़ावा दिया है। यह एक व्यापार है। पहले गांव के लोगों के पास बहुत पैसा रहता था, लेकिन इसके कारण एक फिजूलखर्ची गांव के लोगों में बढ़ी है। जो टीनऐजर्स हैं, वे इसका गलत इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं, जो स्टूडेंट्स हैं, वे गलत इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। जो स्टूडेंट्स पढ़ाई करने के लिए जाते हैं, उनकी जेब में मोबाइल रहता है। मुझे कहना नहीं चाहिए, लेकिन आज ज्यादातर समय नौजवान छात्रों का मोबाइल पर बातें करने में ही व्यतीत होता है। लड़के-लड़कियां घंटों मोबाइल पर बात करते रहते हैं। उन्हें पता ही नहीं चलता है कि प्यार और मुहब्बत की बातों में कितना पैसा चला जाता है। आज हर पान की दुकान पर मोबाइल कनेक्शन की सिम मिल जाएगी, हर गांव में सिम मिल जाएगी, हर गांव में मोबाइल मिल जाएगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो गांव के लोग हैं, जो गांव के किसान हैं, जो गांव के लड़के-लड़कियां हैं, वहां इसका नेटवर्क फैलाने की क्या जरूरत थी, वहां पर टावर लगाने की क्या जरूरत थी? वहां बिजली का खम्भा नहीं लगा है, गांव में बिजली नहीं है, लेकिन गांव में प्राइवेट कम्पनी के मोबाइल का टावर है। इस पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है कि जो हमारे देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था है, वह मिडल क्लास है। आज मिडल क्लास की कमर टूट रही है, उसकी फिजूलखर्ची बढ़ रही है और इसको रोका जाना चाहिए। जिसे Information Technology की जरूरत है, उसके पास इसको पहुंचाना चाहिए। इसकी बिजनेसमैन को जरूरत है, यह सुविधा उनको उपलब्ध होनी चाहिए। इसके मिसयूज को रोका जाना चाहिए। मैं दोनों युवा मंत्रियों से अनुरोध करूंगा कि विभाग में जो भ्रष्टाचार है प्राइवेट कम्पनियों के संबंध में, उसको रोकने की जरूरत है। आप बीएसएनएल के नेटवर्क को मजबूत बनाइए। आपने सिमें बांट रखी हैं, जैसा कि अभी हमारे भाई कमाल अख्तर ने कहा कि जब भी फोन मिलाओ नेटवर्क बिजी, नेटवर्क बिजी। अभी हमारे साथी सांसद श्री श्रीराम पाल को जो मोबाइल मिला है, उसमें नेटवर्क ही नहीं है। मैं मंत्री जी से बीएसएनएल का नेटवर्क सुधारने की अपील करता हूँ। आप इसको बेहतर बनाइए। जो spectrum है, उसमें टेंडर पद्धति होनी चाहिए, जो आप फ्रीक्वेंसी देते हैं, उसकी टेंडरिंग होनी चाहिए। इस तरह से उसमें भारी घपला है, घोटाला है। जैसा कि हम सुनते हैं, पॉलिटिकल सर्किल में जैसा माना जाता है कि इस विभाग में जितना पैसा है, जितना घोटाला है, शायद उतना किसी विभाग में नहीं है। आज हमें इससे जितनी फैसेलिटीज हासिल हैं और हम इसको जितना सस्ता करते जा रहे हैं, उतना ही आम जनता की जेब से पैसा निकलता जा रहा है। मुझे लगता है कि कुछ दिनों में तो यह सुविधा भी आ जाएगी कि फ्री में मोबाइल मिलेगा और फ्री में सिम मिलेगी। आप यूज करिए और पैसा जमा करिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... फ्री में मिलने लगेगा क्योंकि आज इतने पैकेजिंग आ रहे हैं और इतना कम्पिटेशन है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसलिए आज अपराधी लोग भी इसका खूब प्रयोग कर रहे हैं, इसलिए अपराधियों के ऊपर भी अंकुश लगाना चाहिए। जिस तरह से अपराधियों का नेटवर्क इसका मिसयूज करता है, उसको रोकने की व्यवस्था करने की जरूरत है।

महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जो BSNL की सुविधा है, वह बहुत ही खराब है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश का रहने वाला हूं और उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग BSNL नेटवर्क यूज न करके दूसरी कम्पनियों के नेटवर्क यूज कर रहे हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में इसके नेटवर्क में सुधार करने की जरूरत है। मैं खासतौर से बुंदेलखंड की बात कर रहा हूं। बुंदेलखंड में इसका नेटवर्क एकदम जीरो है। कहीं-कहीं पर तो इसके सिग्नल ही नहीं आते हैं और लोग दूसरी कम्पनियों, वोडाफोन व हच के नेटवर्क गांव-गांव में फैल गए हैं। इसलिए इसके नेटवर्क को भी गांव-गांव में फैलाने के लिए इसके इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को बढ़ाने की जरूरत है, चूंकि वह ग्रामीण अंचल है और पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र है। पहले ये प्राइवेट कम्पनियां कस्टमर्स को ऐसे लुभावने पैकेज देती हैं, जिससे लगेगा कि यह बहुत सस्ता है, लेकिन उसके बाद जो बिल आता है, उसमें कई चीजें, सरचार्ज वगैरह जुड़कर आती हैं, जिसकी वजह से कस्टमर्स के साथ चीटिंग होती है। इस चीटिंग को रोका जाना चाहिए। ये कम्पनियां लुभावने एड देकर कस्टमर्स को आकर्षित करती हैं। वे लुभावने एड एकदम असत्य होते हैं और उसके पीछे कुछ ऐसे शब्द लिख देते हैं, जिनका कोई मतलब नहीं निकलता है और कस्टमर्स परेशान होते हैं। मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ दोनों यंग मिनिस्टर्स से यह आशा करूंगा कि वे इस भ्रष्टाचार को खत्म करेंगे और BSNL के नेटवर्क में सुधार करेंगे। धन्यवाद।

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity. Sir, Mark Antony's oration in Julius Caesar is well known — "Friends, Romans and countrymen, lend me your ears, I have come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." I am standing here, today, not to praise the Minister of Communications and Information Technology; that will be taken care of by the ruling front. As a responsible Opposition Party, it is my duty to point out the irregularities committed by the Ministry. Sir, we are discussing the working of this Ministry. A Ministry cannot be separated from the Minister. "यथा राजा तथा प्रजा" First let me take the BSNL. Shri Kamal Akhtar gave a version of the BSNL. हमारे यहां लोग कहते हैं कि BSNL का मतलब है Brother, Sister, Nephew Ltd. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please don't disturb.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The BSNL is a top-ranking Government employer, next only to the Army and the Railways. Clearly, ensuring its health is very critical to the economic growth, as it contributes nearly Rs. 30,000 crores every year to the Government. The Annual Report of the Department of Telecommunications 2008-09, on page 82, mentions that the BSNL has earned a total revenue of Rs. 38,053 crores in 2007-08 and the profit after tax is Rs. 3,009 crores. The net worth of the company has also increased by Rs. 1,180 crores during the year and reached Rs. 88,128 crores. The BSNL's profit after tax from Rs. 3009 crores in 2007-08 fell sharply to Rs. 104 crores in 2008-09. Since 2006, while the mobile subscriber base grew by 70 per cent, the Mobile revenues showed only a marginal 11 per cent increase. As far as the fixed line revenues are concerned, in the last five years, the BSNL's revenues halved from Rs. 22,814 crores in 2004-05 when the UPA-I took charge to Rs. 11,505 crores in 2008-09 when the UPA-II has now started functioning. This trend is going to plunge the telecom sector into deep trouble. Who is responsible for that, Mr. Minister?

The CAG Report No. CA-25 of 2009-2010 severely castigates the BSNL for the imprudent financial management. It mentions that the BSNL failed to retire Government loan of Rs. 7500 crores in spite of having adequate cash reserves of Rs. 18,829 crores as of March, 2005 parked

in bank deposits with average rate of return of 6.19 to 7.38 per cent per annum as against the rate of interest of 14.50 per cent for the loan. It may be noted that the deposit is parked in the ICICI Bank which has been attracting negative news in the recent couple of months.

Further, you can note that with substantial foreign holding in the ICICI Bank, I fail to understand why the Ministry chose to park its fund in the ICICI Bank, a foreign bank, rather than holding them in any of the nationalized banks. This has a calculated effect of serious subsidizing of the operations of ICICI by the Ministry which is a very serious issue and it reeks of a scam. The CAG Report mentions that the imprudent financial management resulted in excess expenditure of Rs. 1089 crores on interest payment during the period 2005-2007 and the Minister who is accountable for this bungling is your predecessor, who also happens to come from your own Party.

Now, two days ago, we hear from the Telecom Secretary, Mr. Siddharth Behura, that the Government is likely to list BSNL with 10 per cent disinvestment. The timeline obviously will be decided in consultation with the Finance Ministry. Their Department Secretary has gone on record. The BSNL Union observed yesterday, *i.e.*, July 22, as the Anti-Disinvestment Day to protest the Government's selling plan to sell its shares. The BSNL employees Anna Labour Union of my Party, which I preside, will hold massive demonstrations, if the Government goes ahead with its plan of the BSNL disinvestment.

Next, I come to the Spectrum Saga. There have been blatant violations of rules and regulations in the 2G spectrum allocation issue and the role allegedly played by the Telecom Ministry headed by Mr. Andimuthu Raja has come for severe criticism from almost every quarter. I will not go into the details because we have discussed this, time and again, in this House. But I would only like to point out that the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Shri Pratyush Sinha, in an interview to a newspaper detailed his observations and they are worth mentioning, "We have found that there were gross violations and non-transparent activities in the allocation of 2G spectrum. Basically, the violations are: (1) Granting licences on first-come-first-serve basis; (2) licences being issued in 2008 at prices fixed in 2001; and (3) companies such as Swan and Unitech off-loading their shares at whopping prices to the foreign companies soon after the licences were awarded to them." The CVC said that these steps had led to heavy losses for the national exchequer. Wondering why the Telecom Department had not opted for the auction route, the CVC goes on to say, "The Telecom Department says they had adhered to the TRAI guidelines. We found this version totally wrong. The department had used cherry-picking or pick-and-choose theory to suit their intentions. They selectively picked TRAI recommendations that suited them". This is the CVC's version. Not satisfied with the clarifications and justifications given by the Telecom Department, the CVC said that they are in the process of fixing responsibility. Who is responsible, Mr. Minister?

4.00 P.M.

While CVC is in the process of fixing responsibility, Mr. Raja started his second innings in the Communications and IT Ministry. Two days after he was sworn in, hearing a PIL on the spectrum controversy, the Delhi High Court, on May 29th, gave a certificate to the functioning of the Ministry about which we are talking today. It said, “We are astounded that the spectrum was sold like cinema tickets”. Well done, Mr. Minister! Even in a banana republic, a far lesser indictment would be sufficient to take the severest action against this Minister. Strangely, it is inexplicable as to how Dr. Manmohan Singh feels comfortable whenever the Minister sits in his Cabinet. In the name of competition, new telecom licenses were issued with precious spectrum to inexperienced companies, some of whom are clearly shell out companies, at the cost of global telecom companies. As a result, none of these companies has launched mobile services despite issuance of licences, way back in January, 2008.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Your time is over.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I shall take two more minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, take only one more minute.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, after the 2G spectrum allocation, the Telecom Ministry headed by Mr. Raja landed itself in yet another controversy. Just a month before the Lok Sabha elections, BSNL invited WiMax, High speed internet service, franchise. Of the 11 companies which applied for the BSNL WiMax franchise, as many as five were run by the Minister’s close confidantes. All the five firms were registered on a single date, having the same notary, same auditor, same witnesses and even the same e-mail id. Even the last Annual General Body meetings were held on the same day. What a remarkable coincidence!

