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Wednesday
29 July, 2009

7 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 29th July, 2009/7 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

Oral Answers to Questions

सिक्किम राज्य में विधान सभा की सीटों की संख्या को बढ़ाया जाना

*361. श्री समन पाठक :††

श्री ओ.टी. लेपचा :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या सिक्किम राज्य में विधान सभा की सीटों की संख्या में वृद्धि करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव हुआ है;
- (ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस पर केन्द्रीय सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;
- (ग) क्या यह सच है कि सिक्किम राज्य की विधान सभा में अनुसूचित जनजातियों विशेषकर सुब्बा (लिम्बू) जनजाति के लिए आरक्षण का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है; और
- (घ) यदि हां, तो तामांग और सुब्बा जनजातियों को आरक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए क्या प्रावधान हैं?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजय माकन): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जा रहा है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी हां। सिक्किम विधान सभा में सीटों की संख्या बढ़ाए जाने के लिए सिक्किम सरकार का एक प्रस्ताव जनवरी 2005 में प्राप्त हुआ था। सिक्किम राज्य विधायिका ने 16-9-2004 को एक संकल्प पारित किया कि:-

- (i) विधायिका की वर्तमान नफरी को 32 से बढ़ाकर न्यूनतम 40 किया जाए।
- (ii) लेपचा और भूटिया समुदायों के लिए आरक्षित 12 सीटों और सांघा के लिए आरक्षित एक सीट संरक्षित रखी जाए।
- (iii) लिम्बू और तमंग समुदायों को आरक्षण दिया जाना चाहिए।

चूंकि संकल्प में सीटों का श्रेणीवार आरक्षण करने का स्पष्ट उल्लेख नहीं किया गया इसलिए भारत सरकार ने सितम्बर 2008 में राज्य सरकार से विधान सभा द्वारा स्पष्ट एवं सर्वसम्मत रूप से पारित एक ऐसा संकल्प प्रस्तुत किए जाने का अनुरोध किया जिसमें राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित की जा रही श्रेणीवार सीटों के आरक्षण का स्पष्ट उल्लेख हो।

इसके प्रत्युत्तर में, राज्य सरकार ने सिक्किम विधान सभा में सीटों की कुल संख्या बढ़ाकर 40 करने के आशय वाला सर्वसम्मत रूप से पारित एक अन्य संकल्प 23 दिसम्बर, 2008 को प्रस्तुत किया जिसमें विभिन्न समुदायों के बीच सीटों का निम्नलिखित ढंग से वितरण होगा:-

समुदाय	सीटें	आबादी प्रतिशत	टिप्पणी
भूटिया-लेपचा	12	20-50%	यथावत रखी जाए
सांघास	1		
अनुसूचित जाति	2	5.03%	
अन्य (लिम्बू और तमंग)	27	79.50%	अनुसूचित जनजाति (लिम्बू और के लिए सीटों का निर्धारण आबादी में उनके अनुपात के अनुसार 27 सीटों में से किया जाए।

††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री समन पाठक द्वारा पूछा गया।

चूंकि राज्य सरकार ने यह प्रस्ताव किया कि लिम्बू और तमंगों के लिए सीटों का निर्धारण आबादी में उनके अनुपात के अनुसार किया जाए, जो कि उपलब्ध नहीं है, इसके लिए पहले एक विशेष जनगणना कराई जानी अपेक्षित है और तत्पश्चात् उस पर आगे कार्रवाई करने से पहले उस आधार पर सीटों का आरक्षण करने के लिए राज्य सरकार की सम्मति प्राप्त करनी होगी। यह अनुमान लगाया गया कि सीटों की संख्या बढ़ाना, विशेष जनगणना करना, निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों का परिसीमन करना आदि कार्य करने के लिए कम से कम 10-12 महीनों का समय चाहिए। इस प्रकार, राज्य विधान सभा के चुनावों की अधिसूचना होने तक, राज्य सरकार के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करना सम्भव नहीं था।

इस समय लिम्बू तथा तमंग समुदायों के लिए प्रमाणिक आबादी के आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। यदि राज्य में उनकी आबादी के अनुपात में इन समुदायों का आरक्षण किए जाने पर विचार किया जाए, जैसा कि राज्य सरकार ने सिफारिश की है, तो ऐसा वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना के आंकड़े संकलित होने के पश्चात् ही हो सकेगा।

(ग) और (घ) अनुच्छेद 332(1), जिसमें यह प्रावधान है कि अनुसूचित और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों के लिए प्रत्येक राज्य की विधान सभा में (असम के स्वशासी राज्य जिलों में अनुसूचित जनजाति को छोड़कर) सीट आरक्षित की जाएंगी, भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 371-च के अन्तर्गत किए गए विशेष उपबंधों के कारण सिक्किम राज्य के मामले में पूरी तरह से लागू नहीं होता। इसके अलावा उच्चतम न्यायालय ने आर.सी. पौडियाल बनाम भारत संघ के मामले में यह माना कि ".....अनुच्छेद 371-च भारत के संविधान के अन्य उपबंधों पर 371-च के खण्ड (क) से (त) को अधिभावी प्रभाव प्रदान करेगा।"

भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 371-च में यह प्रावधान है कि "संसद, सिक्किम की जनता के विभिन्न विभागों के अधिकारों और हितों की संरक्षा करने के प्रयोजन के लिए सिक्किम राज्य की विधान सभा में उन स्थानों की संख्या के लिए जो ऐसे विभागों के अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा भरे जा सकेंगे और ऐसे सभी निर्वाचन-क्षेत्रों के परिसीमन के लिए उपबंध कर सकेगी जिनसे केवल ऐसे विभागों के अभ्यर्थी ही सिक्किम राज्य की विधान सभा के निर्वाचन के लिए खड़े हो सकेंगे।"

Increasing the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim

† *361. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK:††

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to Increase the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no provision for reservation for the Scheduled Tribes, particularly for Subba (Limboo) tribe in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim; and

(d) if so, the details of the provisions for providing reservation to Tamang and Subba tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Saman Pathak.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. A proposal of Government of Sikkim had been received in January, 2005 to increase the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim. The State Legislature of Sikkim had passed a resolution on 16.9.2004 that:-

- (i) The present strength of legislature should be increased from 32 to a minimum of 40;
- (ii) 12 seats reserved for Bhutia and Lepcha communities and one for Sangha should be protected;
- (iii) Reservation should be provided for Limboo and Tamang communities.

Since the resolution did not clearly specify the category wise reservation of seats, the State Government was requested by Government of India in September, 2008 to furnish an unambiguous and consensual resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly clearly outlining the category wise reservation of seats being proposed by the State Government.

In response, the State Government furnished another resolution dated 23rd December, 2008 passed unanimously to the effect that total number of seats in the Sikkim Assembly be increased to 40, which may be distributed among the different communities in the following manner:-

Community	Seats	Population Percentage	Remarks
Bhutia-Lepcha	12	20.50%	Should not be disturbed
Sanghas	1		
Scheduled Castes	2	5.03%	
Others (including Limboos & Tamangs)	27	79.50%	Seats for STs (Limboos & Tamangs) may be decided out of 27 seats as per proportion of their population.

As the State Government had proposed that the seats for Limboos & Tamangs may be decided as per the proportion of their population, which is not available, a special census was required to be carried out in the first instance and thereafter the concurrence of the State Government for reservation of seats on that basis shall have to be obtained before proceeding further. It was estimated that such an exercise, including increase in the number of seats, conducting special census, delimitation of constituencies etc, would require atleast 10-12 months time. Thus, by the time the elections to the State legislative Assembly were notified, it was not possible to consider the proposal of the State Government.

At present no authentic population figures for Limboo & Tamang communities are available. If the reservation for these communities is to be considered as per proportion of their population in the State, as recommended by the State Government, the same may be available only after the results of the 2011 census are compiled.

(c) and (d) Article 332(1), which provides that seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (except the Scheduled Tribes in the Autonomous State Districts of Assam) in the Legislative Assembly of every State, is not strictly applicable in the case of the State of Sikkim because of the special provisions made under Article 371-F of the Constitution. Further the Supreme Court in the case of R.C. Poudiyal Vs Union of India has observed ".....Article 371-F would give overriding effect to clauses (a) to (p) of 371-F over other provisions of the Constitution".

Article 371-F (f) of the Constitution of India provides that "Parliament may, for the purpose of protecting the rights and interests of the different sections of the population of Sikkim make provision for the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Sikkim which may be filled by candidates belonging to such sections and for the delimitation of the Assembly constituencies from which candidates belonging to such sections alone may stand for election to the Legislative Assembly of the State of Sikkim."

श्री समन पाठक : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा, मंत्री जी का जवाब आया है कि सिक्किम में 332(a) के तहत ट्रायबल को सीट देने या न देने का अलग से विशेष प्रावधान है, एक विशेष अधिकार है। 371(f) में एथनिक ग्रुप का उल्लेख है। कुछ ट्रायबल्स को बाद में अनुसूचित जनजाति में शामिल किया गया। मेरा सवाल लिम्बू और तमंग को लेकर है। लिम्बू और तमंग टिपिकल एथनिक कम्युनिटी है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि सरकार को इनको यह सुविधा देने में क्या एतराज है? सरकार इसके लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said in the answer, the recommendation of the State Government, based on the resolution of the Sikkim Assembly, is that Limboos and Tamangs should be given compartmental reservation as per proportion of their population. Until then they are included in the 'others' category and 27 seats are provided in the 'others' category. Now, the proportion of their population can be determined only after the Census. The Census will take place only in 2011. Therefore, any action on this aspect has to wait for the Census 2011.

श्री समन पाठक : सभापति जी, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 332(a) में प्रावधान है कि ट्रायबल्स का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए इनकी सीट का आरक्षण किया जाए। 1975 में जब सिक्किम का विलय हुआ, जब वहां पर विधान सभा कांस्टीट्यूट हुई, तब यह ट्रायबल सीट थी, लेकिन 1979 में एक ऑर्डिनेंस लाकर भूटिया और लेपचा को अलग से सीट का प्रावधान कर दिया। संविधान में यह जो अधिकार प्राप्त है, भूटिया और लेपचा के साथ ही जो अदर ट्रायबल्स हैं, वे इससे क्यों वंचित रहें?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Limboos and Tamangs are not being deprived of reservation. I am going by the resolution of the Sikkim Assembly. For Bhutia-Lepcha's the proposal is to give them 12 seats, Sanghas 1, but when it comes to Limboos and Tamangs, the resolution did not say give them 'X' number of seats. It said, 'they should be given seats based on the proportion to their population.' Since that cannot be done now and it can only be done in 2011, this matter will be taken up after 2011.

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Mr. Chairman, it has been stated in the reply given by the hon. Minister that since there is no authentic population figure of Limboo and Tamang community, the reservation to these communities would be considered after the 2011 Census. Looking at the population and in order to save time, in the meanwhile, the Government can increase the number of seats from 32 to 40 and, later on, after the Census of 2011, reservation of seats can be adjusted to Limboos and Tamangs. There has been a consistent demand for including Gurungs, Rais, Magars, Thami and Jogi in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. What is the position in this regard? Further, the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One question at a time please.

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Sir, there has been a consistent demand for declaring Sikkim as a tribal State. I would like to know whether the Government intends to consider the demand of the State Government and take a favourable decision. If so, by when would the declaration be made?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you may just answer the first part.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the present distribution of 32 seats is: Bhutias, Lepchas, there are 12 reserved seats, for the Scheduled Castes, there are 2 reserved seats, for Sangmas, there is one and for General category, there are 17 seats. The Limboos and Tamangs can now contest under the General 17 unreserved seats. If you raise it to 40, without compartmental reservation, this will mean that the 17 seats will become 27 seats; they will, still, be unreserved. The Limboos and Tamangs would have to contest alongwith every other general candidate for those 27 seats. Therefore, that does not answer the demand of the Limboos and Tamangs that they should have compartmental reservation. Besides, I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to article 170 of the Constitution which says what can be done, and what cannot be done, based on various Census and also puts a cut off date as 2026. But these are constitutional questions which have to be resolved, reading articles 170, article 332 and article 371 (F) together. But, at the moment, the demand is, there should be compartmental reservation for Limboos and Tamangs. We are not against it. All that we say is, please wait for the 2011 Census.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you have had your turn. Please, let others put their questions.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Home Minister, as I understand it, says that the compartmental reservation for Limbus and Tamangs can be considered after the 2011 Census, whenever the certified figures are available. Now, the difficulty which is arising is, they are now notified Scheduled Tribes whereas the other Scheduled Tribes have compartmental reservation, these don't. Now, I think, we are already in 2009; they can wait up to 2011. But, are the hon. Home Minister and the Government clear about the fact that it will be 2011 and not 2026 when the next

delimitation will take place? Therefore, am I to understand from the hon. Home Minister that a special delimitation to identify the seats reserved for them will have to be made in the context of Sikkim?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, frankly, I have not yet made up my mind on the question. Although there is an opinion of the Solicitor General, I have not yet made up my mind on the question. I am inviting the Solicitor General to come and discuss the matter with me. But, in any event, the question can be addressed only after 2011. So, between now and 2011, we can resolve the Constitutional issue. Once the Census is complete, we will do whatever is permissible under the Constitution. But, to answer my good friend Arun's question, I have not yet come to any conclusion about the inter-play of these three articles of the Constitution.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, as I understand, article 371(F) is an enabling provision to go for reservation for other communities, other than the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This is my understanding. My specific question is: Is this enabling provision apply with reference to Sikkim alone, or, other States also? If it is available for other States also, I would like to know whether similar representations of this nature have come to you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, article 371 (F) is a special provision with respect to the State of Sikkim. There is no other Assembly in the country, which has compartmental reservation. The only reservations are: for Scheduled Castes, as a whole; for Scheduled Tribes, as a whole and the remaining seats are General. The Article 371 (F) applies only to Sikkim.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि यह 2026 तक फ्रीज़ है और बढ़ाया नहीं जा सकता। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सिर्फ इतना जानना चाहती हूँ, चूंकि इंडिया की पॉपुलेशन बहुत बढ़ गई है और इस बढ़ती हुई पॉपुलेशन को देखते हुए क्या गवर्नमेंट 2026 से पहले ही कानून लाकर कॉस्टीट्यूएंसीज़ को बढ़ाए जाने की बात सोच रही है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, 2026 is a provision in the Constitution brought about by an amendment. If that amendment has to be undone, it can only be done by another constitutional amendment, and I am not even thinking of anything like that at the moment.

Delay and cost escalation in NHDP projects

*362. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:††

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of projects under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) have been affected and are running behind schedule due to cost escalation and other reasons;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N.K. Singh.

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

(c) whether various factors responsible for cost escalation of projects, cost variations and financial implications have been examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to complete such projects without any further loss of time and cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. 150 ongoing projects under NHDP have been affected due to various reasons including increase in prices of construction materials, delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining clearances from forest / environment, poor performance of some contractors and law & order problems in some States.

(c) and (d) Escalation depends upon various factors like increase in prices of construction materials, labour, machinery, etc. Escalation is paid as per contract if the delay is due to reasons beyond the control of the contractor. The overall escalation can only be determined on completion of the project. In order to expedite the process of four laning, progress of projects is closely monitored and concerted efforts are being made to expedite land acquisition, shifting of utilities, granting interest bearing advances to contractors, etc.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, in relation to the reply given to part (c) and part (d) which pertains to the factors leading to escalation of cost and time overruns, after a certain limit, these, as the hon. Minister is aware, require the revised approval of the PIB and the Expenditure Finance Committee. One of the critical factors which it examines is of fixing responsibility for time and cost overruns. So, apart from these factors, has the Ministry done any examination of who are the people and person responsible for time and cost overruns, and, if so, the action proposed to be taken against them?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the cost overruns happen, as is explained here, for various reasons. Largely, cost overruns have happened because of land acquisition and engagement of the States in the process of land acquisition. Sir, in this whole programme, one of the major things which has been encountered is land acquisition. The hon. Member is right that there are other cases also where the content of cost estimates in our feasibility studies of the DPR has not been very accurate. So, while no policy is being made for fixing responsibility for this, in the case of consultants, we can do that, that this report was not good. But in the case of land acquisition, delays in land acquisition, change in alignments, reasons which occur because of the people of that area wanting to change the route a little bit, I do not know how far it is practicable to fix responsibility. But it is a point well made and we will see how this can be done in a more efficient manner.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, if you permit me ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second, not by right but by courtesy for the moment.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Thank you very much, Sir; grateful for your indulgence.

Sir, I think, the hon. Minister has responded positively because one of the banes of all public outlays in the last sixty years is that for time and cost overruns in large public outlay projects like the road sector, there has been no responsibility fixed at all on any individual or group of individuals who may be held publicly accountable for the delays which have caused and the huge cost overruns which take place.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the hon. Member, with his vast experience in administration, is conscious of the fact and it is a reality that there are huge cost overruns. And these cost overruns is a matter of concern because cost overruns require going through various processes of approval again, especially, if these cost overruns are above a certain percentage. This is not a problem of this Ministry alone. It is a problem of all the Ministries and the Government is conscious of this. Structurally, in the last couple of years, some efforts have been made by the Government at all levels to see how we can reduce it. I really cannot say we will be able to eliminate it. But, obviously, the endeavour is to see that our cost estimates remain accurate as far as possible.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सभापति जी, अच्छा है कि मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में यह स्वीकार किया है कि जो तमाम प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उनमें देरी हुई, तमाम जगह कमियां हैं, तमाम गड़बड़ियां हैं। मैं इनसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ, जैसा कि एन.के. सिंह जी ने भी कहा, कि इन सब के लिए जिम्मेदारी तय करने की जो बात है, तो कौन से लोग जिम्मेदार हैं? कम-से-कम इनके बारे में तो यह सूचित करें। कुछ ऐसे राजमार्ग हैं, जो बेहद महत्वपूर्ण हैं। मैं उदाहरण के लिए हापुड़-लखनऊ राजमार्ग के बारे में बताता हूँ। इसमें जगह-जगह पर, 30-30 किलोमीटर या 40-40 किलोमीटर सड़क सालों से टूटी पड़ी है। यह कौन-सा राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग का निर्माण हो रहा था कि जिसमें इतने-इतने बड़े पैचेज छूटे पड़े हैं और इनकी क्या वजह थी? अगर यह देश को बताया जाए, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

श्री कमल नाथ : सर, जैसा कि मैंने हाउस को पहले बताया कि हमारे सामने लैंड एक्विजिशन के तमाम प्रॉब्लम्स आ रहे थे। माननीय सदस्य ने हापुड़ से लेकर लखनऊ तक की बात कही है। उसमें हमारे सामने जो सबसे बड़ी दिक्कत आई थी, वह यह कि जितनी जमीन हमें लेनी पड़ी थी, उसमें प्रदेश सरकार ने एक कानून बनाया था कि जितनी जमीन हम एक्वायर कर रहे थे, उससे 10 मीटर और आगे बढ़ कर भी पेड़ लगाने के लिए लेनी पड़ेगी। परन्तु, Environment Ministry में ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं था इसलिए कई बार उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से हमारी लिखा-पढ़ी हुई। अंत में वे मान गए हैं कि 10 मीटर एक्स्ट्रा जमीन लेने की जो बात है, वह हमें नहीं लेनी पड़ेगी।

सर, जहां तक सवाल उस सड़क का है, तो हापुड़ से लेकर गढ़मुक्तेश्वर तक 40 फीसदी सड़क बन चुकी है। उसमें कुछ environmental problems भी हैं। उसमें Hastinapur Wild Life Sanctuary आती है। उसकी वजह से वहां कुछ काम धिरा हुआ है।...(व्यवधान)... नहीं, नहीं। मैं जवाब दे रहा हूँ, आप उसे सुन लें।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विनय कटियार : वह नहीं बन पाई...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमल नाथ : आप पहले पूरा जवाब सुन लेते।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप पहले इन्हें सुन लीजिए।...(व्यवधान)... आप पूरा सुन लीजिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमल नाथ : क्या नहीं बन पाई? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विनय कटियार : वहां सड़क नहीं बन पाई ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमल नाथ : उस सड़क का 40 फीसदी काम हो चुका है। उसका जो कंट्रैक्टर है, उसे हमने poor performance के लिए नोटिस भी दी है। उस सड़क को U.P. Bridge Corporation बनवा रहा है। गढ़मुक्तेश्वर से मुरादाबाद तक जो सड़क है, उसका बहुत जल्द उद्घाटन होने जा रहा है। मुरादाबाद से रामपुर में एक दिक्कत Railway Over Bridge की आ रही है। उसकी drawings के लिए हमने रेलवे से लिखा-पढ़ी की है और उन्होंने उसे स्वीकृत कर दिया है। उस पर काम जल्द-से-जल्द स्वीकृत हो जाएगा। मुरादाबाद से लेकर सीतापुर तक के लिए अगस्त में ही RFP बन चुका है। सीतापुर से लेकर लखनऊ तक उस सड़क पर BOT के अन्तर्गत काम चालू है।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is a very important question. The hon. Minister said that there are 150 on-going projects under NHDP which are not doing well due to various reasons. Sir, for the last five years the Ministry or the Department has been practically sleeping. That is the feeling of everybody in the House. Will the hon. Minister place before the House the specific reasons project-wise regarding land acquisition, contractor's fault, environmental problem and so on? Will he provide fact-sheet to the House about the 150 on-going projects which are delayed and which are causing cost overrun and inconvenience to people? Will you please enlighten the House what arrangement the Government has made with regard to the maintenance of roads which are already made? We are in the eighth year now of the National Highway Programme. Many roads require repairs and nobody is attending to them. Will the hon. Minister respond to this?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Hon. Member made a rather sweeping statement that for the last five years there was no work. This is a matter of fact and it is a good thing that we are talking about roads which are measurable. These are measured in kilometres. Just to put the facts correct so that the House is not under any illusion which is not correct. During the five years preceding, the first term of the UPA Government, total roads built was 2390 kilometres from 12th December 2000 to 21st May, 2004. I don't want to make it a contentious issue, but you raised it, so I thought I must give the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That was the on-going programme. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister is a senior Minister. He should not try to cover up or mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is an on-going programme. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I have not even finished and the hon. Member is assuming that I am going to say something which he does not like or which is not a fact or is misleading. It is not misleading. I want to make it very clear. I am just giving you a fact. Okay, you are saying that it is ongoing. Fine, it is ongoing. I am not saying that it is a new project, But, I am talking about the total kilometres built

which was, obviously, continuing with the ongoing projects much more in the last five years with the previous five years. It started in the previous five years. Okay. Now, as far as the question of 150 projects is concerned, which have got delayed, I will be happy to send to hon. Member a large list which is there, road-to-road, and the reason for delay. I will send it to the hon. Member. And, I am open to any suggestion or advice in this regard because this is a programme not merely concerning one Ministry, not merely concerning one Government, but concerning everybody, every Member of Parliament is affected by this. Roads traverse the whole country. It impacts trade, industry and agriculture. So, I think, we must perceive it that way and I am very happy and open to suggestions.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I have a point and you will appreciate it. The hon. Minister will obviously send the information to the hon. Member. But, if he furnishes the information to you, it will be the property of the House so that all of us also know what is the status.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, with your directions, I will be very happy to do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, if it can be shared with one Member, it can be shared with all the Members. Shri Tarini Kanta Roy.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Sir, through you, I wish to know about National Highway-31. This is connecting North-Eastern States through northern part of Bengal. The condition of this Highway is very bad. At the same time, the construction of East-West Corridor is going on, but the pace of work is very slow. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to know what action the Ministry is going to take to make National Highway-31 transport worthy and to complete the East-West Corridor on time.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, though the question does not consist of the National Highway 31, I do have information and I will try and endeavour to answer with whatever information I have. It is not about a specific highway. This has been delayed very largely. In fact, almost entirely, because of land acquisition and utility shifting. By 'utility shifting', I mean things like electrical line going through it. There are some Government facilities or private facilities. This also causes a lot of delay. There are multifarious Departments in the State Government which are involved in shifting these utilities. Sir, National Highway-31 is four-laning from Guwahati to Nalbari, Nalbari to Bijni. There is a bridge over the Brahmaputra River. Sir, one of the problems was delay due to the shifting of oil pipeline. Now, oil pipeline had to be moved little bit. There were other utilities which had to be moved and land acquisition had to be done.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, what about maintenance?

SHRI KAMALNATH: Sir, the road is still being made.

India's foreign trade policy

*363. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 sought to double the country's foreign trade within five years; and

(b) if so, the achievements made in this regard and reasons for non-achievement of target, if any?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During 2003-04, India's merchandise trade was around US \$ 142 billion (with exports around US \$ 64 billion and imports around US \$ 78 billion). As per provisional estimates, during 2008-09, India's merchandise trade was around US \$ 456 billion (with exports around US \$ 169 billion and imports around US \$ 287 billion). Accordingly, during the policy period 2004-09, India's merchandise trade increased more than three times.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Sir, I read the hon. Minister's reply. My first supplementary is whether any study has been done on export potential of our country. If yes, out of that, how much has been exploited?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the question primarily relates to the Foreign Trade Policy which was made in the year 2004 for five years with the objective of doubling India's share of the global trade and also another policy objective has been to use this policy as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation. When we look at the figures, India's exports in 2004 was \$ 64 billion, whereas now, it is \$ 169 billion. So, they have more than doubled when it comes to volume and also the value. But in percentage terms, if we look both merchandise and services, trade has increased substantially from 0.92 per cent in the year 2003 to 1.53 per cent in the year 2007. The WTO has not released the figures for the year 2008, and, we presume, and, rightly so, that this figure would be close to 1.60 per cent. We are almost there, not exactly doubling the share; but in terms of volume and value, yes, we have more than doubled.

When it comes to employment generation, the only one study which we have is of the RIS, which says, if the exports increase to 150 billion, that would generate an additional employment of close to 14 million, and, that are our estimates based on the study that both the objectives have been met.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second supplementary is: will the hon. Minister ensure that performance in exports is improved and maintained in spite of global financial crisis and global economic recession.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I have not said that we have made some spectacular improvement despite the global financial crisis. Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member and also the House that the global downturn has adversely impacted our trade with the other countries. The exports have been hit hard, particularly, in the labour-intensive sectors beginning 2008. There was a sharp decline in the beginning of October, 2008, which has continued. In the last two months, it is clear that the steep fall has been arrested because of the various measures taken by the Government in the form of two stimulus packages, incentives given both to the manufacturing sector and the industry.

I would also like to mention here that as per the WTO projections, the global trade is going to shrink between nine to eleven per cent in the current year, and, IMF projections take it beyond that, beyond 12 per cent. Both the developed or industrialised countries, and, the emerging or developing economies will be suffering in that process.

However, the decline is sharper in the developed or industrialised countries where the economies, for the first time in the last thirty years, and, ever since the last 'Great Depression', will go in a negative growth and will remain in that negative growth.

So, as a result, there is a fall in the demand in the traditional export destinations and also the prices have fallen including of the capital goods. The Government is taking measures so that we sustain our exports by making them globally competitive and attractive.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has said that our exports in the year 2003-04 were US \$ 64 billion whereas the imports were US \$ 78 billion, and, in 2008-09, of course, exports has increased to US \$ 169 billion but import, too, has increased to US \$ 287 billion, which means the trade gap is widening and widening. I think, this is a matter of concern. Whether we have given up the goal of reducing the trade gap? Or, are there any efforts from the Government side to reduce the trade gap? If so, kindly spell them out.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I wish it was so simplistic. The goal of the Government, or, for that matter, of any country would be to reduce the trade deficit, and, all efforts are made in that direction. It depends on a combination of factors like the productivity of the industry, the manufacturing sector's growth, the areas in which we have our core strengths, the demand in the traditional markets or destinations, and, how to adapt and respond to the changing situations...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: When you liberalise imports freely...*(Interruptions)*... That is the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, as per the figures which we have, the monthly deficit last year was US \$ 10 billion trade deficit. Figures indicate that this year, over the last three months', it is half of

that, that is, five billion dollars. Efforts are continuing, as I mentioned earlier, to increase our exports, not only because you cannot increase demand or create demand in other markets, but also to look at diversification. We have various schemes and initiatives, including product linked schemes and market focused schemes. We are giving assistance to all the export councils. Market development assistance has been enhanced in the recent Budget. We hope that the measures that we are taking and the new initiatives which we are launching, focus Africa and focus Latin America, because, Mr. Chairman Sir, though there is a sharp fall in demand and shrinkage of economies in the industrialised world, some of the emerging economies, developing countries' economies and even LDCs are doing very well. That is what we are looking at.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, our exports had considerably bounced during the last few years because of the liberal tax initiatives given under the Income Tax Act, Section 35B and later section 88C. Those sections have now become inoperative with the passage of time. Is the Government contemplating giving similar tax incentives in order to boost exports?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Member, being a veteran CA, knows that this is the domain of the hon. Finance Minister. The Finance Minister has announced many incentives including tax concessions in the recent Budget. I shall surely pass on the suggestions which the hon. Member has made to the hon. Finance Minister. We had discussed, however, before the formulation of the Budget, recommendations of the representatives of commerce and industry, particularly, given the urgency to respond to the challenging global environment. The Finance Minister has been generous in accommodating many of the recommendations and the demands which we had received from the exporters and the industry. We will be discussing it again with the Finance Minister, because I have to look at what the Finance Minister would be positively responding to before we roll out the new foreign trade policy in the month of August.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, before asking the question, I would like to disclose that I have a personal interest in the export of foreign garments from India.

Sir, traditionally, we have been exporting a lot of garments, handlooms, gems and jewellery. All these sectors employ unskilled labour. The recession in the West has hit all these industries very badly and now, for the first time, we find that not only is there no growth, but, in fact, there is a negative growth. The industry has been crying for help and various representations have been made to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. I must admit that both hon. Shri Kamal Nath, when he was the Commerce Minister and our present hon. Minister have been very sympathetic to us, but whatever they have proposed, the Minister of Finance has disposed and no concrete action has been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: I am coming to my question, Sir. The Finance Minister had announced that certain concrete measures will be announced very soon by the Ministry of Commerce. My question is: will the medicine be prescribed after the patient is dead? India is losing market share and we all know that once market share is lost, we cannot regain it.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I share the hon. Member's concern about the adverse impact on some of the labour intensive sectors. On an earlier occasion, I had informed the House that some of the labour intensive sectors had been hit very hard, particularly the gems and jewellery sector, handicrafts, handlooms and the labour sector. Therefore, two stimulus packages were made. It is not that the Government has not been responding. I do not share that perception because if you look at the quantum of the stimulus packages — it is three and a half per cent of the GDP of this country — incentives, which have been given to the exporters, including availability of credit, RBI giving an additional 5,000 crores of rupees to the Exim Bank, interest subvention and all those measures which are there both in the Budget and the two packages earlier, including the DEPB schemes, concessions with regard to service tax. So, we are cutting down on the transaction cost. We have had discussions, which the hon. Member himself is aware of, with all the stakeholders, particularly the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and all the Export Councils. We have taken presentations of every Council separately in addition to the combined presentations which the industry has made to look at the areas which need urgent attention. The Government also has constraints of the resources, and that is why I referred earlier that before we come out with a new trade policy, we would be discussing the same with the Finance Minister.

When it comes to the readymade garments, which the hon. Member referred to, there is a growth in exports, in fact, of 3.75 per cent. And, there is a special concession which has already been given, that is, 2 per cent duty script allowed for exports to the USA and the EU on the readymade garments. So, we are looking at sector specific situation.

I may also mention, Sir, that we are also concerned about the employment situation, which we are monitoring closely. Many studies have come up and, fortunately, that sharp fall in exports has been arrested and the measures are being put in place to ensure that we can cushion this hard blow of the global turn down.

उत्तर-दक्षिण और पूर्व-पश्चिम स्वर्णिम चतुर्भुज परियोजना संबंधी मानदण्ड

***364. श्री अनुसुइया उइके :** क्या सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) उत्तर-दक्षिण और पूर्व-पश्चिम चतुर्भुज परियोजनाओं के मानदण्डों का ब्यौरा क्या है;
- (ख) क्या इस मार्ग का निर्माण केवल निर्धारित मानदण्डों के अनुसार ही किया जा रहा है; और
- (ग) इस मार्ग का निर्माण नागपुर-छिंदवाड़ा-नरसिंहपुर के बजाय वाया नागपुर-सिवनी-नरसिंहपुर करने पर लागत में कितना अन्तर आता है?

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) और (ख) चार महानगरों अर्थात् दिल्ली, कोलकाता, चेन्नै और मुंबई को जोड़ने वाले स्वर्णिम चतुर्भुज; श्रीनगर और सलेम-कोच्ची के स्पर के साथ कन्याकुमारी को जोड़ने वाले उत्तर-दक्षिण महामार्ग और पोरबंदर और सिलचर को जोड़ने वाले पूर्व-पश्चिम महामार्ग को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के साथ 4/6 लेन का बनाया जा रहा है। यह निर्माण कार्य, निर्धारित मानदण्डों के अनुसार किया जा रहा है।

(ग) दोनों मार्गों की लंबाई लगभग एक जैसी है। तथापि, उत्तर-दक्षिण महामार्ग के नागपुर-सिवनी-नरसिंहपुर से गुजरने वाला मार्ग, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग है जबकि नागपुर-छिंदवाड़ा-नरसिंहपुर से गुजरने वाला मार्ग इस समय राज्यीय राजमार्ग है।

Criteria for NS and EW Golden Quadrilateral projects

†*364. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of criteria for North-South and East-West Golden Quadrilateral projects;
- (b) whether this route is being constructed as per prescribed criteria only; and
- (c) the difference between the construction of this route *via* Nagpur-Sivani-Narsinghpur *vis-a-vis* Nagpur-Chhindwara-Narsinghpur?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Golden Quadrilateral connecting four Metros namely, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai; North South Corridor connecting Srinagar and Kanyakumari with a Salem-Kochi spur and East West corridor connecting Porbandar and Silchar are being developed to four/six lane along the National Highways. Construction is being carried out as per prescribed criteria.

(c) The length of both routes is almost same. However, the route through Nagpur-Seoni-Narsinghpur of North-South Corridor is National Highway whereas the route through Nagpur-Chhindwara-Narsinghpur is presently State Highway.

शुश्री अनुसुइया उइके : सभापति जी, हमारे इस विभाग के माननीय कैबिनेट मंत्री जी, मध्य प्रदेश के छिन्दवाड़ा जिले के सांसद हैं और मेरा गृह जिला भी छिन्दवाड़ा है। मुझे खुशी होगी यदि छिन्दवाड़ा जिले की जो सड़क है, उसे आप स्वर्णिम चतुर्भुज परियोजन से जोड़ सकें। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि इन्होंने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि उत्तर-दक्षिण महामार्ग के नागपुर-सिवनी-नरसिंहपुर से गुजरने वाला मार्ग, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग है, जब कि नागपुर-छिन्दवाड़ा-नरसिंहपुर से गुजरने वाला मार्ग इस समय राज्यीय राजमार्ग है। विगत दिनों माननीय मंत्री जी छिन्दवाड़ा के प्रवास में आए हुए थे और उन्होंने...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न पूछ लीजिए।

शुश्री अनुसुइया उइके : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या स्वर्णिम चतुर्भुज परियोजना के अंतर्गत इस मार्ग को सिवनी के बदले, परिवर्तित करके नागपुर-छिन्दवाड़ा-नरसिंहपुर से करने अथवा नागपुर-छिन्दवाड़ा-नरसिंहपुर मार्ग को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग में परिवर्तित करने की घोषणा की गई थी?

श्री कमल नाथ : मुझे खुशी है कि छिन्दवाड़ा के विकास और प्रगति के बारे में माननीय सदस्या ने प्रश्न पूछा है, मुझे और भी खुशी होगी यदि सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्नों के रूप में दूसरे सदस्य भी छिन्दवाड़ा के विकास और प्रगति के बारे

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

में प्रश्न पूछेंगे और मैं बड़ी खुशी से उनका जवाब दूंगा, क्योंकि मैंने लगभग 30 सालों तक इस क्षेत्र का प्रतिनिधित्व किया है।

सभापति जी, जहां तक सड़क की बात है, लगभग 6-7 साल पहले जब यह तय हुआ था कि नरसिंहपुर से यह सड़क छिन्दवाड़ा होकर जाएगी या सिवनी होकर जाएगी, उस समय मैंने यह बात उठाई थी और मैंने यह प्रयास किया था कि उचित होगा कि यह सड़क छिन्दवाड़ा से जाए, लेकिन उस समय पता नहीं क्यों, मुझे यह बताया गया कि चूंकि यह नेशनल हाईवे नहीं है, इसलिए यह सड़क छिन्दवाड़ा से नहीं जा सकती।

यह सड़क शुरू में ही छिन्दवाड़ा से होकर जाना ज्यादा उचित था, पर उस समय यानी सात साल पहले फैसला हुआ कि यह सड़क जबलपुर और सिवनी होकर जाएगी। मैं समय-समय पर यानी तीन साल पहले, दो साल पहले यह बात उठाता रहा कि इस सड़क को रोकना चाहिए और यह सड़क छिन्दवाड़ा से होकर जानी चाहिए। अब सड़क काफी आगे बढ़ गई है और इसमें एक समस्या यह उठी है कि इसके बीच में पेंच नेशनल पार्क आ रहा है। इसके कारण कुछ रोक-टोक सुप्रीम कोर्ट से भी लगी है, क्योंकि यह मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में है। Environmentalist NGO ने यह मामला उठाया है। पर, मुझे माननीय सदस्या को यह जानकारी देते हुए खुशी है कि मैंने मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से आग्रह किया था और उन्होंने इसको स्वीकार किया। उन्होंने यह स्वीकार किया कि केन्द्र सरकार इसे नेशनल हाईवे घोषित कर दे। नरसिंहपुर-अमरवाड़ा-हरई, जो शायद आपका जन्मस्थान भी है। मैंने मुख्यमंत्री जी से निवेदन किया था कि इसे नेशनल हाईवे घोषित करने की हमें स्वीकृति दे। उन्होंने यह स्वीकृति दे दी है, तो नरसिंहपुर-हरई-अमरवाड़ा-छिन्दवाड़ा-नागपुर की सड़क नेशनल हाईवे घोषित हो जाएगी। मुझे माननीय सदस्या को यह कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं है कि जब यह घोषित हो जाएगी, तो इसको प्राथमिकता अवश्य मिलेगी।

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके : महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न का जो उत्तर दिया और आपने जो आश्वासन दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देती हूं। साथ ही मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या पेंच नेशनल पार्क, मोगली पेंच अभ्यारण्य से गुजरने के कारण, जब इस मार्ग पर वाहनों की आवा-जाही बढ़ेगी, तब अभ्यारण्य के पर्यावरण और जानवरों पर क्या इसका कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा? यदि हां, तो इसकी रोकथाम के लिए आपके द्वारा क्या प्रावधान किए जाएंगे?

श्री कमल नाथ : सर, इसके लिए एक समिति बनाई गई है। मैंने कहा कि जो सड़क सिवनी से नागपुर जाती है, वह पेंच नेशनल पार्क के एक हिस्से से गुजरती है और इसमें सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक समिति बनाई है। समिति को इस पर अपनी राय देनी है। उन्होंने अपनी राय सुप्रीम कोर्ट को दी है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जो आदेश होगा, उसका पालन किया जाएगा। पर, मैं यह भी आश्वासन देना चाहता हूं कि सिवनी से नागपुर की जो सड़क है, उसमें हमारा यह प्रयास रहेगा कि हम इसे complete करें, ताकि सिवनी के लोग यह न समझें कि छिन्दवाड़ा के कारण हम यह सड़क divert कर रहे हैं।

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH : Sir, this is also connected with Question No.362. मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से बहुत ही simple और important सवाल करना चाहता हूं कि जो दिल्ली-आगरा नेशनल हाईवे है और आगरा हमारा destination है।

श्री सभापति : नहीं, नहीं, आप इस सवाल पर पूछिए।

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह : सर, यह भी इस सवाल के साथ है, क्योंकि यह भी नेशनल हाईवे का हिस्सा है। यह दिल्ली-आगरा नेशनल हाईवे पर incognito जाकर देखें कि दिल्ली से आगरा जाने में कितने घंटे लगते हैं।

कॉमनवेल्थ गेम आने वाली है और यह हमारा destination है। दूसरी रोड दिल्ली-अमृतसर की है, इन दोनों रोड पर हम दिल्ली से बाहर निकल ही नहीं पाते हैं। माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बता दें कि इसमें कितना समय लगेगा? मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी एक बार लाहौर-इस्लामाबाद रोड देखें कि क्या ऐसी हम भी dream कर सकते हैं?

श्री कमल नाथ : सर, माननीय सदस्य ने दिल्ली-आगरा के बारे में पूछा है, जब कि सवाल छिन्दवाड़ा पर है। फिर भी मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह दिल्ली-आगरा सड़क, जो फेज-5 में है, की six laning की योजना बनी हुई है और यह इसी साल में काम शुरू करने के लिए award होना है।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : सर, मैंने पिछले सप्ताह भी एक प्रश्न पूछा था और आपके माध्यम से आज फिर मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से (यानी 15 साल से) जीटी रोड four lane बनी है, उसमें जो भूमिगत रास्ता है, जिसको subway कहते हैं, उसमें बजट लगा है, यह बनकर तैयार भी है और 15 साल से वह रास्ता बंद पड़ा है। मैंने पिछले सप्ताह भी यह प्रश्न पूछा था, लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी ने उसका कुछ उत्तर नहीं दिया। वहां पर गांव के लोगों को एक खेत से दूसरे खेत में जाने के लिए दस-दस मिनट रुकना पड़ता है, क्योंकि गांवों का आदमी सड़क क्रॉस नहीं कर सकता है और वह भूमिगत रास्ता बंद है।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उसको खोलने में क्या दिक्कत आ रही है और वह इसको कब खोलेंगे?

श्री कमल नाथ : सर, माननीय सदस्य अगर मुझे यह पत्र भेज देंगे तो मैं जवाब दे दूंगा।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो स्वर्णिम चतुर्भुज सड़क है, इसके बारे में आपकी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में भी जानकारी दी गई है कि 98 फीसदी तैयार हो गई है और दो फीसदी काम अभी बाकी है। उत्तर-दक्षिण और पूर्व-पश्चिम के संबंध में जैसा आपने अभी कहा है कि चार 6 लेन की सड़कें बनाई जा रही हैं, इसके बारे में अभी काफी अवशेष है। मेरा प्रश्न है कि ये दोनों सड़कें कब तक बनकर तैयार हो जाएंगी और क्या इसकी कोई समयबद्धता है?

श्री आर.पी.एन. सिंह : सर, जो Golden Quadrilateral है, वह लगभग 99 परसेंट तैयार है और 100 किलोमीटर के लगभग उसमें काम बाकी है। उस पर लगातार काम चल रहा है और शीघ्र ही इसको समाप्त करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। जहां तक ईस्ट-वेस्ट और नॉर्थ-साउथ का सवाल है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कलराज मिश्र : थोड़ा सा समय अधिक करके बताएं लेकिन अगर बता दें कि इस समय तक तैयार हो जाएगा, तो ज्यादा बेहतर होगा।

श्री आर.पी.एन. सिंह : उसमें काम चल रहा है। मैं आपको लिखित में सब कुछ बता दूंगा, क्योंकि काम patches में चल रहा है, सारा एक ही प्रोजेक्ट नहीं है। बाकी में पचास फीसदी काम समाप्त हो चुका है और पचास फीसदी में काम चल रहा है।...(व्यवधान).... ईस्ट-वेस्ट और नॉर्थ-साउथ में पचास फीसदी काम पूरा हो चुका है और बाकी जो पचास फीसदी काम है, उसमें भी काम चल रहा है। मैं प्रोजेक्ट वाइज़ जानकारी आपको दे दूंगा।

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा : समयबद्धता की बात हुई है।

श्री आर.पी.एन. सिंह : जो पचास फीसदी काम बाकी है, उसके बारे में मैं आपको प्रोजेक्ट वाइज़ बता दूंगा कि कौन-कौन सी सड़क का काम किया किस समय समाप्त होगा।

विमान-वाहक पोतों का स्वदेश में निर्माण किया जाना

*365. श्री वाई.पी. त्रिवेदी : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या भारत ने विमान वाहक पोतों का निर्माण कार्य स्वदेश में ही शुरू कर दिया है;
- (ख) यदि हां, तो कब से और भारत में ऐसे कितने पोतों का निर्माण किया जाएगा;
- (ग) क्या ऐसे पोतों के सफल स्वदेशी निर्माण से देश को इन्हें अन्य देशों से खरीदने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी; और
- (घ) इस समय भारत के पास ऐसे कितने विमानवाहक पोत हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री ए.के. अन्तोनी): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण-पत्र सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

(क) से (घ) इस समय एक विमान-वाहक पोत का विनिर्माण देश में किया जा रहा है। स्वदेशी-विमान वाहक पोत के लिए सरकार की मंजूरी नवंबर, 2002 में प्रदान की गई थी। स्वदेशी विमान-वाहक पोत का निर्माण कार्य कोच्चि शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड में चल रहा है जिसका 2010 में जलावतरण किए जाने का कार्यक्रम है। तथापि, इस पोत की सुपुर्दगी 2014 में किए जाने की संभावना है।

वांछित बल स्तर बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता की वजह से नौसेना में पोतों और विमान-वाहकों को शामिल किया जाता है। भविष्य में विमान-वाहकों की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति अपेक्षित क्षमताओं एवं परिकल्पित समय-सीमा के आधार पर स्वदेशी अथवा विदेशी स्रोतों से की जा सकती है।

इस समय भारत के पास एक विमान-वाहक पोत है।

Indigenous manufacturing of aircraft carrier vessels

† *365. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has now undertaken the manufacturing of aircraft carrier vessels indigenously;
- (b) if so, since when and how many such vessels are going to be manufactured in India;
- (c) whether with successful indigenous manufacturing of such vessels, the country would not require to procure them from other countries; and
- (d) the number of aircraft carrier vessels with India at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Presently one aircraft carrier is being built indigenously. The Government sanction for the indigenous aircraft carrier was accorded in November 2002. The construction of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) is progressing with the scheduled "launch" in 2010 at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). However, the final delivery of the ship is likely in 2014.

Induction of ships in the Navy, including aircraft carriers, is driven by the need to maintain the desired Force Levels. Future requirements of aircraft carriers could be met either from indigenous or

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from foreign sources depending on the required capabilities and envisaged time frames.

Presently, India has one aircraft carrier vessel.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, the project for aircraft carrier was summoned in 2002 and the delivery is to be given in 2014. It is inordinately a long time for an aircraft carrier which is, sometimes, described as a "white elephant". My question is this. India manufactured the nuclear submarine. It joined an exclusive club which has only five members — U.S., Russia, U.K., France and China. How many countries are manufacturing aircraft carriers at present and in which club are we joining?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the manufacturing of an aircraft carrier is a very complex project and there are a very few countries, in the world, which have the capability to manufacture an aircraft carrier. Right now, they are limited to the U.S., U.S.S.R., Germany, United Kingdom and, possibly, China.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Possibly or definitely?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, please.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, I want to know what will be the range of these aircraft and whether they will be held effective as the nuclear submarine which has, eventually, been filled up with crude missiles. What will be the range of the aircraft which are posted on the aircraft carrier?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the endurance of the aircraft carrier is about 8,000 nautical miles and the endurance of the aircraft on board the aircraft carrier will depend on the type of aircraft that we have and as per the operational requirements.

Sir, the Navy has a well-defined maritime capability perspective plan which defines the force capability that is needed for our protection and safeguarding the Indian Ocean region. As far as the aircraft carriers and the other warships are concerned, we have a capability dominant machine-based approach for our force level planning. We envision that we need to have, at least, two aircraft carriers operational at a given time. Therefore, we need three aircraft carriers to be with us. Similarly, we do a similar planning, as far as warships and submarines are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tiruchi Siva.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे सवाल का पूरा जवाब नहीं दिया। यह तो बताया कि आवश्यकता होगी, लेकिन सवाल यह है कि इस आवश्यकता की पूर्ति कैसे करेंगे? जो एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर 2010 में बनकर तैयार होना था, वह 2014 तक तैयार नहीं होगा। आगामी वर्षों के लिए आपके पास क्या योजना है, कैसे पूर्ति करेंगे? वह नहीं बताया।

श्री सभापति : अब आप सब कुछ पब्लिकली पूछना चाहते हैं।

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, for our force level planning, we are taking all measures that are needed, including utilising the indigenous private capacity that is available within the country and also placing orders abroad. We hope to make up for lost time. But we are surely getting them.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I would like to know the explanation of the Government for the gap period between 2010 and 2014, between launch and delivery. Within these 12 years, from sanction to delivery, the technology would have advanced so much internationally. Will the construction of this carrier match with the present day technology which is advanced?

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, although the project was sanctioned in 2002, the actual construction of the aircraft carrier began only in 2006. We have the requisite in-house expertise for the basic platform design, but for the subsequent advanced weapon systems and other major systems that constitute the aircraft carrier, this is incorporated into the design. We are also aware of the developments that are taking place. The launch is scheduled for 2010, but the operationalisation could be a little later, beyond 2012.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Thank you, Sir, it has been very recently revealed that the CAG in its report had pointed that India is paying US dollars 522.57 million for Gorshkov aircraft carrier, which was originally contracted for US dollars 27 million in January 2004. The audit has expressed its unhappiness for not providing full cooperation and access to by the Navy and opined that monitoring and supervision of the project was surprisingly lax. My question is: Under what circumstances is the Defence Ministry and the Government buying a second-hand Russian version which has now completed half of its life-span and is 60 per cent more expensive than a new aircraft carrier? This is my question.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is a continuing one. According to my understanding, as per the records, the Government of that day decided to procure an aircraft carrier that was available in Russia. The Russian Government, at that time, expressed its willingness to gift its aircraft carrier at a cheaper price. Even before that, from 1994 onwards, our Navy was searching for an aircraft carrier from anywhere in the world. They continued their search from all available sources. As my colleague has mentioned earlier, there are only a very few countries in the world which are manufacturing the aircraft carriers. After an elaborate search, they realised that, either no country was in a position to give an aircraft carrier that India needs or no other country other than Russia was willing to give an aircraft carrier to India because of the prevailing situation at that point of time.

At that time, Russia was the only country which offered and said that even though it was an old aircraft carrier, we are willing to give it to you. So at that time, the Government of the day took a decision in consultation with the Navy and as per the request of the Navy, started negotiations with the Russian Government and a contract was entered into with the Russian Government in 2004 to procure an aircraft carrier. But after sometime, Russia faced a lot of internal difficulties because most of the components of this aircraft carrier were produced in Ukraine. Ukraine was supplying these to the Soviet Union. There started some problem. They were not able to complete certain things. They also informed the Government and the Navy that when the contract was entered into, they were not

able to assess the extent of repair it needed, they were not able to assess the extent of equipment it needed. So they demanded a fresh price. I agree with the hon. Member that the Russian Government now has demanded a substantially huge amount for this aircraft carrier.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Government come out with a 'White Paper' on this?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I am answering your question. Be patient. We have not entered into any new contract with Russia to procure an aircraft carrier so far. Only negotiations are going on. Recently, there was one round of contract negotiations with the Russian Government and the aircraft company. But it is inconclusive. One thing I can assure the hon. Member and the House that before taking a final decision in regard to this contract, we will assess and we will go through all the criticism levelled from all quarters, including the CAG. After verifying everything, we will enter into a contract. At the present stage, only negotiations are going on. Nothing has been decided finally.

Failure of the Mini-Ministerial talks at WTO

*366. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state why is our Government continuing to engage in negotiations at the WTO on the Doha round after the failure of the Mini-Ministerial talks at the WTO in Geneva and given the fact that the US Government cannot make any clear commitments at the present juncture?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Following the impasse in the talks at the mini-Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held in July 2008, the general opinion amongst all the WTO member countries was that the negotiations should resume at the earliest opportunity for successful conclusion of the Doha Round.

Further, the global economic crisis has occupied centre stage at most major international meetings in the recent past such as the G-20 held in London in April 2009 and the CAIRNS group meeting held in Bali in June 2009. At the G-20 Summit leaders of all the participating nations, including the US and India expressed their commitment to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round.

India is committed to a rule-based multilateral trade regime that is fair and equitable and, towards this end, an early conclusion of the Doha Round is important; India is willing to take part in the negotiations at the WTO provided the core concerns of the Round, namely the development concerns of developing countries are addressed. Towards this end, India has been engaging constructively and actively with other fellow Member countries of the WTO.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Which are the countries, which are supporting our stand on agriculture in WTO? What efforts have been made to persuade them to fall in line with the point of view of India?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the question pertains to the WTO negotiations and why India is willing to engage with other countries. These are the multilateral trade negotiations in which 153 countries are involved. This Doha Round has a mandate which is dedicated to the developing countries. India is engaging with its partners in the developing countries, in G-20 and G-33 and has formulated a collective position to ensure that the historical distortions and imbalances in the global trade are corrected and the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries are met through a fair and equitable global trading regime and for that negotiations have been going on for many years. Last July, in the Mini-Ministerial Meeting, there was a pause reached or an impasse over non-convergence on a number of issues, including SSMS, agriculture, cotton and NAMA flexibilities. India has been articulating the concerns of the developing countries. It is not a question of this country or that country, it is not a question of with whom we have a difference; it is a collective position of India along with other developing countries. These are negotiations. What we have been impressing upon is that the need is to correct the distortions and to ensure that the mandate of the Doha Round is fully met, that is, to take on board the concerns and aspirations of the developing countries, including the livelihood concerns and subsistence of small farmers in our country and other developing countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Withdrawal of CRPF from Kashmir

*367. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to withdraw CRPF from Kashmir and hand over the security operations to local police;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has proposed to review the capability of local police before handing over the operations to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The CRPF is deployed in Jammu and Kashmir in aid of the State Government and its duties include both counter insurgency as well as assistance to the State Police for maintenance of law and order. The responsibility for maintenance of law and order rests with the State Government. The State Government is augmenting the State Police Force, and as and when the State Police Force is in a position to assume more responsibilities in maintaining law and order, some of the responsibilities

now handled by the CRPF would be taken over by the State Police, and some battalions of the CRPF could be withdrawn for deployment in other areas.

Purchase of defective ammunition and machineries

*368. SHRTMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has indicted the Ministry for purchasing 'Defective Quality ammunition and machineries', which has had adverse impact on operational preparedness of the army;

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

(c) whether it has also been found that top army commanders have misused their special financial powers; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken by Government to bring transparency in the procurement of defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Comptroller & Auditor General's Report No.CA 17 of 2008-2009, in Para 2.2 refers to the case of "Import of defective ammunition". The said para contains audit observations on the 155mm Krasnopol ammunition procured as per contracts signed in 1999 and 2002.

An Agreement to Contract No. KBP 615612072 on repair/rectification of the 155mm Krasnopol Projectiles procured in 1999 and another Agreement to Contract No. KBP 615612073 on modified 155mm Krasnopol Projectiles firing tests aimed at settlement of the quality claim pertaining to the projectiles supplied under the contract of 2002 have been signed with the supplier, M/s KBP, Tula, Russia in November 2008. Under these Agreements, repair/rectification of Projectiles by replacement of fuze, and the firing tests are to be carried out at the supplier's own expense.

CAG Report No.CA 17 of 2008-2009 also contains Para No.3.6 on the "Misuse of special financial powers by Army Commanders". The Government takes appropriate action on audit observations raised by the CAG.

The provisions incorporated in Defence Procurement Procedure-2008 for achieving transparency in acquisition include, interalia: (i) An 'Integrity Pact' between the Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs.100 crore; (ii) Enhanced transparency in the conduct of field trials; (iii) Pre-bid meetings with vendors; (iv) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government; (v) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the seller and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

Lifting ban on export of wheat

†*369. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether Government has lifted the ban on export of wheat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether lifting of ban has resulted in reduction in rising prices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the further steps Government proposes to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Empowered Group of Ministers decision dated 5/3/2009, the Government had vide Notification No. 115-(RE-2009)/2004-2009 dated 3rd July, 2009 lifted the ban on export of wheat, for export of 3 lakh MTs each through MMTC, PEC and STC upto 31/3/2010. However, keeping in view the progress of Monsoon and the need to conserve foodgrain stocks within the country, the decision was reconsidered by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the permission allowed for export of wheat through MMTC, STC and PEC was withdrawn vide Notification No. 117(RE-2009)/2004-2009 dated 13 July, 2009.

(c) and (d) The lifting of ban vide Notification No. 115-(RE-2009)/2004-2009 dated 3rd July, 2009, or the withdrawal of export permission vide Notification No. 117(RE-2009)/2004-2009 dated 13 July, 2009 did not have any impact on domestic market price situation.

(e) The Government is regularly monitoring the situation and would take appropriate need based measure.

Upgradation of Bilimora-Chikhli-Vansda-Waghai-Ahwa-Chinchli road in Gujarat

*370. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gujarat Government has submitted a proposal for upgradation of Bilimora-Chikhli-Vansda-Waghai-Ahwa-Chinchli Road;
- (b) if so, the current status of the proposal; and
- (c) by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not received any such proposal from Government of Gujarat for declaration as National Highways. Due to resource constraints, priority is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways and as such, there is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in Gujarat at present.

Joblessness due to global economic meltdown

*371. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of job-seekers in the whole country as per records of the employment exchanges in different States of the country;
- (b) among these job-seekers, how many are having professional qualifications;
- (c) the number of persons turned jobless during 2008-09 and 2009-10 on account of global economic meltdown and recession; and
- (d) the course of action Government proposes to pursue to rehabilitate those who lost jobs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The total number of jobseekers (all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed) registered with employment exchanges as on 30-04-2009 was 384.9 lakh. As per the latest data available, the number of job-seekers possessing professional qualifications comprising graduate and post-graduate degrees in engineering, medicine, veterinary science, agriculture, law, education and others was 17.6 lakh as on 31.12.2006.

No comprehensive survey/study has been conducted so far, to assess the number of persons rendered jobless during 2008-09 and 2009-10 on account of global economic meltdown and recession. However, two quarterly surveys in quick succession on the effect of global economic meltdown on employment in India have been conducted by Labour Bureau, attached to this Ministry. According to its first report on "Effect of Economic Slowdown on Employment in India," which is based on a sample survey of 2,581 units in 20 centres conducted for the period October-December 2008, there was a decrease in employment of about 5 lakh workers during the quarter. The second survey conducted by the Labour Bureau for the period January to March 2009 covering 3,192 units in 21 centres, however, indicated marginal improvement in some of the selected sectors with employment rising by about 2.8 lakh during that quarter.

A sample survey conducted by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for 402 exporting units revealed job losses (direct and indirect) to the tune of 1,09,513 persons during August 2008 to mid-January 2009. Another sample study conducted earlier (for the period August-October 2008) by the Department of Commerce for 121 export-related companies belonging to several sectors, primarily employment-oriented sectors such as textiles including garments, leather, engineering, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, food and food processing, minerals, marine products has revealed loss of jobs of 65,507.

The action taken by the Government to mitigate the adverse impact of economic slowdown includes three stimulus packages, various measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India, enlargement in implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled to about 50% of wages upto a period of one year (as against 6 months earlier) and medical benefits in case of loss of job. These measures seek to prevent large scale job losses and wage cuts and to mitigate the income loss on account of loss of employment. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes both for men and women notably National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which helped mitigate the impact of the meltdown.

Policy for maintenance of existing roads by NHAI

*372. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is preparing a policy for maintenance of existing roads during their four laning/six laning by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if so, the details of said policy; and

(c) the reasons for which NHAI is not maintaining the Jaipur-Delhi Road (NH-8) to the prescribed standard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The maintenance of existing roads is carried out by the contractors/Concessionaires as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition. In case of sections entrusted to NHAI where, 4/6 laning has not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads is carried out by the NHAI directly or through State Public Works Departments (PWDs). Maintenance of completed highways is generally carried out through Operation & Maintenance Contracts.

(c) NHAI has awarded concession rights to M/s. ETA Dubai-KMC, Joint Venture (JV) for 6 laning of existing 4 lane highway between Gurgaon and Jaipur on NH 8 (total length 225.60 km). As per concession agreement M/s. ETA Dubai-KMC, JV has taken up maintenance of said stretch from 03.04.2009 (appointed date). Concessionaire has already taken up maintenance activities and started addressing all issues/grievances received regarding maintenance. NHAI has directed the concessionaire to keep the stretch in traffic worthy condition as per the prescribed standards.

Effect of economic slowdown on Indian textiles industry

*373. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian textiles industry has been badly affected by global economic slowdown;

(b) if so, details of affected textile mills across country;

(c) whether slowdown has derailed its efforts to significantly increase its global market share through planned technology and capacity expansion;

(d) if so, whether a separate package, containing fiscal and non-fiscal steps, was vital to support industry's efforts to raise job levels and share in global market;

(e) if so, to what extent the present budget would help industry to grow;

(f) whether all demands of the sector have been considered; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) There is a marginal decline in exports and production of textile items as per details given below:

Year	Exports	Production	
	(in billion US\$)	Yarn (million kg.)	Cloth (in million square meter)
2006-07	19.14	5,184	53,389
2007-08	22.13	5,512	56,025
2008-09	18.52	5,328	54,966
(Provisional)	(April — February)	(April — March)	(April — March)
% age decline *	5.31	3.34	2.07

(*in 2008-09 over corresponding period of 2007-08)

(b) A list of forty textiles mills that have closed down on account of reported financial and labour problems during the period May 2007 to January 2009 is given in the Statement (*See* below). However, these problems cannot be attributed to the global economic slowdown, *per se*.

(c) and (d) The industry and the Government are working in close cooperation to counter the adverse impact of the economic slowdown. The Government announced two stimulus packages on 7 December, 2008 and 2nd January, 2009 to boost exports, arrest the impact of economic slow down and to improve liquidity. These measures/packages have helped to meet the situation to a great extent and have helped build a positive sentiment in the domestic textiles industry. The industry is in an upbeat mood to upgrade technology, modernise and expand capacities. The measures announced under the above two stimulus packages, *inter alia*, include:-

- i) Additional allocation of Rs.1400 crore under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) during 2008-09. Further, in the Union Budget 2009-10, an allocation of Rs.3140 crore has been announced under TUFS;
- ii) Across-the-board cut of 4% in the ad-valorem Cenvat rate till 31.3.2009.
- iii) Interest subvention of 2% upto 31.3.2009 subject to a minimum of 7% per annum on pre and post-shipment export credit (since extended to 31.03.10 in the Union Budget 2009-10).
- iv) Provision of additional funds for full refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Central Sales Tax.
- v) Enhanced back-up guarantee to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) to cover for exports to difficult markets/products.
- vi) Refund of Service Tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10% of FOB value of exports as well as refund of service tax on output service while availing benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme.
- vii) Credit targets of Public Sector Banks revised upward to reflect the needs of the economy.
- viii) State Level Bankers Committee would hold meetings for resolution of Credit issues of Medium, Small & Micro Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ix) Guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme doubled to Rs. 1 crore with cover of 50%.
- x) Duty Entitlement Pass Book rates restored to pre-November, 2008 levels and extended till 31.12.2009.
- xi) Duty Drawback on knitted fabrics enhanced retrospectively from 1.9.2008.