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. Your time is over.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, there is one more sixth company in this WiMax franchise, Wellcom communications, headed by a man, who is Manager to a person who got anticipatory bail two days ago from the Madras High Court. The circle is full and complete. Fortunately for the department, for the Government and for the country, BSNL cancelled the tender bids after the PMO took note of the issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That is all. Now, please, take your seat.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, he is referring to... *(Interruptions)*... as if he comes from...*(Interruptions)*... What are you talking? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, please. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I can go on and on. Then comes the 3G spectrum pan-India licence. The Minister was pitching for a * low base price of Rs. 2020 crores.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. Your time is over.
...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: But the UPA-II, now with a comfortable majority, has woken up and has fixed the reserve price for 3G spectrum pan-India licence at Rs. 4040 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Your time is over. ...(Interruptions)... Your time is over, Mr. Maitreyan. What can I do? ...(Interruptions)... Please.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: In all these, the role played by the media and the channels is commendable, particularly, The Pioneer played a crusading role in this. I can go on and on.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Your time is over, Mr. Maitreyan. What can I do? ...(Interruptions)... Please, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Take your seat.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the discussion...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I shall conclude, Sir. The Minister, in an interview to "The Hindu" newspaper said, "I am presiding over a silent revolution in the telecom sector".

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am concluding, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please, take your seat.
...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Minister Raja, in an interview to newspaper, The Hindu.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, you cannot quote.
...(Interruptions)... Whatever you quote needs to be authenticated. Don't quote just like that.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, he himself has said.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That is all right. I am not concerned about that. I am only saying that you will have to authenticate whatever you quote.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Definitely, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. But your time is over.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: From what can be observed from the statement of the Minister saying, "I am presiding over a silent revolution in the telecom sector." Mr. Raja is not silent, but definitely revolutionary. नाम गुम जाएगा, इनका चेहरा बदल जाएगा, लेकिन राजा की आवाज पहचान है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. Don't make personal allegations.
No.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: But I said, Ministry cannot be differentiated from the Minister. I am concluding, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, now please.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: नाम गुम जाएगा, इनका चेहरा बदल जाएगा, लेकिन राजा की आवाज पहचान है। People of Tamil Nadu will easily identify his voice, * ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I shall go through the records in any case. ...*(Interruptions)*... I shall certainly look into the interruptions also.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे.कुरियन): श्री महेन्द्र साहनी। आपका समय पांच मिनट है।

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु (कर्नाटक): आप लोगों को इतना डरा देते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे.कुरियन): बात यह है कि even then we will go up to 6.30. Yesterday, I was a little liberal and we went up to 7.30. So, MPs were complaining.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I have one point. Shri Ganga Charan and my other friend were really fascinating. In a normal way, they were actually presenting the functioning of the BSNL and other public sector organisations to bring the common man's sufferings and woes to the House. There is no politics in that. So, we should really have some more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is in your hands. In the BAC, you can ask for more time. Personally, I really feel sad when I stop the hon. Member. But if I have to finish the discussion by 6.30, then I have to stick to time. Yesterday, we were a little liberal. So, we went up to 7.30. I don't want that to happen again. I would suggest, let us raise it in...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: It is a good education even for the Minister. There is no politics. They were explaining the practical problems in the field.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Minister has no objection. The objection is from the Chair. I represent the House. I go by your desire and ambition. You desire and I go by that. The House is the master and I am the servant. You decide for it. Now, Shri Sahni.

श्री महेन्द्र साहनी (बिहार): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का समय दिया है, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। एक तरफ मैं इसके समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ, लेकिन इसमें ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है, इसमें कुछ खामियां भी हैं। विपक्ष का एक सदस्य होने के नाते मुझे उन खामियों के संबंध में भी कुछ बोलना है। वह खामियां क्या हैं? सबसे पहले इस देश में टेलिफोन हुआ करते थे, तब लोग सीधे इसे टेलिफोन ही कहते थे। हम लोग भी 50-60 वर्ष से इसे टेलिफोन के नाम से ही जानते हैं। आते-आते बाद में उसका नाम बीएसएनएल हो गया और फिर हर जगह बीएसएनएल का बूथ बनने लगा। हर चौक-चौराहे पर, गांव-गांव में बूथ बनने शुरू हो गए। जिस गरीब आदमी का परिवार मुम्बई में रहता था, दिल्ली में रहता था, असम में या कलकत्ता में रहता था या फिर दुबई में रहता था, वह मात्र एक किलोमीटर जाकर पांच रुपये में अपने परिवार से बात कर लेता था। आज उसकी हालत क्या हो गई है? आज मोबाइल क्रांति के कारण हिन्दुस्तान के वह सारे बूथ बंद हो गए हैं या बंद होने के कगार पर हैं। मेरा विचार है कि एक बूथ पर तीन आदमी काम किया करते थे और वह बूथ 24 घंटे खुला रहता था। मेरे पास इसकी संख्या के पूरे आंकड़े तो नहीं हैं, लेकिन मुझे अंदाज़ा है कि देश भर में पांच लाख से कम बूथ नहीं रहे होंगे। अगर एक बूथ पर तीन आदमी काम कर रहे होंगे तो 15 लाख आदमी बेकार हो गए। उन लोगों के लिए आज तक मंत्री महोदय ने अथवा भारत

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

सरकार ने क्या सोचा है? इस संबंध में मेरी राय यह है कि अगर आप मोबाइल से इसके पैसे कुछ कम कर दें, तब वे बूथ चल पाएंगे, अन्यथा वह कंप्लीटली बंद हो जाएंगे।

दूसरी बात यह है कि सुदूर देहात में आदमी को पांच, सात या दस किलोमीटर जा करके बात करनी पड़ती है। हालांकि अब मोबाइल है, लेकिन मोबाइल भी वहां सिग्नल्स नहीं पकड़ता है, क्योंकि वहां पर टावर नहीं है। नतीजा यह होता है कि गरीब को वहां से जाना पड़ता है। हम बिहार प्रांत से आते हैं और वहां पर बहुत बड़ा इलाका पिछड़ा हुआ है। मेरा खयाल है कि आज से 30-35 वर्ष पहले वह पिछड़ा राज्य घोषित हुआ। उस समय उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, बंगाल, असम, उड़ीसा, ये सभी पिछड़े राज्य घोषित हुए थे। लेकिन वहाँ पर जहाँ नदी है, उस के पार 10 किलोमीटर या 20 किलोमीटर या 50 किलोमीटर तक कहीं भी आपकी लाइन नहीं पहुँच पा रही है। वहाँ लाइन जाती ही नहीं है, यह बात समझ में नहीं आती है। आप और हम क्या कर रहे हैं? इस देश में हम सारे लोग, हर पार्टी के लोग, सिर्फ समाजवाद पर भाषण देते हैं। हर पार्टी के लोग गरीब को उठाना चाहते हैं, बराबरी पर लाना चाहते हैं। एक बहुत बड़ा टीला है, उसको हम थोड़ा ढाह कर के जो दूसरी तरफ एक बहुत बड़ा गड्ढा है, उसको भरना चाहते हैं, लेकिन यह बात हो नहीं रही है। अन्य मामलों पर नहीं, अभी मैं सिर्फ संचार पर कह रहा हूँ।

सर, संचार के मामले में एक बात और मैं आपसे कहता हूँ कि अभी जो लाइन चलती है या जहाँ भी लाइन चल रही है या लाइन अभी लग रही है, उसकी ठेकेदारी कौन लेता है, इसकी जानकारी TAC को नहीं होती है। Telephone Advisory Committee आपकी है, उसको इसकी जानकारी नहीं हो पाती है कि वह डिपार्टमेंटल होता है या ठेकेदार के माध्यम से होता है। पहले हम लोग जानते थे कि लाइन-मैन की बहाली होती थी। लाइन मैन बहाल हो गया और उसने जाकर के सारा काम कर दिया। जहाँ पर कुछ खराबी है, लाइन मैन को कह दिया कि टेलिफोन ठीक कर दो, तो वह उसे ठीक कर देता था, लेकिन आज उस लाइन मैन का पता ही नहीं चलता है। उस विभाग में कोई लाइन मैन है भी या नहीं, यह पता नहीं चलता है। जनता से डायरेक्ट कनेक्शन जो आपके संचार मंत्रालय का है, इस विभाग का है, उसका एक ही माध्यम है—TAC. TAC की बैठक कब होती है? कभी साल में एक बार या कभी डेढ़ साल पर या कभी बहुत दिनों तक होती ही नहीं है। ऐसे में क्या जानकारी प्राप्त होगी? TAC के मैम्बर जो कुछ बोलना चाहते हैं या जो समझाना चाहते हैं या कहना चाहते हैं, उसकी जानकारी प्राप्त नहीं होती है। TAC के मैम्बर को एक टेलिफोन मिला हुआ है, लेकिन उसका फोन महीने में 25 रोज़ खराब ही रहता है। यह क्यों खराब रहता है भई? इसलिए कि पेमेंट उसको नहीं देना है, डिपार्टमेंट को देना है। ऐसी व्यवस्था रखो कि उस पर पैसे खर्च न हों। यह TAC के मैम्बर्स की हालत है।

यहाँ पर हम लोग Members of Parliament बैठे हुए हैं। सारे लोग अच्छे तरीके से यह जानते होंगे कि जब हम मोबाइल से बात कर रहे होते हैं या अपने लैंड लाइन फोन से बात कर रहे होते हैं, तो ऐसा होता है कि अभी बात कर रहे हैं और अगले सेकंड में वह कट जाएगा। फिर फोन पर बात कीजिए तो वह फिर से कट जाएगा। कहीं बाहर से फोन आएगा, उसे उठाइए तो वह कट जाएगा। यह क्या बात है? यह बात हमारी समझ में नहीं आती है। पहले यह व्यवस्था थी कि टेलिफोन एक्सचेंज में VIP Telephones की एक लिस्ट होती थी और उसके लिए वहाँ एक स्टाफ रहता था, जो प्रति दिन यह पूछता था कि आपका टेलिफोन ठीक है? तो हम लोग बोल देते थे कि हाँ ठीक है, तब वह संतुष्ट हो जाता था। लेकिन, आज वह हालत नहीं है। आज इस पूरे देश में खास करके जिसके लिए...(समय की घंटी)... हम सब लोग समाजवाद पर भाषण देते हैं, उस इलाके में इस मामले में— ऐसा तो सभी मामले में है, लेकिन इस मामले में— बहुत अंधेरा छाया हुआ है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि—

छाया है अंधियारा, उजाला होना चाहिए।

हर गरीब के हाथ में, मोबाइल जाना चाहिए।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे संचार और सूचना-प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के कार्यकलापों पर बोलने का अवसर दिया है।

मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान अपनी तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा कि संचार और सूचना-प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग एक-दूसरे से अभिन्न रूप से जुड़े हुए हैं। सूचना और प्रौद्योगिकी के बिना संचार का इतना विकास नहीं हो सकता था, जितना कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में हमने हासिल किया गया है।

सर, पहले मैं संचार के ऊपर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा। देश के सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में इसकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है। यह एक ऐसी महत्वपूर्ण विधा है, जिसके बिना न तो हमारी rapid growth हो सकती है और न ही हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था के कई सेक्टर्स का modernization हो सकता है। यह सत्य है कि सरकार ने 1994 में National Telecom Policy, 1999 में New Telecom Policy और 2004 में Broadband Policy बनाई। इसके अलावा भी उसने और कई initiatives लिये। इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि National Telecom Policy के जरिये DoT के काम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए private partnership की कल्पना की गई है। सर, प्राइवेट प्लेयर्स DoT के उद्देश्य की पूर्ति में सहायक बनने के बजाय, DoT के अधिकारियों की मिली-भगत से DoT को चूना लगा रहे हैं। सर, इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि हमारा टेलिकॉम नेटवर्क दुनिया में third largest और वायरलेस नेटवर्क दुनिया में दूसरे स्थान पर है, लेकिन अगर आप हमारे देश की tele density को देखें, विशेषकर रूरल density को तो यह वैसी नहीं है, जैसी कि हमें उम्मीद थी। हम ने सोचा था कि प्राइवेट प्लेयर्स आने के बाद रूरल एरियाज में tele density बढ़ेगी, लेकिन हम जानते हैं कि प्राइवेट कंपनीज का काम केवल मुनाफा कमाना होता है, सोशल obligations को पूरा करने में उनकी जरा भी दिलचस्पी नहीं होती है। सर, आप अर्बन density को देखें, यह 88.94 है 100 की आबादी पर, जबकि रूरल density मात्र 15.18 है और यह 15 भी पी.एस.यूज. के द्वारा ही कवर की जाती है। प्राइवेट टेलिकॉम प्लेयर्स इसे मांगते नहीं हैं, उधर उनका ध्यान नहीं है। वे वहां जाना नहीं चाहते हैं। इसलिए सरकार को strict guidelines बनानी चाहिए, instructions देनी चाहिए कि वे tele density का 40 परसेंट रूरल एरियाज में दें। तभी हम अपनी रूरल एरिया density को बढ़ा सकते हैं।

सर, मेरा दूसरा पॉइंट टेलिकॉम की जो पब्लिक सेक्टर यूनिट्स हैं, ये latest technology, manpower, जिसमें infrastructure मौजूद है, लेकिन आप अगर पब्लिक सेक्टर कंपनीज की ग्रोथ को देखें तो पाएंगे कि यह केवल 20 परसेंट है, वहीं पर प्राइवेट सेक्टर का ग्रोथ 80 परसेंट है। इस के पीछे क्या कारण है, इसकी तरफ मंत्री जी को जरूर ध्यान देना चाहिए। प्राइवेट सेक्टर के पास अच्छा infrastructure, technology और manpower नहीं है। सर, आप एक बात और देखेंगे कि जो लोग प्राइवेट सेक्टर में काम करते हैं, उनकी कोई सामाजिक सुरक्षा नहीं होती, उनकी कोई proper wage भी नहीं है। मुनाफा कमाए चले जा रहे हैं। इन के ऊपर सरकार की तरफ से कोई रोक नहीं लगायी गयी है। मैं मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूँगा कि वह टारगेट फिक्स करें और पब्लिक सेक्टर के अधिकारियों को काम करने की स्वायत्तता दें और result दिखाने को प्रेरित करें जिससे पब्लिक सेक्टर प्राइवेट सेक्टर के साथ compete कर पाए।

सर, इकॉनॉमिक सर्वे में इस बात का खुलासा हुआ है कि 73 परसेंट से ज्यादा लोग 20 रुपए से कम पर अपना जीवन-यापन करते हैं। दूसरी ओर अपने यहां ऐसे भी लोग हैं जो अनुचित तरीके से अथाह धन कमा रहे हैं। इसलिए देश के विकास में जो त्वरित गति आनी चाहिए थी, वह नहीं आ पा रही है बल्कि असमानता बढ़ रही है। यह गरीब लोगों में निराशा व क्षोभ पैदा कर रहा है। मुझे इस बात की आशंका है कि सरकार की ओर से जो inclusive growth की बात कही जा रही है, उसमें गरीबों की जिंदगी में आशा की किरण पैदा होती नहीं दिखायी पड़ रही है। सर, इस संदर्भ में एक बात कहना चाहूँगा कि इनके यहां employment में Scheduled castes के 19.24 परसेंट, Scheduled tribes के 06.89 परसेंट और Women की 14.13 परसेंट भागीदारी है जोकि बहुत ही कम है। इस तरह इनके लिए employment के और ज्यादा अवसर दिए जा सकें जिससे कि देश के डवलपमेंट में वे अपना योगदान बढ़ा सकें। सर, इस में बहुत से लोग Scheduled tribes के इलाके से हैं, जहां काम शुरू होता है, उन्हें वहां मौका दिया जाए ताकि उन्हें भी आगे बढ़ने का अवसर मिल सके।

सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि रूरल, हिली और इंटीरियर एरियाज में जो पी.सी.ओज. थे, उनमें अभी जैसे कि एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा ...(समय की घंटी)... सर मैं पांच मिनट में सिर्फ पॉइंट बोल दूंगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have already taken five minutes.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, दो मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Take one minute more.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सर, उसमें लाखों लोग काम करते थे, लेकिन उनमें तीन लाख लोगों की नौकरी जा चुकी है। उन्हें दोबारा नौकरी मुहैया करायी जा सके, इस बारे में सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए।

सर, मेरा दूसरा पॉइंट fund utilisation के बारे में है। इस बारे में एक साथी पहले ही बोल चुके हैं, इसलिए मैं उस के विस्तार में नहीं जाना चाहता हूं। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस फंड का मात्र 27 परसेंट utilisation हो सका है, इसे त्वरित गति से किया जाना चाहिए। इस बारे में TRAI ने भी कहा है।

सर, पोस्ट ऑफिसेस की तरफ मैं सिर्फ आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। देश में डेढ़ लाख से ज्यादा पोस्ट ऑफिस हैं और ये “बाबा आदम” के जमाने के बने हुए हैं। उनका modernisation नहीं हो रहा है। उन्हें इंटरनेट फेसिलिटी देने की बात की गयी थी, वह भी उन्हें मुहैया नहीं हुई है। इसमें जो काम करने वाले हैं, उनकी सामाजिक सुरक्षा नहीं के बराबर है...(व्यवधान)... इनका standard बढ़ाया जाए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, okay. That's all.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: ठीक है, सर। मैं केवल points बोल रहा हूँ और कोई बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. I cannot allow more time.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: इनको modernize किया जाए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Everybody wants to take more time. What can I do? Please cooperate.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: श्री-जी आदि के बारे में बोलने का समय ही नहीं मिला। थैंक यू सर।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you very much for cooperation. Now, Dr. Chandan Mitra. Why I am doing this is, otherwise, we will have to sit beyond 7.00 p.m. That is the problem. At least by 7.00 p.m. we should conclude it.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Vice Chairman.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I hope you know how much time you have got.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: You said nine minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes. Please continue.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, I rise first to congratulate the Prime Minister for the appointment of a very young and competent Minister of State in this Ministry. I hope his presence is going to act as a check and balance to a Department that has otherwise been encircled by scams and adverse reporting in the media.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Insinuation is not permitted.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, I have not insinuated. I have only congratulated the Prime Minister for the appointment of the Minister of State.

Sir, I will first start with the Department of Posts. Just to express certain concerns, according to the Economic Survey of 2008-09, at present, in India, one post office serves 7,174 persons and covers an area of approximately 21.12 square kilometers. On 19th of February 2009, in a reply to a question in this House, the previous Minister of State had clarified that the norms for opening a post office in India in normal areas is a population of 3,000 and in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, a population of 500. Now, if this is the gap, from 7,174 people at present if you want to bring it down to 3,000 people, Sir, I would expect that the Government would make adequate provision in the Budget so that this target can at least be brought as close to realisation as possible. But if I may read from the notes on the Demands for Grants of the Budget presented by the Finance Minister, Sir, point no. 4, page no. 37 of the Expenditure Budget, 2009-10 says, "This year's Budget for expenditure provides for normal growth and expansion of Postal Services. The emphasis of the Plan activities is on all round development and repositioning of India Post through technology induction and entrepreneurial management, etc". But no provision whatsoever has been made for increasing the number of post offices to bring down the density from 7,174 to 3,000, which is the target. Sir, that is my first point.

This kind of callousness pervades all other areas of this Ministry. on tele density, the Government has patted itself on the back in the Economic Survey of 2008-09 by saying that total tele density increased from 12.7 per cent to 35.65 per cent. Very impressive, Sir. But, come to the next figure. Rural tele density reached 13.81 per cent in January 2009. That is the rural tele density. But the target is to have 25 per cent tele density by the end of the Eleventh Plan. Where is the provision for increasing rural tele density? What steps are being taken to increase the rural tele density and bridge this yawning gap between rural tele density and urban tele density?

Sir, one reason why tele density has not gone up sufficiently brings me to a point which has been mentioned in this House earlier and today very eloquently by my friend, Dr. Maitreya, is the issue of spectrum allotment. Today, the 2G spectrum allotment has been made but has not been operationalised. Why? Because there is a big question mark on the 3G Spectrum allotment. Now till the 3G Spectrum allotment issue is sorted out, the operationalisation of 2G Spectrum is held over. The growth of teledensity, which is the objective of the Government, is being held over and why? Because there are such serious allegations of malpractice in the entire allotment.

On 3G Spectrum alone, let me point out that, I think, on 18th June, the Group of Ministers fixed the reserved price of 3G Spectrum at Rs. 4,040 crore, which is double of what was proposed by the Ministry. Sir, this is a very serious matter that the Ministry undervalues its own product to such a point that the Group of Ministers had to intervene and double the fixed

reserved price for the allotment. Incidentally, the proposal of the Ministry was Rs. 1,010 crore as the basic price of broadband wireline access which the Group of Ministers hiked to Rs. 2,020 crore.

Clearly, that is the undervaluation by as much as 100 per cent in both the 3G Spectrum and broadband wireless service. It is a very serious issue. I say that this is linked with the Budget, because on this depends how far and how fast your teledensity can be increased. I do not want to go into the details of the 2G Spectrum scam which has been discussed at great length. But I think that it is a matter of * .

It was widely reported and widely criticised in newspapers. 'License for a killing' and things like that were making headlines. I am not talking about my paper. I am talking about other papers which used that kind of terms. There is yet no resolution of the issue.

The fact is that it was sold on a first-come-first-served basis to various people who bought the Spectrum at a throwaway price. One company bought it for Rs. 1,537 crore through the dubious first-come-first-served basis and sold 45 per cent of its shares to a UAE-based firm in September, 2008 at Rs. 4,500 crore.

Just ten days prior to that deal with the UAE company, BSNL signed an unprecedented confidential deal with the original company, the buyer of the spectrum, allowing it to use BSNL's communications network in the entire country without specifying the call charge. The BSNL proposed the charge of 52 paise per call, but that was removed from the MoU which was signed.

Subsequently, of course, because of the CVC's intervention that had been stopped. But such has been the activity of the Ministry. How can we trust and have any faith in it? The CVC says that this Ministry has caused the exchequer a loss of Rs. One lakh crore. How can we believe or depend on any of the plans that have been submitted by it and for which the Government is seeking the approval of the House to spend this money?

The reserves of the BSNL, with whom this deal was signed, rose from Rs. 18,829 crore in March 2005 to Rs. 35,953 crore in March, 2007. Yet it did not return Rs. 7,500 crore it had taken as Government loan in April, 2005. The CAG has commented very adversely on this excess expenditure. The expenditure incurred as a result of this financial malpractice is Rs. 1,089 crore.

I have really nothing more to add to it. What I have said very clearly shows that the Ministry, which is supposed to be a national asset of the country, which has the best of engineers and the best of technologies, is incurring huge losses in various operations and things are being undersold in a manner that is *, to say the least. Therefore, I think that the demand for further investigation into this episode is obvious before this House approves of the budget.