(e) to (g) Successive Union Budgets since 2004-05 onwards have accorded a special attention to the textiles sector. The announcements made in Budget 2009-10 are also growth oriented for the textiles sector. The Plan and Non-Plan allocation for the Ministry of Textiles have been substantially enhanced and the fiscal measures duly take into account almost all demands of the textiles sector. The Textiles specific budget announcements are as follows:-

Budget Outlays

- (1) Central Plan outlay enhanced to Rs.4500 crore from Rs.4092 crore which is the largest ever allocation for the Textiles Sector so far. Out of this, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

provided Rs.3140 crore, Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks provided Rs.397 crore, Rs.340 crore for Handlooms and Rs.220 crore for Handicrafts Schemes.

Five Mega Clusters.

- (2) One handloom mega cluster each in West.Bengal and Tamil Nadu and one powerloom mega cluster in Rajasthan, new mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur (UP).

Direct Taxes-Benefit to Exporters.

- (3) Adjustment Assistance Scheme to provide enhanced Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation cover at 95% - extended upto March, 2010.
- (4) Allocation for Market Development Assistance Scheme enhanced to Rs.124 crore.
- (5) Interest subvention of 2% on pre-shipment credit extended beyond current deadline of 30th September, 2009 to March, 31, 2010.
- (6) Sun-set clauses for deduction in respect of export profits under sections 10A and 10B of Income Tax Act extended by one more year
- (7) Fringe Benefit Tax abolished.

Service Tax

- (8) Two taxable services, namely, 'Transport of Goods through Road' and 'Commission paid to Foreign Agents' exempted from the levy of Service Tax, if the exporter is liable to pay Service Tax on reverse charge basis. However, present cap of 10% on commission agency charges is retained. Thus, there would be no need for the exporter to first pay the tax and later claim refund in respect of these services.
- (9) For other services received by exporters, Service Tax exemption for operation through the existing refund mechanism based on self-certification of the documents where such refund is below 0.25 per cent of FOB value, and certification of documents by a Chartered Accountant for value of refund exceeding the above limit.
- (10) Export Promotion Councils and the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) exempted from Service Tax on the membership and other fees collected by them till 31st March 2010.

Customs Duty

- (11) Customs Duty on cotton waste and wool waste reduced from 15% to 10% **Excise Duty.**
- (12) Excise Duty on man-made fibre and yarn increased from 4% to 8%.
- (13) Excise duty on PTA and DMT increased from 4% to 8%.
- (14) Excise Duty on man-made and natural fibres other than pure cotton beyond the fibre and yarn stage increased from 4% to 8% under the existing optional scheme — will ease the problem of credit accumulation.
- (15) An optional excise duty exemption provided to tops of man-made fibre manufactured from duty paid tow at par with tops manufactured from duty paid staple fibre.
- (16) Suitable adjustments have been made in the rates of duty applicable to Domestic Tariff Area clearances of textiles goods made by Export Oriented Units using indigenous raw materials/inputs for manufacture of such goods.

Statement

*Details of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills (Non-SSI) closed
as on 30-4-2009 & during last two years*

S.No.	Mill No.	Mill Name	State	Closure Date	Reason
1	2	3	4	5	6
May-07 to April-08					
1	0813009	Sai Lakshmi Ind. P Ltd	Karnataka	1-May-2007	Financial Problem
2	1713141	Sri Mappilai Vinayagar Spinning Mills	Tamil Nadu	1-Jun-2007	Financial Problem
3	1713174	Sri Manicka Vinayagar Spinning Mills	Tamil Nadu	1-Jun-2007	Financial Problem
4	1523219	JCT Ltd	Rajasthan	3-Jul-2007	Labour Problem
5	1713277	Suraksha Bharthi Mill P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Aug-2007	Financial Problem
6	0821101	Minarva Mills Ltd	Karnataka	1-Sep-2007	Financial Problem
7	1713073	Sree Narayana Textiles P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Sep-2007	Financial Problem
8	0813077	Dodballapur Spinning Mills P Ltd	Karnataka	20-Sep-2007	Financial Problem
9	1713180	Vetri Spinning Mills P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Oct-2007	Financial Problem
10	1713495	Aravind Spinners (P) Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Oct-07	Financial Problem
11	1613660	Vishnu Lakshmi Mills	Tamil Nadu	11-Oct-2007	Financial Problem
12	1713727	Sree Visalakshmi Mills P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Nov-2007	Financial Problem
13	1713461	Kathirvel Textiles P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	6-Nov-2007	Labour Problem
14	1713791	Minar Textile Industries Ltd	Tamil Nadu	22-Nov-2007	Financial Problem
15	0813010	Lalji Manekji Ind. Ltd.	Karnataka	1-Dec-2007	Financial Problem
16	1913001	Sham Ken Spinners Ltd (EOU)	Uttar Pradesh	12-Dec-2007	Financial Problem
17	0613007	Matta Yarn	Haryana	15-Dec-2007	Financial Problem
18	1613832	Tamarai Mills Ltd (The CBE Kamala Mills)	Tamil Nadu	1-Jan-2008	Financial Problem

1	2	3	4	5	6
19	1312001	Gopinath Weavers Co-Op Spg. Mills	Orissa	2-Jan-08	Financial Problem
20	1713280	Priyadarshini Fabs Ltd	Tamil Nadu	14-Jan-08	Financial Problem
21	1613470	K. Sivasubramaniam Spinners P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	13-Mar-2008	Labour Problem
22	1613588	Naina Mohamed Spinning Mills (P) Ltd	Tamil Nadu	20-Mar-2008	Financial Problem
23	0613006	K. K. Spinners Pvt Ltd	Haryana	31-Mar-2008	Financial Problem
24	0523083	Navsari Cotton & Silk Mills Ltd.	Gujarat	1-Apr-2008	Financial Problem
25	1713010	Namakkal Cotton Mills P Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Apr-2008	Financial Problem
26	0913003	Thanikudam Bhagawati Mills Ltd	Kerala	9-Apr-2008	Financial Problem
				Total	
May-08 to April-09					
1	1613194	Prashanth Textiles Ltd	Tamil Nadu	31-May-2008	Financial Problem
2	0613019	Aggarsain Spinner Ltd.	Haryana	1-Jul-2008	Financial Problem
3	1713171	Sri Rathtnagiri Spinning (P) Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	27-Aug-08	Financial Problem
4	1713044	Sri Vinayagaa Textiles(Unit of Balaji Modern)	Tamil Nadu	15-Sep-08	Labour Problem
5	0413336	Hathising Mfg. Co. Ltd	Gujarat	1-Oct-2008	Financial Problem
6	0613958	Mahalakshmi Spinners Ltd	Haryana	1-Oct-2008	Financial Problem
7	1713367	Archana Spinners Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Oct-2008	Financial Problem
8	0613027	Mittal Cot-Fab (P) Ltd	Haryana	18-Oct-2008	Financial Problem
9	1613907	The Suguna Mills Pvt. Ltd	Tamil Nadu	24-Oct-2008	Labour Problem
10	0613039	Sunheri Cotton Spinners (P) Ltd	Haryana	1-Nov-2008	Financial Problem
11	0411036	Ahmedabad New Textiles Mills	Gujarat	23-Dec-2008	Financial Problem
12	0613045	Sahil Industries (P) Ltd	Haryana	31-Dec-2008	Financial Problem
13	0423009	Neptune Spin Fab Limited	Gujarat	1-Jan-2009	Financial Problem
14	1613187	Sri Narendrara Raja Textiles Ltd	Tamil Nadu	1-Jan-2009	Financial Problem

Handloom weavers of UP working as construction workers and rickshaw pullers

*374. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether approximately four lakh weavers, particularly handloom weavers, have lost their jobs and are working as construction workers and rickshaw pullers from Mubarakpur (Azamgarh), Mau, Amroha, Moradabad and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that lakhs of weavers in these cities are on the verge of committing suicide;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of the suicides committed by weavers during the last three years till 1st July 2009, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of the steps taken during the last three years for welfare of weavers, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. No such statistics have been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding handloom weavers losing their jobs in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) All State Governments/Union Territory Governments have been addressed in the matter. No such cases have been officially reported by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding handloom weavers committing suicides in Cities at para (a) of the question i.e; Mubarakpur (Azamgarh), Mau, Amroha, Moradabad and Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh. The State Governments which reported suicides committed by handloom weavers during the last three years are only three, which are detailed in the Statement-I (See below) alongwith reasons thereof.

(d) The Government of India is committed for the welfare of handloom weavers and introduced following schemes in the XIth Five Year Plan which are comprehensive in nature and cover their interest and are for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers:-

i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme:

The scheme provides Basic Input, Marketing Input and Skill upgradation support. 35 clusters have been sanctioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Central Assistance of Rs.3.84 crore has been released during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 to benefit 17500 weavers of the Uttar Pradesh State. Under the Group Approach, 76 Projects have been sanctioned and Rs.2.46 crore has been released to the State of Uttar Pradesh for benefiting 1520 weavers.

A Mega Cluster has been sanctioned for Varanasi in the State of Uttar Pradesh under Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme with an outlay of Rs.70.00 crores for overall development of at least 25,000 handloom weavers of Varanasi.

ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme :

The Government of India is implementing Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme with the components (i) the Health Insurance Scheme for providing health care facilities to the handlooms weavers in the country and (ii) the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for providing life insurance cover to the handloom weavers in case of natural/accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident.

(a) Health Insurance Scheme

The Health Insurance Scheme is implemented through the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. The total premium under the scheme for 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been reduced to Rs.781.60/- (including Service Tax) from Rs.1000/- + Service Tax as existed during the 10th plan. During 2007-08, 17.74 lakh weavers were enrolled under the scheme and 18.78 lakh weavers were enrolled during the year 2008-09. As many as, 17.38 lakh number of claims worth Rs.76.30 crore were settled during the year 2007-08 and since 2005-06 claims worth Rs.140.66 crore have been settled under the Health Insurance Scheme.

In the year 2008-09, 3.71 lakh weavers have been enrolled under the scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Claims worth Rs.36.48 crore have been settled in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

The Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India at an annual Premium of Rs.330/- per annum. The funding pattern under the scheme is as under:-

i)	Weavers share	Rs. 80/- per weaver per annum
ii)	Government of India's share	Rs.150/-per weaver per annum
iii)	LIC's share	Rs.100/- per weaver per annum
Total		Rs.330/- per weaver per annum

The annual premium during the 11th plan has been kept at the level of the X Plan, but the benefits under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana have been substantially increased as compared to those that existed during the 10 plan, as per the details given below:-

S. No.		Benefits during the 10th plan	Benefits from 1.10.07
(i)	Natural Death	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs.60,000/-
(i)	Accidental Death	Rs. 80,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-
(iii)	Total Disability	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-
(iv)	Partial Disability	Rs 25,000/-	Rs.75,000/-

The scholarship benefits available under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana during the X plan are being continued in the XI plan also. A scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying from IX to XII standard for four years or till they complete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered. During the year 2007-08, 4.66 lakh weavers were enrolled under the scheme whereas during the year 2008-09, 5.76 lakh weavers were enrolled under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. Claims worth Rs.16.89 crore (including scholarships) were settled during the year 2007-08 whereas claims worth Rs.26.34 crore (including scholarships) were settled during the year 2008-09.

In the State of Uttar Pradesh, 53075 handloom weavers have been enrolled during the last three years.

iii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

The scheme has two components i.e. Marketing Promotion Programme and Handloom Export Scheme.

- (i) To assist & increase the sale of handloom goods in the Domestic market for organizing Handloom Expos, District Level Events and Crafts Melas;
- (ii) To provide permanent marketing infrastructural support to handloom agencies in major cities and towns in the form of Urban Haats and Handloom Complexes;
- (iii) To give publicity and promote awareness about the handloom sector; and
- (iv) To establish a brand Identity for handlooms at the national and international level through Handloom Mark.

During the year 2007-08, Central assistance for marketing activities worth 23.44 crore was given to the States and during the year 2008-09 GOI assistance worth Rs.44.99 crore was given to all the States for holding 399 marketing events. 92 Marketing Events have been organized in the last three years benefiting 84500 handloom weavers in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Handloom Export Promotion Component provides assistance to the handloom cooperative societies & corporations in developing exportable products and to assist handloom agencies in publicity and international marketing.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

The scheme was introduced during 1992-93 with the objective of providing all types of yarn to the handloom weavers' organizations at the price in which it is available at the place of manufacturing. There is also a provision for supply of yarn to the individual weavers through the yarn depots approved by the NHDC. The expenditure for operating the yarn depot is to be reimbursed by the NHDC @ 2.5% of the value of the yarn. The assistance provided under the scheme is as under :-

- i) Freight reimbursement for transportation of yarn;
- ii) Expenses of operating the yarn depots @ 2.5%, based on actual;
- iii) Service Charges to NHDC for its role as nodal agency for the implementation of the MGPS. The scheme is being continued during the XI Plan.

During the year 2007-08, 682.13 lakh Kgs of yarn valued at Rs.567.48 crore was supplied under the Mill Gate Price Scheme. During the year 2008-09, this increased to 855.11 lakh Kgs. worth Rs.793.77 crore distributed from 536 yarn depots throughout the country.

138.48 lakh Kgs. yarn valued at Rs.116.35 crore has been supplied in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Mill Gate Price Scheme during the last three years through 43 yarn depots.

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme envisages giving thrust towards design development with National Centre for Textiles Design, skill up gradation, strengthening of Weavers Service Centres/ Indian institute of Handloom Technology and setting up of new WSCs/IIHTs in Central/State Sector, training, R&D, Conducting Third Census and issue of Identity Cards to Handloom Weavers, J&K Wool Project etc.

Financial assistance released, year-wise and State-wise, is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Suicide committed by the handloom weavers with reasons during last three years in the Handloom Sector

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of weavers committed suicide				Reason
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto13.7.09)	
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	As per reports received from the State Government.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	50	33	48	08	Poverty on account of distress caused by the occupational related problems
3.	Kerala	1	-	4	-	Due to ill health and/ financial problems
4.	Orissa	3	-	1	1	Consumed poison due to family disputes.
TOTAL		54	33	53	9	

Source: State Government Departments

Statement-II

Details of releases made during 2007-2008, 2008-09 & 2009-10 (upto 26.06.2009)

to various States under different Handloom Plan and Non-Plan Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Plan			Non-Plan			Implementation of the HL (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985			10% Special Rebate		
		Integrated Handloom Development Scheme			Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme								
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.78	6.22	0.22	0.95	1.87		0.72	0.18		5.87	6.27	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	3.21		0.03	0.02					0.05	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	Assam	7.85	3.12	0.06	1.43	2.10	0.15				0.00	6.40	
4	Bihar	0.88	1.04		0.02	0.02					0.00	0.00	
5	Chhattisgarh	0.92	0.61		0.42	0.17					0.20	0.00	
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.49	0.37	0.35				0.00	0.00	
7	Goa	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	
8	Gujarat	1.14	0.75		0.27	0.26			0.56		0.54	0.52	
9	Haryana	0.05	0.00		0.13	0.37		0.28			5.15	0.00	
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.77	0.76		0.17	0.26					0.00	2.20	
11	J&K	0.00	1.43		0.06	0.00					0.00	0.00	
12	Jharkhand	1.69	2.83		0.00	0.04					0.00	0.00	
13	Karnataka	8.76	5.74	0.74	0.70	1.44	0.05				2.48	1.66	
14	Kerala	6.24	6.43	2.30	0.18	0.23					8.30	3.50	
15	Madhya Pradesh	1.46	2.13		0.86	0.12			0.12		0.00	0.00	
16	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00		1.09	1.89					0.23	0.16	
17	Manipur	6.02	2.86		0.10	0.35					0.89	0.00	
18	Meghalaya	0.83	0.55		0.17	0.06					0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
19	Mizoram	0.00	0.00		0.51	0.34					0.00	0.00	
20	Nagaland	1.94	2.43		0.87	2.06	0.34				1.89	2.31	
21	Orissa	3.98	5.70	0.03	1.15	1.07					4.80	7.64	
22	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	
23	Punjab	0.00	0.00		0.05	0.00					0.00	0.04	
24	Rajasthan	0.26	0.54		0.64	0.44			0.29		0.00	7.34	
25	Sikkim	0.00	0.37		0.04	0.03					0.00	0.00	
26	Tamil Nadu	29.77	41.75	7.64	0.62	1.54		0.39	0.24		6.49	5.29	
27	Tripura	1.36	1.28		0.04	0.09					0.20	0.00	
28	Uttar Pradesh	2.36	4.28		1.35	2.36					0.00	7.03	
29	Uttarakhand	0.90	1.57		0.15	0.46					0.00	0.00	
30	West Bengal	4.05	5.01	2.79	0.51	1.06		0.11	0.11		1.91	2.65	
TOTAL		99.51	100.61	13.94	13.00	19.02	0.89	1.50	1.50		39.00	53.01	
Other Organisations		10.99	8.37		10.44	25.97		0	0		1.00	0.32	
GRAND TOTAL		110.50	108.98		23.44	44.99		1.50	1.50		40.00	53.33	

Land in Assam occupied by neighbouring States

*375. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) hectare-wise details of land in Assam being occupied by its neighbouring States, that is Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, and steps taken by the Central Government as well as the State Government to evacuate the land and to improve the inter-State relationship;

(b) the present status of the people, who were bound to leave Arunachal Pradesh last year after the deadline given by the student bodies; and

(c) the action taken by the Government of Assam and central agencies towards the foreign infiltrators, who have been identified and caught by the other State police and thrown into Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are some border disputes between the States of Assam-Nagaland, Assam-Arunachal Pradesh and Assam-Meghalaya. The Government of Assam has filed Original Suit No. 2/88 and 1/89 in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for demarcation of boundaries between the States of Assam-Nagaland & Assam-Arunachal Pradesh respectively. In these Original Suits, the Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 25.9.2006 has appointed a Local Commission for identification of boundaries of States of Assam-Nagaland and Assam-Arunachal Pradesh. Meetings of the Local Commission have been held at regular intervals. Last meeting of the Local Commission was held on 4.7.2009. In so far as boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya is concerned, the Central Government has advised both the State Governments to settle the dispute amicably. Meetings have been held at the level of Chief Secretaries and at the level of Chief Ministers of both the States.

(b) and (c) As per report received from Government of Assam, a total of 3680 persons were expelled from Arunachal Pradesh in the year 2007. Out of these, one person was found to be a Bangladeshi national and was deported. In case of another twenty-two (22) persons, cases have been registered under Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964. Remaining persons were found to be Indian Nationals and sent to their respective districts of their States. During the same period a total of 132 persons were expelled from Nagaland and after investigations such persons were found as Indian Nationals. Thirty-two (32) Foreigners Tribunals have been set up in the State of Assam for detection of foreigners/illegal migrants in the State. The powers of identification and deportation of illegally staying foreign nationals including Bangladeshi nationals have been delegated to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act. In order to check illegal infiltration from Bangladesh, steps have been taken to strengthen the Border Security Force and equipping them with modern equipments, reduction of gaps between the border posts and intensified patrolling. The border fence along the Bangladesh border is being strengthened and a scheme for flood lighting has been approved. Besides, the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh is regularly taken up at various fora and steps have been taken for coordinated patrolling, identification of vulnerable gaps, strengthening of riverine patrolling. Bangladesh has also been urged to take effective steps to check the illegal movement of their nationals into India, especially through vulnerable and riverine areas.

E-Auctioning of Indian Tea

*376. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) has successfully launched the process of e-auctioning of Indian Tea;

(b) if so, how it is connected with the Tea Auction Centre at different places in the country; and

(c) how it helps keep tea prices in the country markets under check to help the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Live e-auction started for 100% dust teas at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre on 20/05/2009.

(b) Guwahati e-auction Center is connected through a common server lodged at Mumbai with all major tea auction centers.

(c) E-auction has been introduced to ensure a fair price discovery mechanism based on the quality of tea offered for sale and prevailing domestic and international market conditions including demand and supply.

Budgetary provision for Defence Procurement

*377. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary provision for defence procurement during the last five years;

(b) the actual procurement during the above period (value in rupees); and

(c) the indigenous and imported component of the above procurement (value in rupees)?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The budgetary provision for Defence procurement during the last 5 years and actual procurement during these years are as follows:

Year	BE	RE	(Rs. in crores)
			Actuals
2004-2005	26840.05	27255.94	27208.57
2005-2006	26933.41	26185.28	25490.53
2006-2007	29990.83	26774.39	26900.44
2007-2008	32826.80	28110.01	27903.42
2008-2009	37482.77	30614.64	29994.03*
2009-2010 (Interim)	40367.72		

* Actuals upto March (C) 2009. Accounts not closed.

The indigenous and imported component of the above Defence procurement are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Imported	Indigenous	Total
2004-2005	15551.71	11656.86	27208.57
2005-2006	7511.39	17979.14	25490.53
2006-2007	5541.28	21359.16	26900.44
2007-2008	10161.85	17741.57	27903.42
2008-2009	10203.12	19790.91	29994.03

Increasing number of beggars in Delhi

*378. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- whether Government is aware of ever increasing number of beggars in Delhi who are virtually occupying every part of and traffic red lights in Delhi;
- if so, the estimated number of beggars in Delhi, at present;
- the increase in their number registered during the last three years; and
- the steps taken by Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that as per the survey conducted in 2006, the estimated number of people engaged in begging was 58570. It is difficult to assess the number and/or increase in the number of beggars at any point of time as the population of those engaged in begging is floating and they keep migrating in and out of Delhi.

(d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government of NCT of Delhi to check begging which inter-alia include the following:

- In pursuance of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi, regular raids are conducted to apprehend persons engaged in begging.
- The beggars who are apprehended under the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 are produced before the Special Courts for adjudication.
- Approval has been given for two mobile courts with two special Metropolitan Magistrates nominated by the High Court for summary trial of persons engaged in begging.
- A decision has been taken to set up an Open Shelter Home for care/rehabilitation of admonished cases.
- The Government of NCT of Delhi runs 11 certified custodial/residential institutions to keep persons away from beggary.
- A number of vocational training programmes are run for rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging.

- Delhi Police provides assistance to the Anti-Beggary Squads of the Social Welfare Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi for which nodal officers have been appointed in each District of Delhi Police.
- Delhi Police also conducts drive to arrest persons engaged in begging and takes action against alms givers at regular intervals.
- Several persons engaged in begging have been removed by the local traffic police from the traffic-light intersections, temples, places of tourist interest and other places.
- Government has requested Management Committees of important religious institutions to motivate worshipers not to give money/alms to persons engaged in begging.
- Government has issued advertisements from time-to-time to generate change in behaviour among the public on beggary.

Debt Bondage Labour

*379. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the practice of "debt bondage" prevailing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise and category-wise details, including number of such workers in various States as on date;

(c) whether International Labour Organization (ILO) Report released during May, 2009 narrates forced labour prevailing in the country;

(d) if so, the details of action taken to end the practice of debt bondage labour and forced labour; and

(e) the steps being taken to rehabilitate the victims of forced labour and debt bondage labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) There have been instances of debt bondage in some parts of the country. However, these numbers have been coming down during the past few years. Whereas in the year 1999-2000, 8195 bonded labourers were detected, in 2008-09 the number came down to 543.

The report of the International Labour Organisation released in May, 2009 under the heading 'The Cost of Coercion' mentions about existence of bonded labourers in India and other countries.

The Constitution of India under Article 23(1) prohibits "begar" and other similar forms of forced labour and it provides that any contravention of the said prohibition shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. The bonded labour system was abolished by law throughout the country w.e.f. 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility of implementing the Act lies with the State Governments.

In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the

Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs. 20,000/- per bonded labour which is equally shared by the Central and State Governments. A Statement showing the number of bonded labourers identified, released, rehabilitated and Central assistance released to the States up to 31.03.2009 is enclosed (See below).

Under the directions of the Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) to review and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. This Group has held 16 meetings so far in different regions.

Statement

Number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme up to 31.3.2009

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers		
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated	Central assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	37988	31534	850.00
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526	2992	568.48
Bihar	14,351	13533	454.38
Chhattisgarh	124	124	12.40
Gujarat	64	64	1.01
Haryana	591	89	4.93
Jharkhand	196	196	19.60
Karnataka	63,437	57185	1578.18
Kerala	823	710	15.56
Madhya Pradesh	13,317	12,392	164.49
Maharashtra	1,404	1,325	15.52
Orissa	50,029	46901	903.34
Punjab	69	69	6.90
Rajasthan	7488	6331	72.42
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573	1661.94
Uttar Pradesh	28,846	28,846	633.30
Uttarakhand	5	5	0.50
West Bengal	267	267	20.41
TOTAL :	2,88,098*	2,68,136	6983.36

NOTE :

- * 19962 Bonded Labourers are not available for rehabilitation either on account of their death or they have left the place without leaving their addresses.
- * Rehabilitation grants equal to Rs. 6983.36 lakhs has also been provided by the State Governments as State's share for rehabilitation of bonded labour.
- * In the case of Arunachal Pradesh 100% Central assistance amounting to Rs. 568.48 lakhs has been provided by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. In the case of North Eastern regions and Sikkim, 100% Central grants (without matching States share) are provided for rehabilitation of bonded labour.

Pitiable conditions of migrant labourers in urban areas

*380. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large sections of urban poor are migrant labourers, casual workers, self employed or child labourers;

(b) whether Government is also aware that living conditions of these unorganized sector workers are very poor due to low and irregular income, lack of social security, little regulation in work and absence of legal protection;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to provide them adequate housing, education to children and health care to women workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of labour and Employment has initiated several measures to improve the working & living conditions of these workers. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 provides for protection of the interests of Inter-State migrant workers. The Act also provides for payment of minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and equal wages for performing similar nature of work along with the local labourers. The Act stipulates journey allowance, including payment of wages during period of journey, displacement allowance, suitable residential accommodation, medical facilities free of charge, protective clothing. Various labour laws such as the Minimum Wages Act 1948; The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are applicable to unorganised workers, including casual labourers, self employed or child labourers. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana provides for assistance to the poor families living below the poverty line in rural areas for taking up self employment.

Apart from above, Janshree Bima Yojana which covers persons below the poverty line or marginally above the poverty line provides for life and death or disability cover. To provide health insurance cover the Government launched the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' (RSBY) for BPL families. RSBY was formulated keeping in view the requirements of migrant workers. This scheme has become operational from 1st April 2008. The worker and his family (a unit of five) are covered under the scheme. It provides for smart card based health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis. The scheme covers hospitalization expenses in case of maternity also. The beneficiary can avail the benefit in any empanelled hospital across the country. There is also provision of split card, enabling the beneficiary to split benefits into two. He can carry one card alongwith him to the place of work and leave the other with his family so that both can avail the benefit. However, the sum insured in both cards would be Rs. 30,000 only. The State Government have also been advised to cover construction workers, who constitute a large percentage of urban poor, under RSBY.

The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded to cover all BPL citizens above the age of 65 years with effect from 19.11.2007.

The Government has enacted The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Lock-in-period on investment in Sectors with FDI Cap

2726. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has since approved the minimum lock-in-period on investments in sectors with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap;
- (b) if so, the details of the sectors selected;
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;
- (d) the measures adopted to check its impact on Indian financial market; and
- (e) the time by when these rules are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per extant FDI policy, lock-in period FDI has been prescribed in the following sectors:

Sl. No.	Sector	FDI Cap and Approval required for FDI	Lock-in period	Details of FDI to be locked-in
1	Defence Industry sector (licensing production of arms and ammunitions)	26% (approval of FIPB/ Government)	Three years	Lock-in period would be applicable for transfer of equity from one foreign investor to another foreign investor (including NRIs & OCBs with 60% or more NRI stake) and such transfer would be subject to prior approval of the FIPB and the Government.
2	Construction Development projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, townships	100% (Automatic Route)	Three years	Original investment to be locked-in for three years (except for SEZs and establishment and operation of hotels and hospitals). However the investor may be permitted to exit earlier with prior approval of the Government through the FIPB.

(c) and (d) The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-Ministerial consultation process with a view to catalysing investment in the country and liberalizing the investment regime. Lock-in period assists in ensuring that the FDI brought into the country remains available for the projects in these sectors during the lock-in period and is used for the purpose for which it is brought, thereby preventing speculative investments in these sectors.

(e) Lock-in period in these two sectors has already been specified vide Press Note 2 of 2002 and Press Note 2 of 2005 respectively.

India's position in world's gold market

2727. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's position as the world's largest gold market could be under threat as demand slumped by 83 per cent to just 17.7 tonnes during January-March 2009 period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to regain the top position in the world in future; and

(d) the steps being taken to keep the gold rates affordable to women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There is no firm statistics on demand and availability of gold in the country. However, rough estimates place gold demand in the country at 700-800 tonnes per annum.

(c) Most of the demand for gold in India is met through imports. In the Trade Facilitation Measures announced on 26th February 2009 by the Government, STCL Limited, Diamond India Limited, MSTC Limited, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Star Trading Houses (in gem and jewellery sector) have been added to the list of nominated agencies under Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009, so as to facilitate availability of bullion to jewellery exporters.

(d) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US Dollar vis-a-vis other international currencies, etc. affect the gold price. The same holds good in India too. The movement in domestic price of gold in India in the recent period is broadly in tandem with similar movement in international markets.

Demand of Tuna fish in USA and the European markets

2728. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of demand for Tuna fish in USA and the European markets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bay of Bengal has the highest quantity of Tuna fish in the world;

(c) if so, in view of lack of basic facilities in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh the fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are not really reaping the benefits; and

(d) if so, what his Ministry is doing for providing facilities for export of Tuna fish to other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The export trend of tuna from India to USA & EU during the last five years shows that there is a lot of demand for Tuna fish in USA and EU.

(b) Indian ocean including Bay of Bengal is one of the most potential zones for tuna, especially the yellow fin tuna;

(c) and (d) Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have taken following steps for providing facilities for export of Tuna fish to other countries of the world:-

(i) MPEDA has engaged a master fisherman from Australia and converted two fishing vessels to tuna long liners for provided training to tuna fishermen.

(ii) MPEDA has assisted 26 vessel owners of Andhra Pradesh in converting their vessels into tuna long liners by giving them subsidy to the tune of Rs.197 lakh.

(iii) MPEDA has launched a pilot project to improve the quality of the tuna caught by the vessels by providing insulated fish boxes for carrying ice to improve the quality of the tuna landed after fishing.

(iv) MPEDA has an Action Plan for the development of Tuna fishery in Andamans including empowering fishermen for tuna fishing, developing landing facilities, developing packing facilities, develop handling facility and to have air freight facilities for tuna.

(v) MPEDA has assisted 100 fishermen by providing Insulated fish boxes for holding tuna and also provided two sets of vertical long-lines for tuna fishing.

(vi) MPEDA has taken the initiative to have a tuna packing facility at National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training with the assistance of National Fisheries Development Board at Visakhapatnam.