Finally, I would like to join a large number of hon. Members who have talked about the really shoddy services of the BSNL in the whole country. Sir, I remember an old song which goes like this. मेरे पिया गए रंगून, किया है वहां से टेलिफोन, तुम्हारी याद सताती है। People could call and speak

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

from Rangoon 50 years ago. Today, if you want to speak from Rajpath, you can't speak to Janpath. From Janpath, you can't speak to Shantipath. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you for sticking to the time. Now, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. ...(*Interruptions*)... You have ten minutes.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Thank you, Sir, for letting me speak on the working of the Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology.

Sir, I will restrict my discussion to the telecom sector in India because that is an area in which I have a little bit experience and exposure. Sir, it has the third largest telecom network in the world with 273 million connections. The gross revenues for the sector have grown to Rs. 1,30,000 crore which account for three per cent of the GDP of the country. Most importantly, Sir, this rapid growth in the telecom network has resulted in an overall teledensity of over 33 per cent.

The opening up of the telecom sector has led to large inflows of investment in an economy that has been investment-led. But, Sir, the success of the telecom sector over the last decade do hide the fact that there are major disfunctionalities that have crept into the sector over the last few years in particular. Most of us are aware of the controversies and questions raised about issues like spectrum allocation, mobile licensing, service provider distinction, illegal international calls, etc. that have been raised in Parliament and outside many, many times over the past years.

Sir, to start with, I would urge upon the Minister and the Ministry to establish a fresh, open, credible and transparent approach this year and going to the next four years. I would strongly recommend that for the first time a clear set of outcomes be defined, if necessary, with a New Telecom Policy that supersedes the NTP of 1999. Ten years on, there is a strong argument for a New Telecom Policy that reviews the sector and lays out these new targets and addresses the disfunctionalities that have crept in over the last decade.

Sir, let me make a few suggestions for the Telecom Minister and the Ministry going forward. Sir, the first issue is of sustained affordability. Sir, it is a widely known fact that there is considerable price and other forms of cartelisation widely prevalent in the telecom sector. Both the regulator and the Department have failed completely in the task of creating true competition in this sector. This is an important issue that needs to be fixed. Indeed, I have the misfortune of listening to one regulator referring to cartelisation as cooperative pricing.

Sir, the fundamental obligation of the Government must be to ensure a framework of sustained consumer benefit. The only way to ensure this is to ensure intense and sustainable competition in the sector by way of various technology options and service providers. This must be kept in mind and I am glad that the Minister has agreed to introducing multiple 3G licences

through auctions that will increase the competition in this sector. But, if he is genuinely serious about competition, then, he cannot leave unattended the critical issue of VOIP recommendations by the regulator that are gathering dust in the DoT. Implementing VOIP is the best way to ensure reduction in prices and allowing a totally new category of inexpensive voice services especially for rural and poor sections of society. The reasons for inaction on introducing VOIP seem to be at the behest of some lobby or the other, and public policy-making cannot and should not be directed by these lobbies. It will be difficult for him to justify why the commercial interests of some of the richest companies in the country would come in the way of implementing a policy-decision that is universally known to reduce tariffs and especially benefit the rural folk.

Sir, the second issue is of quality which has been discussed by some of my colleagues. While we celebrate the significant progress in teledensity in our country and attribute it as a success of the policy, as we should, the significant gap in this is the issue of consumer quality and the quality of network. This is an area where our service providers, both public and private, have neither paid enough attention nor has the Government. For too long, service providers, both private and public, have been allowed to escape from being accountable for this and not making the capacity investments required for it. I have heard many times the reason given as spectrum shortage. That is clearly a solution that is to save operators from investing an additional capital expenditure. Sir, this is a serious issue and, indeed, one of the blights on the, otherwise, bright picture of Indian Telecom. I would request that the Department under the Ministry should make this an area of focus and ensure that the Operators make the investments and operate at a set down threshold of service and network quality and the Regulator conducts quarterly or half-yearly audits with severe penalties for those who fail the standards of quality.

Sir, third is the issue of choice. Sir, as you know, currently, once a customer gets his telephone number, he is stuck with that operator, good or bad, and can only migrate by changing his number. The need to surrender his number and move to a new number is a significant exit barrier for the customer and is an incentive for the operator to provide a sub-standard service. The decision of the Government of Telecom Number Portability will change the centre of gravity from the Operator to the consumer. I would urge the Department to ensure that the implementation of this is expedited and launched this year itself.

Sir, if the Department and the Government is serious about creating a public policy framework that places the citizen and customer at the centre of its policy making, these three issues of delivering competition, choice and quality are critical and non-negotiable. Implementing these three will truly place the consumer at the heart of Government policy-making.

Sir, fourth is the issue of serving more rural India. Successive Governments have accepted that this is a sector that has performed well, but for the rural India, which has been an area of

serious challenge, even today, Sir, while three out of every four urban Indians have access to telephony, in rural India, the number drops to one out of ten. This digital divide is having a serious multiplier effect in holding back socioeconomic growth, especially when, as we all know, 70 per cent of India still lives in the rural heartland. Lack of connectivity and affordable options are, both, major deterrents for rural India to catch up with the progress that you see in urban, and semi-urban cities. I would urge a focussed strategy of incentives and SOPs to accelerate investments into rural markets, combined with a more aggressive use of the U.S.O. Fund with a target for rural teledensity, which is three out of ten, by the end of these five years.

Sir, the fifth, and the most important issue, is the issue of institutional and regulatory performance. As someone who has intimately lived the highs and lows of the Telecom sector from the day it was first opened up to competition, I must say, Sir, that one of the biggest disappointments around the sector is its continued ambiguity on what should be a relatively straight-forward process of auctioning spectrum. To avoid any further controversies and allegations of bias, it is important that all future allocations of spectrum for existing licensees and new licensees should be only through auctions, and these controversies should be put to rest. I have written to the Minister, earlier, on this issue, and he has assured me that this will be the case. I look forward to his confirmation of this during this debate.

Sir, while the TRAI Act was enacted in 1997 and amended in 1998 by Parliament, it was done to assure an era of transparency and accountability. Sadly, the performance of the TRAI has been patchy and highly inconsistent and, there, I say, Sir, sometimes, very questionable. I believe it is time for a complete review of the TRAI Act and associated Government policies. Unfortunately, the TRAI Act amendment, in the last Session, was rushed through without a debate. But that would have been a good opportunity for a discussion on the TRAI Act amendment.

Let me quickly lay out some points in the TRAI Act amendment, Sir. There is a greater need for the TRAI to enhance its accountability. Currently, the TRAI seems to be accountable to no one. There is no structure through which the TRAI can be held accountable to Parliament.

Sir, TRAI reports to Parliament through MOC&IT, but, is, usually, in conflict with the Ministry because its recommendations are either rejected, modified or plain, simply delayed. TRAI, that is subservient to the Ministry and often staffed by retired bureaucrats from the Ministry, is clearly losing its sense of independent objectivity.

Sir, some colleagues of mine have mentioned this point, but I need to repeat it. The Government seems to cherry pick sections of the TRAI recommendations or interpret them differently or partly implement them, depending upon its convenience and comfort. In doing so, it is refusing to recognise the inter-linkages between a comprehensive set of recommendations

and may accept recommendations, in part, which do not meet the policy objectives or transparency test that is necessary for the functioning of the telecom sector and its policy making. For instance, it accepts TRAI recommendations for distribution of spectrum, but refuses to accept the process through which the market value needs to be determined. This has been the problem which led to a major confusion in the last spectrum allocation process. Checks and balances need to be built in the system wherein TRAI recommendations are either accepted or rejected in totality or if they are modified in part, then that should be with the consent of the TRAI rather than cherry picking.

Sir, on the second point, there is no time-limit with regard to how long the Government can wait or delay the implementation of TRAI's recommendations. When the Government finds it appropriate, it implements the recommendations within weeks. In other cases, the recommendations have been pending for 2-3 years. It is necessary that the Ministry and the DoT self-regulate themselves or eclipse themselves under some sort of legislative amendment wherein they need to respond within a given a period of time, say, 60 days, to a recommendation of the TRAI by either accepting or rejecting or returning to the TRAI with modifications. This will ensure that policy making is timely and decisions are not caught up in bureaucratic delays, and this will also ensure, most importantly, transparency in DoT's response to TRAI's recommendations.

Sir, a few quick words about the TEC. The TEC needs to largely upgrade its technical capabilities to ensure that they are in keeping with the latest state-of-the-art technological developments in the telecom business. I think, that is an important area for the years to come. ...*(Time-bell)*... I am just finishing, Sir.

Sir, the telecom sector is a great example of infrastructure development with little or no investment by the Government. These policy moves, coupled with the significant headroom for growth, will make India the most vibrant and exciting telecom destination in the world for investors. I look forward to hear the Government's response to my suggestions. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you, Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar. Shri Arun Jaitley, the Leader of the Opposition.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, when we are discussing the working of the IT and Telecom Ministries, let me first start with a positive note. I start with a positive note because since the mid nineties or since 1995, when we opened up these sectors, if we look back over the 14 odd years, there are a lot of positive and good things for India. This is the one sector which can be genuinely termed a big success story. From a situation where we had poor quality services and people were denied telecommunication services — I remember when the opening up took place, India's tele density was less than one per cent — after 14 years, today we have reached a stage where we have 15 per cent in the rural areas and 88 per cent in the urban areas. The total tele density is about 35 per cent. In 14 years,

we have actually grown from one per cent to thirty-five per cent tele density which is something that we had not imagined at that time. The line-man who used to be a very important man in our lives suddenly started slowly disappearing from our lives. But this is a good news, as far as the telecom services are concerned. We are also providing the cheapest telecommunication services in the world. Therefore, I don't think we can be cynical or overcritical about the overall picture of the sector. It is a big success story.

Having said about this positive aspect, there is one area of concern and, in fact, an area of worry. That area of concern and worry is the private sector — which has been encouraged and which has in many ways done a commendable job in providing good and cheap services — has also become very large and powerful. Therefore, the influence of this sector on decision-making and the influence on decision-making through collateral reasons is becoming very large, and as a result of which all these controversies that we hear continuously about the sector and they are disturbing. Now, this may relate to the function of the institutions within the Ministry, etc. But this is something which we are really concerned about. There is one area which has been referred to by some hon. Members, and I just want to confine myself to that one area — Dr. Chandan Mitra, after that Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar and earlier Dr. Maitreyan also referred to it — that is, the manner in which the privileges are being conferred on individual corporate houses by the Government. This manner has to be fair. The essence of free trade can survive only if it is fair trade. If it is not fair trade and if there is some kind of a conduct which is undertaken in this trade and which raises serious doubt, then the credibility of the whole system goes down. The Finance Minister, in this Session, presented the Budget. Sir, this House, as also the other House, and the whole country had a unanimous concern on one issue, and that is, about the fiscal deficit which was 6.8 per cent. And, if the fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent had to be corrected in the next year, various methodologies were suggested. And, one of the measures taken was, and I think, that is the correct thing, which the hon. Prime Minister has done, — we would stand by the Government if it implements that policy — he said, We have constituted a GoM under Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The GoM would now supervise the entire 3G auction, and we are expecting to raise, through the market mechanism of public auction, a large consideration, which the Government fixed at about Rs. 35,000 crores. And the Government said that a part of the fiscal deficit in the coming year would be corrected through this mechanism of public auction as far as the spectrum is concerned. And, through the 3G auction, if the Government is able to raise Rs. 35,000 crores, which I do hope that it is able to raise, then, perhaps, we can have this one area of concern being addressed. But, then, what is the price that we have already paid as a country for this wise counsel to prevail that we need a GoM under the Finance Minister; that we must auction, fix a base price, and then, a public asset, which is a scarce asset, that is, the spectrum, must get us the highest bidding value? What did we do in the last round? References

were made, but let us just dissect what we did in the last round. I do not want to get into individuals or companies or Minister or any officer for that because I am really concerned with the system that we have followed. The first thing we did was, when we decided an Open Licence Policy in 2007, we fixed a date, and the date we fixed was 1st of October, 2007, whereby anybody could come and apply for a licence. And, once you get a licence, the licence is a piece of paper which means nothing unless the licence is accompanied by a spectrum allocation which will entitle you to operate the service, and then, you operate your service. While analysing those applications, we suddenly decided that 1st October post-facto would become 25th September; we cut it short by five days.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