Recovery of exports

2729. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export scene is likely to remain grim this year too;

(b) if so, what are the reasons coming in the way of recovery of exports; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics for the first three months of the current financial year, 2009-10 indicate significant decline in India's merchandise exports. While there are various contributory factors, global slowdown and recession, particularly in the developed countries, leading to erosion in demand, is a significant factor for the decline. The Government and RBI announced a number of measures in the Stimulus Packages and in

the Budget, 2009-10 to arrest the decline in exports. Measures announced so far, particularly for export sector, are given in the statement (see below). Government closely monitors the different export sectors and need based measures are taken keeping in view the financial implications.

Statement

Steps taken by Government/RBI (including the announcements made in the budget, 2009-10) to address the concerns of exporters arising out of present global economic slow down.

(A) Measures taken by the Government:

- (1) Interest subvention of 2% provided till 30.09.2009, has been extended upto 31.3.2010, to the following labour intensive sectors for exports:-
Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather, Gems & Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs;
- (2) Additional funds of Rs 350 crore provided (in December 2008) for Handicraft items etc. in Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY);
- (3) Market Linked Focus Product Scheme extended for bicycle parts, Motor Cars and Motor Cycles, Apparels and Clothing accessories, Auto Components etc. for exports from 1.4.09 to 30.09.09;
- (4) Rs 1100 crore provided to ensure full refund of pending claims of CST / Terminal Excise duty / Duty drawback on deemed exports;
- (5) Exporter friendly and the popular Duty Neutralisation Scheme i.e., Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme extended upto 31st December, 2009;
- (6) DEPB rates for all items where they were reduced in November, 2008, restored to higher rates from retrospective effect;
- (7) Duty Drawback rates on certain items restored to higher rates effective from 1st September, 2008;
- (8) DEPB and Freely Transferable Incentive Schemes allowed without the initial requirement of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC);
- (9) Export Obligation Period under Advance authorization Scheme enhanced from 24 months to 36 months without payment of composition fee;
- (10) Back-up guarantee made available to ECGC to the extent of Rs 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products. ECGC is now been able to widen its coverage;
- (11) Additional funds of Rs 1400 crore provided to the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF);
- (12) MDA Scheme- allocation increased to Rs.124 crores (increased by 148%);
- (13) Additional items allowed within the existing duty free imports entitlement for the following employment oriented sectors:

- (i) 5 additional items for sports goods sector;
 - (ii) Additional items for leather garments and footwear and textile items.
- (14) Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) abolished;
- (15) Section 10A and 10B related to Sunset clauses for STPI and EOUs schemes respectively extended for the financial year 2010-2011. An maly removed in Section 10AA. related to taxation benefit or 'unit vis-a-vis assessee';
- (16) Export duty on iron ore fines eliminated, and for lumps, reduced to 5%;
- (17) Some pending issues relating to Service Tax refund on exports — resolved. Some of these are:
- (i) Exemption from Service tax on services linked to exports:
 - (a) On service related to transport of export goods by road from any CFS or ICD to the port or Airport and on service related to transport of export goods by road directly from their place of removal, to an ICD, a CFS, a port or airport;
 - (b) Services provided by Foreign Agent Commission service.
 - (ii) Procedure for refund of service tax simplified by allowing refund on self certification in case refund claim does not exceed 0.25% of FOB value of exports; and certification by Chartered Accountant in case of others;
 - (iii) Time period for filing refund claim increased to 1 year from the date of export (as against half-yearly).
- (18) For Fast Track Resolution of a number of procedural issues thereby reducing delays for the exporters, a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary including Secretaries of Department of Revenue and Commerce; A number of issues sorted out accordingly;
- (19) Excise duty reduced across the board by 4 per cent, for all products except petroleum products and those products where current rate was less than 4%., Excise Duty was further reduced by another 2% in certain products like Leather etc.;
- (20) The guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises on loans doubled to Rs 1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50%. The guarantee cover extended by Credit Guarantee Fund Trust increased to 85% for credit facility upto Rs. 5 lakh. The lock-in period for such collateral-free loans reduced.
- (21) An Adjustment Assistance Scheme initiated in December '08 to provide enhanced ECGC cover at 95% to the badly hit sectors, continued till March, 2010;
- (22) To protect the domestic manufacturing industry from dumped/cheap imports, in particular, from China, import restrictions have been imposed on HR coil, Carbon Black, Polyester Filament Varn (PFY) and Radial Tyres (Bus & Trucks);

- (23) Mega Handloom clusters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and Powerloom cluster in Rajasthan and New Mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur approved;
- (24) Basic customs duty of 5% on Rough / Unworked corals abolished;
- (25) Import duty on naphtha for power sector eliminated;
- (26) CVD on TMT bars and structurals and on cement removed;
- (27) Exemption from basic customs duty on Zinc and Ferro Alloys withdrawn;
- (28) Regular monitoring mechanism:-
 - (a) The situation is being regularly monitored at the highest level of Government, so that immediate further corrective measures, can be taken as may be required. In this regard, the Government has constituted the following two High Level Committees which have been deliberating the issue on regular basis:
 - (i) An Apex Group chaired by Prime Minister with Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission), RBI Governor;
 - (ii) Committee of officers chaired by Cabinet Secretary, including Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary, Secretary (DIPP), Secretary (Planning Commission)- to meet regularly to look into the suggestions made by Trade and Industry and the respective Administrative Ministries in respect of the current global economic and financial crisis and to recommend action to the Apex Group.
 - (b) Department of MSME and Department of Financial Services to jointly monitor on the progress of the meetings of Monthly meeting of State level Bankers' Committee for resolution of credit issues of MSME.

(B) Measures taken by RBI:

- (a) Increase in Liquidity to the banks for improving credit flow, by:
 - (i) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate (from Oct '08, CRR reduced from 9% to 5%, SLR reduced from 25% to 24%, Repo Rate reduced from 7.5 % to 4.75%, and Reverse Repo Rate reduced from 6% to 3.25%).
 - (ii) Refinance facility to the EXIM Bank for an amount of Rs. 5000 crores for providing pre-shipment and post-shipment credit in Rs. or dollars;
 - (iii) A special re-finance facility has been put in place for banks for the purpose of extending finance to exports, micro and small enterprises, mutual funds and NBFCs. Provisioning requirements have been lowered. Export Credit Refinance facility for commercial banks increased to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit.

- (b) Increase in FOREX Liquidity:
 - (i) RBIs assurance for continued selling of foreign exchange (US \$) through banks, to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market;
 - (ii) To enable banks to profitably lend to exporters in Foreign Exchange, Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points, subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, i.e., service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out of pocket expenses incurred.
- (c) Easing of Credit Terms:
 - (i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit enhanced by 90 days each;
 - (ii) Time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters increased to 12 months, at par with the Status holders. This facility which was available upto 03.06.09, has been extended for one more year.
 - (iii) PSU Banks, consequent to measures announced by RBI, reduced the margin money on Guarantees for export units.

India on priority watch list of US

2730. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that US has placed India, on the Priority Watch List of Trading partners that do not provide an adequate level of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) protection or enforcement;
- (b) if so, has US been apprised of the ground realities of improvements in our IPR infrastructure including modernisation of IP Offices, introduction of e-filing system, etc.; and
- (c) whether there are any norms prescribed or practiced so far globally for not being kept on the Priority Watch List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) India has been placed on the Priority Watch List of trading partners, along with 11 other countries, namely, China, Russia, Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Israel, Pakistan, Thailand and Venezuela, in the '2009 Special 301 Report' prepared by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

- (b) The Government of India provided a detailed update on the improvements in the IPR infrastructure in India to the United States (US) authorities well before the publication of the 2009 report.

(c) The 'Special 301' Report is a unilateral policy tool of the US Government which reviews the state of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement in its trading partners under Section 182 of the US Trade Act of 1974. There are no global norms prescribed or practiced in this process.

Export of Non-basmati rice from AP

2731. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that in the name of Basmati rice, some rice millers, Export Oriented Units (EOUs), etc., particularly from Andhra Pradesh, are exporting non-Basmati rice to other countries;

(b) whether any order issued by his Ministry for export of rice to other countries during the period of ban to the millers, etc., from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any request from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry requesting not to issue such orders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action that has been contemplated or proposed to contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government, on the request of Non-Basmati Rice EOU's Association of India, Hyderabad, vide a notification No. 59(RE-2008)/2004-09 dated 18th November, 2008 allowed exports of 25,000 tonnes of non-Basmati rice through two 100 % EOUs.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from CM, Andhra Pradesh for review and suspension of export permits given to the 100% EOUs for exporting non-Basmati rice and also not to issue any more permits until the prices of super fine variety to rice stabilises.

(f) The request from CM, Andhra Pradesh is under examination in DGFT.

Impact of slowdown and recession on Indian Exports

2732. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the slowdown in economic growth coupled with recession has impacted India's exports during the last eight months;

(b) whether decline in exports has led to closure of business and job losses and has hit the manufacturing sector, as well as industrial production;

(c) whether Government is thinking of extending interest rate/subsidy scheme ending on 30.9.2009;

(d) whether the Federation of Indian Export organisations has asked for extension of the scheme till 31.03.2012; and

(e) what other suggestions have been given by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and Engineering Export Promotion Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics indicate significant decline in India's merchandise exports during the last few months, primarily on account of global economic slowdown and recession in the developed countries. Job losses have been reported in a few sectors.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) had requested for extension of the Interest Rate subvention scheme beyond 30.9.09. Government has extended the scheme till 31.3.2010.

(e) FIEO and Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) had suggested for certain measures, including inter-alia, extension of DEPB Scheme; zero duty EPCG scheme; continuation, deepening and expansion of incentive schemes; scheme to rebate state level taxes/levies; domestic procurement facility against duty credit scrip; cheaper export credit finance; liberal MDA provisions; extension of interest rate subvention scheme for other sectors like engineering; scheme for promotion of branded products; liberal ECGC cover; introduction of Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) Engineering sector etc.

Export sectors vulnerable to carbon tax

2733. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state which of our export sectors are vulnerable to a carbon tax constraints on exports that may be agreed to in the global climate change talks currently under way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): As the global climate change talks that are currently underway in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) do not include carbon tax on exports in their ambit, vulnerability of any of Indian export sectors to such a carbon tax constraint does not arise.

Effect of sub-standard goods from China

2734. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of regulations the sub-standard goods from China are flooding into the Indian markets;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made to find out the amount of loss that the small Indian manufacturers are facing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what efforts Government is making to curb sub-standard goods from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) All imported goods in India are subject to domestic laws, Rules, Orders, Regulations, technical specifications, environment and safety norms

as applicable to domestically produced goods. The Government acts in case goods imported from any source are found to violate these regulations and threaten human, animal or plant life or health. Recently, based on recommendation from Food Safety and Standards Authority, the Government has prohibited import of milk and milk products including chocolates and chocolate products and candies/confectionary/food preparations with milk or milk solids as an ingredient, from China. The prohibition is for a period of six months from 24.6.2009, Further, import of toys has been made subject to meeting the specified standards and import of mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identify (IMEI) number or with all zeroes IMEI has also been prohibited.

Allowing loans from foreign countries to SEZs

†2735. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to fulfil the economic needs of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of the country, Government has recently announced new facilities in the arrangement of getting trade loan from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the facilities thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the era of international recession, getting loan at international level is comparatively difficult?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) According to recent revised guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, SE2 developers can also avail of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) under the Approval route for providing infrastructure facilities as defined in the ECB policy, within the SEZ.

Trade tensions between India and China

2736. SHRI JESUDASU SELAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have decided to discuss ways to defuse rising trade tensions between them in January, 2009 after a series of recent Government actions to impose restrictions on Chinese imports risking upsetting relations with the country's largest trading partner;

(b) if so, what were outcome of the discussions held between the two countries and whether any concrete steps in this regard has been taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent both India and China have discussed to improve Indian trade, its growth and steps to be taken by both countries to normalize trade relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) India has several bilateral dialogue mechanism with China, such as Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology (JEG) at Ministerial Level and Joint Working Group on Trade at Joint Secretary Level. China has become the largest trading partner of India. Both India and China have regular dialogue to discuss trade related issues. The Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Gao Hucheng visited India in October 2008 and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

another Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Zhong Shan visited India in March 2009. The first meeting of India-China Trade Remedies Cooperation Mechanism was held on 19th June, 2009 in Beijing. The purpose of the meeting was to have an exchange of views and to better understand each other's practices including investigation procedures. Government of India is also in touch with the Chinese Government through our Embassy in Beijing to discuss trade related issues.

Clearance of FDI proposals

2737. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has cleared FDIs worth Rs. 565 crores but has deferred 13 plans;
- (b) if so, whether the deferred proposals include United Breweries plans to raise Rs. 708 crores by issuing fully convertible equity warrants; and
- (c) if so, what are the details of proposals that have been cleared and by what time 13 plans which have been deferred will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) On the recommendations of FIPB Meeting held on May 22, 2009, Government approved 23 proposals for a foreign investment of Rs. 563.90 crores. 13 proposals were deferred in the said meeting.

(b) The proposal from M/s United Breweries (Holdings) Limited, Bangalore was one of the 13 deferred proposals. Initially, the proposal was for conversion of 19,71,218 equity warrants (out of 63,87,117 equity warrants) into equity shares of Rs.10/- at a premium of Rs. 1110/-per equity share. The remaining 44,15,899 equity warrants were to be converted into equity shares within a period of 18 months from December 13, 2007. Subsequently, the applicant stated that since the investor did not bring the amount on or before June 12, 2009, the 10% upfront payment stood forfeited and the proposal is now confined only to conversion of 19,71,218 equity warrants into equity shares of Rs.10/- each at a premium of Rs. 1110/- amounting to Rs. 218.96 crore.

(c) Out of the 13 proposals deferred, the Board took a decision in respect of 9 proposals in the subsequent meeting. The remaining 4 proposals were considered in the FIPB meeting held on 24.07.09.

Measures against protectionist developed countries

2738. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal to take steps under WTO against protectionist measures being taken by developed countries in a range of sectors including steel;
- (b) whether it is a fact that world over protectionism has taken new forms that needs to be addressed; and
- (c) the details of steps being considered or taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Government examines the tariff and non tariff measures (NTMs) imposed by developed countries especially on products of export interest for

developing countries including steel. These protectionist measures inter alia include technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, registration requirements, trade remedial measures, rules of origin, customs valuation etc. The Government collects information on these measures from the commercial missions, export promotion councils, industry associations, development agencies and reports of international organisation such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Based on inputs received and examination of these measures, the Government then takes up these at the bilateral level with the trading partner or at the appropriate committee in the WTO. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted to co-ordinate the plan to tackle NTMs imposed by India's trading partners by taking an effective remedial action. An institutional mechanism in the form of a database of NTMs imposed by other countries on India's exports has also been created.

Geographical indication on Basmati paddy in MP

2739. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be please to state :

- (a) whether unlike Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh the Basmati paddy grown in Madhya Pradesh has been registered under geographical indication;
- (b) if so, since when it has been registered; and if not, whether any proposal, in this regard, has been received from Madhya Pradesh Government; and
- (c) by when the Basmati Rice grown in Madhya Pradesh will be registered under geographical indication, so that, the rice grown in the State gets recognition in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Basmati paddy has not been registered as a Geographical Indication under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

- (b) No proposal in this regard has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- (c) No application for registration of Basmati Rice grown in Madhya Pradesh as a Geographical Indication has been received.

Factories closed during last five years

2740. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of factories closed in India during the last five years;
- (b) the State-wise details of how many of these factories are employing more than 500 workers; and
- (c) the number of affected workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As per details furnished by the Labour Bureau / Ministry of Labour and Employment, the State-wise details of factories closed in India during the last five years and the number of workers affected are given in the Statement-I (*See below*) and State-wise details of closures of factories employing more than 500 workers are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of factories closed in India during the last five years and the number of workers affected.

State/ UTs	2005		2006		2007 (P)		2008 (P)		2009 (P) (Jan to May)	
	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	1	92	-	-	-	-	20	144	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
Assam	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*
Bihar	-	-	1	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	-
Goa	2	120	1	100	-	-	-	-	*	*
Gujarat	7	280	4	430	2	45	5	163	*	*
Haryana	2	21	3	118	4	198	5	330	-	-
Jharkhand	1	350	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Himachal Pradesh	*	*	1	10	6	139	-	-	3	79
J&K	*	*	3	54	-	-	-	-	*	*
Karnataka	8	329	5	379	1	4	1	30	*	*
Kerala	1	18	5	121	3	45	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	*
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manipur	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
Orissa	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-
Punjab	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	1	49	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tamil Nadu	*	*	*	*	1	26	-	-	*	*
Tripura	47	2346	127	3681	53	1285	16	456	10	128
Uttar Pradesh	14	1117	10	1269	15	1941	-	-	*	*
Uttarakhand	-	-	1	77	2	116	:	-	-	
West Bengal	-	-	5	925	2	36	3	1447	*	*
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	10
D & N Haveli	-	-	-	-	*	*	1	73	*	*
Daman & Diu	*	*	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	1	196	-
Puducherry	*	*	2	11	-	-	*	*	*	*
Grand Total	84	4698	168	7179	91	3894	53	2840	14	217

(P) = Provisional * = Information not available. (-) = Nil

Note : The information for the years 2008 and 2009 is based on the returns/clarifications received in the Labour Bureau till 25th June, 2009.

Statement-II

*The State-wise details of factories employing more than 500 workers
during the last five years*

State/UTs	2005		2006		2007		2008(P)		2009(P)	
	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected	No. of Units	Workers Affected
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	2	1131	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	1	500	-	-	2	1147	-	-

(P) = Provisional

(-) = Nil

Safeguard duties on passenger car tyres imported from China

2741. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conveyed to WTO its intention to impose safeguard duties on passenger car tyres imported from China;
- (b) whether there has been rapid increase in the share of tyre imports from China which has caused market disruption for domestic producers; and
- (c) if so, whether the Director General of Investigation has finalized its findings, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) On the complaint made by the domestic industry, the Directorate General of Safeguards has initiated investigation on 18th May, 2009 to determine whether there has been rapid increase in the share of passenger car tyre imports from China PR which has caused market disruption for domestic producers of passenger car tyres. The Directorate General of Safeguards has not finalized its recommendations in this regard.

Status of tea gardens being run by TTCI

†2742. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of tea gardens in the States of West Bengal and Assam which were being run by Tea Trading Corporations of India (TTCI) and have been undertaken by the Central Government later on;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the TTCI has sold away Putung, Bha-Takbhar and Peshok to private owners;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the labourers of those gardens are deprived of gratuity, P.F., dues regarding daily attendances and other facilities provided to them under labour act until now; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The gardens of the Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) were taken over by the Official Liquidator of the Hon'ble High Court at Kolkata in August, 2003.

(b) These gardens were then sold by the Official Liquidator of the Hon'ble High Court at Kolkata in early 2006.

(d) The provident fund dues etc. were deposited with the Provident Fund Commissioner prior to the gardens being closed due to unrest.

Import of white asbestos

2743. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that white asbestos is being imported in the country in a big way as the mining of white asbestos has been banned;
- (b) if so, the quality of white asbestos imported during last three years;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that WHO and AIIMS have declared that white asbestos is carcinogenic; and
- (d) if so, reasons for the large scale imports leading to jeopardizing health of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of leather goods

2744. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise quantum of export of leather goods during each of the last three years; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to boost leather exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) State wise export data for the leather goods is not maintained by DGCI&S. However, as per records maintained by Council for Leather Exports, the details of leather goods exported from the major States for 2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08 are as under:-

State	2005-06 FOB Value (Rs. In Crore)	2006-07 FOB Value (Rs. In Crore)	2007-08 FOB Value (Rs. In Crore)
Tamil Nadu	4440.95	5277.24	5385.30
Uttar Pradesh	3110.92	4108.35	4374.33
West Bengal	1746.69	2085.6	2216.55
Delhi	899.43	936.81	1005.83
Maharashtra	791.85	847.26	819.04
Others	992.12	1083.9	1112.12

(b) Steps taken by Government to boost export of leather and leather goods, inter-alia, include reduction in interest rates on rupee export credit @ BPLR minus 4.5 percentage point upto 30th September, 2009; provision of Drawback facility for boots/half boots/shoes and sandals made of leather cum synthetic/textile materials w.e.f. Sept., 1, 2008; restoration of DEPB rates for certain items as per rates which were in existence prior to 5.11.2008 and extension of facilities to leather sector under Market Linked Focus products Scheme (MLFPS) etc.

SEZ proposal cleared by Government

2745. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) proposals cleared by Government till 2008-2009;
- (b) how many of the proposals that were sanctioned have not broken ground as yet;
- (c) how many developers have asked for extension of time to execute the SEZ proposals; and
- (d) the Government policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 325 SEZs have been notified. A total of 91 SEZs have commenced export.

(c) and (d) Requests for extension of validity period have been received from seventy four SEZs developers mainly citing the global economic slowdown/delay in getting various approvals from the state government(s), as grounds for extension. Fifty three SEZs developers have since been granted extension of one year subject to the same terms and condition as envisage in the original approval. The Board of Approval considers all such requests having regard to the provisions of SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006.

Status of FDI in current fiscal

2746. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether country hopes to attract \$ 30 billion worth of FDI in the current fiscal;
- (b) if so, the comments of Government thereon;
- (c) the present status of FDI; and
- (d) how Government is utilizing the FDI in each sector for the development of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) FDI equity inflow in the country increased from US \$ 5.5 billion in 2005-06 to US \$ 27.31 billion in the year 2008-09. Further, the FDI equity inflows in 2007-08 were US\$ 24.58 billion and increased to US\$ 27.31 billion in 2008-09, despite the economic slowdown, showing a growth of 11% over the previous financial year. No target has been fixed for the current financial year. However, for the months of April and May 2009 FDI inflows of US\$ 4.434 billion have been reported. Various assessments/studies have shown that India continues to be one of the most attractive destinations for investments worldwide in the period 2009-2011.

(d) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has the potential of enhancing economic activity and employment in the country by complementing and supplementing domestic investment. Additional investments brought in through FDI, over and above investments possible with the available domestic resources, assist in providing additional employment opportunities. FDI also plays a vital role in the upgradation of technology, skills and managerial capabilities.

Proliferation of SEZ in A.P.

2747. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is checking the proliferation of Social Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the projects came in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years; and
- (d) the employment generated so far, in the each SEZ especially for minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, format approval has been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 325 SEZs have been notified. Out of these, 103 formally approved and 68 notified SEZs are located the state of Andhra Pradesh. A statement (see below) indicating state-wise distribution of formally approved and notified SEZs including those in Andhra Pradesh is enclosed. Direct employment for 3,87,439 persons has been generated in SEZs.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of approved Special Economic Zones

State	Formal approvals	Notified SEZs
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	103	68
Chandigarh	2	2
Chhattisgarh	1	
Delhi	1	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	
Goa	7	3
Gujarat	50	27
Haryana	46	30
Himachal Pradesh		
Jharkhand	1	1

1	2	3
Karnataka	52	27
Kerala	24	11
Madhya Pradesh	14	5
Maharashtra	111	55
Nagaland	2	1
Orissa	10	6
Pondicherry	1	
Punjab	10	2
Rajasthan	8	7
Tamil Nadu	69	51
Uttar Pradesh	34	16
Uttarakhand	3	2
West Bengal	25	11
Grand Total	578	325

Protected exports from SEZs

2748. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- whether exports from the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in 2008-09 stood at Rs.99,688 crore against the total export of \$ 168 billion;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the projected exports for 2009-10 from SEZs are Rs.1,10,000 crore; and
- if so, the details thereof in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Exports worth Rs. 99,689 crore have been made from SEZs during the financial year 2008-09 registering a growth of 50% over the exports for the year 2007-08. Out of this, the export made by SEZs located in Andhra Pradesh has been to the tune of Rs. 2727 Crore. Projection of exports for 2009-10 is Rs. 1,10,000 Crore.

Setting up of tea manufacturing units with minimum investment

2749. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- whether his Ministry has any proposal for encouraging setting up of Tea manufacturing units in Assam with minimum investment to benefit both the entrepreneur and small tea growers; and
- if so, the criteria fixed for sanctioning the proposed amount as well as list of proposals received and sanctioned during the financial year 2008-09 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has sanctioned a scheme called Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification Scheme during the 11th Plan for encouraging setting up of tea manufacturing units in India including Assam for the benefit of both the entrepreneurs and small tea growers. Under the scheme, subsidy is extended for setting up of mini tea processing factories by the Self Help groups of small growers. The rate of subsidy provided is 40% of the unit cost subject to a ceiling limit of Rs.25 lakhs per factory. The subsidy is also provided for entrepreneurs for setting up new factories for making orthodox tea and specialty teas. The criteria fixed for sanctioning the subsidy amount to Self Help group of small growers is that the SHG should have a minimum of 50 growers as members of the group and the total tea area owned by the members shall not be less than 50 acres. So far as entrepreneurs are concerned, they should have a valid Registration Number issued by the Tea Board under Tea marketing Control Order. Economic viability of the proposals is evaluated by R&D institutions. Tea Board has not received any application for setting up new factories either by SHGs or by any entrepreneur for manufacturing orthodox tea.

Anti-dumping duty on import of Vitamin-C from China

2750. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that due to unregulated import of Vitamin-C from China, the domestic industry is suffering a lot;
- (b) if so, whether any representation has been received in his Ministry for imposition of anti-dumping duty on Vitamin-C from China;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action that has been contemplated by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) In order to counteract trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Government has set up the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) in the Department of Commerce to conduct antidumping investigations and make recommendations to the Central Government for imposition of antidumping measures, wherever appropriate. The Directorate of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) acts on the applications filed by the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping of goods, injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the dumped goods and injury to the domestic industry. Such petitions submitted by domestic industry are processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made thereunder. Anti-dumping duty on imports of Vitamin-C from China PR is in place since 16-4-1998. Recently, this duty was extended by the Department of

Revenue for a further period of five years vide their notification Nd. 67/2009-CUSTOMS dated 16.06.2009. This was done following recommendations made in the DGAD's final findings dated 21-5-2009 in a sunset review of the existing anti-dumping duty on imports of Vitamin-C from China.

Efforts to minimize job losses in traditional export industries

2751. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) what efforts his Ministry is making to minimize job losses in our traditional export industries like handicrafts, textiles, etc.;
- (b) to what extent the Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) is helping the above sectors;
- (c) the details of products listed under VKGUY;
- (d) whether there are any plan before Government to include more products under VKGUY;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government and RBI are closely monitoring the "economic developments in the country and the global situation, and have been taking appropriate steps to arrest the decline in exports. Measures announced so far, particularly for export sector, are given in statement [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 2729.] including measures under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, (VKGUY).

(c) At present, there are around 900 items eligible for duty credit scrip benefit under the VKGUY Scheme. The duty credit scrip benefit is at the rate of 3.5% on FOB value of exports in cases where imported inputs are allowed duty free, or at higher rate of 5% on FOB value of exports in other cases. Further, an additional benefit at the rate of 2.5% of FOB value of exports is granted to specified fruits, vegetables, flowers, and marine products. The complete list of VKGUY items is available in Appendix-37A on the DGFT website: <http://dgft.gov.in>.

(d) to (f) Expansion of VKGUY scheme would depend upon additional funds made available to this department and the need-based assessment of the requirement of the specific export sectors.

Pending proposals for FDI in various sectors

†2752. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal is pending with Government for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), in various sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the sectors in which Government is going to allow Foreign Direct Investment;
- (d) whether any guidelines have been formulated in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) by when decision is likely to be taken on pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Upto 30.06.2009, there are 30 proposals pending before the FIPB. The list of pending proposals is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The Government's decisions on FDI policy are notified by way of Press Notes which are available at the website of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion: <http://dipp.gov.in/>.

(f) Appropriate action/decision will be taken by the FIPB on the pending proposals after getting the requisite/relevant information from the concerned Ministries and/or from the companies.

Statement

Pending proposals for FDI in various sectors

S.No.	Name of the Applicant
1	2
1	M/s Taneja Aerospace And Aviation Ltd., Tamil Nadu
2	M/s United Breweries (Holdings) Limited, Bangalore
3	M/s Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Pvt Ltd
4	M/s Maharishi Solar Technology (P) Ltd., New Delhi
5	M/s Shree Meenakshi Food Products Pvt, Ltd., Mumbai
6	M/s Big Drum India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad
7	M/s Capricorn Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
8	M/s Coles Cranes Group Ltd., U.K
9	M/s Amann Sewing & Embroidery Threads Pvt Ltd., Chennai
10	M/s Clivet TF Air Systems (P) Ltd., Bangalore
11	M/s Mundus Real Estates Private Ltd, Margao
12	M/s NR Hytech Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Thane
13	M/s Powermax Communications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi

1	2
14	M/s Sungard Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore
15	M/s Jindal Saw Limited, Uttar Pradesh
16	M/s Sahajanand Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Surat
17	M/s Value and Budget Housing Corporation (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore
18	M/s Shanghai Urban Construction (Group) Corporation, (SULG), China
19	M/s EADS Deutchland GmbH (EADS), Germany and Larsen & Turbo Ltd. (L&T), Mumbai
20	M/s K S Oils Limited, Madhya Pradesh
21	M/s Quattro Bpo Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon
22	M/s Asha Micro Credit Limited, Chennai
23	M/s Futuristic Diagnostic Imaging Centre Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore
24	M/s Infoprint Solutions Company Pte. Ltd., Singapore
25	M/s SMS Siemag Aktiengesellschaft, Germany
26	M/s UE Development India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi [UEDl)
27	M/s Simulmedia Inc. Delaware, USA
28	M/s Vyoneesh Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
29	M/s Ramboll Singapore Pte. Ltd., Singapore
30	M/s Punj Lloyd Ltd, Delhi

FTA with other countries

†2753. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is trade between India and foreign countries under free trade agreement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of countries with whom free trade agreements have been signed in last two years;
- (d) the quantum of reduction in taxes under these agreements; and
- (e) the average amount of annual export and import under these agreements during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far India has signed following Free Trade Agreements:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl.No.	Name of the Agreement countries of the Agreement	FTA partner	Date of Signing/ renewal
1	India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISL- FTA)	Sri Lanka	Signed on 28th December, 1998
2	Agreement on South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	Signed on 4th January, 2004
3	India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	Singapore	Signed on 29th June, 2005
4	India-Nepal Treaty of Trade	Nepal	Renewed w.e.f. 6th March 2007
5	India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	Bhutan	Renewed w.e.f. 29th July, 2006

Annual trade turnover in Crores of Rupees between India and the countries with which India has Free Trade Agreements for the last three financial years is as follows :

Indian Exports

Country	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Bangladesh	7369	7366	11743
Bhutan	439	260	349
Nepal	3807	4201	6063
Maldives	299	311	361
Pakistan	3051	6107	7827
Sri Lanka	8964	10206	11374
Singapore	24020	27462	29662

Indian Imports

Country	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Bangladesh	562	1034	1035
Bhutan	393	640	783
Nepal	1682	1385	2527
Maldives	9	14	17
Pakistan	795	1463	1159
Sri Lanka	2558	2130	2541
Singapore	14848	24840	32682

(c) India has not signed any Free trade Agreement in the last 2 years.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Good growth by cement industry

2754. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 207.81 million tonne cement industry in the country has witnessed a good growth despite a tumultuous financial year across most industry verticals;

(b) whether cement dispatches (including exports) for 11 months ending February, 2009 were at 162.89 million tonnes against 151.89 mt. during year ago;

(c) whether cement dispatches during past four consecutive months have seen a healthy growth; and

(d) if so, the quantum of cement production during year 2009 and what are steps being taken to improve it further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The capacity of cement industry at the end of 2008-09 was 219.17 million tonnes (large plants). The industry witnessed a growth of 7.9% during the year 2008-09.

(b) Cement dispatches (including exports) for the 11 months April, 2008 to February, 2009 was 163.05 million tonnes. The dispatches during the corresponding period of the previous year was 151.26 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) The first quarter of the financial year 2009-10 witnessed a growth of 12.4% with a production of 50.15 million tonnes. With the thrust being given by the Government for the development of infrastructure, housing and rural connectivity, the cement industry is likely to witness a growth of around 9% during the year 2009-10.

Incentive to revive industrial downturns

2755. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to shell out incentives to revive industrial downturns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will it specifically benefit manufacturers and assist in industrial revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Several measures/ initiatives have been taken by the Government to insulate the domestic industry from the impact of global recession and stimulate domestic demand.

The measures to stimulate domestic demand inter-alia include reduction in ad valorem CENVAT duty, incentives to the housing sector with a view to give a boost to affordable housing, and sector specific initiatives. For automobile sector an accelerated depreciation of 50% on commercial

vehicles was announced and assistance to the States under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) provided for purchase of buses for urban transport system.

Further, a set of measures were announced for enhancing the flow of funds to the MSE sector.

The various measures to support exports include interest subvention of 2% for pre & post shipment export credit for identified labour intensive industries, additional allocation for export intensive schemes, additional funds towards providing guarantee by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporations (ECGC) and enhancements of duty draw back benefits on certain identified exportable items.

In addition, RBI has taken a number of steps to reduce the cost of credit and improve liquidity for the industry such as reduction of the Repo rates, reverse Repo rates, Cash reserve ratio etc.

As a consequence of various measures taken by the Government, there are early signs of recovery of the industrial sector. The index of industrial production which registered a negative growth rate of (-) 0.7% and (-) 0.8% in February and March 2009 respectively has improved to 1.4% in April, 2009 and further to 2.7 % in May, 2009.

Farmers displaced by SEZs

2756. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to carry out a survey of all farmers displaced by SEZs; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Land is a State subject. Land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Board of Approval for SEZs only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. Further, pursuant to the decision of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. As regards rehabilitation of displaced persons, State Governments have their own policies and procedures to deal with.

Fate of WTO negotiations

2757. SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the fate of WTO negotiations and whether USA and European Countries have agreed to reduce their agriculture subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The Doha Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation is still in underway. In some of the major international meetings held recently such as the G-20 held in London in April 2009, leaders including the US, EU and India have expressed commitment to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round.

In the agricultural negotiations, India has been working closely with other developing countries to ensure substantial and effective reductions in agriculture subsidies. This would enable developing countries to promote the interests of and ensure a level playing field for their low income and resource poor farmers.

Accidents of MiG fighter planes

†2758. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of MiG planes used by Air Force that met with accident during the last five years alongwith number of pilots who lost their life in these accidents;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for their accidents;
- (c) the number of remaining MiG planes with the Air Force; and
- (d) whether Government has any other option to meet the shortfall of MiG planes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 32 MiG aircraft have met with accident during the last five years (from 1.4.2004 till date). A total number of 8 pilots have lost their lives in these accidents.

(b) to (d) Each accident in the Indian Air Force is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly. The fleet strength of the Indian Air Force is reviewed from time to time and necessary action is taken as per the operational requirement.

Revamping DRDO

2759. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what action has been taken by Government on the report of Rama Rao Committee for revamping several ongoing projects of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO); and
- (b) the main strategic projects, the panel had suggested to revamp and why?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Rama Rao Committee submitted its Report to the Government on 5th March 2008. The Government has recently, constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Defence Secretary to look into the responses and suggestions made by various stake holders on the recommendations of the Rama Rao Committee.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) The Rama Rao Committee has not suggested any revamp for the "Strategic Projects".

Review of arms deals during tenure of former Chairman, OFB

2760. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has decided to review all files relating to the arms deals conducted during the tenure of former Ordnance Factory Board Chairman;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of firms have paid illegal gratification to secure defence deals to former Chairman, OFB; and
- (d) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take to remove corruption in defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Defence has requested Comptroller and Auditor General to conduct a special audit of procurement contracts concluded during the tenure of former Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board.

(c) During May 2009, CBI had arrested Shri Sudipta Ghosh, former DGOF and Chairman/OFB on charges of demanding and obtaining illegal gratification, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct under Section 8, 10, 12 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Section 120B of IPC. The firms alleged to be involved are:

- (i) Israeli Military Industries (IMI), Israel;
- (ii) Singapore Technology, Singapore;
- (iii) HYT, Pune;
- (iv) TS Kishan & Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi;
- (v) R.K. Machine Tools, Ludhiana;
- (vi) BBT, Poland;
- (vii) Media Architects Pte Ltd. Singapore.

(d) Ministry of Defence has decided to put on hold for the present all pending procurement and acquisition cases involving the firms figuring in the FIR registered by CBI. An exercise to review the Defence Procurement Procedure 2008 for increasing transparency in procurement is underway.

Cost of maintaining small cantonments

2761. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state in how many cantonments presently no major Regiment/Institution are based and what is the cost of maintaining such small cantonments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): There are 62 Cantonments in the country and in all the Cantonments, troops have been stationed according to the operational needs of the Defence Forces, During the year 2008-2009, an expenditure of Rs.44 crore has been incurred on 26 deficit Cantonment Boards as Grants-in-Aid.

Maritime Security Advisory Board

2762. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to create a Maritime Security Advisory Board for better Coordination of agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Mechanisms already exist for coordination among various agencies with a view to ensuring maritime security. These are strengthened from time to time depending upon the requirements and security challenges.

Export of rice by private companies

2763. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently rice was exported to some African countries by a private trading company contrary to the Government guidelines regarding Export through Public Sector Units; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India notified during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 export of Non-Basmati Rice to certain African countries through the PSUs - MMTC, STC and PEC. Export to the African countries was done by the PSUs, as evidenced by documents of export, to the buyers in these countries identified by the respective African countries.

Fast interceptor boats for Sagar Prahari Bal

2764. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Mumbai terrorist attacks, Government had announced that the Navy would get 80 fast interceptor boats for a new specialized force 'Sagar Prahari Bal with 1000 personnel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, with a view to strengthening coastal security and surveillance, Government has approved 'Sagar Prahari Bal in the Indian Navy, comprising of 1000 personnel with 80 fast attack crafts. Navy will carry out shallow water

operations by day and night for seaward anti-terrorist patrols for security of naval assets, besides; interception at high speeds and perform search and rescue operations.

Investigation against IAI by Israeli authorities

2765. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was aware that the Israeli authorities had investigated the Israel Aero Space Industries (IAI) for malpractices in contract with other countries and such charges led to the head of the IAI to stop down in 2005; and

(b) whether his Ministry is also aware that an Indian agent of IAI replaced by another, petitioned the Israeli Defence Ministry claiming that additional commissions were due to him?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): A newspaper article had appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi edition dated 25th January, 2008 captioned 'After Barak, Phalcon deal under cloud', alleging irregularities on the part of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in defence contracts including payment of commissions in the procurement of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft by the Indian Air Force.

The matter was taken up with the Israeli Ministry of Defence who had informed that they had no document or report pertaining to the investigation regarding IAI Both the Israeli State Comptroller and the Economic Crimes Department in their State Attorney's Office (in charge of this investigation) had made clear that their investigations focused on alleged IAI procedures and practices without any references or connection whatsoever to the Indian transaction or Indian citizens. Further, the State Comptroller had issued no report on his inquiry and the police investigations ended with no charges being pressed against any person. No other information has been received in this regard.

Tunnel at Rohtang pass in H.P.

†2766. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when were the tenders were floated to construct a tunnel at Rohtang pass for connecting Kullu to Lahul Spiti in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether work on the said tunnel already started, if so, the progress thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the work will start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Global tender for construction of the tunnel was issued in November 2007. Technical and commercial bids have been opened and the same are under evaluation.

Establishment of Institute of Defence Design and Technology

†2767. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Institute of Defence Development, Design and Technology has been established for manufacturing defence equipment as desired by Defence Minister about two years ago;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to bring the production processes and technologies being utilized, but not yet adopted, under the purview of this Institute; and

(c) whether Government would consider taking cooperation of private sector in this regard on pattern of U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A Group of Officers was constituted by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) to prepare a concept paper for establishing a National Institute for developing Human Resources in the area of design & development of defence equipment and platforms.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal.

Filling of vacancies in offices of EPF

2768. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in different cadres that remain unfilled in the offices of the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) the number of vacancies in the categories reserved for Most Backward/Backward/SC-ST Communities; and

(c) by when these vacancies will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The number of vacancies in different cadres that remain unfilled in the offices of the Employees Provident Fund as on 13.07.2009 are given below:

Group A	120
Group B	690
Group C	4050
Group D	267

(b) The number of vacancies in reserved categories as on 13.07.2009 are given below:

	SC	ST	OBC
Group A	23	14	28
Group B	89	25	120
Group C	520	250	814
Group D	24	07	84

(c) Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Expeditious action is being taken to fill up all the vacancies.

Budgetary allocation for defence

2769. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India was trying to mobilize world opinion against arms race, China has quietly been building up Pakistan's military might and determinedly adding military muscles to its defence inventory;

(b) if so, whether our budgetary allocation for Defence spending have adequately kept this ground reality in view, in fiscal year 2009-2010;

(c) if so, what is the percentage increase over our defence allocations in 2008-2009; and

(d) whether the 2008-2009 defence allocations were spent in full or some amount lapsed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) India's policy has been to build up defence preparedness while not advocating an arms race.

(b) and (c) The percentage increase in 2009-2010 over our defence allocation in 2008-2009 is 23.65%.

(d) Till March 2009, 99.61% of the 2008-2009 defence allocation (revised estimate) was spent as per unaudited figures.

CBI investigation into Murky Defence deals

2770. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has completed its investigation into murky defence deals concerning contracts of German HDW submarine and the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof and the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to check corruption in defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) As per available information, CBI has not investigated into Defence deal concerning procurement of Russian Aircraft Carrier ex-Admiral Gorshkov. CBI had conducted investigation into HDW submarine case and their closure report was accepted by the Special Judge, Patiala House Court, New Delhi on 4th March 2005.

The objective of Defence Procurement Procedure is to ensure the expeditious procurement of approval requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought within time frames prescribed by optimally utilizing allocated budgetary resources. While achieving this objective, these procedure would demonstrate the highest degree of probity and public accountability, transparency in operations, free competition and impartiality. The provisions incorporated in Defence Procurement Procedures for achieving this objective include: (i) An 'Integrity Pact' between the Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs.100 crores; (ii) Dealing directly with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorized vendors or Government Sponsored Export Agencies

(applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs); (iii) Major decisions in the acquisition process being taken in a 'Collegiate' manner; (iv) Enhanced transparency in the conduct of field trials; (v) Pre-bid meetings with vendors; (vi) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government; (vii) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the seller; and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

Involvement of a senior army officer in land scam

†2771. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received a letter from State Government regarding land scam wherein the role of General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of Army is doubtful; the army was given concession in stamp duty as this land was purchased in the name of Army for its use, later on the same land was sold to a trust of Haridwar causing a huge loss of Government revenue; and

(b) the actions taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A letter has been received from the Govt. of Uttarakhand regarding purchase and sale of land by Army.

(b) The matter is sub-judice in the Honourable High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital.

Financial scam in DRDO

†2772. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a financial scam had come to light in Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount withdrawn from exchequer for this scam; and

(d) the details of action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) No scam has come to light in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). However, one DRDO employee, a Cashier, had misappropriated funds causing a loss of Rs.48,80,432/- to the exchequer. On discovery of this during internal audit in 2004, FIR was lodged with Police. The delinquent employee has since been dismissed from the Government Service, and is absconding.

Case of corruption against chairman of ordinance factory board

†2773. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case is pending against the Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether he was given clean chit prior to this; and
- (c) whether the procedure adopted to take a decision in this regard is being reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) During May 2009, CBI had arrested Shri Sudipta Ghosh, former DGOF and Chairman/OFB on charges of demanding and obtaining illegal gratification, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct under Section 8,10,12 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Section 120B of IPC.

(b) Prior to his appointment as DGOF & Chairman, OFB, disciplinary proceedings were held against Shri Sudipta Ghosh, then Addl. GM, Ordnance Factory, Khamaria, for alleged irregularities in the procurement of Boxes for packing ammunition. In that case an inquiry was held and on the basis of the Inquiry Officer's report and the representation of the officer, the case was examined in the Ministry of Defence in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). As per the advice of the CVC and with the approval of Disciplinary Authority, charges against Shri Sudipta Ghosh were dropped.

- (c) No, Sir.

Manufacturing of anti-landmine vehicles

†2774. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether anti-landmine vehicle instruments are manufactured in India;
- (b) if so, the number of instruments manufactured each year;
- (c) if not, whether they are imported;
- (d) their region-wise number; and
- (e) the details of their utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Anti-landmine vehicles are manufactured in India and carry, among others, the standard instruments fitted in an automobile. However, anti-landmine instruments are not being manufactured.

Ordnance Factory Board has manufactured the following numbers of anti-landmine vehicle in the past five years:

2004-2005	36
2005-2006	101
2006-2007	28
2007-2008	18
2008-2009	60

- (c) The information will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The distribution of anti-landmine vehicles in different States is given below:-

Andhra Pradesh	13
Bihar	39
Chhattisgarh	23
Jharkhand	51
Karnataka	3
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	9
Orissa	5
Uttar Pradesh	6
West Bengal	15

(e) Anti-landmine Vehicles are usually used for protection of personnel against Improvised Explosive Devices (up to 14 kg of TNT).

Companies blacklisted in CBI's charge-sheet

2775. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of seven companies named in CBI's FIR registered against the Ex-Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board;

(b) the value of the orders involved, company-wise;

(c) whether the seven companies have been blacklisted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The names of the seven companies are:

(i) Israeli Military Industries, Israel;

(ii) Singapore Technology. Singapore;

(iii) BBT, Poland;

(iv) Media Architects Pte Ltd. Singapore;

(v) HYT, Pune;

(vi) TS Kissan & Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi;

(vii) R.K. Machine Tools, Ludhiana.

(b) Value of existing contracts of these seven companies with Ordnance Factory Board is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Defence has decided to put on hold for the present all pending procurement and acquisition cases involving the above mentioned firms figuring in the FIR registered by CBI.

Statement

Companies blacklisted in CBI's charge-sheet

Sl.No.	Name of the Firms	Value	
1.	Singapore Technology, Singapore	Nil	
2.	Media Architects Pte Ltd., Singapore	Nil	
3.	Israeli Military Industries, Israel	USD	91,24,928
		EURO	11,30,67,545
		Rs	372,29,21,000
4.	BBT, Poland	USD	29,81,953
		EURO	20,42,686
5.	TS Kishan & Co. Pvt Ltd., New Delhi	Rs	70,50,04,701
6.	R.K. Machine Tools, Ludhiana	Rs	53,83,23,871
7.	HYT, Pune/HYT Innovative Projects, Pune	Rs	20,14,39,831

Extremist violence in various States

2776. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extremist violence like that of Lalgah area in West Bengal had created a reign of terror in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds and number of Central and State Police Force engaged to quell above violence during last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(d) the action taken to deal with the socio-economic conditions that foster violence like Lalgah;

(e) the details, if any of their support by mainstream political parties in any part of the country; and

(f) the details of action taken to unite all as a nation for quelling above extremist menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) 1217 incidents of naxal violence with 508 casualties were reported from 11 States in 2009 (upto 22 July); 81.92% of these incidents and 77.75% of the casualties were reported from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & Orissa.

(c) The funds released under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police forces, special Infrastructure Scheme and Security Related Expenditure are given in the statement-I, II & III (See below) respectively.

Till 2007, 33 battalions of Central Para Military Forces were deployed for anti-naxal operations. In 2008, 37 battalions of Central Para Military Forces were deployed. Recently 2 additional battalions of

Central Para Military Forces were deployed in West Bengal, making total deployment of 39 battalions to naxal affected states. In addition, states have deployed their own forces, which include IR battalions, to deal with naxal violence. Details of armed police battalions available in the states is given in the Statement-IV (*See below*).

(d) to (f) The State Governments take appropriate measures to improve socio-economic conditions in the naxal affected areas. Central Government supplements their efforts and resources through focused implementation of various development schemes in these areas, which includes close monitoring of implementation of 69 major development and welfare schemes of 20 Central Ministries/Departments, for speedy socio-economic development of severely violence affected areas.

There are no inputs to suggest support of mainstream political parties to naxalites in the affected states.

A meeting of Union Home Minister with Chief Ministers of naxal affected states Including West Bengal was held on 7th January 2009, in which there was a consensus to launch coordinated anti-naxal operations, along Inter-State borders and pursuing capacity building measures in respect of security forces to address the problem in a focused manner.

Statement-I

Scheme for modernisation of State Police Forces

(Rupees in crore)

State	2002-03 to 2006-07			2007-08 2008-09		
	Central share	Utilization upto 2006-07	Unspent balance	Central Share	Central Share Revised Allocation	Central Share Releases
Andhra Pradesh	420.24	412.48	7.76	87.34	83.84	83.84
Bihar	148.67	99.68	48.99	16.24	41.57	41.57
Chhattisgarh	164.68	103.63	61.05	41.72	26.54	26.54
Jharkhand	131.30	114.92	16.38	50.95	69.86	69.86
Madhya Pradesh	216.52	210.20	6.32	57.68	40.37	40.37
Maharashtra	395.66	315.32	80.34	78.87	75.86	75.86
Orissa	138.80	132.05	6.75	45.80	42.54	42.54
Uttar Pradesh	426.36	426.36	0	115.44	102.32	102.32
West Bengal	98.47	76.00	22.47	44.45	32.18	32.18
Total	2140.70	1890.64	250.06	538.49	515.08	515.08
All India	4450.27			1248.70	1150.00	

Statement-II

*Scheme for Special Infrastructure in Leftwing Extremism affected States
Details of funds released to the States during 2008-09.*

(Rupee in lakh)

States	Districts	Funds released
Chhattisgarh	Bijapur	1615.00
	Dantewada	1135.00
Bihar	Aurangabad	986.00
	Gaya	619.00
Orissa	Malkangiri	638.00
	Rayagada	539.00
Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat	293.00
Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	589.00
Jharkhand	Chatra	960.00
	Palamau	1420.00
Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	170.00
	Gondia	169.92
Uttar Pradesh	Sonebhadra	866.00
Total Releases		9999.92

Statement-III

Security Related Expenditure Scheme

(Rupees in lakh)

State	2002-03 to	2007-08			2008-09		
	2006-07	Annual work plan approved	Amount released up to 31-3-2008	Annual work plan approved	Amount released		
	Amount released						
	Advance+ Reimbursement both				Advance	Reimburse- ment	Advance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	2646.54	726	500.00	579.25	1095.20	273.80	308.79
Bihar	723.23	1049	230.00	0.00	1283.00	216.49	305.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chhattisgarh	2637.29	2891	650.00	395.00	2791.00	470.95	1540.69
Jharkhand	2571.41	1973.25	440.00	1284.50	2809.00	473.99	1876.25
Madhya Pradesh	604.96	343.63	170.00	0.00	74.00	18.50	381.36
Maharashtra	1005.13	738	370.00	92.00	329.96	82.49	389.49
Orissa	1291.65	893	200.00	1016.62	1356.30	339.07	969.91
Uttar Pradesh	225.48	368.50	80.00	0.00	296.26	74.06	111.46
West Bengal	377.53	553.25	280.00	8.00	399.00	67.33	100.19
TOTAL	12083.22	9535.63	2920.00	3375.37	10433.72	2016.68	5983.32
				6295.37			8000.00

Statement-IV

Details of Armed Police Battalions

State	State Armed Police Battalions
Andhra Pradesh	9
Bihar	15
Chhattisgarh	9
Jharkhand	10
Madhya Pradesh	18
Maharashtra	13
Orissa	8
Uttar Pradesh	31
West Bengal	15

Terrorist groups in Delhi gang getting fake passports and visas

2777. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gang operating for Taliban and Pakistan-Afghan terrorist groups and engaged in getting fake passports and visas for members of terrorist groups, has been apprehended in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigations made so far and details of the persons apprehended in this regard; and

(c) the action so far taken to round up and stop the activities of this gang?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Naxalites attempt to disrupt election process

2778. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during general election to 15th Lok Sabha, naxalites tried to disrupt election process at various places;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether administration could not take adequate measures to ensure smooth polling in naxal prone areas; and
- (d) the steps being taken to wipe out naxalism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) During the recent Parliamentary General Elections, 124 incidents of naxal violence and 26 resultant deaths were reported from the States. Adequate arrangements were made by the concerned States to maintain Law and Order and to ensure smooth conduct of free and fair election in the Country. Additional need based deployment of Central Para Military Forces was made to assist the State Police Forces.

State Governments deal with the various issues related to naxal activities in the States. Central Government supplements their efforts in several ways which include assistance for modernization and upgradation of the State Police Forces, sharing of intelligence, facilitating inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through focused implementation of a range of schemes of Central Ministries.

Sexual harassment of tourists in Goa

2779. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sense of dismay has grown among the tourists besides locals in Goa;
- (b) whether Government is aware that during last two years cases of sexual harassment at various places took place;
- (c) if so, whether Government has taken any step to tighten the security in the interest of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) State/UT-wise details of cases registered under Sexual Harassment (Section 509 IPC) during 2005, 2006 and 2007 are at Annexure [See Appendix 217 Annexure No.20]

(c) and (d) "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State. However, the Union Government has issued advisory to the State Governments from time to time to give focused attention to the prevention and control of crimes within their jurisdiction with special emphasis on prevention of atrocities against women. However, in order to ensure safety and

security of the tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations to deploy Tourist Police. Ministry of Tourism has also circulated guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organization(s) comprising Ex-Servicemen, for the safety and security of tourists to State Governments/Union Territory administrations.

Review of security cover to VIPs

2780. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the security cover provided to over 100 VIPs in relation to threat perception being faced by them, in order to curb the expenditure;

(b) if so, the outcome of such review; and

(c) the decision taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The security arrangements for all VIPs/central protectees are reviewed periodically in two high level committees in MHA which is an ongoing process.

Diversion of MPF Funds

2781. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated to each State Government for modernization of police forces are being diverted for other purposes;

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

(c) the funds so far utilized in Andhra Pradesh for modernization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme), funds are allocated to the States for various items of expenditure approved in the annual action plans, like mobility, modern weaponry, communication system, training infrastructure facilities, forensic science facilities, strengthening of intelligence branches, security equipment, construction of buildings for police stations/posts, construction of residential buildings for lower level police personnel, etc. On the basis of audit reports, some instances have come to notice where funds meant for a particular item under the Scheme have been inadvertently or otherwise utilized for purchase of another item either not approved in the action plan or other approved items under the scheme requiring prior approval or in another year requiring revalidation. For example, it was found that in the case of Andhra Pradesh, funds allocated against the specific activities were incurred on the training of newly recruited police staff; Punjab Police has purchased office equipments which need prior approval of the competent authority and in the case of Bihar, funds were spent on purchase of vehicles in the year 2008-09 from the allocation of funds of previous year requiring

approval/revalidation. In order to have a proper check on recurrence of such events, a system of Concurrent audit on a quarterly basis has been introduced from last quarter of 2008-09 and is in place.

(c) The central funds released for the period 2000-01 to 2008-09 under the MPF Scheme and utilization reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, as on 29-11-2008 is as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Central funds released	utilized	Unspent
2000-01	72.02	72.02	0
2001-02	77.20	77.20	0
2002-03	81.32	81.32	0
2003-04	69.46	69.46	0
2004-05	79.93	79.93	0
2005-06	101.41	101.41	0
2006-07	88.12	88.12	0
2007-08	87.34	NA	NA
2008-09	83.83	NA	NA

NA : Not available

The Utilization Certificate in respect of funds released in 2007-08 is still awaited from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Utilization Certificate for 2008-09 from the State Government would become due on 01-04-2010.

Granting special status to a part of erstwhile state of Hyderabad

2782. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Karnataka have been requesting for a special status to the region which was a part of erstwhile State of Hyderabad before 1956, under Article 371 of the Constitution at par with Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh which was also a part of the then State of Hyderabad and has been given a special status under Article 371D of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, by when the necessary Constitutional amendment is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) A proposal was received from Government of Karnataka to amend Article 371 of the Constitution of India to provide region-wise reservation in employment and admission to educational institutions in Karnataka, including Hyderabad-Karnataka region, on the lines of provisions in Article 371 D of the Constitution of India in respect of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No definite timeframe can be specified in this regard.

Naxal incidents linked to Jihadis

†2783. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of violence taking place in Lalgarh (West Bengal), Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are part of a plan;
- (b) whether this is a subject of investigation;
- (c) whether investigation has been conducted and if so, the master minds behind the scene;
- (d) whether it is a fact that these activities are linked to Jihadis; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The naxalites exploit the real and perceived grievances of the people relating to inadequacies of administration, unemployment and lack of development, to generate anti-government feeling and to mobilize them in their favour. Towards achieving their objective they indulge in violence in naxal affected states including West Bengal (Lalgarh), Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Law and Order being a state subject, cases of naxal crime are registered, investigated and prosecuted by the concerned States.

(d) and (e) The available inputs do not suggest any links of Jihadis in violence in Lalgarh (West Bengal), Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Security agencies owned by MNCs

2784. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many security agencies including those owned by multi-national companies are operating in India;
- (b) whether all these agencies are registered with Ministry of Home Affairs; and
- (c) if so, the details of name of agencies, address, phone number, fax No. and e-mail I.Ds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) In order to regulate the private security agencies, the Government has enacted the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005. As per the provisions of the Act, a person who intends to carry on or commence the business of private security agency is required to obtain a licence for the purpose from the Controlling Authority designated by the respective State Government. As such, there is no provision for registration of private security agencies with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Flash floods

2785. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether flash floods caused by heavy rains and cyclonic storm latterly struck Assam and West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the loss of human life and property caused thereby; and
- (c) the Central aid given for flood relief measures to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The cyclone "Aila", which hit coastal areas of West Bengal in May 2009, affected large areas in districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and East Medinipur and the adjoining districts on 25th May, 2009. As per the information received from the Government of West Bengal, 137 human lives lost, 49,994 livestock lost, 4.47 lakh ha. cropped area affected and about 8.95 lakh houses have been fully/partially damaged due to cyclonic storm 'Aila' of May 2009.

The Government of Assam has not reported any damage due to cyclone 'Aila'. However, as per the information received from the State Government, 5 human lives lost, 155 livestock lost, 0.63 lakh ha. cropped area affected and 107 houses have been partially damaged due to flashfloods / floods during South-West Monsoon 2009.

The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities including cyclone and floods. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary. For execution of relief operations in the wake of natural calamities, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted, as a ready availability of fund, for each State, corpus of which is contributed by Govt of India and State Govt in the ratio of 75:25. Additional assistance is also provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of calamities of severe nature.

An amount of Rs. 263.91 crore has been allocated in the CRF for the year 2009-2010 to the State of West Bengal comprising of Rs.197.93 crore as Central share and Rs.65.98 crore as State share. First Installment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 98.965 crore for the year 2009-10 has been released by the Govt of India on 2nd June, 2009. In response to the memorandum of the State Govt for additional financial assistance, an amount of Rs. 128.28 crore has also been released on 22nd July 2009 for managing damage caused by cyclone 'Aila' landslides from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

State of Assam has been allocated an amount of Rs. 217.07 crore in the CRF for the year 2009-2010 comprising of Rs.162.80 crore as Central share and Rs. 54.27 crore as State share. 1st installment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 81.40 crore for the year 2009-10 has not been released due to non-submission of utilization certificate by the State Government to the Ministry of Finance.

No request/memorandum has been received so far from Govt of Assam for additional financial assistance from NCCF in the wake of flash floods/floods during South West Monsoon 2009.

Persons affected by Aila Cyclone

2786. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total number of persons affected by the Aila cyclone;
- (b) what is the total number of households affected;
- (c) whether the West Bengal Government has come up with concrete proposals of constructing concrete dams on the embankments; and
- (d) if so, then what is the Central Government planning in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Government, about 63.90 lakh population affected, 137 human lives lost, and about 8.95 lakh houses have been fully/partially damaged due to cyclonic storm 'Aila' of May 2009.

(c) and (d) A Task Force on "Restoration of Sunderbans embankments damaged by the cyclone 'AILA'" was constituted on 11th June, 2009 by Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Government of India to assess the extent of damage to Sunderbans embankments caused by cyclone 'AILA' and to suggest short-term as well as long-term remedial measures to prevent further breaches and flooding of the areas in future.

In the meeting of the Task Force held on 27.6.2009 at Kolkata; Government of West Bengal submitted preliminary designs and a rough estimate of Rs. 5340.00 crore is projected for completing the short term measures/works within a period of three years. The Government of West Bengal was advised by the Task Force to prepare Detailed Project Report(s) in consultation with Central Water Commission (CWC/ Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) under the guidance of the, Task Force and submit for appraisal to Technical Appraisal Committee of MoWR through GFCC. Thereafter, it would be considered under the State Sector Scheme "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) of MoWR.

Further, Planning Commission has already been approached by MoWR for enhancement of the Plan outlay to Rs.8000 crore with a budget provision of Rs.1500 crore in the current financial year under "FMP" scheme for the above purpose.

Need to amend Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005

2787. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 'The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005' and 'The Private Security Agencies Model Rules, 2005' do not guarantee minimum wages, P.F., ESI, Bonus, Leave etc. for private security guards; and

(b) if so, whether Government will make suitable amendment in the Act and Rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Section 13(1)(j) of the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 already mandates compliance of the provisions of various Acts given in the Schedule to the said Act which include (i) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (ii) the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, (iii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (iv) the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, (v) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, (vi) the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, (vii) the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, (viii) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and (ix) The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1976. Non-compliance of these provisions may result in cancellation of licence to the concerned person by the respective Controlling Authority.

Inclusion of lightning and sea erosion in natural calamities

2788. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Kerala has a Coastal belt extending to a stretch of 580 kms and encroachment thereon by people causes vast damages every year, particularly during monsoon season and several cases of death due to lightning are reported during monsoon season;

(b) if so, whether State Government has demanded inclusion of lightning and sea erosion in the list of natural calamities for providing relief/assistance under CRF/NCCF and placing the demand for the consideration of 13th Finance Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The issue of inclusion of specific calamities in the list of identified natural calamities for the purpose of incurring expenditure from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) comes under the purview of the successive Finance Commissions. The concerned State Governments are required to submit their proposals regarding inclusion of new calamities to the Finance Commission, for consideration and its inclusion in the notified list of natural calamities.

The 12th Finance Commission, the Award of which is in operation during the year 2005-10, had also *inter-alia* considered the proposals for inclusion of lightning and soil erosion, however not recommended to include them in the list of notified natural calamities qualifying for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in its memorandum submitted to the 13th Finance Commission, has *inter-alia* suggested the inclusion of calamities of sea erosion and lightning in the list of calamities eligible for relief under CRF/NCCF.

Central forces costlier to tackle terrorism

2789. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central forces require more funds to tackle terrorism as raising one battalion of reserve force need rupees one crore;
- (b) if so, the number of forces which are working to tackling terrorism and whether they are sufficient to meet threat of terrorist attacks in country;
- (c) to what extent their strengths have to be further improved;
- (d) whether the National Security Guard (NSG) which played pivotal role in operation during Mumbai terror attack was given Rs.157 crore and it is setting up regional hubs in Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai; and
- (e) whether this force has been made operational during June, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Any additional amount required by the Central Police Forces for raising new battalions are provided by the Government in their budget allotments.