Now, what happened? We found a large number of players, who had applied earlier in point of time, when we read their names, were real estate players; so, the real estate entering into telecom! And a number of international, globally experienced players, who would have come after 25th, got knocked out. The Court has now commented that the rules of the game were changed after the game was being played. So, you had inexperienced players who, in the first-come-first-serve, stood ahead, and then, you suddenly had a number of internationally experienced players, who were out. Fair enough; these gentlemen were allotted. We are not concerned whether experience comes in, or, inexperience comes in. You allot them the spectrum. So, the question arises: How did you allot those spectrums? What the Government is doing today, and a very wise decision by the hon. Prime Minister is, he constitutes a GoM, — after all, this is an asset, worth thousands and lakhs of crores of rupees, being auctioned — puts a senior Minister of high credibility like the Finance Minister as the Chairman, auction it; let them supervise the criteria, and whoever pays the best with the requisite credentials gets it. What we did was, we fixed a value of about Rs. 1,650 crores. How did we, in 2007-08, arrive at this value of Rs. 1,650 crores? If you remember, the initial opening out of the telecom sector was in 1995. The second round players came in 2001. In 2001, there was some auction. So, the market determined what the fourth player in that auction had given. Now that had become a price for being applied in 2001-03 because that was the market-determined price for it. That price, blindly, is fixed as the 2007-08 price. The market has undergone a huge change between 2001, 2003 and 2007. Even if a simple accounting system of updating the value to a net present value is taken between 2003 and 2007, thousands of crores would have changed. The telecom market has expanded. So, you allot it to about nine players at Rs. 1650 crores each. Now, all these players have a share-company, one company. An application was allowed a spectrum worth Rs. 1650 crores. When they get this, what is the value in the market? The FDI limit in telecom is 74 per cent. So, every player who gets this can now take a foreign collaborator. He can take a foreign collaborator with 51 per cent, 49 per cent, sixty per cent, up to 74 per cent. Now, some of them slowly started getting foreign collaborators and they started handing over

the control which effectively goes to the collaborator. Now, transactions with foreign collaborators took place. Three of them did a public transaction and there is nothing illegal about that transaction because the FDI policy allows 74 per cent. You paid Rs. 1650 crores and upon getting that Rs. 1650 crores worth of assets, overnight the value was two billion dollars, more than Rs. 9000 crores. So, each company which bought that spectrum in 2007-08 at 2001 prices, the 2007-08 value became nine to ten thousand crores, that is, two billion dollars. They could not sell hundred per cent; so, if you sold 74 per cent, you got 74 per cent of approximately two billion dollars; if you sold 60 per cent, you got 60 per cent of approximately two billion dollars and so on. As I said, there were players from real estate and other markets; each one of them had a company, applied for spectrum, got a license, got a majority player from a foreign country, transferred it to him and Rs. 1650 crores became nine to ten thousand crores. Now, if in each case, the difference is that of six to seven thousand crores, for nine players what is the difference? The value goes well into sixty thousand crores plus. Now, you have spectrum as an asset being given in 2007-08; they did not have a single telecom subscriber. They had a company and spectrum and Rs. 1650 crores became two billion dollars, Rs. 60000 crores; it could be fifty, sixty or seventy; the valuations can vary depending upon how you get the collaborator. Now we come back the question: should this have been given at the earlier prices or should there have been an auction? I can understand compulsions of coalition politics. And this is one case where compulsions of coalition politics have cost the country. I see many eminent Members from the ruling party sitting here; please make back-of-the-envelope calculations; if the spectrum had been auctioned and not allotted, this 6.8 per cent fiscal deficit, probably, would have been five per cent or less. There hasn't been a bigger national loot than this! And now you become wiser and Mr. Pranab Mukherjee says that the 3G spectrum will not be allotted like this; it will be allotted in a manner that we will fix the base price — the base price being mentioned in the newspapers is Rs. 4040 crores — and then the auction will take place; you may get five thousand or six thousand crores, whatever is the value. Now, this is the whole case.

Sir, I only feel, for 3G, the Government apparently has corrected itself; it has learnt a lesson. And I have no hesitation in saying that it is a sensible thing that the Government is doing. What do we do about what happened in 2G. It is a closed transaction; it is a concluded transaction. Somebody — whoever; whether it is the TRAI or some officer in the Department who has managed it; you sell a plot of land for less than the market value in the Urban Development Ministry, the officer responsible in any development authority will be held liable. You have caused unfair gain to the private party and a loss to the Government; an unfair loss to the Government and an unfair gain to the private party. It is a prosecutable offence under section 13 (1)(d) of the...*(Interruptions)*...

5.00 P.M.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): One minute, Sir. I have high regards for Shri Arun Jaitleyji. He is putting up a very good argument, which seems to be very legitimate. But, before his arguments, I want to submit that certain things must be apprised to him. Thereafter, he is entitled to make his arguments. I referred the matter regarding 3G to the Group of Ministers. Of course, this is a small intervention, and I do not want to take much time of the House. The base price was not decided by me or by the Ministry. It was recommended by the TRAI, Rs. 1,000 crores; it was doubled in the Telecom Commission, Rs. 2,000 crores; again, it was doubled by the Finance Ministry, Rs. 4,000 crores. I had a lot of confusion in terms of number of slots, base price, and I referred the matter to the Group of Ministers. I referred the matter to CCEA. But, I would like to say one thing that there is a distinction between 2G and 3G. Sir, 2G is intended for the benefit of the consumer; 3G is a value-added service. That is why you prepared a statement, you devised a document in the name of NTP-99. 2G is for the common man. A person who is vending vegetables in common streets must have a telephone, for which the spectrum cannot be auctioned for Rs. 60,000 crores. 3G is a value-added service. So, the TRAI put a very categorical demarcation by saying that 2G is a basic service, it cannot be auctioned, it should go for robust circulation; and 3G is a value-added service, so you go in for auction. That is not my decision. I can put it otherwise. ...*(Interruptions)*... You must have the patience. See, the logic is — I can tell the logic — subsidy can be provided to rice, which is intended for the common people, but you cannot compel the Government to give subsidy for ghee. So, the hon. senior Member must keep this distinction in his mind that 2G is something different and 3G is something different. This difference was drawn by the TRAI, not by Raja or not by the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I have great affection for my learned friend, the hon. Minister, Mr. Raja. He is a very competent Minister, and I have no personal agenda or any other political agenda on this issue. I have no difficulty in accepting his arguments. I preface it by saying, we opened this sector and the sector is a success story. But, let this success story not be clouded by the influence of this sector on decision-making. I have, Sir, no difficulty in accepting, we had also been in Government, I had been associated when we were in the Government with various Groups of Ministers which were working on this subject, the GoTIT, the GoM...*(Interruptions)*... And on that functioning, now the Minister wants to take the credit that he referred it to the 3G, GoM, I stand corrected, I will give him full credit for it. I have no difficulty with 3G. But the difficulty today is, we should have considered the policy of auctioning this asset. If the private sector can take this asset from you and effectively auction it the next day, why should you not have auctioned it in the first instance? ...*(Interruptions)*... This is the point. When the private sector can transfer 60 per cent or 74 per cent of these holdings within days of taking the spectrum and the licence from you, and Rs. 1650 crores become two billion dollars, why should

the Government of India have not done it? If the Government of India had done it, this enrichment which has gone into the pockets of the private sector would have gone into the pockets of the Government and this 6.8 per cent fiscal deficit would have, as I said, been much lesser. That is all I have to say. Therefore, please ask the CVC, ask other investigating agencies who is responsible for ill-advising the Government to go in for this policy which has caused wrongful loss to the Government of India and a gain to the private parties. I am conscious of the fact that it is difficult to reverse transactions, which are concluded. But then somebody has to be held accountable. As I said, these are all prosecutable offences. Therefore, this matter must be gone into the depth. We have learnt a lesson and we are correcting ourselves from 3G but then one of the arguments...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is not a question of learning. Two categories are separate and distinct. Please do not have specifications in it. This is my humble submission. You should not have confusion between the two things. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, leave it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the two categories are separate but let us not forget one fact that spectrum is an asset which is a common factor. Secondly, the companies are operating it; let us not shed now crocodile tears for the consumer. The consumer has not got a single service; there is no single telecom connection, which has been granted after these auctions. ...*(Interruptions)*... The obligation is three years. This has now been traded by the recipients of these licences by giving it to somebody else. All that I am saying is, Sir, it is a serious mistake, which has been committed. And, therefore, while we are correcting it for the future, there should be some responsibility fixation for the past and it must take place when we discuss the performance of the Telecommunications and IT Ministry. That is all I have to say, Sir. Thank you.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. The debate was more or less focussed on the latest value addition in the Department of Communications. But we have totally forgotten that a Postal Department is also there which has 1,62,976 people working for it. Out of this, 40,003 are Scheduled Caste, 15,455 are the Scheduled Tribes, and 30,630 are women employees. Through this human resource for the last 154 years, the Postal Department is working and serving the common man in the villages and also the urban slums. The number of post offices in the rural areas is 1,39,173 and this number is 15,862 in the urban areas. Actually when we go through the statistics, we see that gradually this Department and also its branches are going down. In 2007-08 itself, the number of post offices in the rural areas was 1,39,149. In 2003-04 the urban areas were catered by 16,520 post offices. Now it has come down gradually due to the other means of communication created by the private sector, and they are becoming rich by providing this service. At the same time, we are doing the other important service of small savings through which a large number of people are getting

employment as agents. Sir, the State Governments were very much interested in having many savings accounts and money to show in order to get more funds from the Planning Commission at the time of getting allotment from the Central Government. But now-a-days they are also not interested. At the same time, from the calculations done by the Department, the income through these saving banks alone is coming around Rs. 3455 crores. The expenditure is Rs. 213 crores for the employees and other services. Here I would like to draw the attention of the Department that this is a common man's saving, savings of the widows who are saving Rs. 200, Rs. 500, or Rs. 30 per month. In that way, they are saving to the tune of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000. The agents who are getting a small commission are going to the doors of that particular small man to collect and they deposit it in the post offices. They get a small amount as commission. Unfortunately, three years ago in the Budget, that commission was also reduced and the bonus was also totally taken away in the pretext that the small savings account is not needed so much for the State Government or the Central Government programmes because IMF and the World Bank are ready to give for less interest compared to this particular interest. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that this Government is for the *Aam Aadmi*. Therefore, we have to protect the small savings people who are dependent upon the Government rather than going to the private sector and moneylenders. Therefore, this aspect of giving one per cent more than the normal interest not only for the PF account but also for this particular savings banks which are run through Postal Department should be given and restored back by the Government. Similarly, the commission is given to the agents. They are all poor people and are aged between 45 and 55 years; they cannot do any other job. They depend on small savings account holders. In many villages and towns, we can see that plenty of people are depending on money alone for their livelihood. Therefore, the State Government and also the Central Government should focus upon these aspects and see that these types of savings are utilised properly. Regarding the losses which are incurred by the Postal Department are very large. Thirty years ago, when the Budget was presented before the Parliament, the headlines would be, 'Postal card prices have increased. Postal cover prices have increased.' Nowadays, petroleum products and diesel prices are in the headlines. Now, the postal card alone is having a loss. The actual cost of making post cards is Rs. 697 crores but the earning is only Rs. 50 crores. Similarly, the registered single newspaper incurs Rs. 806 crores. Out of that, Rs. 99 crores is only the income. Rs. 1030 crores is the actual expenditure for registered newspaper bundles but the income is only Rs. 99 crores. Books posts, small packets are having an expenditure of Rs. 798 crores, but Rs. 661 is the only income. Printed books are also having an expenditure of Rs. 1338 crores, out of which only Rs. 355 crores is the income. Acknowledgment, I find only in South India. Normally, we used to get signatures on the acknowledgements, but, here, they will throw it out. Even though it is charged Rs. 597 crores, income is Rs. 300 crores. For registration, it is Rs. 3441 crores. Out of that, only Rs. 1700 crores