(b) and (c) Specialized Forces like National Security Guard and Special Forces of Armed Forces exist to tackle any crisis situation. In addition to the police forces available with the State Governments, Central Para Military Forces such as the Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashstra Seema Bal etc are deployed for Counter Insurgency/Internal Security duties to tackle the menace of terrorism, naxalism and insurgency. Further, 10 Bns have been sanctioned by the Government as Commando Bns for Resolute Action (CoBRA) to tackle naxalism. The Government has also approved setting up of four Regional Hubs and two Regional Centres of NSG. Need based augmentation of the forces is approved by the Government from time to time.

(d) An amount of Rs. 150.09 crore has been provided for setting up of the four regional hubs of NSG in 2009-10.

(e) Four regional hubs of the NSG have been made operational on 30th June, 2009/1st July, 2009 at Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh

2790. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a recent attack by Naxals on police has claimed lives of about 50 policemen including a Superintendent of Police in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, whether the bodies of all policemen have been recovered;
- (c) the number of people including policemen killed in naxal attacks during the last three years in different States; and

(d) whether Government will allocate more money to States to tackle the problem of naxals and modernization of forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) In a major naxal attack on 12.7.2009, 29 policemen including Superintendent of Police Rajnandgaon lost their lives and their bodies have been recovered.

(c) Details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) State Governments deal with the various issues related to Naxalite activities in the State. The Central Government supplements their efforts in several ways. These include modernization and upgradation of the State police under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Force (MPF scheme); sharing of Intelligence; facilitating inter-State coordination; and assistance in development works through a range of schemes of different Central Ministries.

Statement

People including policemen killed in Naxal attacks during last three years

States	2006 Deaths	2007 Deaths	2008 Deaths	2009 (Jan 1 to July 15) Deaths
Andhra Pradesh	47	45	46	10
Bihar	45	67	73	43
Chhattisgarh	388	369	242	181
Jharkhand	124	157	207	127
Madhya Pradesh	1	2	-	-
Maharashtra	42	25	22	59
Orissa	9	17	101	41
Uttar Pradesh	5	3	-	1
West Bengal	17	6	26	41
Others	-	5	4	-
Total	678	696	721	503

NDMA's structural mitigation measures for seismic zones

2791. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 229 districts of the country fall within seismic zones IV and V thus cautioning about high seismic risk and vulnerability;

(b) if so, whether National Disaster Management Authority existing guidelines give full attention to structural mitigation measures; and

(c) whether the Disaster Management Authority developed capabilities for monitoring and enforcement of earth quake resistant codes and town planning byelaws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Vulnerability Atlas prepared by the Building Materials Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), 229 districts of the country falls under seismic zone IV & V.

(b) The Guidelines for management of earthquakes released by the National Disaster Management Authority aims at ensuring the compliance of the construction of all new structures to the National Building Code 2005, earthquake resistant codes and other safety regulations.

(c) Town Planning & Building Bye-Laws falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government. Advisories have been sent to State Governments and Union Territories from time to time on disaster mitigation and preparedness measures including those relating to earthquake through adoption of model Building Bye-laws.

Increasing influence of maoists in Haryana

†2792. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that influence of Maoists is increasing in Haryana also;

(b) the number of incidents occurred in past one year in districts of Haryana wherein Maoists were involved; and

(c) the number of Maoists apprehended so far and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) As per available inputs, activities of naxalites have been reported from few districts of Haryana. Two incidents of naxal violence have been reported, one each in 2008 and 2009 (upto July 22), 31 CPI (Maoist) cadres have been apprehended during the current year (upto July 22).

Maharashtra CR. P.C. (Amendment) Bill, 2008

2793. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2008 is pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking a decision; and

(c) by when Government would take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2008 was received in this Ministry on 29.2.2008 for obtaining the approval of the Government of India before its introduction in the State Legislature.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As there is no Constitutional requirement for seeking prior approval of the Central Government before introduction of a Bill in a State Legislature, the Bill has been returned to the State Government on 27.7.2009.

Proposal from Maharashtra to amend IPC

2794. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to states

(a) whether a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for amending the Indian Penal Code is pending with the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposal contains suggestions to amend sections 79, 304 (a), 323, 336 to 338, 354, 441 and 509 and introduction of a new section 292(a); and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the delay in approving the proposal has resulted in considerable difficulties in maintaining law and order in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Indian Penal Code (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2008 proposing to amend some sections of IPC and for insertion of a new section 292-A therein was received in this Ministry on 8.2.2008 for obtaining the approval of the Government of India before its introduction in the State Legislature.

As there is no Constitutional requirement for seeking prior approval of the Central Government before introduction of a Bill in a State Legislature, the Bill has been returned to the State Government on 22.7.2009.

NGOs getting more than one crore from abroad

2795. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) getting more than one crore rupees grant annually from overseas;

(b) what are their name and from which countries they are getting the grants;

(c) what amount of money they are getting yearly;

(d) the year-wise and State-wise figure for the last five years; and

(e) the nature of works these NGOs are doing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) As per information available, 1695 Associations received foreign contribution of more than Rs. 1 crore during the year 2007-08. The amount of foreign contribution received by an Association may vary from year to year. The names of Associations which have received foreign contribution of more than Rs. One crore along with the names of the donors/donor countries is not compiled annually on a State-wise basis.

(e) As per the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, an Association has the option to undertake programmes in one or more of the five areas viz. cultural, economic, educational, religious or social.

Damage due to natural disasters

2796. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of damage due to flash floods/cyclonic rains/floods/landslides during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 in the country in terms of lives lost, cattle loss, property, house, crop etc.;

(b) whether above loss can be quantified in monetary terms and if so, it's approximation;

(c) the total release of funds from CRF/NCCF during the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 and additional amounts spent by State Governments to mitigate misery of flood ravaged areas; and

(d) whether above statistics reveal an alarming scenario caused by endemic flood menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A details showing the loss of human lives, cattle loss and damage to agriculture cropped area and houses due to cyclonic storms/flash floods/floods/landslides during the years 2003-04 to 2008-09, based on the information received from States/UTs, is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief measures at ground level in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistical and financial support. This Ministry does not maintain Information on loss in monetary terms, since it is very difficult to quantify loss in monetary terms in respect of different sectors. A details, showing the allocation & release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and funds released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 and current year, is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Keeping in view scenario caused by recurring phenomena of natural calamities including flood menace, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted which, inter-aila, provide for institutional mechanisms at National, State & District levels preparation of the disaster management plans, ensuring measures by various wings of Government for prevention and mitigating the effects of disasters as well as for undertaking a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has already released guidelines for management of floods to assist Central Ministries, State Governments and other agencies.

The Schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments concerned. The role of the Central Government is of a technical, catalytic and promotional nature. The Central Government has initiated various measures for assisting the States in the management of floods.

Such measures are expected to reduce the adverse impact of natural disasters in the country.

Statement-I

State-wise details of damage due to heavy rains/Cyclonic rains/floods/ landslides during the yeai 2003-04 to 2008-09

(Provisional)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Years											
		2003-04				2004-05				2005-06			
		Lives lost	Cattle lost	Houses damaged	Crops area	Lives lost	Cattle lost	Houses damaged	Crops area	Lives lost	Cattle lost	Houses damaged	Crops area
		(No.)	(No.)	(No.)	(in lakh ha.)	(No.)	(No.)	(No.)	(in lakh ha.)	(No.)	(No.)	(No.)	(in lakh ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	114	4956	120404	3.34
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43	12785	2115	0.48	11	—	—	0.92	10	636	6572	0.12
3	Assam	30	108	4641	3.82	448	2256	589064	12.58	27	—	735	0.33
4	Bihar	241	106	45175	6.05	731	2673	897427	13.95	51	—	4266	0.56
5	Chhattisgarh	30	3058	44367	0.85	—	—	—	—	37	470	22155	0.41
6	Gujarat	139	1071	13878	1.09	171	637	30000	—	213	7563	161622	3.66
7	Goa	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00
8	Haryana	—	—	—	—	21	766	5000	0.81	11	66	3647	0.12
9	Himachal Pradesh	89	452	2924	0.16	3	2	92	0.58	15	3081	2872	0.58
10	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	86	357	0.01
11	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	Karnataka	29	23	4183	0.07	—	—	—	—	160	13000	110498	2.43
13	Kerala	32	—	2886	0.28	139	—	15788	—	131	1509	20527	0.60
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	735	30511	1.27	—	—	—	—	86	45638	223022	0.05
15	Maharashtra	260	977	9459	—	283	552	4468	1.00	1108	31251	591224	10.00
16	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	Meghalaya	3	—	3	—	3	4913	2604	—	1	115	67	—
18	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	—	2	8	27	0.08
19	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	211	0.00	15	—	214	—
20	Orissa	60	2474	184843	4.78	7	—	95	0.40	22	—	5410	3.45
21	Punjab	—	—	—	—	17	482	12434	0.28	25	116	268	1.04
22	Rajasthan	—	—	2564	0.17	—	—	—	—	82	435	12981	0.34
23	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	4	—	300	—	10	63	390	0.26
24	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	78	92	30966	1.55	252	1468	757852	4.47
25	Tripura	—	—	—	—	3	—	14043	—	—	—	—	—
26	Uttar Pradesh	980	3304	322244	12.92	25	—	—	—	203	259	72729	3.67
27	Uttarakhand	20	300	499	—	43	16	38	—	113	277	1712	—
28	West Bengal	18	—	11917	0.04	2	—	768	0.45	7	—	461	—
1	Puducherry	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	—

Neg. = negligible

(Provisional)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Years											
		2006-07				2007-08				2008-09			
		Lives lost	Cattle lost	Houses damaged	Cropped area affected	Lives lost	Cattle lost	Houses damaged	Cropped area affected	Lives lost	Cattle lost	Houses damaged	Cropped area affected
		(No.)	(No.)	(No.)	(in lakh ha.)	(No.)	(No.)	(No.)	(in lakh ha.)	(No.)	(No.)	(No.)	(in lakh ha.)
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Andhra Pradesh	247	366308	322074	8.14	296	56112	658072	6.67	148	6692	47239	4.26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	4	14736	12987	0.28	57	3510	17100	1.74
3	Assam	7	20	2367	0.11	142	1660	414444	6.75	40	8004	91367	3.14
4	Bihar	25	19	17447	0.75	976	988	690466	16.62	527	19323	236621	3.68
5	Chhattisgarh	37	9653	15820	0.15	15	53	12482	0.026	2	2	5752	0.016
6	Gujarat	293	8421	161625	7.47	486	9707	41756	4.68	94	240	907	—
7	Goa		—	5	0.00	3	—	1100	neg.	10	2	218	—
8	Haryana	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	29	390	0.53
9	Himachal Pradesh	48	846	4379	0.94	98	3087	10820	1.13	146	3625	16838	1.55
10	J&K.	25	2677	11835	0.61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	Jharkhand	5	101	3011	0.03	2	2	986	0.01	1	1	1411	neg.
12	Karnataka	123	236	20440	1.55	248	15589	249046	7.45	167	568	17665	1.59
13	Kerala	180	2269	114435	0.24	281	2813	60129	1.77	76	8	9754	0.06
14	Madhya Pradesh	168	6107	129998	—	76	307	18321	0.04	16	1138	10039	—

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
15	Maharashtra	423	13417	594516	12.59	155	1477	47045	—	98	178	6314	0.14
16	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	12	8	2243	0.04	—	—	—	—
17	Orissa	90	1656	120356	3.09	91	662	104712	3.19	110	1366	245211	4.45
18	Punjab	8	16	224	0.02	7	18	527	0.28	38	90	13170	2.07
19	Rajasthan	146	42253	254844	17.36	63	5114	10058	neg.	68	18	4129	—
20	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	12	911	1440	neg.	—	—	—	—
21	Tamil Nadu	23	67	444	17.37	95	1189	25998	5.86	186	3942	158808	5.97
22	Tripura	4	—	—	—	8	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
23	Uttar Pradesh	508	588	—	—	261	157	165064	5.13	1210	769	191718	4.98
24	Uttarakhand		—	—		83	275	979	—	104	—	850	
25	West Bengal	36	697	160575	0.45	348	4154	996948	24.91	288	3924	439982	1.25
1	Puducherry	—	268	285	neg.	2	199	1415	0.3	4	404	131422	0.137

Statement-II

Statement showing State-wise details of allocation and releases of CRF/NCCF during the years 2003-04 to 2008-09

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Allocation under CRF			Centre's share of CRF released			Released from NCCF		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	229.28	240.74	344.08	171.96	180.56	258.06	116.75	87.20	100.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13.92	14.61	28.3	10.44	10.96	21.23	29.79	9.09	68.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	Assam	117.49	123.36	193.06	44.06	136.58	72.40	0.00	211.55	0.00
4	Bihar	77.52	81.4	148.93	29.07	90.12	55.85	0.00	398.92	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	31.8	33.38	111.75	11.92	36.96	41.91	26.83	52.74	0.00
6	Goa	1.44	1.51	2.11	1.6	1.13	0.79 *	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	186.84	196.18	246	140.13	147.14	184.50	32.41	55.00	304.31
8	Haryana	94.12	98.83	124.38	70.59	74.12	83.95	2.20	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	50.34	52.86	100.69	37.75	39.64	75.52	0.30	0.00	112.97
10	Jammu & Kashmir	40.4	42.42	86.46	30.3	31.82	64.84	0.00	50.00	309.77
11	Jharkhand	65.63	68.91	126.07	71.49	50.45	94.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	86.32	90.64	114.66	64.74	67.98	86.00	316.47	63.62	358.85
13	Kerala	77.84	81.73	85.5	58.38	61.3	64.13	0.00	206.00	17.94
14	Madhya Pradesh	72.51	76.13	254.23	54.39	57.1	190.67	36.72	1.70	0.00
15	Maharashtra	181.98	191.08	222.9	172.32	107.48	167.18	77.46	173.23	657.25
16	Manipur	3.32	3.49	5.56	0.00 *	0.00 *	0.00 *	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	4.56	4.79	11.29	3.42	3.59	4.24	0.00	6.16	0.00
18	Mizoram	3.44	3.61	6.58	2.52	4	2.47	0.00	10.68	0.00
19	Nagaland	2.27	2.38	3.83	1.66	2.64	1.44 #	0.00	1.81	0.00
20	Orissa	126.72	133.06	301.54	95.04	99.79	226.16	104.43	53.44	0.00
21	Punjab	142.06	149.17	146.03	106.55	111.87	54.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	239.63	251.61	415.64	134.79	188.71	311.73	512.74	216.79	0.00
23	Sikkim	8	8.4	17.53	8.86	6.3	13.15	0.00	9.90	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24	Tamil Nadu	118.82	124.76	209.08	89.11	93.57	78.41 *	289.45	783.14	1131.91
25	Tripura	6.02	6.32	12.85	0	9.25	0.00 *	0.00	0.05	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	169.33	177.81	295.94	127	133.36	221.95	41.87	192.10	0.00
27	Uttaranchal	37.47	39.34	94.69	41.48	29.5	71.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	117.04	122.89	234.73	87.78	92.17	176.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		2306.1	2421.41	3944.41	1667.35	1868.09	2622.94 @	1587.42	2583.12	3061.44

Statement showing State-wise details of allocation and releases of CRF/NCCF during the years 2003-04 to 2008-09

(Rs. in crore)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Allocation under CRF			Centre's share of CRF released			Released from NCCF		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Andhra Pradesh	361.28	379.35	398.31	335.48	219.99	298.73	203.06	37.51	29.82
2	Arunachal Pradesh	29.12	29.97	30.87	21.84	22.48	23.15	44.38	0.00	26.40
3	Assam	198.62	204.48	210.63	221.37 #	153.36	157.97	0.00	0.00	300.00
4	Bihar	153.23	157.74	162.48	55.85 *	233.24 #	121.86	0.00	0.00	1000.00
5	Chhattisgarh	114.98	118.35	121.91	150.33	65.57	45.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Goa	2.21	2.32	2.44	2.45	1.74	1.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	258.30	271.22	284.77	246.87	48.57	315.29 #	545.69	0.00	0.00
8	Haryana	130.60	137.13	143.99	107.28	102.85	54.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	103.60	106.65	109.87	77.70	79.99	103.63	25.14	24.59	40.33

1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10	Jammu & Kashmir	88.96	91.58	94.33	66.72	68.68	35.38	0.00	13.51	0.00
11	Jharkhand	129.71	133.53	137.55	48.64	148.79 *	51.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	120.39	126.41	132.73	113.98	71.11	99.55	384.97	68.89	189.11
13	Kerala	89.77	94.26	98.98	67.33	70.70	74.23	0.00	50.81	9.48
14	Madhya Pradesh	261.58	269.29	277.39	246.67	151.48	208.04	30.85	0.00	0.00
15	Maharashtra	234.05	245.75	258.04	220.00	47.70	0.00 *	589.90	168.92	0.00
16	Manipur	5.72	5.89	6.05	0.00 *	10.67 #	4.48 #	0.00	0.00	5.45
17	Meghalaya	11.61	11.95	12.31	12.95	8.96	9.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	6.77	6.97	7.19	5.01	7.77 #	0.00 *	0.00	8.81	49.60
19	Nagaland	3.94	4.05	4.16	0.00 *	7.42 #	3.12	0.81	0.00	0.00
20	Orissa	310.24	319.38	328.97	291.34	180.87	324.50	25.00	0.00	98.87
21	Punjab	153.33	160.99	169.04	112.26	178.24 #	126.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	436.42	458.25	481.16	413.66	257.34	360.87	100.00	0.34	0.00
23	Sikkim	18.04	18.57	19.13	0.00 *	27.46 #	14.35	5.20	0.00	8.36
24	Tamil Nadu	219.53	230.51	242.03	243.06	172.88	229.17	0.00	0.00	522.51
25	Tripura	13.22	13.61	14.03	14.60 #	10.07 #	10.37 #	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	304.48	313.45	322.87	228.36	235.10	242.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Uttarakhand	96.59	98.58	100.67	36.22	73.19 #	112.47 #	7.06	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	241.50	248.62	256.09	181.12	186.47	192.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		4097.79	4258.85	4427.99	3521.07	2842.67	3220.48	1962.06	373.38	2279.92

* Centre's share of CRF has not been released for want of information relating to crediting of earlier released funds, utilisation certificate and annual report.

Including arrears of CRF for the previous year.

Problem of naxalites in Jharkhand

2797. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) during the last one year how many cases of naxalite attacks have been registered in various police stations of Jharkhand;

(b) in most sensitive naxalite area, it seems bullet is not the solution and therefore Government may plan dialogues with naxalites just as the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(c) whether Government is planning any dialogue with naxalite and any healing process has taken place;

(d) if so, in which forum and what is the present status;

(e) whether naxalites basically take birth from exploitation of poor people by antisocial elements; and

(f) whether Government is keen to take up an effective programme to control naxalite activities by generating employment opportunities, financial help for self employment by way of loan etc., in core naxalite areas of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (f) As per available inputs, 484 and 395 incidents of naxal violence were reported from the affected police stations in Jharkhand during 2008 and 2009 (upto 23rd July) respectively. State Governments have, from time to time, appealed to the Left Wing Extremists to abjure violence and hold talks with the Government on any issues that are of concern to them. However, Central Government does not have any information, as to whether any State Government is now engaged in any talks with the Left Wing Extremists. As far as the Central Government is concerned, it will welcome such talks between State Governments and Left Wing Extremists, provided, they abjure violence and give up their co-called "armed struggle". There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to hold talks directly with the Left Wing Extremists.

The naxalites exploit the real or perceived grievances of the people relating to inadequacies of administration, unemployment and lack of development, to generate anti-government feelings and to mobilize them in their favour.

State Government including Jharkhand implement various programmes to generate employment opportunities for all sections of society including the unemployed youth and provide assistance through various self-employment schemes in this regard, which include minimum support price for minor forest produce, vocational training to youth and financial assistance in terms of loans through various banks. Central Government supplements the efforts and resources of the States, including Jharkhand, through a wide range of ongoing schemes.

Bangladeshis settled in Mumbai unauthorisedly

2798. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Bangladeshis who have unauthorisedly settled in Mumbai at present;
- (b) whether many of them have been found to be involved in criminal cases like theft, robbery and terrorist activities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are reports that some Bangladeshi nationals are settled unauthorisedly in Mumbai. However, as and when they are detected action is taken by the State Government to deport them under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. The powers to deport foreign nationals have been vested with Central Government as well as the State Government. Moreover, a detailed procedure for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has also been set out and circulated to State Governments/UT Administrations who are implementing the same on a continuous basis.

(b) and (c) As and when such persons are detected, cases are registered against them by the local police authorities under the relevant laws. In those cases where the foreigner is arrested and action taken under the relevant Acts, the foreigner is deported/repatriated only after completion of his sentence. The foreigner is deported under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act. Case specific data in this regard is not centrally maintained.

Steps taken for internal security

2799. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken for the internal security so far;
- (b) the details discussed with each State especially with Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the decisions arrived at so far; and
- (d) the funds allocated for this purpose and recruitment of staff made for internal security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As part of an ongoing exercise, several steps have been taken and are being taken to strengthen and upgrade the capabilities of security and intelligence agencies both at the Central level and the State level, so as to meet threats to internal security of the country. These measures include augmenting the strength of Central Para-Military Forces; the CISF Act has been amended to enable deployment of CISF in joint ventures or private industrial undertakings; operationalization of NSG hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai; granting legal powers to DG, NSG for requisitioning aircraft for movement of NSG personnel in the event of any emergency; strengthening and re-organising of Multi-Agency Centre in the Intelligence Bureau to enable it to function on 24X7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with all other intelligence and security agencies of the

Central and State Governments/Union Territories; online and secure connectivity between Multi-Agency Centre, Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres and State Special Branches; amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 to strengthen the punitive measures to combat terrorism, operationalization of the National Investigation Agency to investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts in the Schedule; etc.

(b) and (c) Internal Security situation in the country as a whole and in a particular State is reviewed from time to time, and decisions arrived in such meetings are taken up with the concerned State(s)/ Agencies for implementation. Internal Security situation in Andhra Pradesh was reviewed recently, wherein issues relating security of vital installations, security environment in Hyderabad City and certain other locations, coastal security, NSG hub, etc. were discussed.

(d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects as per the Constitution. However, the Government is providing financial assistance for raising India Reserve Battalions. The Government also provides financial assistance to the States to meet the emerging challenges of policing under various Schemes such as, inter alia, Modernization of State Police Forces; Reimbursement under Security Related Expenditure Schemes for J&K, NE States and naxal affected States; and also for need-specific policing by way of Mega City Policing Scheme; Desert Policing Scheme; Coastal Security Scheme; Border Area Development Scheme.

Need for inter-State border roads

2800. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government would examine the need of inter-State border roads so as to facilitate the people living in the border areas and also consequently solve the long pending inter-State border problems all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has intimated that there is no scheme to develop inter-State border roads.

Strengthening security and intelligence apparatus to tackle naxalism

2801. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether naxals have become greater threat than previous years with targeted attacks on police men and security officials;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that naxals are getting help from some elements outside of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what has been done to weed out informers, present within the system in the nasal affected States; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen the security and intelligence apparatus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Details of naxal violence during the last few years are given below:

	2006	2007	2008	2009 (till July 22)
Incidents	1509	1565	1591	1217
Civilians killed	521	460	490	275
Security Forces killed	157	236	231	233

(b) and (c) The available inputs do not indicate that naxals are getting help from the elements outside India.

(d) and (e) State Governments deal with the various issues related to naxalite activities in the States. The Central Government supplements their efforts in several ways. These include modernization and upgradation of the State Police forces under various scheme; sharing of intelligence and facilitating inter-State coordination and assistance for integrated development of naxal affected area through a range of schemes.

Incidents of rape in the country

†2802. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incident of rape taken place during last five years across the country, the State-wise details along with ratio to population; and

(b) whether Government is considering to amend the law or to stringent the existing law to prevent rape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As per data provided by National Crime Records Bureau, the State/UT-wise number of rape cases reported and ratio of rape cases to population termed as rate (number of rape cases per lakh of population) during the year 2003 to 2007 are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir. Rape is one of the most heinous crime against women and it is punishable under Section 376 of IPC. With the passing of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act in 1983, the laws concerning rape were amended to be more stringent. According to this amendment, a minimum sentence of seven years' imprisonment was prescribed for rape convicts. Besides, an important provision, section 376 (2) was added to the IPC, which prescribes a minimum sentence of ten years' rigorous imprisonment for rape under certain special circumstances like custodial and workplace etc. The amendment also inserted a new section 228A in the IPC, which makes the disclosure of identity of the victims of rape cases an offence punishable with imprisonment for two years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Cases registered (CR), Crime Rate (Rate) under rape during 2003-2007

Sl.No. State/UT		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
		CR	Rate	CR	Rate	CR	Rate	CR	Rate	CR	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	946	1.2	1016	1.3	935	1.2	1049	1.3	1070	1.3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	31	2.7	42	3.7	30	3.6	37	3.2	48	4.0
3	Assam	1095	3.9	1171	4.2	1238	4.3	1244	4.3	1437	4.9
4	Bihar	985	1.1	1390	1.6	1147	1.3	1232	1.3	1555	1.7
5	Chhattisgarh	898	4.1	969	4.4	990	4.4	995	4.3	982	4.2
6	Goa	31	2.2	37	2.5	20	1.3	21	1.4	20	1.3
7	Gujarat	236	0.4	339	0.6	324	0.6	354	0.6	316	0.6
8	Haryana	353	1.6	386	1.7	461	2.0	608	2.6	488	2.1
9	Himachal Pradesh	126	2.0	153	2.4	141	2.2	113	1.8	159	2.4
10	Jammu & Kashmir	211	2.0	218	2.0	201	1.8	250	2.1	288	2.4
11	Jharkhand	712	2.5	797	2.8	753	2.6	799	2.7	855	2.9
12	Karnataka	321	0.6	291	0.5	343	0.6	400	0.7	436	0.8
13	Kerala	394	1.2	480	1.5	478	1.4	601	1.8	512	1.5
14	Madhya Pradesh	2738	4.3	2875	4.4	2921	4.4	2900	4.3	3010	4.4
15	Maharashtra	1268	1.3	1388	1.4	1545	1.5	1500	1.4	1451	1.4
16	Manipur	18	0.7	31	1.2	25	1.0	40	1.6	20	0.8
17	Meghalaya	40	1.7	54	2.2	63	2.6	74	3.0	82	3.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
18	Mizoram	54	5.9	20	2.1	37	3.9	72	7.5	83	8.5
19	Nagaland	14	0.7	18	0.9	17	0.8	23	1.1	13	0.6
20	Orissa	725	1.9	770	2.0	799	2.1	985	2.5	939	2.4
21	Punjab	380	1.5	390	1.5	398	1.5	442	1.7	519	2.0
22	Rajasthan	1050	1.8	1038	1.7	993	1.6	1085	1.7	1238	1.9
23	Sikkim	10	1.8	3	0.5	18	3.1	20	3.4	24	4.1
24	Tamil Nadu	557	0.9	618	1.0	571	0.9	457	0.7	523	0.8
25	Tripura	114	3.5	160	4.8	162	4.8	189	5.5	157	4.5
26	Uttar Pradesh	911	0.5	1397	0.8	1217	0.7	1314	0.7	1648	0.9
27	Uttarakhand	107	1.2	115	1.3	133	1.5	147	1.6	117	1.2
28	West Bengal	1002	1.2	1475	1.8	1686	2.0	1731	2.0	2106	2.4
	Total State	15327	1.5	17641	1.7	17651	1.6	18682	1.7	20096	1.8
29	A&N Islands	2	0.5	10	2.6	4	1.0	6	1.5	3	0.7
30	Chandigarh	18	1.9	19	1.9	33	3.3	19	1.9	22	2.1
31	D&N Haveli	1	0.4	7	2.9	5	2.0	6	2.4	7	2.7
32	Daman & Diu	5	3.0	1	0.6	2	1.1	3	1.7	1	0.5
33	Delhi	490	3.3	551	3.6	658	4.2	623	3.8	598	3.6
34	Lakshadweep	2	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.5
35	Puducherry	2	0.2	4	0.4	6	0.6	9	0.9	9	0.8
	Total UT	520	3.0	592	3.3	708	3.8	666	3.5	641	3.2
	Total All India	15847	1.5	18233	1.7	18359	1.7	19348	1.7	20737	1.8

Source: Crime in India

Diversion of developmental funds in North-eastern States

2803. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that investigations have unraveled diversion of developmental funds, given to the autonomous institutions in North-Eastern States like the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, to various insurgent outfits by their officials;
- (b) if so, the details of the latest findings;
- (c) the details of similar instances detected, if any, in the recent past; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government so far inter-alia for ensuring transparency in utilization of developmental funds and accountability of the officials and members dealing with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The National Investigating Authority (NIA) has registered two cases regarding seizure of funds meant for Dima Halam Haogah (Joel) DHD(J) outfit. During investigation evidence has been collected which prima facie establish that some development funds meant for North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council have been misappropriated with the help of some public servants.

(c) A Complaint was received in January 2009 about misappropriation of funds by the officials of North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC). A case has been registered by Assam Police in the regard.

(d) The Government of Assam has constituted an Expert Committee to recommend procedure for monitoring and supervision of funds released to Autonomous Councils including NCHAC set up in the State of Assam. Funds released by the Central Government to the State Government for implementing various schemes are monitored regularly.

Naxals slowing development projects in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

2804. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that naxals are slowing the developmental projects going on in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand areas;
- (b) if so, what is the position of activities related to infrastructure development in these States;
- (c) whether Government is providing adequate security to the people working in these areas; and
- (d) whether Government will raise special force to tackle this problem and help in modernizing State forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) In the area highly affected by naxals, implementation of developmental programmes are affected.

Infrastructure developmental works are in progress under police security. The States have raised Special Task Forces, India Reserve Battalions and have filled up vacancies in State Police Forces to deal with the various issues related to naxalite activities in the States. The Central Government supplements their efforts in several ways. These inter alia include deployment of Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMFs) - 37 Bns), modernization and upgradation of the State Police and their Intelligence apparatus under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF scheme); re-imbursement of security-related expenditure under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme; filling up critical infrastructure gaps under the scheme for Special Infrastructure in Leftwing Extremism affected States; assistance in training of State Police through Ministry of Defence, Central Police Organisations and Bureau of Police Research and Development; sharing of Intelligence; facilitating inter-State coordination; launching special intra-State and inter-State coordinated joint operations, assistance in community policing and civic actions and assistance in development works through a range of schemes of different Central Ministries.

Two CoBRA battalions specially trained in Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare, have been raised in Jagadalpur in Chhattisgarh and Koarput in Orissa. 37 India Reserve (IR) battalions have been sanctioned of which 24 have been raised. Rs. 10.50 crore have been released for setting up of 7 CIAT schools in 4 naxal affected States of Bihar 1, Chhattisgarh 2, Jharkhand 2 and Orissa 2.

Children registered under RBD Act

2805. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has world's largest number of unregistered children, even after our country has become signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only about 38,000 out of the estimated 70,000 births everyday get registered by the institutions which are set up in States under Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act;

(c) if so, whether Government has analyzed the reasons for this serious condition; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) As per the available information, the overall level of registration of births in the country has been 69 per cent. State-wise, the level of registration of births varies from 100 per cent in 13 States/UTs to below 50 per cent in 3 States/UTs. In the remaining States/UTs, it is ranging from 50 per cent to 80 per cent and above. In the absence of the availability of data across all the countries in the world,

comparison with the other countries on the number of unregistered children is not possible. Currently about 49,630 births are reportedly being registered out of the estimated 71,964 births that take place every day in the country.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for low registration, inter alia, are lack of coordination among the implementing departments, low priority accorded to registration and general apathy in many States, lack of awareness about the need and importance of registration to general public, insufficient allocation of funds by the State Governments etc. In order to improve the level of registration in the country, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to States for publicity to create awareness, campaign to clear backlog of issuance of birth certificates, capacity building through training of civil registration functionaries, preservation of civil registration records, infrastructure support for computerization and manpower support to the laggard States at the Chief Registrar's office.

Communication constraints in tackling naxal menace

2806. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are communication constraints in facing Naxal menace in remote areas;
- (b) whether there is a proposal to equip the paramilitary and other forces with satellite phones for better communication; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and time frame for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Security forces have effective wireless communication (Very High Frequency-VHF & High Frequency-HF), however, lack of mobile connectivity in some remote areas is a constraint. Under the ongoing scheme of modernization of Police Forces, satellite phones have been provided to the security forces operating in naxal affected areas. Department of Telecom facilitates the acquisition of satellite phones on priority to the security forces.

Incidents of firing in border areas

2807. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that recently there has been an incidence of firing from the side of Pakistan in the border areas of India and heavy weapons were used;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken up matter with Government of Pakistan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether there has been incidences of violation of ceasefire also; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) On the intervening night of 4th /5th July, 2009, three projectiles fired from across the International Border (IB) landed in the nearby Indian villages Dande, Behrwai and Kaonke of Amritsar District, Punjab. There was, however, no casualty. Immediately after the incident, a strong protest was lodged by the Border Security Force (BSF) Commander with his counterpart of Pak Ranger indicating that such attacks are a very grave violation of the sanctity of the International Border. Further, Commander/Wing Commander level Flag meetings of both sides were held on the intervening night of 4th -5th July, 2009, in the evening of 5th July 2009 and on 13th July 2009.

Since January 2009, there have been nine incidents of ceasefire violations along the Line of Control in J & K. All these violations have been brought to the notice of Pakistan Military authorities at appropriate level and the issue is being addressed through the established mechanisms of hotline, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the DGsMO.

Crime in NCR

2808. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi where loot, chain snatching, eve-teasing and murder of senior citizens are increasing day-by-day;

(b) why Delhi police is handicapped to stop crimes in NCR region of Delhi; and

(c) what measures are being taken or proposed to be taken to reduce crimes in NCR specially in NOIDA and Gurgaon regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The crime and law and order situation in Delhi has remained well under control. The case of heinous and IPC crimes has registered 7.46% and 3.01% decline during the period 1st January to 30th June, 2009 as compared to the cases reported during the correspondence period in 2008. The comparison of cases of crime relating to robbery, chain-snatching, eve-teasing and murder of senior citizens reported during the period 1st January to 30th June, 2009 year and corresponding period in 2008 is as under:

Crime Head	Period from 1st January to 30th June		% variation
	2008	2009	
1	2	3	4
Robbery	260	257	1.15% decline
Chain Snatching	329	390	18.54 increase

1	2	3	4
Eve-Teasing	163	129	20.86 decline
Murder of senior citizen	9	8	11.11 decline

(c) As far as State Government are concerned, 'Public order' and 'Police' are state subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is the responsibility of the States. The Government of India has issued guidelines from time to time to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crime. The Government of India also assists the State Government by sharing intelligence inputs and providing funds to modernize State Police under Police Modernisation Scheme.

As far as Delhi is concerned, the steps taken by Delhi Police to curb the crime in Delhi include introduction of 'eye and ears' scheme to improve collection of intelligence at the grass-root level, identification of vulnerable areas on the basis of regular analysis of crime trends, organisation of regular Division and Beat patrolling, patrolling by motorcycle and PCR; direction to every Police Station under each District to identify top 10 criminals for proper surveillance and keep watch on their movement; keeping regular surveillance on the activities of active criminals; organisation of special patrolling during dark nights in order to check any strike of criminals; issue of orders by which verification of tenants and servants employed in Delhi has been made mandatory; deployment of mobile pickets to keep a watch on the movement of criminal; focus on gathering criminal intelligence; strengthening of beat system; etc.

Infiltration *via* Nepal

†2809. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several anti-India elements are entering into India via Nepal;
- (b) if so, the number of people identified in this regard;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted jointly with Government of Nepal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Indo-Nepal border (INB) is a open border and both countries have visa free regime for their citizens. The SSB has been deployed all along the INB to check and to stop cross border crimes. So far, the SSB has apprehended 3 personnel of third country origin while trying to infiltrate into Indian territory, since its deployment on the INB. The SSB keeps strict vigil on the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

border and operational activities like patrolling and Nakas have been intensified as a preventive measure. Besides, State Police concerned is also keeping a vigil on the INB. There are institutional mechanisms like convening the Border District Coordination Committees (BDCCs) meetings between the officials of two countries etc. to effectively deal with various issues such as smuggling, anti-national activities etc. These issues are also taken up through the diplomatic channels, wherever required. Additionally, there are bilateral institutional arrangements such as Joint Working Group on Border Management etc. and Home Secretary level talks between India and Nepal which address these problems in a more wholesome manner.

PCR vans and motorcycles in the fleet of Delhi Police

2810. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many PCR vans and motorcycles are available in the fleet of Delhi Police;
- (b) whether these vans and motorcycles are fitted with the modern security equipments;
- (c) how many PCRs and motorcycles are being used daily in the Capital and how many Police personnel are being deputed in the vans;
- (d) whether the officers deputed there are authorized to register FIR; and
- (e) if so, how many reports are being registered daily, on an average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) At present, there are 630 PCR vans and 121 motorcycles in the fleet of Delhi Police.

(b) PCR vans and motorcycles have Trunking Wireless Sets for communication with Central Police Control Room. Presently, 400 PCR vans have also GPS-based vehicle tracking system. The Police Vans are provided weapons, body protectors and anti-riot equipments.

(c) The number of PCR vans/motorcycles being used daily in the Capital varies due to maintenance and repair work. Every PCR Van has minimum three police personnel i.e. one In-charge, one gunman and one driver at a time. Two police officials, one In-charge and one rider are deployed at a time on each motorcycle.

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

Security threat due to Bangladeshi infiltrators

2811. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the infiltrators from Bangladesh have created a serious security threat to India;

- (b) whether the number of the infiltrators is estimated to be two crores;
- (c) whether their population in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura is about 8 to 14 per cent;
- (d) whether many of them have bought properties, built the houses, and acquired the citizenship of India;
- (e) whether no serious cognizance has been taken by the successive Governments at the Centre and in the States;
- (f) that this is due to utter negligence, complacency or lack of political will; and
- (g) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (g) The Government is aware of the infiltration from Bangladesh into various parts of the country. Although the exact number of infiltrators cannot be ascertained, a sizeable number of infiltrators along the Indo-Bangladesh border are apprehended.

The illegal immigrant is deported on detection under powers to deport under section 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Such powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. In order to, inter-alia, control infiltration from Bangladesh, the Government has taken steps to strengthen border management which include construction of roads, border fencing and flood lighting; deployment of surveillance equipments and enhanced surveillance by the Border Guarding Force, etc. Further, additional Border Out Posts have been sanctioned for effective domination by the Border Guarding Force.

Funds to States for modernization of police forces

2812. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of the funds released for the modernization of the police forces to the various State Governments; and
- (b) the status of utilization of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing a Non-Plan Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces to supplement the efforts of the States in modernizing their police forces. A statement (see below) showing the central funds released under the Scheme and utilization reported by the State Governments and unspent balances for the period 2000-01 to 2007-08 and funds released during 2008-09 is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

*Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces - Central funds released / allocated and utilization for
the period 2000-01 to 2007-08 (Rs. in crore) (as on 30-06-2009)*

Name of State	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03			2003-04		
	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	72.02	72.02	0	77.2	77.2	0	81.32	31.32	0.00	69.46	69.46	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	1.15	1.15	0	4.45	4.45	0	5.20	5.20	0.00	7.24	7.24	0.00
Assam	36.58	36.58	0	38.59	38.59	0	16.50	16.50	0.00	36.52	36.52	0.00
Bihar	57.59	57.59	0	54	54	0	11.50	11.50	0.00	0.43	0.43	0.00
Chhattisgarh	20.57	20.57	0	21.97	21.97	0	16.70	16.70	0.00	17.47	17.47	0.00
Goa	2.02	2.02	0	2	2	0	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.40	1.40	0.00
Gujarat	59.76	59.76	0	50	50	0	50.00	50.00	0.00	42.21	42.21	0.00
Haryana	28.33	28.33	0	24.46	24.46	0	22.10	22.10	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	1.34	1.34	0	6.38	6.38	0	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.69	0.69	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	30.83	30.83	0	28.5	28.5	0	28.50	28.50	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
Jharkhand	40.14	40.14	0	28.93	28.93	0	12.73	12.73	0.00	8.50	8.50	0.00
Karnataka	82.85	82.85	0	76.9	76.9	0	75.00	75.00	0.00	69.31	69.31	0.00
Kerala	29.28	29.28	0	31.16	31.16	0	25.13	25.13	0.00	22.00	22.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	54.49	54.49	0	53	52.98	0.02	51.33	51.33	0.00	48.24	48.24	0.00
Maharashtra	83.1	83.1	0	92.1	92.1	0	67.94	67.94	0.00	62.84	61.52	1.32
Manipur	4.1	4.1	0	4.95	4.95	0	0.73	0.73	0.00	11.50	11.50	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Meghalaya	1.54	1.54	0	5.19	5.19	0	0.55	0.55	0.00	5.29	5.29	0.00	
Mizoram	4.95	4.95	0	5.5	5.5	0	5.50	5.50	0.00	8.47	8.47	0.00	
Nagaland	2.84	2.84	0	13.46	13.46	0	9.95	9.95	0.00	21.00	21.00	0.00	
Orissa	30.57	30.57	0	30.5	30.5	0	16.76	16.76	0.00	21.91	21.91	0.00	
Puniab	35.76	35.76	0	32.1	32.1	0	32.10	32.10	0.00	19.34	19.34	0.00	
Rajastnan	45.53	45.53	0	61.1	61.1	0	16.17	16.17	0.00	43.10	43.10	0.00	
Sikkim	1.83	1.83	0	2.87	2.87	0	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.94	0.94	0.00	
Tamil Nadu	76.5	76.5	0	68.1	68.1	0	68.10	68.10	0.00	54.98	54.98	0.00	
Tripura	6.39	6.39	0	5.6	5.6	0	5.60	5.60	0.00	12.83	12.83	0.00	
Uttar Pradesh	123.97	123.97	0	116.05	116.05	0	60.39	60.39	0.00	65.02	65.02	0.00	
Uttarakhand	5.5	5.5	0	8.44	8.44	0	6.58	6.58	0.00	7.41	7.41	0.00	
West Bengal	60.47	60.47	0	56.5	56.5	0	0.33	0.33	0.00	2.17	2.17	0.00	
TOTAL	1000	1000	0	1000	999.98	0.02	695.00	695.00	0.00	705.27	703.95	1.32	
Name of State	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09
	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released	Amount spent	Unspent amount	Funds released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Andhra	79.93	79.93	0.00	101.41	101.41	0.00	88.12	88.12	0.00	87.34	0	87.34	83.83
Arunachal	9.13	9.13	0.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	11.53	11.47	0.06	10.7	0	10.7	14.72
Assam	41.37	41.37	0.00	56.68	56.68	0.00	52.18	47.95	4.23	87.82	0	87.82	68.11
Bihar	45.25	45.25	0.00	39.87	39.87	0.00	51.62	39.68	11.94	16.24	0	16.24	41.57
Chhattisgarh	32.72	32.72	0.00	40.74	38.85	1.89	57.06	12.77	44.29	41.72	32.06	9.66	26.54
Goa	0.28	0.28	0.00	1.06	1.06	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2	0	2	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Gujarat	39.54	39.54	0.00	39.85	39.85	0.00	45.52	45.52	0.00	51.9	0	51.9	48.02
Haryana	22.13	22.13	0.00	14.95	14.95	0.00	19.69	19.69	0.00	35.75	23.35	12.4	27.51
Himachal Pradesh	2.57	2.57	0.00	6.78	6.78	0.00	3.92	3.91	0.01	10.27	7.5	2.77	9.99
Jammu and Kashmir	110.89	110.89	0.00	109.22	104.38	4.84	88.13	84.57	3.56	115.34	0	115.34	109.65
Jharkhand	22.33	22.33	0.00	40.74	40.74	0.00	47.00	46.99	0.01	50.95	0	50.95	69.85
Karnataka	58.87	58.87	0.00	65.85	65.85	0.00	64.15	60.60	3.55	78.13	75.89	2.24	69.61
Kerala	26.55	26.55	0.00	18.84	18.84	0.00	24.53	23.52	1.01	40.01	22.33	17.68	22.9
Madhya Pradesh	42.27	42.07	0.20	31.65	31.65	0.00	43.24	42.16	1.08	57.68	50.04	7.64	40.37
Maharashtra	71.00	71.00	0.00	88.78	88.12	0.66	105.10	99.99	5.11	78.87	0	78.87	75.86
Manipur	15.24	15.24	0.00	16.97	16.97	0.00	14.09	12.72	1.37	32.07	0	32.07	39.23
Meghalaya	7.58	7.58	0.00	6.57	6.57	0.00	8.59	6.58	2.01	15.44	0	15.44	10.81
Mizoram	7.45	7.45	0.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	10.48	10.48	0.00	11	0	11	12.69
Nagaland	13.09	13.09	0.00	17.52	17.52	0.00	22.68	22.68	0.00	30.72	0	30.72	38.42
Orissa	27.76	27.76	0.00	35.08	35.08	0.00	38.00	38.00	0.00	45.8	42.52	3.28	42.54
Punjab	21.79	21.79	0.00	20.31	20.31	0.00	15.00	14.82	0.18	34.94	34.68	0.26	21.56
Rajasthan	42.67	42.67	0.00	34.81	34.81	0.00	40.47	40.47	0.00	49.6	46.33	3.27	49.1
Sikkim	5.90	5.90	0.00	2.43	2.43	0.00	3.46	3.39	0.07	4.42	0	4.42	6.12
Tamil Nadu	56.78	56.78	0.00	65.51	65.51	0.00	61.65	61.20	0.45	75.74	52.74	23.00	50.1
Tripura	11.17	11.17	0.00	11.83	11.83	0.00	11.34	3.22	8.12	14.47	0	14.47	20.66
Uttar Pradesh	108.55	108.55	0.00	98.12	98.12	0.00	94.28	94.28	0.00	115.44	0	115.44	102.31
Uttarakhand	7.99	7.99	0.00	16.76	16.76	0.00	5.28	5.28	0.00	9.89	0	9.89	19.39
West Bengal	29.20	29.20		29.67	29.67	0.00	37.11	35.73	1.38	44.45	18.28	26.17	32.18
TOTAL :	960.00	959.80	0.20	1025.00	1017.61	7.39	1065.22	876.79	88.43	1248.7	405.72	842.98	1157.64

N.B : The utilization certificate for 2008-09 shall become due on 01-04-2010

Shortage of personnel in Paramilitary forces

2813. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of personnel in paramilitary forces in the country;
- (b) if so, the percentage of shortage in each force, force-wise as on 01-04-09 at the lower level, at the entry point of Sepoy and officer grade;
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to make fresh recruitments in force at both levels;
- (d) if so, whether recruitment centres in the country have been identified to ensure that no part of the country is neglected for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are under:-

Force	Percentage of shortage at the entry point	
	Office grade	Sepoy
Assam Rifles	1	-Nil-
BSF	19.02	5.97
CISF	30.96	11.19
CRPF	17.10	1.69
ITBP	41.98	13.69
NSG*	37.28	9.97
SSB	1	9

*NSG is deputation force.

(c) to (e) Recruitment in Central Para Military Forces is an ongoing process with the help of UPSC, SSC and Force recruitment boards. Recruitment Centres for Constables exist in various States to ensure that no part of the country is neglected and regular recruitment takes place periodically so that maximum number of vacancies are filled up.

Amount from NCCF not received by Orissa

2814. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Orissa has not received any amount from NCCF for the severe floods in Orissa in June and 23 September 2008; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking

relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary. Financial assistance to deal with natural calamities is provided to the States from the Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is supplemented by the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of calamities of severe nature.

Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by Government of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. Central share is released in two equal installments-first in June and second in December. Additional financial assistance is also provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of natural calamities of severe nature.

Thus the first charge of relief expenditure is on CRF. Funds from NCCF are released only in the event of calamity of severe nature where funds available in CRF account of the State are inadequate to meet the situation.

The State of Orissa has been allocated an amount of Rs. 328.97 crore in CRF for the year 2008-09 consisting of Rs. 246.73 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 82.24 crore as State contribution. The 1st installment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 123.365 crore was released to the State, on 25th June 2008. The Government of India had released, an amount of Rs. 300.00 crore, as per details given below, in October 2008 to enable the State Govt. to undertake relief operation in the areas affected by floods of 2008:-

Amount (Rs. in crore)	Item
123.365	2nd installment of the Central share of CRF for 2008-09.
77.766	Advance release of Central share of CRF for the year 2009-10.
98.869	"on account" release from NCCF.
300.00	TOTAL

The State Government of Orissa had submitted a memorandum seeking additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for relief operations in the areas affected by floods during 2008. The High Level Committee (HLC) after taking into consideration the memorandum, report of the Inter Ministerial Central Team, recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group and the norms and guidelines for expenditure from CRF/NCCF, approved the following assistance:-

(i) Rs. 389.29 crore from NCCF subject to adjustment of 75% of the balance in the CRF account:

(ii) Rs. 7.67 crore from Special Component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) + the cost of deployment of IAF charges for airdropping of essential supplies, based on actual.

Organisations/persons supplying house maids in Delhi

2815. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of number of organisations/persons giving advertisements in various dailies for supply of house maids; and

(b) if so, the details of those organizations/persons operating in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Survey on huge job loss

2816. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more than 6 lakh people employed in various fields/sectors have lost their jobs in the country during the past six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard to know the exact factors responsible for such a huge job loss; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by Government to face such job loss challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) With a view to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors supposed to be badly affected by the slowdown during the quarter October-December, 2008, Ministry of Labour & Employment carried out a survey in 2581 units spread over 11 States/UTs in important sectors, viz. Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems & Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. The survey has revealed that about half a million workers lost their jobs during October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

In the second quarterly survey to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment during January-March, 2009 additional sectors of leather and handloom-power loom were also covered. Total estimated employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009 period. Non-export units have shown higher rate (0.92%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (0.28%). As compared to October-December, 2008 quarter wherein about half a million workers lost their jobs, the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during January-March, 2009. During April, 2008-March, 2009 period, employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.15 per cent, resulting in an addition of 0.28 million jobs.

Department of Commerce, Government of India has also been undertaking sample surveys relating to reduction in exports and resultant job losses in export-related industries. In the sample survey on job losses for export-related industries for August, 2008 to 16 January 2009, out of 402

units surveyed, the loss in export order was around Rs. 6272 crores and loss of 1,09,513 jobs. Ministry of Commerce has also conducted another updated sample survey related to job losses (direct and indirect) for export related industries from August, 2008 to April, 2009 according to which in different export-oriented units, 1,34,593 jobs have been lost.

(d) Government is concerned about the impact of global financial crisis on the Indian economy and several measures—financial and fiscal have been initiated to instill confidence in the economy, spur growth and overcome crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and three economic packages by the Government of India, mainly comprising of additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts.

Manpower in the country

†2817. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated the manpower available in the country in the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total number thereof and out of these the estimated number of those who would be unemployed;

(c) whether the number of unemployed people has been estimated in the beginning of the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) the number of people who would be provided employment during this Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Eleventh Five Year Plan (based on current daily status) has estimated labour force of 483.7 million in the country at the end of the Plan and the number of unemployed people in the beginning and at the end of the plan has been estimated at 36.71 million and 23.35 million, respectively. The Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities during the plan period.

New employment opportunity to 30 million

†2818. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of a study conducted regarding skill development and training, opportunity of 30 million new employment can be generated at 8 per cent annual growth rate in the country in five years;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that around 640 million new people would be there in the manpower of the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the facts and the special plan to provide them employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No such study has been conducted regarding skill development and training.

(c) and (d) Eleventh Five Year Plan has estimated on current daily status basis a labour force of 483.7 million at the end of the plan and 58 million jobs opportunities are likely to be created during the plan.

Non-utilization of money meant for construction workers

2819. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs.300 crores collected to improve lives of 8 lakh construction workers in Delhi, is lying unused;

(b) if so, whether there are no guidelines for utilization of such funds for the welfare of construction workers; and

(c) in the absence of any specific utilization plan for a long-term programme, why can't this amount be used for scholarships to children of construction workers, or building low-cost dwellings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has collected cess amounting to Rs. 226.05 Crore out of which 0.68 crore has been spent as on 31.03.2009. As per the provisions of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the State Building and Other Construction Welfare Board may utilize the fund for the immediate assistance in case of workers accident, pension after age of 60 years, loans for the purpose of construction of house, the premium for group insurance scheme, assistance for education of children of beneficiaries, medical expenses, maternity benefits to females, etc. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has framed various schemes including grant of scholarship to the children and advance for purchase/construction of houses for the welfare of construction workers. As per the provisions of the Act every building worker registered as a beneficiary with the Welfare Board shall be entitled to the benefits provided by the Board from its fund. The Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has registered 17890 workers as on 31.03.2009.

Minimum wages for different categories of workers

2820. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minimum wages for different categories of workers including construction workers as declared by Union Government, States and Union Territories; and

(b) the details of neutralization of D.A. for the above categories of workers and dates of implementations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) On the basis of the information available, the details giving the rates of minimum wages fixed for different categories of workers engaged in different scheduled employments and workers engaged in construction activities by the Union Government and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively (See below).

(b) In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government and 26 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted the system of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) linked to Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (CPI - IW). The VDA is revised twice a year effective from 1st April and 1st October.

Statement-I

Rates of Minimum wages for different category of workers engaged in different scheduled employments in different States/Union Territories

(Rs. Per day)

Sl.No.	State / Union Territory	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh *	58.25-189.00	-	100.00-419.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	80.00	85.00	90.00
3	Assam	81.31	85.53	92.92
4	Bihar	89.00	92.00	113.00
5	Chhattisgarh	106.76	110.92	115.15
6	Goa	93.00	98.00	100.69
7	Gujarat	55.00	65.00	100.00
8	Haryana	147.69	152.69	162.69
9	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	105.00	112.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	66.00	88.00	147.00
11	Jharkhand	92.00	92.19	95.30
12	Karnataka	86.02	89.86	91.79
13	Kerala	97.52	99.02	101.09
14	Madhya Pradesh	105.23	115.31	120.31
15	Maharashtra	74.88	78.73	81.13
16	Manipur	72.40	77.65	79.40
17	Meghalaya	70.00	75.00	85.00
18	Mizoram	103.00	115.00	143.00

1	2	3	4	5
19	Nagaland	80.00	90.00	100.00
20	Orissa	90.00	103.00	116.00
21	Punjab	123.12	130.24	140.08
22	Rajasthan	100.00	107.00	115.00
23	Sikkim	100.00	115.00	130.00
24	Tamil Nadu	87.60	95.60	102.60
25	Tripura	85.00	102.00	120.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	76.31	88.31	102.91
27	Uttarakhand	77.31	90.84	104.48
28	West Bengal	80.98	82.06	83.44
29	A & N Islands	156.00	168.00	181.00
30	Chandigarh	143.90	149.67	161.21
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	117.20	123.70	130.20
32	Daman & Diu	102.00	112.00	119.00
33	Delhi	151.00	158.00	168.00
34	Lakshadweep	115.00	125.00	135.00
35	Puducherry	77.70	84.12	86.00
	Central Sphere			
	Cities classified as			
	Area "C"	120.00	140.00	170.00
	Area "B"	150.00	170.00	200.00
	Area "A"	180.00	200.00	220.00

* Range of minimum wages in respect of scheduled employment of lowest and highest category.

Statement-II

A Statement showing Rate of Minimum wages for different category of workers engaged in construction activities under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

(Rs. Per Day)

Sl.No.	State/Unkm Territory	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh *	163.00-170.00	-	231.00-342.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	80.00	85.00	90.00
3	Assam	81.31	85.53	92.92
4	Bihar	102.00	105.00	129.00

1	2	3	4	5
5	Chhattisgarh	106.76	110.91	115.14
6	Goa	103.00	111.00	112.00
7	Gujarat	143.90	145.70	149.30
8	Haryana	147.69	152.69	162.69
9	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	110.00	126.00
10	Jharkhand	92.00	94.19	125.92
11	Jammu & Kashmir	66.00	88.00	147.00
12	Karnataka	104.20	104.20	106.30
13	Kerala	166.49	196.65	218.21
14	Madhya Pradesh	126.72	131.73	137.50
15	Maharashtra	194.27	198.12	201.96
16	Manipur	72.40	77.65	79.40
17	Meghalaya	70.00	75.00	85.00
18	Mizoram	103.00	115.00	143.00
19	Nagaland	80.00	90.00	100.00
20	Orissa	90.00	103.00	116.00
21	Punjab	123.12	130.24	140.08
22	Rajasthan	100.00	107.00	115.00
23	Sikkim	100.00	115.00	130.00
24	Tamil Nadu	138.60	-	-
25	Tripura	85.00	102.00	120.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	113.70	129.62	143.87
27	Uttarakhand	110.23	124.85	139.65
28	West Bengal	113.02	114.00	118.95
29	A&N Islands Andaman	156.00	181.00	220.00
	Nicobar	167.00	198.00	245.00
30	Chandigarh	143.90	149.67	161.21
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	117.20	123.70	130.20
32	Daman & Diu	102.00	112.00	119.00
33	Delhi	151.00	158.00	168.00
34	Lakshadweep	115.00	125.00	135.00

1	2	3	4	5
35	Puducherry	120.00	133.00	140.00
	Central Sphere			
	Cities classified as			
	Area "C"	120.00	140.00	170.00
	Area "B"	150.00	170.00	200.00
	Area "A"	180.00	200.00	220.00

* Range of minimum wages in respect of scheduled employment of lowest and highest category.

Area - "A"			
Ahmedabad	(UA)	Hyderabad	(UA)
Bangaluru	(UA)	Kanpur	(UA)
Kolkata (UA)	Lucknow	(UA)	
Delhi	(UA)	Chennai	(UA)
Greater Mumbai	(UA)	Nagpur	(UA)
Area - "B"			
Agra	(UA)	Jamshedpur	(UA)
Ajmer		Jodhpur	
Aligarh	Kochi	(UA)	
Allahabad	(UA)	Kolhapur	(UA)
Amravati		Kozhikode	(UA)
Aurangabad	(UA)	Kota	
Bareilly (UA)	Ludhiana		
Bhavnagar		Madurai	(UA)
Bikaner	Meerut	(UA)	
Bhopal	Moradabad	(UA)	
Bhubaneshwar		Mysore	(UA)
Amritsar		Nasik	(UA)
Chandigarh	(UA)	Pune	(UA)
Coimbatore	(UA)	Patna	(UA)
Cuttack (UA)	Rajpur	(UA)	
Durgapur		Rajkot	
Fridabad		Ranchi	(UA)
Complex			
Ghaziabad	(UA)	Sholapur	(UA)

Gorakhpur		Srinagar	(UA)
Guwahati City		Surat	(UA)
Guntur		Thiruvananthapuram	(UA)
Gwalior (UA)	Vadodara	(UA)	
Indore (UA)		Varanasi	(UA)
Hubli-Dharwad		Vijayawada	(UA)
Jabalpur	(UA)	Vishakhapatnam	(UA)
Jaipur	(UA)	Warangal	

Area 'C' will comprise all areas not mentioned in this list.

NB: U.A. stands for Urban Agglomeration.

Job loss due to economic meltdown

2821. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether at least half a million jobs have been lost in the country during the October-December quarter according to the first comprehensive official study of the employment fallout of the economic meltdown undertaken by the Centre;

(b) if so, whether according to the quick survey carried out by his Ministry during the period from January 7–24, the total estimated employment in 8 important industries has declined from 60.2 million in September to 60 million in October, and 15.9 million in November, 15.7 million in December; and

(c) the concrete steps Government proposes to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) With a view to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors supposed to be badly affected by the slowdown during the quarter October-December, 2008, Ministry of Labour & Employment carried out a survey in 2581 units spread over 11 States/UTs in important sectors, viz. Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems & Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

The most affected sectors were Gems & Jewellery, Transport and Automobiles where the employment has declined by 8.58 %, 4.03%, and 2.42 % respectively during the period Oct-Dec, 2008. In Textile sector, 0.91 per cent of the workers have lost their jobs. The total estimated employment in all the sectors covered by the survey went down from 16.2 million during September, 2008 to 15.7 million during December, 2008 resulting in job loss of about half a million. In the second quarterly survey to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment during January-March,

2009 additional sectors of leather and handloom-powerloom were also covered. Total estimated employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009 period. Non-export units have shown higher rate (0.92%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (0.28%). As compared to October-December, 2008 quarter wherein about half a million workers lost their jobs, the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 period. During April, 2008-March, 2009 period, employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.15 per cent, resulting in an addition of 0.28 million jobs.

Assessment of working of employment exchanges

2822. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the working of employment exchanges against the present day complex nature of the job market;
- (b) if so, with what results thereto;
- (c) whether Government is considering any proposal to reorient, modernize or abolish the system; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Employment Exchanges are functioning under administrative and financial control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Working Group on National Employment Service, consisting of representatives of Central and State Governments reviews functioning of the Employment Exchanges in the country periodically and suggests corrective measures. State Governments have taken many initiatives such as training of registered job-seekers, organising career melas, job-melas, campus recruitment programmes, etc to increase placement in the private sector keeping in view the changed employment market scenario. These efforts are showing good results.

(c) The Employment Exchanges are being modernized through computerization by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations keeping in view the resources available with them. Though some of the Employment Exchanges are computerized, many of them still work manually resulting in handicap in dissemination of information to employers and job-seekers. Modernisation and upgradation of Employment Exchanges has now been identified as one of the Mission Mode Projects under the National-e-Governance Plan by Government of India with an objective to progressively support all the State Governments to make effective use of IT in various activities for providing better services to all the stakeholders.

- (d) Does not arise.

Cost of providing universal coverage

2823. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent ILO study of 12 developing low income countries including India wherein it is stated that it would cost India just 3.9 per cent more

of its GDP to provide universal coverage for pension, basic healthcare, child benefit and unemployment assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Social Security Department of International Labour Organization (ILO) has brought out a paper titled 'Can low income countries afford basic social security.'

(b) The paper projects upto 3.9 per cent domestically financed expenditure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for India to provide basic social protection of its citizens.

Government of India is committed to provide social security cover to its workers both in the organized and unorganized sectors. So far as the organized sector is concerned a number of legislations have been enacted to provide social security benefits like medical facilities, employment injury/maternity benefits, insurance, pension and gratuity etc. to workers. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana, a worker insured under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 is entitled to claim unemployment allowance on account of closure of factory/establishment, retrenchment or permanent invalidity. The period of unemployment allowance has been increased from 6 months to one year to combat the adverse impact of the financial crisis. In respect of the unorganized sector workers Government is providing health care, housing and education to the children of Beedi, Cine and Non-coal mine workers through the Labour Welfare Funds. Smart card based cashless health cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum is being provided to BPL families under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana." Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line. Government of India had enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of Social Security Boards at the Central and State levels which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes relating to medical care, maternity/old age benefits, insurance, housing, educational schemes for children etc. for unorganised sector workers.