is the income. For Speed Post, it is Rs. 4437 crores; there is an income of Rs. 3493 crores. For Value Payable Post, it is Rs. 2063 crores; out of that, Rs. 423 crores alone are coming and for money orders, it is Rs. 6363 crores; out of that, Rs. 3517 crores are coming. The other one is Indian Postal Order. It is very surprising to note that the cost of postal orders is Rs. 2272 crores but income is only Rs. 323 crores. I am just suggesting, Sir, that we need not take away these projects, but it is high time that we look into these issues and find out why these losses are coming. Is it because of the undependability of the people who are managing it or is it because of the delay which is caused when you are competing with the other courier services? Therefore, we have to modernise it, make it available for the common man so that the people are attracted towards this particular service. Sir, the other one is the Department of Communications...(time-bell)...Sir, I was told that our party is left with 15 minutes. So, I am adjusting my views accordingly.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Another three minutes are left.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I will finish it in ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Within?

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Seven minutes?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Only three minutes.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, next, I come to the Department of Communications.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Sir, he is bargaining.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Maharashtra): Sir, he is bargaining.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. No bargaining. The Whip has said not to allow more than the time allotted.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, Village Public Telephone is very important. It is serving 5,58,549 villages as of April 30, 2009. But, it is strange to see that Village Public Telephones are going to serve as 'voice' instruments. It does not have any other service attached to it. Now, we are depending on telephones. When the Government has announced that Employment Exchanges would be connected and the people can register their name from anywhere through VPTs, there should be convergence. It should not only have the 'voice', but it should also have the telephonic messages and other computerised facilities so that the people in villages will be in a position to communicate through that. So, use the modern technology by which facilities could reach the other side. Sir, the strange thing is, from 2002 to 2009 — in 7 years — most of the tools used for this are going to be disbanded. New things are coming up.

New Multi Access Radio Relay is also going to come. Therefore, we have to find out why should we not go straightaway to broadband which, according to calculations, by 2010, we will have 40 million connections and there will a demand for 20 million broadband connections. Wireless is, now, gradually occupying the place. The wire-line is now decreasing from 85.15 per cent to 8.83 per cent. Therefore, the huge investments that we are investing on wire-lines should be stopped and we have to go for the wireless services.

I conclude my speech with one aspect. When we — Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions — go through the Annual Reports of various departments, we repeatedly tell all them that they have to mention, as a corporate responsibility, in their Annual Reports, how many Scheduled Tribes are employed in their department, how many backlog posts of SC/ST/OBC and handicapped filled up. How many blind were given employment? When we had gone through all the Annual Reports, we found, except Postal Department, no department is mentioning about these details. Departments are not at all giving the figures. Even the backlog position is not given.

Finally, Sir, I would like to submit that the Extra-Departmental Employees' grievances have not yet been settled. Thousands of EDEs are getting meagre salary. This has to be settled immediately. The reason given in the Annual Report is that a case is pending before the High Court. The Court is not at all coming into the picture. The Department itself can settle it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have said that it is your final point, but, again, you are making another point.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: The Ministry has announced 'One India' Plan. Through this Plan, facility is given to customer to speak anywhere in the country with Re. 1. The announcement was made earlier. But, there is no follow-up to that. There was another Plan called '9.00 to 5.00.' Within the district telephone facility is allowed. But, now, this '9.00 to 5.00' has been taken away and the customer has to dial 'zero.' Why was it taken away? The pulse rate is very high. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how is he going to manage it.

I request the hon. Minister for release of a Postal Stamp on Rani Velunatchiyar, who was a great freedom fighter even before Rani Laxmibai, in her honour.

Sir, with regard to the Software Technology Parks of India, I would like to submit that these Parks are making very good effort. Even in Madurai, these Parks are doing well. But, the only problem is that they are limited to cities. Instead of that, if they go to the rural areas of Sivaganga, the people will be benefited. Thank you very much.

श्री उपसभापति: श्री राम नारायण साहू। आप चार मिनट में समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, 7 मिनट की बात हुई थी।

श्री उपसभापति: देखिए, आप argument मत कीजिए। आप के पहले स्पीकर ने 9 मिनट लिए हैं।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, उसे रोकना आप का काम है।

श्री उपसभापति: अब मैं आप को रोकूंगा। आप की पार्टी के लिए जो टाइम allotted है, उसी में आप को भाषण पूरा करना चाहिए।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: जब अलग-अलग टाइम दिया है तो हम को पूरा टाइम मिलना चाहिए।

सर, हमारे पास बहुत से “डाटा” नहीं हैं और न मैं उनके ऊपर इतनी प्रैक्टिकल बातें कर सकता हूँ जिनका और लोगों ने हवाला दिया है, लेकिन मैं आम आदमी की बात करूंगा। सर, मृतक के आश्रितों को सर्विस देने की बात है। वैसे तो यह कमी सभी डिपार्टमेंट्स में है, लेकिन इस डिपार्टमेंट में यह कुछ ज्यादा है। मृतक के आश्रितों के लिए जो 5 परसेंट का कोटा है, अगर उस कोटे से कुछ ज्यादा हो जाता है, अगर 6 परसेंट हो जाता है तो फिर आश्रितों को सर्विस नहीं मिलती है। सर, यह बड़ी दुखद बात है कि किसी का फादर सर्विस के दो-चार साल बाद मर जाए और यदि उसका यंग लड़का है तो उस को भी नौकरी नहीं मिल पाती है। सर, इस बात को बहुत गंभीरता से लीजिएगा। मंत्री जी मैं आप से भी निवेदन करूंगा कि आप इस बारे में जवाब जरूर दीजिएगा। सर, रेलवे विभाग भी भारत सरकार का ही है, लेकिन वहां यह कोटा नहीं है और यहां यह कोटा है। सर, यह बड़ी दुखद बात है। इसी तरह कस्टम डिपार्टमेंट में भी कोटा है। सर, एक बार मैं साउथ ब्लॉक चला गया। मैंने वहां एक बड़े अधिकारी से बात की कि इस लड़के को इतने दिनों से दौड़ाया जा रहा है। इसके फादर की डेथ हो गयी है, लेकिन इसे नौकरी नहीं दी जा रही है। तो उन्होंने कहा कि यह कानून तो आप लोगों ने बनाया है। उस बड़े अधिकारी ने एक किस्सा सुनाया। एक लड़का जिसकी उम्र 13 साल थी, उस के पिता की आतंकवादियों से लड़ते हुए मौत हो गयी और जब उस ने सर्विस के लिए apply किया तो उस से कहा गया कि अभी आप नाबालिग हो। अभी आप को नौकरी नहीं मिलेगी, जब बालिग हो जाओगे तब आप को नौकरी मिलेगी। वह लड़का जब 18 साल का बालिग हो गया और वहां गया तो उन्होंने उसे कहा कि इसके लिए तो आप को तीन साल के अंदर apply करना चाहिए था। सर, इसलिए इस कानून में बदलाव करना पड़ेगा। यह बदलाव होना चाहिए। सर, कई डिपार्टमेंट्स में, और मैं इसी डिपार्टमेंट की बात करना चाहूंगा कि वहां कर्मचारियों की कमी की वजह से काफी काम रुका पड़ा है, लेकिन वहां मृतक आश्रितों की भर्ती नहीं की जा रही है। इसलिए मंत्री जी इस बात को बड़ी गंभीरता से लें और मंत्री जी, प्लीज आप जवाब दीजिएगा।

सर, दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि ये मोबाइल कंपनियां, टी.वी., अखबारों तथा अन्य contract देने वालों को रेवेन्यू की हिस्सेदारी का एग्रीमेंट करती हैं और बाद में कुछ क्लॉज में गड़बड़ी कर के बेईमानी का काम करती हैं। सर, इस में एक कंपनी है, जिस का मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता, वह बहुत आगे है। प्लीज इस घोटाले को रोका जाए।

एक माननीय सदस्य: नाम बताइए।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: मैं नाम नहीं बताऊंगा। यह पता लगाना आप का काम है।

सर, मैं मंत्री जी से — मंत्री जी जरा इधर ध्यान दें। मंत्री जी, मैंने एक बार इसी सदन में अनुरोध किया था और वह अनुरोध आपने मान भी लिया था। इसके लिए आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैंने आपसे यह अनुरोध किया था कि हमारे जो कवि प्रदीप थे, उनके ऊपर और नौशाद अली के ऊपर डाक टिकट निकाली जाए। आपका लेटर भी हमारे पास आ गया है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि बहुत जल्दी आप उनके ऊपर डाक टिकट निकालेंगे। मेरा आपसे एक विशेष अनुरोध यह है कि आप इन दोनों पर डाक टिकट निकालें। अगर यह आप उनके जन्म दिन पर निकालेंगे, तो बहुत अच्छी बात होगी। यह मैं आपसे विशेष अनुरोध करता हूँ।

बहुत से लोगों ने बी.एस.एन.एल. के टावर के बारे में बात बतायी। यह जगजाहिर है कि वास्तव में उसमें बहुत ज्यादा दिक्कत है। इस पर मैं बहुत लम्बे में नहीं जाना चाहता, इसके लिए मैं आपसे यही अनुरोध करूंगा

कि इसके टावर बढ़ाये जाएं, क्योंकि connections बहुत ज्यादा हैं ...(समय की घंटी)... और इसकी रोकथाम के लिए इसके टावर बढ़ाये जाएं, तो इससे सुविधा होगी। देखिए, आपने चार मिनट पर घंटी बजा दी।

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं। चार मिनट नहीं बल्कि छः मिनट के बाद मैंने bell बजाई है। मैंने आपको दो मिनट ज्यादा दिए हैं। आप बात कर रहे हैं, इसलिए आपको मालूम नहीं कि टाइम कितना निकल चुका है।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, जो लैंड लाइन टेलीफोन है, उसके लिए जो security amount 1000 रुपये जमा कराया जाता है, वह बंद कराया जाए। जिसका जितना बिल आता है, उतनी ही पेमेंट ली जाए। वह जो एक permanent payment है कि इतना देना ही पड़ेगा, यह व्यवस्था हटायी जाए। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, सुना जाए।

श्री उपसभापति: हाँ बस। ...(समय की घंटी)...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, बहुत से लोग कहते हैं कि उनकी वजह से सन् 1980-85 में मोबाइल यहाँ आया। यह अच्छी बात है कि मोबाइल उनके कारण उस समय आया। यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है।

श्री उपसभापति: साहू जी, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए। आप जितना समय मांग रहे थे, उतना मैंने दे दिया है।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, जब यहाँ पर मोबाइल आया, तो दूसरे देशों में उससे 25 साल पहले ही वह आ गया था। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहूँगा कि टेलीविजन यहाँ सन् 1955 में आया जबकि अमरीका में यह सन् 1932 में ही आ गया था। लोग तारीफ के ऊपर तारीफ करते हैं, लेकिन चर्चा ही नहीं करते हैं।

श्री उपसभापति: क्या करें?

श्री राम नारायण साहू: यह नहीं करना चाहिए, तभी हम बहुत पीछे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... बिल्कुल ठीक बात है। ...(समय की घंटी)...

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है। नेक्स्ट श्री साबिर अली।

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, ऐसा है कि अब मैं आपकी बात पर अनुशासन करते हुए अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूँ। मैं अनुशासनप्रिय हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री साबिर अली (बिहार): थैंक यू, सर। मैं अपनी बात शुरू करने से पहले, डी. राजा साहब नहीं हैं, यह शेर उन्हीं के लिए है:

*इधर-उधर की तू बात न कर, बता की काफ़िला क्यों लूटा,
मुझे रहजनों की गरज नहीं, तेरी रहबरी का सवाल है,
मैं बताऊँ काफ़िला क्यों लूटा, तेरे रहजनों से था वास्ता,
मुझे रहजनों से गरज नहीं, तेरी रहबरी का सवाल है।*

सर, मुझसे पहले इस सदन में इस मंत्रालय पर जितनी भी बातें थीं, उन्हें मेरे से सीनियर और दूसरी पार्टी के मैम्बर्स ने कही। अभी लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन ने भी कहा और उन्होंने approximately 60,000 crores का आंकड़ा बताया। यह सदन जब भी चलता है, चाहे यह सदन हो या लोक सभा, हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों की नज़र इस सदन पर रहती है। सर, आई.टी. एक ऐसा सेक्टर है, ऐसा क्षेत्र है, जिसके जरिये हिन्दुस्तान की पहचान दुनिया के उन मुमालिकों ने, उन कंट्रीज़ ने, उन देशों ने recognize किया, जो अपने आपको बड़े ताकतवर और बड़े तरक्कीयापता समझते थे। 1999 के बाद, हिन्दुस्तान के लोग जब हवाई जहाज में सफर करते हैं और बगल में बैठे गोरी चमड़ी के लोग पूछते हैं कि आप कहाँ से हैं, अगर आप इंडिया कहिए तो आपको recognize करने लगेंगे। लेकिन, उससे पहले आपको हिकारत की नज़र से देखते थे। सर, मैं यह वास्ता दे रहा हूँ कि इस sector ने हमें सिर्फ revenue ही नहीं, इस sector ने हमें एक नई पहचान भी दी है। सर, यह sector जब से

आगे बढ़ा, इस देश में और देश के बाहर, इससे इस देश के लोगों को नौकरियां मुहैया हुई, कमोबेश 15 लाख लोग youngsters outsourcing पर Call Centres में काम करते हैं और इसी मंत्रालय में इससे पहले पांच साल जो मंत्री रहे ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, हमारी बात को सुना जाए। यह बहुत बड़े मंत्री हैं, जिनके पास 6-6, 8-8 मंत्रालय हैं, इन्होंने आपको busy कर रखा है और जब मेरा समय होगा तो मुझे रोक दिया जाएगा। सर, इसी outsourcing के जरिए यहां करीब 15 लाख लोगों को नौकरी मिली। हमारे देश के लोगों ने trained होकर, IT Engineer बनकर अमेरिका, यूरोप, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, अफ्रीका आदि हर देश में जाकर अपनी पहचान बनाई। सर, यह ऐसा sector है कि हमारे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था इस पर टिकी हुई है। लेकिन, आपके माध्यम से मैं कहना चाहता हूं, सर, कि हम लोग इसमें करप्शन की बात करते हैं, इस पर उंगली उठाते हैं। हमारे यहां इसी सदन में कम से कम 10 Questions हुए हैं एक कम्पनी पर। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: साबिर अली जी, एक मिनट रुकिए, मंत्री जी कुछ बोलेंगे। आप बैठ जाइए।

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, the Lok Sabha will be taking up the Demands for Grants Guillotine at 6 o'clock. All Ministers will have to be present in Lok Sabha, in case some Cut Motions are pressed. So, I will have to request you, Sir, to kindly consider adjourning the House before that. If we can finish it before that, it will be good.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I said that there are only three speakers from the Congress, I would like them to withdraw their names if the Whip is there. ...**(Interruptions)**... That is what I am saying. ...**(Interruptions)**... It can be adjourned at 5.45 p.m. Then, there are three speakers from 'Others'. I request them to please take three-four minutes and finish. In any case, we have to end the debate.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, the Minister can reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In any case, the reply will be not tomorrow, but on some other day. But, by 5.45 p.m., it has to be adjourned.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, list it for tomorrow. If possible, it can be tomorrow. Otherwise, it can be on some other day.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is always the case. But tomorrow, since there is Calling Attention, it will be difficult.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: But list it for tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will do it. साबिर अली जी, आप एक मिनट में खत्म कीजिए।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: But discussion can also continue tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no; discussion is not possible.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: If you want to complete today ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; Mr. Bagrodia, we have to complete it.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I want only two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Yes, Mr. Sabir Ali.

श्री साबिर अली: सर, मैं जिस कम्पनी का नाम लेना चाहता हूँ उसका नाम already on the record है — SWAN कम्पनी, जिस पर कांग्रेस के लोगों और दूसरे लोगों ने, हमने भी questions किए, इस सदन में उनका जवाब भी दिया गया। इससे पहले भी उसकी चर्चा दूसरे लोगों ने की है, मैं उसको repeat नहीं करना चाहता हूँ। SWAN एक ऐसी कम्पनी है जो मुम्बई based ऐसे लोगों की कम्पनी थी, जिनका टेलिकम्युनिकेशन से दूर-दूर तक कोई रिश्ता नहीं था और उसमें joint venture करके दुबई में डेल्टा के नाम से एक कम्पनी बनाई गई और यह ऐसी कम्पनी बनाई गई जो बिल्कुल dummy थी और उसको share allot किया गया। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, दो मिनट लूंगा, मेरा समय बाकी है।

श्री उपसभापति: टाइम नहीं है, पांच मिनट आपको दे दिए गए हैं।

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, just two minutes. I would not exceed.

श्री उपसभापति: अब detail में जाने का समय नहीं है।

श्री साबिर अली: Okay; Sir. I will not exceed. I will conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If there is anything, you can write a letter to the Minister and he will reply.

श्री साबिर अली: सर, उस कम्पनी ने, जैसा कि कहा गया कि कम्पनी को जब licence allot कर दिया गया, within two days, उस कम्पनी ने 10 lakh शेयर जो दुबई based कम्पनी है, उसके साथ joint venture किया और उस joint venture में 4,500 करोड़ रुपए लिए गए। सर, अपनी बात को conclude करने से पहले मैं इस सदन को कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग बात करते हैं corruption की और इतनी बड़ी corruption, जो इसमें सामने आ रही है 60,000 करोड़ की, यह तो सिर्फ थोड़े दिनों का calculations है। 1999 से लेकर आज तक अगर इस डिपार्टमेंट में हुई गड़बड़ियों का आकलन किया जाए, तो कम से कम 20 लाख करोड़ रुपए का घोटाला हुआ है और जिन लोगों ने यह घोटाला किया है, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर उन लोगों का नारको टेस्ट कराया जाए, तो इस देश को 20 लाख करोड़ रुपए within a certain period वापस मिल जाएंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I wanted to speak for a longer period, but in view of the circumstances, I would like to raise only one point, which the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned. He has mentioned about 2G spectrum not being allotted or auctioned. I wish to say that at that time, to the best of my memory, nobody was willing to take these licences because nobody knew what is going to happen. Actually, those who have taken them have taken a big risk; they have paid thousands of crores of rupees to get the licences. That is one aspect. Business concept is entirely a different thing, which the hon. Leader of Opposition could probably not understand. ...**(Interruptions)**... I would like to know whether the NDA, during its regime, had auctioned a single asset of the country. They sold a hotel in Bombay for Rs. 100 crores, which was re-sold for about Rs. 400 crores in three months'

time! What are they talking about? So, let us understand that these things that were done, were done in the best interest of the country at that time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Bharkatumar Raut. Just two minutes.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I would be talking only about the working of MTNL, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, that works in Mumbai and in Delhi. I am talking about it because it is the lifeline of these two metros. Also, it is very important for the IT and Communications Ministry because ever since the MTNL was formed 23 years ago, it has contributed Rs. 33,000 crores to the national exchequer by way of income tax, dividends and others. However, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the employees of MTNL have been deprived of their legitimate right of Government pension that has been given to the employees of DoT, the Ministry of Communications, and now, the BSNL. There was an agreement with BSNL as per which a 30 per cent wage hike was given and benefits of the Sixth Pay Commission were given, but MTNL employees have been deprived of any such benefit. More than that, Sir, there was a wage revision agreement between MTNL employees and the Ministry in 2007. We are already half way through 2009 and that agreement has still not been implemented. Sir, when MTNL was formed, the employees who were earlier working with the Ministry of Communications or DoT were transferred without their consent. They were sent to MTNL with an assurance in 2002 that the same service rules that governed them when they were in the Ministry would be applicable to them when they are employed in MTNL. The then Communications Minister, late Shri Pramod Mahajan, had given them the assurance that it would be done. Now seven years have passed and nothing has happened. Last year, Mr. Minister will remember, I had raised this issue on the floor of this House. Even at that time an assurance was given. I have got with me the written assurance that the Government would take the decision as soon as possible. That 'as-soon-as-possible' is yet to happen. ...(Time-belling)... Sir, you have not given me time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have given you three minutes. Your time is over.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): MTNL employees का ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आपके बोलने से disturbance होगी, वे जो बोलेंगे, मंत्री जी नहीं सुन पाएंगे ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, I wish to bring a more important point to your notice, the policy of employment. I shall cite only one example because of the paucity of time. Very recently, an advertisement of some jobs in Mumbai was brought out; that advertisement appeared only on the website. Sir, I would like to know if, in this country, all the eligible candidates have access to the Internet; they don't. Even then, the advertisement appeared only on the website. After a demand was made by us, it appeared in some newspapers, but in a five-centimeter column. After that, 14,000 candidates applied for 319 posts. All the posts are in Mumbai. Out of 319

vacancies, only 14 Marathi-speaking candidates were selected. Why did it happen? I am not talking about provincialism. But if the posts are in Mumbai, the sons of soil should be given the preference...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): You cannot have people on the basis of language. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Seelam, leave it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: I am just saying that if posts are in Gujarat, Gujaratis should be given the preference and if they are in Bengal, then Bengalis should be given the preference. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: No Gujarati, no Marathi. It is an all-India service. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is an all-India service. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever he is saying is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record except Mr. Raut's speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिए। राऊत जी आप बोलिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... पाणि जी, आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pany, nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: I demand that this recruitment process has to be stopped and reviewed. I also demand to re-advertise it again. Give preference to sons of soil. There should be a policy by MTNL to see that the local people are given employment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi. You have three minutes.

SHRI SHARAD ANATRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, shall I lay the papers?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, that system is not there.

SHRI SHARAD ANATRAO JOSHI: I refuse to speak. I don't want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is urgency. After that, no Minister will be there. They have to go to Lok Sabha.

SHRI SHARAD ANATRAO JOSHI: They can go to Lok Sabha. I have no objection. ...*(Interruptions)*... I forego my chance.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Shri Rajniti Prasad.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, मेरे पास कितना समय है।

श्री उपसभापति: आप एक-दो मिनट ले लीजिए।

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): सर, आप जोशी जी को पांच मिनट दे दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं देना चाह रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... But I have to ration the time. ...**(Interruptions)**... He has refused to speak. What can I do? ...**(Interruptions)**... I told Mr. Raut to speak in three minutes, but I gave him five minutes. I could have given him five minutes also. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: You normally give extra time. On the Railway Budget, I saved one minute out of those five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is correct.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: I have never exceeded the time limit.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You speak now and complete it.

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, बात यह है कि चेहरा देखकर समय दिया जाता है।...**(व्यवधान)**... या तो इधर देखा जाता है या उधर देखा जाता है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: यह सही नहीं है। आप कुछ मत कहिए। पूरा टाइम रिकॉर्ड होता है। इस तरह से सदन का टाइम वेस्ट होता है। जोशी जी, आप बोलिए।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Before getting into public life, Sir, I was in the Telecommunications Department of the Government of India, and I was also in the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva. I have some special points to make on this subject. To accommodate your constraints, Sir, I would limit myself only to Telecommunications and not to talk about the Information-Technology. Sir, while talking about the General Budget, I had made the point that the so-called inclusive growth has its own limitations. If you see the history of different nations, factors that have resulted in rapid growth are technological innovations, wars, Diaspora and free trade and competition. I would like to say that the grand success story that the telecommunications represents in India is a good example of this particular model. Sir, When I started farmers' agitation and whenever there was an agitation or a rally, at the end the media persons used to rush to the nearest post office and try to book what used to be called, at that time, the lightning calls and those lightning calls generally took about two to three hours to materialise. If we applied for a telephone connection, it took, at least, two to three years and that too if you had some kind of political connection. Today, the situation has greatly changed, and, I think, it has changed largely because of the fact that the new technology that came and the Government was liberal enough to allow the new technology with the result that we have two contrasts. Sir, two services come in our houses by cables. One is the telephone and the second is the power, that is, electricity. We find that where we permitted liberal technology, today, even the ordinary farm worker can flash out his little cell and talk on telephone to anybody whom he

likes. On the other hand, we are seriously constrained about the power supply. Sir, it would be a good idea if the Government of India follows the model of the Telecommunications Department, permits full licence to the individual enterprise, individual initiative and competition and then, they would not have to talk the politically attractive slogans of inclusiveness and *aam admi*. The Telecommunication Department should provide the right path and right prescription to growth.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, मैं दो बात कहना चाहूंगा। पहले तो यह कि जो डाक की व्यवस्था है, पोस्ट आफिस की व्यवस्था है, वह गांवों में समाप्त हो गई है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि गांवों में जो पोस्ट आफिस की व्यवस्था है उसको पुनः चालू करने की कृपा करें। सर, दूसरी बात, गांवों के पोस्ट आफिसेज में बहुत लोग लगे हुए हैं तथा पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में कई हजार लोग हैं। इस काम में लगे हुए इन लोगों की, किसी की उम्र 50 साल हो गई है, किसी की 40 साल हो गई है, जो अब दूसरी नौकरी भी नहीं कर सकते हैं, लेकिन वे डाक विभाग से लगे हुए हैं, उससे जुड़े हुए हैं। इसलिए उनको रेग्यूलराइज करना चाहिए तथा इनके लिए जल्दी से कोई कार्यक्रम बनाना चाहिए। सर, एक अंतिम बात, क्योंकि आपको भी जल्दी है और हम आपको कोआपरेट करना चाहते हैं।

एम.टी.एन.एल. की जो हेल्प लाइन है, कृपया करके उस हेल्प लाइन को ठीक करने का काम करिए, क्योंकि मुझको जो सूचना मिली है कि सात बजे से लेकर साढ़े नौ बजे तक और 7-30 बजे के बाद वह कभी भी लगती नहीं है। उसमें कम्प्यूटर बोलता रहता है, “You are in queue.”, But, I do not know how long people will stand in queue. इसलिए यह तीन बात बोल करके मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूं और मैं आपको कोआपरेट कर रहा हूं। आपका धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is concluded. The reply will be tomorrow.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to Commemorate the Victory of Kargil every year

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Members to the tenth anniversary of the victory of the men and women of our Armed Forces over our enemies at Kargil on the 26th July.

This day represents not just the victory of our proud country and its will prevailing over those of its enemies, but also most importantly, it represents the inspirational sense of duty and sacrifice by thousands of men and women of our Armed Forces.

I remember every day of that conflict as do many Indians. These are the men and women whose actions, sense of nationalism and duty which should inspire our younger generations. I believe the actions of the men and women of our Armed Forces in that conflict and every other conflict deserve our *shradhanjali*, respects and salutes. I appeal to the Ministry of Defence and the Government to memorialise this day and celebrate it every year. I also appeal to my colleagues in this House to join me in this demand. It is our duty to our nation to memorialise these acts of sacrifice and duty.

**Demand to relax the norms for construction of bridges of over 50-meter length under the
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, the PMGSY is indeed a praiseworthy scheme improving the connectivity of the rural masses. In the poorer States like Jharkhand and Bihar etc., where financial resources are scarce, the PMGSY has not delivered the desired results. Ten Districts of Jharkhand are declared LWE-affected Districts by the Government of India, although all the 24 Districts are naxal-affected.

In Jharkhand, in the last five phases, only 3000-odd kilometre roads have been built under the PMGSY. One of the main reasons for poor rural connectivity and progress of PMGSY in Jharkhand is that the PMGSY permits only 50-metre length bridges in this scheme. Without the bridges, there cannot be rural connectivity. Rivers are the major bottleneck in connectivity. People, especially, the primitive tribes and others living in remote areas suffer economically, socially and on health counts. They are not able to reap the benefits of developmental projects initiated by the Government.

The naxals are very happy if the area becomes an island., and, they usually reside in these regions, particularly, during rainy season. It is their heavenly abode, where they hold their training camps, strategy meetings etc. Hence, to contain naxal activities, it is urgently required that we build bridges at the earliest and open up the area. We can win over the villagers also on our side by area developmental works.

Therefore, it is requested to direct the Rural Development Ministry to relax the norm of 50-meter length of the bridges to be constructed under PMGSY scheme and bear the cost of the actual size of the bridge.

**Demand for a Special Financial Package for development of
Kurukshetra in Haryana as a Tourist Place**

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा): कुरुक्षेत्र भारत का विश्व विख्यात प्राचीन धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक नगर है। प्रति वर्ष देश विदेश के पर्यटक यहां आते हैं। सूर्यग्रहणादि के मेले पर तो लाखों यात्री पहुंचते हैं। महाभारतकालीन अनेक अवशेष इस नगर की प्राचीनता के साक्षी हैं। थानेसर राजा हर्षवर्धन की राजधानी थी। ज्योतिसर में योगेश्वर कृष्ण ने गीता का उपदेश दिया था। अतः कुरुक्षेत्र में आकर्षक पर्यटन स्थल बनने की अपार संभावनाएं विद्यमान हैं। तदर्थ यहां की सड़कों, फुटपाथों, पार्कों के विकास तथा ऐतिहासिक स्थलों एवं महाभारत कालीन अवशेषों की सम्भाल के साथ-साथ ज्योतिसर के लाइट एंड साउंड प्रोग्राम को उन्नत बनाने के लिए महाभारत के विभिन्न दृश्यों की कलाकृतियों के निर्माण एवं स्थापना आदि की नितान्त आवश्यकता है। दिल्ली के निकट स्थित इस नगर में हवाई पट्टी भी नहीं है। हवाई पट्टी बनने से विदेशी पर्यटकों का आकर्षण और बढ़ेगा। अतः मेरा सरकार से विशेषकर पर्यटन विभाग से अनुरोध है कि कुरुक्षेत्र के विकासार्थ विशेष आर्थिक पैकेज स्वीकृत किया जाए। साथ ही माननीया रेल मंत्री महोदया ने कुरुक्षेत्र जंक्शन को जो आदर्श स्टेशन बनाने का निर्णय लिया है, उस पर कार्य यथासम्भव शीघ्र आरंभ किया जाए।

**Demand to extend the Mid Day Meal Scheme to all the students up to
class ten in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Government of India has accorded sanction for implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme for students of classes VI, VII

and VIII in High Schools of selected educationally backward blocks in the country. Accordingly, the Scheme has been approved by the Government of India for implementation in 5,915 High Schools in 737 educationally backward *mandals* (equivalent of blocks) in Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh consider this Scheme to be a very novel and highly useful to improve the retention of students in higher classes and to reduce the dropout rate, particularly in the rural areas where poverty and malnourishment of children is high. The Scheme, in its current pattern would pose certain operational difficulties in its implementation. Students belonging to other blocks in the State, which are not included in the Scheme, would feel deprived of this very useful Scheme for the cause of improving education. Further, in the High Schools selected for implementation of this Scheme, all of them have VI to X classes. It would be operationally difficult to provide mid day meals to students of only classes VI to VIII while students of IX and X classes would be mere onlookers. Also, it would be practically very difficult to identify and segregate the students of class VI to VIII from the rest of students.

For above reasons, it is requested to re-consider extension of Mid Day Meal Scheme (1) to all the blocks in Andhra Pradesh (2) to all the students of classes IX and X in each High school.

Demand to develop Tamiya in Chhindwada District as a Tourist Place

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि तामिया जिला छिन्दवाड़ा-सतपुड़ा पर्वतश्रेणी के शिखर पर स्थित आदिवासी क्षेत्र है। यहाँ की जलवायु बहुत ही सुहावनी रहती है एवं प्राकृतिक रूप से यह बहुत खूबसूरत है। इसी पर्वत श्रृंखला पर ब्रिटिशकाल में पचमढ़ी बसाया गया था, जहाँ पर दूर-दूर से पर्यटक आते हैं।

तामिया के करीब छोटा महादेव, वाटरफॉल, पातालकोट, अनहोनी में गरम पानी का झरना, सतधारा, पर्वतचोटी पर बड़ा महादेव जैसे दर्शनीय स्थल हैं। तामिया में विश्राम गृह से प्रकृति का मनोरम दृश्य दिखता है। पातालकोट नामक स्थल इतनी गहराई में स्थित है कि वहाँ पर सूर्य के दर्शन केवल दोपहर में, जबकि सूर्य सीधे ऊपर आता है, तभी होते हैं। इन सभी दर्शनीय स्थलों के पर्याप्त विकास की आज भी आवश्यकता है। महाराष्ट्र के पर्यटक काफी संख्या में पचमढ़ी के लिए इसी मार्ग से गुजरते हैं।

यह भी उल्लेखनीय है कि इस क्षेत्र में आदिवासी समुदाय निवास करता है, जो आज भी आधुनिक समाज से अछूता है। उसके पास जीविका के पर्याप्त साधन नहीं हैं, जबकि इस क्षेत्र में अपार प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य के साथ-ही-साथ दुर्लभ औषधीय पौधे एवं वनोपज हैं।

यदि इस क्षेत्र को पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में विकसित किया जाता है, तो निश्चित रूप से सरकार को भी आय प्राप्त होगी, साथ ही आदिवासी समुदाय को रोजगार के साधन भी मिलेंगे, जिससे उसका जीवन स्तर सुधरेगा।

मैं पर्यटन मंत्री से अनुरोध करना चाहती हूँ कि तामिया का सर्वे करवा कर पर्यटन केन्द्र विकसित कराने हेतु आवश्यक कार्यवाही करें, ताकि देश भर के पर्यटक इस स्थान को देख सकें।

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the hon. Members that the Business Advisory Committee, in its meeting held on 23rd July, 2009, has allotted time for the Government Business as follows:—

Consideration and adoption of following Bills after they have been passed by Lok Sabha:—

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| (i) | Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2009 | — | 3 hours |
| (ii) | Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2009 | — | 4 hours. |

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, you had promised me that my Zero Hour issue would be converted into a Special Mention. Sir, that should also be taken.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, that will also be taken. The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at forty-five minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 24th July, 2009.