Combating the forced labour

2824. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently released report of the International Labour Organization has warned of the increasing number of unethical and criminal practices forcing people into forced labour which include bonded and trafficked persons:

(b) whether many countries in the world have legislation that treats forced labour as a criminal offence; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to combat the evil practice of the forced labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Report of International Labour Organisation released in May, 2009 under the heading 'The cost of Coercion' mentions about the existence of forced labourers in India and other countries. The report also mentions that in many countries the recent impetus has been the new laws against human trafficking. Almost all countries now prohibit forced labour in either their constitutional, criminal, labour or other administrative laws.

In India the Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State Governments. In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labourer which is equally shared by Central and State Government.

Unemployment on account of recession

2825. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of unemployment figures State-wise and category-wise;
- (b) the steps Government proposes to take to reduce unemployment in the next five years;
- (c) whether there is any policy change made in this matter;
- (d) whether the figure have substantially increased after the world recession; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the increase on account of the recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the results of this survey, a statement indicating State-wise unemployment rates for the period 2004-05 is enclosed (See below).

(b) and (c) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities. As a result, it is expected that there would be reduction in unemployment rate to 4.83% towards the end of the Plan period. Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment rate. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace than before, and target agriculture growth at 4% per annum in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

(d) and (e) No comprehensive study has been conducted so far to assess the impact of world recession on employment in the economy as a whole. However, according to the report on "Effect of Economic Slowdown on Employment in India," which is based on a sample survey of 2,581 units conducted by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, during October-December 2008, there was decrease in employment of about half a million workers during the period. The most affected sectors were gems and jewellery, transport, automobiles and textiles. The survey conducted by the Labour Bureau for the period January to March 2009 covering 3,192 units in 21 centres, however, indicated improvement in the selected sectors with employment rising by a quarter million. Sectors registering increased employment were gems and jewellery, textiles, IT-BPO, handloom-powerloom and automobile.

Statement

State-wise unemployment rates on usual status basis

S.No.	State/Union Territory	2004-05					
		Rural			Urban		
		Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.0	0.4	0.7	3.6	3.8	3.6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.1	2.8	1.2
3	Assam	2.4	3.1	2.6	6.9	9.1	7.2
4	Bihar	1.8	0.2	1.5	6.7	4.1	6.4
5	Chhattisgarh	0.8	0.3	0.6	3.8	2.4	3.5
6	Delhi	2.0	0.0	1.9	4.6	6.4	4.8
7	Goa	9.1	15.7	11.1	7.6	11.8	8.7
8	Gujarat	0.8	0.2	0.5	2.3	2.9	2.4
9	Haryana	2.8	1.0	2.2	3.2	7.5	4.0
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.7	10.1	3.8
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1.7	1.3	1.5	3.7	10.9	4.9
12	Jharkhand	2.0	0.1	1.4	7.5	2.3	6.5
13	Karnataka	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.9	5.7	2.8
14	Kerala	5.1	20.1	10.7	6.2	33.4	15.6
15	Madhya Pradesh	0.7	0.1	0.5	3.1	1.5	2.8
16	Maharashtra	1.5	0.3	1.0	3.5	4.1	3.6
17	Manipur	1.4	0.7	1.1	5.2	6.3	5.5
18	Meghalaya	0.1	0.5	0.3	3.5	3.5	3.5
19	Mizoram	0.5	0.1	0.3	1.6	2.6	1.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Nagaland	2.2	1.4	1.8	4.6	7.2	5.5
21	Orissa	3.1	8.3	5.0	9.0	26.6	13.4
22	Punjab	3.3	4.9	3.8	2.9	14.0	5.0
23	Rajasthan	1.2	0.1	0.7	2.8	2.9	2.9
24	Sikkim	2.8	1.5	2.4	3.6	4.3	3.7
25	Tamilnadu	1.2	1.1	1.2	2.9	4.8	3.5
26	Tripura	9.6	32.0	13.3	16.6	56.8	28.0
27	Uttarakhand	2.0	0.4	1.3	4.2	10.2	5.4
28	Uttar Pradesh	0.7	0.3	0.6	3.5	2.5	3.3
29	West Bengal	2.2	3.3	2.5	5.6	8.4	6.2
30	A & N Islands	3.7	12.3	6.2	6.5	17.2	8.8
31	Chandigarh	2.5	4.8	2.6	3.1	7.5	4.0
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.1	3.6	3.3	1.3	9.1	3.0
33	Daman & Diu	0.4	0.0	0.3	2.8	3.3	3.0
34	Lakshadweep	0.9	57.1	7.5	11.1	51.5	25.0
35	Puducherry	9.4	3.2	7.0	4.1	19.5	8.1
TOTAL		1.6	1.8	1.7	3.8	6.9	4.5

Ongoing schemes and projects in Maharashtra

2826. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- the details of ongoing schemes and projects of the Ministry in Maharashtra;
- the details of complaints and suggestions received in regard thereof;
- the action taken thereon and amount involved in each scheme/projects; and
- whether the allocated frudget was spent by the Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Plan Scheme of the Ministry of Labour & Employment like Up-gradation of Industrial Training Institutes, Skill Development Initiative, Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), National Child Labour Project, Strengthening of adjudication machinery and holding of Lok Adalats etc., operating throughout India, cover Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) According to information available, there are no specific complaints and suggestions received regarding operation of these schemes in Maharashtra.

(d) A statement (see below) indicating Plan Allocation and Expenditure incurred by the Ministry during last three years, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is enclosed.

Statement

*Plan Allocation and Expenditure incurred during last three years,
2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09*

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Budget Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Actual Expenditure (AE)	% of Expenditure to (BE)	% of Expenditure to (RE)
2006-07	311.36	235.00	225.39	72.39	95.91
2007-08	325.48	1250.00	1280.22 *	393.33	102.42
2008-09	771.50	1426.00	1388.39	179.96	97.36

* Higher Actual Expenditure as compared to Revised Estimate was met through supplementary provisions.

Child labour

2827. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 13 million children in our country under 14 years of age are engaged as child labour inspite of various steps taken by Government to eliminate child labour;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any new schemes to eliminate child labour in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years was 1.26 crore.

(b) State-wise distribution of child labour as per Census 2001 is enclosed as statement (see below).

(c) No, Sir. There is already an existing scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP).

Statement

*State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 2001
Census in the age group 5-14 years*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339
2.	Assam	351416
3.	Bihar	1117500
4.	Gujarat	485530

1	2	3
5.	Haryana	253491
6.	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	175630
8.	Karnataka	822615
9.	Kerala	26156
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11.	Maharashtra	764075
12.	Chhattisgarh	364572
13.	Manipur	28836
14.	Meghalaya	53940
15.	Jharkhand	407200
16.	Uttaranchal	70183
17.	Nagaland	45874
18.	Orissa	377594
19.	Punjab	177268
20.	Rajasthan	1262570
21.	Sikkim	16457
22.	Tamil Nadu	418801
23.	Tripura	21756
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
25.	West Bengal	857087
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1960
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28.	Chandigarh	3779
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4274
30.	Delhi	41899
31.	Daman and Diu	729
32.	Goa	4138
33.	Lakshadweep	27
34.	Mizoram	26265
35.	Pondicherry	1904
TOTAL :		12666377

Restructuring shift in factories

2828. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to restructure shift in factories in order to increase production or to give employment to more persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Engagement of girl child as labour

2829. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any data with specific focus on engagement of girl child, as labourers in various difficult jobs like agriculture, salt industry, carpet industry and as domestic help; and

(b) whether the International Labour Organization (ILO) has communicated to Government and India specific references on exploitation of girl child, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) While, as per the 2001 Census, the number of working children in the country was 1.2 crore, gender-wise and industry-wise details are not maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

Annual expenditure on social welfare schemes

2830. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India spends just over 1 per cent of its Gross Domestic Produce (GDP) on social welfare scheme as against 20 to 30 percent of GDP spent by developed countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of the poorer countries in Africa and Asia spend more than India on Social Welfare Schemes;

(c) if so, the details of the amount spent in percentage of GDP on social welfare schemes by major advanced countries and developing countries in Asia and Africa; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the annual expenditure on social welfare schemes for poor in urban and rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Ministry of Finance, total combined expenditure of Central and State Governments on social services in 2008-09 (BE) was Rs. 6.72 percent of GDP at current market prices. Social services include education; sports; art and culture; medical and public health; family welfare; water supply and sanitation; housing; urban development;

welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs; labour and labour welfare; social security and welfare; nutrition, relief on account of natural calamities etc.

The available international comparison of expenditures as a percentage of GDP on social benefits by General Government and Central Government as per Government Finance Statistics Year Book, 2008 of IMF, is given below :

(As percent of GDP)

Sl. No.	Country	Social Benefits General Government	Social Benefits Central Government
1.	Thailand (2007)	2.14(P)	2.01(P)
2.	Mauritius (2007)	5.02	4.92
3.	South Africa	6.21(P) (2005)	14.21(P) (2006)
4.	France (2007)	23.09(P)	22.16(P)
5.	Germany (2007)	24.63	20.67
6.	U.K. (2007)	12.68(P)	11.23(P)
7.	U.S.A. (2007)	12.20(P)	9.08(P)

N.B: 1. Year to which the data relate is given in bracket.

2. (P) = Provisional

(d) The Government has enhanced the budget allocation for a number of social sector schemes like, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) etc. in the Union Budget 2009-10.

Setting up of ten ITIs in Kerala

2831. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to setting up of ten ITIs in minority concentrated blocks in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status of above proposal?

(c) whether request had been submitted for above ITIs in Minority (Muslim) concentrated block in English/Malayalam medium since this is the common language of specific blocks identified and to relax ten acres of land at a stretch since so much land at a stretch is not available in identified block;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in affirmation of the above submission, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Opening of new ITIs and administration of existing ITIs is under the control of State Governments. State Governments are also competent to open ITIs in their jurisdiction in any medium of instruction prescribed in Eighth Schedule of Constitution of India. Accordingly clarifications have been issued to Government of Kerala.

No proposal to setup ten ITIs in minority concentration blocks in Kerala has been received in the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, However, the Department of Industrial Training of Kerala has informed that they are in the process of ascertaining the availability of land for formulating a proposal to setup ten ITIs in minority concentration blocks in Kerala.

Migration of rural farm hands

2832. SHRI. A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether International Labour Organisation (ILO) initiated study of year 2009 reveals that rural farm hands, migrated to distant places falls prey to "debt bondage" work and forced labour prevailing in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise, category-wise, details of such workers in various States as on date;
- (c) the year-wise, State-wise category-wise, details of rural farm hands migrated to distant places for work during last five years;
- (d) the steps being taken to end debt bondage labour and forced labour; and
- (e) the details of steps being taken to end the migration of rural farm hand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) The International Labour Organisation in their report under heading 'The cost of coercion' has mentioned about the debt bondage and forced labour prevailing in the country.

The Government is aware about the persons moving from one State to another for various reasons including in search of employment. According to 2001 census, 314.54 million persons moved for various reasons within the country. Out of these, 29.90 million migrated for reasons of employment. In order to regulate the employment and service conditions of migrant workers, Government has enacted Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. The Act lays down that no contractor shall recruit any person in the State for the purpose of employing him in any establishment situated in another State except and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf. There is no provision for registering the Individual migrant workman or of preventing migration of rural farm worker. As such, no data is being maintained in respect of migrant workers moving from one State to another, including rural farm hands.

The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State

Governments. In order to assist the state Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labourer which is equally shared by Central and State Government.

Under the directions of Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) was constituted to review and monitor the Implementation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Special Group has held 16 meetings in different regions.

As per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the National Human Rights Commission is also monitoring the implementation of the Act and holding Workshops in different States.

Specific policy intervention programme

2833. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched/proposes to launch a specific policy intervention programme for districts with chronic unemployment and industrial under-development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTRIDITYA MADHARAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No scheme for industrial development, district-wise, has been launched or proposed to be launched. The Government of India is implementing package of incentives for the special category States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and for the States of the North East including Sikkim which help in enhancing industrial activities and generating more employment in these States. The Government has also launched a number of other schemes such as Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), Transport Subsidy scheme, Industrial Park Scheme etc. to provide financial assistance/concessions to the industries in other States as well. Besides, various other Departments of the Government of India are also implementing a number of schemes for generating employment and development of backward areas such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman, Backward Regions Grant Fund etc.

Workers covered under E.S.I. and Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana

2834. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees/workers covered under Employees Insurance Act, 1948 as on 31.03.2008;

(b) the number of employees/workers enjoyed benefits of E.S.I. during 2005-06 to 2007-08 (year-wise); and

(c) the number of employees covered under 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' as on 31.03.2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): As on 31.03.2008, a total of 1,11,80,886 employees/workers are covered under Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

(b) Year	No. of Employees who availed medical benefits	No. of Employees who availed medical benefits
2005-06	38,42,414	86,45,431
2006-07	36,56,726	89,99,609
2007-08	38,62,560	85,70,055

(c) As on 31.03.2009, 2731 employees have availed benefits under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana'.

Construction workers covered by ESIC and EPF Act

2835. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any statistics of construction workers working in the country State-wise and gender-wise;

(b) whether construction workers are covered under the ESIC and EPF Acts, if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) the total number construction workers engaged for Delhi Metro and the Commonwealth Games sites and which Government is the appropriate Government for these construction workers of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) As per estimates of National Sample Survey (2004-2005) about 25.71 million building and other construction workers are estimated in India. State-wise and gender-wise details are not maintained. However, State-wise and gender-wise details of construction workers as given in the Census of India 2001 are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

The construction workers who are employed in an establishment covered under the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and eligible for membership are covered.

The construction workers working at construction site are not covered under the ESI Act, 1948. However, construction workers working within a factory covered under the Act are eligible for cover for the limited period when they are working in that factory. The power to extend the Scheme to any other establishments (other than factories) lies with the concerned State Governments. None of the State Governments have, so far, extended the Scheme to construction workers. The main reason for non-coverage of these workers is that they are mostly migratory and move on to some other site as the construction project is completed. One of the pre-condition for extending ESI Act to any area is provision of infrastructure for medical care and if a dispensary is set-up at an area where construction work is going on and workers move out from that area after the project is completed, the infrastructure will become unutilized and infructuous.

On the basis of licenses obtained by various contractors of DMRC and Commonwealth Games sites, the total number of construction workers engaged for Delhi Metro and Commonwealth Games sites are 20,364 and 11,089 respectively. The Central Government is the appropriate Government for these construction workers of Delhi.

Statement

State-wise and gender-wise details of Construction Workers:

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs.	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1095380	911450	183930
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30078	24351	5727
3.	Assam	197420	190960	6460
4.	Bihar	412270	393550	18720
5.	Chhattisgarh	182540	145350	37190
6.	Goa	47977	41707	6270
7.	Gujarat	850300	738160	112140
8.	Haryana	370000	333560	36440
9.	Himachal Pradesh	129710	121510	8200
10.	J&K	135220	126580	8640
11.	Jharkhand	327430	284330	43100
12.	Karnataka	947000	819320	127680
13.	Kerala	1007180	934730	72450
14.	Madhya Pradesh	661200	565340	95860
15.	Maharashtra	1616790	1386910	229880
16.	Manipur	14360	13220	1140
17.	Meghalaya	19510	17700	1810
18.	Mizoram	16579	15420	1159
19.	Nagaland	17201	15316	1885
20.	Orissa	595640	473340	122300
21.	Punjab	450380	429550	20830
22.	Rajasthan	1066780	931710	135070
23.	Sikkim	13602	11343	2259
24.	Tamilnadu	1134370	988010	146360
25.	Tripura	27130	25400	1730

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1330760	1267320	63440
27.	Uttarakhand	162860	157080	5780
28.	West Bengal	864180	827910	36270
29.	Delhi	352830	327840	24990
30.	A & N Islands	17874	16259	1615
31.	Chandigarh	32679	30840	1839
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4919	3784	1135
33.	Daman and Diu	4065	3227	838
34.	Lakshadweep	1837	1780	57
35.	Puducherry	26993	24142	2851
TOTAL		14165044	12598999	1566045

Completion of deputation period by top officials looking after road projects

2836. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of top officials in the Ministry looking after road projects who have completed their deputation and still going on;
- (b) whether there is any specific guidelines laid down in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) None.

(b) to (c) Deputations to the Ministry are governed by the guidelines laid down by the Department of Personnel & Training from time to time.

Conversion of NH-8 from four lane to six lane

†2837. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of work regarding the conversion of Jaipur-Delhi National Highway No.8 from four lane to six lane and the date by when it would be completed; and
- (b) the details of amount being spent on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (8-lane) is already in operation. The work of conversion of Gurgaon-Jaipur National Highway No.8 from four-lane to six-lane is under progress and is targeted for completion by October, 2011. The work has been awarded on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis and the expenditure is to be incurred by the concessionaire.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Action plan to resolve alarming traffic problems in major cities

2838 SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate any national level action plan to resolve alarming traffic problems particularly in major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA): (a) to (c) Realizing the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Central Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. It, inter-alia, seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of transport as well as intelligent transport systems. NUTP provides guidelines for central financial assistance, duly prioritizing investments in public transport, non-motorized transport and intelligent transport systems etc.

Opposition from wildlife experts to widening of NH-7

2839. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wildlife experts have opposed widening of NH-7 from Seoni to Nagpur as this is resulting in cutting the wildlife corridor between Pench and Kanha and Pench and Nagzir-Mavegon;

(b) if so, whether the alternative to develop the existing State Highway Nagpur-Katol-Pandhurna-Saunar-Chhindwara-Seoni-Jabalpur-Narsinghpur or Nagpur-Katol-Teegaon-Betul-Bhopal-New Delhi has been approved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A number of objections have been received from wild life experts to the alignment proposed by NHAI with a request to realign the NH-7 passing through the Pench Tiger Reserves to save the bifurcation of the tiger habitat. NHAI has taken these concerns into consideration and proposed a number of animal passes of adequate width and height at suitable locations as per the advice of the Forest Department and referred the proposal for the consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forests. The matter has subsequently been referred to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), who after a series of hearings, has referred the matter for the consideration of Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) A final decision on following the existing alignment or an alternative alignment can be taken only after the decision of the Supreme Court.

Revamping NHAI

2840. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to improve the poor performance of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) over the past five years, the Government has decided to revamp its organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the overall road development infrastructure is not as per the required one in the country; and
- (d) if so, to what extent the revamp of the NHAI organisation is going to affect the growth of road infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) The length of highways completed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) during the last five years as under does not reflect poor performance:

Year	Completed length (in km)
2004-05	2351
2005-06	753
2006-07	635
2007-08	1682
2008-09	2205

However, considering the enhanced mandate of NHAI to implement the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Government has approved re-structuring of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to enhance its institutional capacity by making it multi-disciplinary professional body with quality financial management and contract management expertise. The salient features of re-structuring are:-

- (i) Selection of the Chairman by a search committee with tenure fixed for at least three years which may be extended upto five years.
- (ii) Increase in the number of full time Members from five to six and the number of part-time Member from four to six.
- (iii) Creation of additional posts of Chief General Managers (CGMs).
- (iv) Creation of Cells with experts in the areas of finance, legal, safety, quality control, Project Appraisal etc., and
- (v) Empowering the NHAI to engage where required outside experts.

Constructing 12,000 kms road during current financial year

2841. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has worked out a plan of constructing nearly 12 thousand kms of road during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, whether Government has also estimated requirement of Rs. one lakh crore for investment in road development projects;
- (c) if so, whether Government has since taken any steps to generate the required funds and also find out investors for the road development projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes sir. A plan has been worked out by the Government to undertake the works of nearly 12,000 km of National Highways during the current financial year. The Government is exploring various options to generate the required funds. The projects are proposed to be under taken on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis where Government investment may be up to 40 % of the project cost and the remaining from the private sector. Government is also taking steps including road shows in India and abroad in collaboration with industries and lenders to generate private sector investment in the road projects.

Four laning of NHs in Rajasthan

2842. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Rajasthan has proposed four laning of NH-11 (Jaipur-Ringus-Sikar road section), NH-12 (Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar road section up to Madhya Pradesh Border), NH-14 (Beawar-Pali-Sirohi road section) and NH-8 (Beawar-Udaipur Section);
- (b) if so, when these National Highways are likely to be four laned;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the stretch between Chitorgarh to Neemuch of NH-79 upto Madhya Pradesh border qualify for four laning; and
- (d) if so, by when these stretches are likely to be four laned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar section of NH-11, Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 and Beawar-Pali-Sirohi-Pindwara section of NH-14 have been identified for four laning under NHDP Phase III. Beawar to Gomti section of NH-8 has been taken up for development with two lane with paved shoulders. The feasibility study for Gomti to Udaipur section has recently been completed.

(b) Bids for projects for Jaipur-Reengus section of NH-11 and Jaipur-Tonk-Deoli section of NH-12 have been received. Feasibility study of Reengus-Sikar section of NH-11 and Deoli-Kota section of NH-12 and Beawar-Pali-Sirohi section of NH-14 have been completed.

(c) and (d) The stretch between Chitorgarh to Neemuch of NH-79 upto Madhya Pradesh border has been included in the Annual Plan 2009-10 for feasibility study for four laning. Four laning of the stretch will depend upon the outcome of the study.

Expressway between Delhi and Jaipur

2843. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister has declared construction of expressway between Delhi and Jaipur in his Budget Speech of 2006-07; and

(b) if so, by when this work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes sir,

(b) Expressway facility from Delhi to Gurgaon is already in operation. Project of construction of expressway between Gurgaon and Jaipur was to be finally selected for implementation on the basis of traffic volume. Six laning from Gurgaon to Jaipur is under progress and will be sufficient to cater traffic volume for another 10-12 years. Presently construction of a new expressway is not envisaged between Delhi and Jaipur.

Declaration of new NHs for Rajasthan

2844. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajasthan Government has submitted proposals for declaration of new National Highways; and

(b) if so, by when these National Highways are likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (b) The Government of Rajasthan has submitted proposal for declaring 24 roads of Rajasthan as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Increasing cost of construction of NHs

†2845. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of construction of National Highways has increased from average Rs. 6 crore per kilometre to Rs. 12 crore per kilometres in the last two years;

(b) if so, the construction cost of the work assigned for road construction in 2005-2006 and the construction cost estimated for 2008-09; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the construction cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The cost of development of National Highways (NHs) depends upon the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

type of development works, such as widening to two-lanes / 4-lanes, strengthening of weak sections, improvement of riding quality, construction of bypasses, etc. There is no unique average cost of development of NHs in general. Generally, the cost of development of NHs increases due to overall price escalation resulting in increase in cost of materials, labour, usage of machinery, etc.

Projects under NHDP-III, IV and V

2846. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of projects that are going to be undertaken under NHDP-III, IV and V;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the NHAI relaxed the norms governing the procedure for short listing bidders for projects under NHDP Phase-III and V; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The statewise details of projects planned under National Highways Development Programme Phase III, IV and V are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (c) The norms for shortlisting the bidders are governed by the provisions under clause 3.5.2 of the Model Request for Qualification (RFQ) issued by the Ministry of Finance for infrastructure projects undertaken on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) basis. The provision under clause 3.5.2 of the model RFQ limiting the number of short listed bidders was deleted on 22.9.08 for roads projects. In the revised Model RFQ issued by the Ministry of Finance on 18.5.2009, this exemption from short listing of bidders is continued for road projects.

Statement

List of NHDP projects proposed to be undertaken

Sl.No.	Name of the project	State	NH No.	Length (Km.)	NHDP Phase
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Vijayawada-Machilipatnam	Andhra Pradesh	9	65.00	III
2	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	Andhra Pradesh	202	35.65	III
3	Vijaywada to Badrachalam (km 0/0-169/6)	Andhra Pradesh	221	170	IV
4	Digmarru to Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	214A	255	IV
5	Nellore - Chilkaluripet	Andhra Pradesh	5	184.00	V
6	Vijayawada-Elluru-Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	5	198.00	V
7	Vishakapatnam - Rajahmundri	Andhra Pradesh	5	201	V

1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Patna - Bakhtiarpur	Bihar	30	53	III
9	Khagaria-Bakhtiarpur	Bihar	31	120.00	III
10	Khagaria-Purena	Bihar	31	140.47	III
11	Sonbarsa-Muzaffarpur	Bihar	77	89.00	III
12	Mokhama-Munger	Bihar	80	70.00	III
13	Patna - Gaya - Dobhi	Bihar	83	125	III
14	Patna-Hazipur-Muzaffarpur	Bihar	19 & 77	63.37	III
15	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hazipur (Pkg.II)	Bihar	19 & 85	71.70	III
16	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hazipur (Pkg.I)	Bihar	19 & 85	83.50	III
17	Motihari-Raxaul	Bihar	28A	67	III
18	Patna-Buxar	Bihar	3 & 84	125.00	III
19	Forbesganj-Jogwani	Bihar	57A	13	III
20	Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji Goa/KNT Border	Goa	17	122.87	III
21	Goa/KNT Border-Panji	Goa	4A	65.00	III
22	Gujarat/MH Border - Surat - Hazira	Gujarat	6	133.00	III
23	Godhra-Gujarat/MP border	Gujarat	59	83.85	III
24	Ahmedabad-Godhra	Gujarat	59	117.60	III
25	Kandla - Mundra Port	Gujarat	8A Ext.	71.40	III
26	Jetpur-Somnath	Gujarat	8D	127	III
27	Ahmedabad-Vadodara	Gujarat	8	95	V
28	Samakhiali-Gandhidham	Gujarat	8A	56.00	V
29	Rohtak - Hissar	Haryana	10	97.00	III
30	Ambala - Kaithal	Haryana	65	78	III
31	Rohtak-Jind	Haryana	71	45	III
32	Rohtak -Bawal	Haryana	71	82.55	III
33	Panchkula-Barwala-Saha-Yamuna Nagar-Haryana/UP border	Haryana	73	105.00	III
34	Rohtak-Panipat	Haryana	71A	80.58	III
35	Delhi - Agra	Haryana/ Uttar Pradesh	2	180.00	V
36	Parwanoo - Solan	Himachal Pradesh	22	40.70	III

1	2	3	4	5	6
37	Solan-Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	22	60	III
38	Kiratpur-Bilaspur	Himachal Pradesh	21	63	IV
39	Barhi-Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	33	40	III
40	Hazaribagh- Ranchi	Jharkhand	33	71.00	III
41	Ranchi-Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	33	163.50	III
42	Barwa Adda - Panagarh	Jharkhand/ West Bengal	2	120	V
43	Karnataka/AP Border-Mulgabal	Karnataka	4	22.00	III
44	Bijapur-Hungud	Karnataka	13	97.22	III
45	Hungud-Hospet	Karnataka	13	97.89	III
46	Kundapur-Surthkal & Mangalore- KNT/Kerala Border	Karnataka	17	90.00	III
47	Devihalli-Hassan section	Karnataka	48	78.00	III
48	Balgaum-Goa/KNT Border	Karnataka	4A	81.90	III
49	Chitradurga-Shimoga	Karnataka	13	111	IV
50	Shimoga-Mangalore	Karnataka	13	188	IV
51	Gundlupet-Kollegal	Karnataka	212	114	IV
52	Belgaum - Dharwad	Karnataka	4	80.00	V
53	Tumkur-Chitradurga	Karnataka	4	114.00	V
54	Km 534.720 to Km 556.840 of Hyderabad - Bangalore section	Karnataka	7	22.12	VII
55	Kuttipuram-Edapally	Kerala	17	112.00	III
56	KNT/Kerala border-Kannur	Kerala	17	130	III
57	Trivendrum -Kerala /TN Border	Kerala	47	43.00	III
58	Charthalai - Ochira	Kerala	47	83.60	III
59	Ochira -Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	47	85.57	III
60	Bodimettu - Kundannur Jn on Cochin Bypass	Kerala	49	168	IV
61	Kollam - Kazhuthurty	Kerala	208	82	IV
62	Kozhikode-Muthanga	Kerala	212	118	IV
63	Kozikhode - Palakkad	Kerala	213	126	IV
64	Kolam - Kumily	Kerala	220	191	IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
65	Bhopal-Rajmarg crossing- Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	12	297	III
66	Indore-Gujarat/MP border	Madhya Pradesh	59	155.15	III
67	Jhansi-Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh	75	163	III
68	Bhopal-Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	86 (Ext)	57	III
69	Jabalpur to Lakhnadon (km 471 to km 544)	Madhya Pradesh	7	74	IV
70	Rewa bypass end to Katni bypass end (km 243/6 to km 299) & Maihar bypass end to Katni bypass end (km 304 to km 361/2)	Madhya Pradesh	7	103	IV
71	Betul to Maharashtra/Madhya Pradesh border (km 143 to km 257, NH-69)	Madhya Pradesh	69	115	IV
72	Bamitha to Bela (km 58/4 to km 199/6)	Madhya Pradesh	75	141	IV
73	Gwalior to MP/UP Border (km 0 to km 108).	Madhya Pradesh	92	108	IV
74	Sidhi to Sigraulti (km 81 to km 195/8)	Madhya Pradesh	75 ext	115	IV
75	Indore - Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	3	45.00	V
76	MP/MH Border - Nagpur Section	Maharashtra	7	95.00	II
77	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	Maharashtra	4	20	III
78	Nagpur-Wainganga Bridge	Maharashtra	6	60	III
79	Talegaon-Amravati	Maharashtra	6	66.73	III
80	Pune - Sholapur (pkg-I)	Maharashtra	9	110.00	III
81	Pune - Sholapur (pkg-II)	Maharashtra	9	110.00	III
82	Solapur - Maharashtra / Karnataka Border	Maharashtra	13	30	III
83	Panvel-Indapur	Maharashtra	17	84	III
84	Ahmednagar to Pathardi (km 232 to km 284)	Maharashtra	222	51	IV
85	Pathri to Nanded (km 442 to km 591)	Maharashtra	222	149	IV
86	Satara-Kagal	Maharashtra	4	133.00	V
87	Pune-Satara	Maharashtra	4	140.35	V
88	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chattisgarh/Orissa Border	Orissa	6	88	III

1	2	3	4	5	6
89	Chandikhole-Dubari-Talchar	Orissa	200	133.00	III
90	Bhubaneswar-Puri	Orissa	203	59	III
91	Rimuli-Roxy Rajamunda Section	Orissa	215	96.00	III
92	Panikoli-Keonjhar-Rimuli Section	Orissa	215	166.00	III
93	Kanaktora-Jharsuguda Jn	Orissa	200	68	IV
94	Chandikhole-Jagatpur - Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	5	70.00	V
95	Amritsar-Pathankot	Punjab	15	102.00	III
96	Ludhiana - Talwandi	Punjab	95	84	III
97	Reengus - Sikar	Rajasthan	11	42	III
98	Jaipur-Reengus	Rajasthan	11	54.00	III
99	Deoli - Kota - Jhalawar (Pak - II)	Rajasthan	12	55	III
100	Deoli - Kota - Jhalawar (Pak - I)	Rajasthan	12	124	III
101	Jaipur- Tonk-Deoli	Rajasthan	12	149.00	III
102	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	Rajasthan	14	246	III
103	Karauli-Dholpur	Rajasthan	11B	72	IV
104	Udaipur-Ahmedabad	Rajasthan	8	242.50	V
105	Kishangarh-Udaipur	Rajasthan	76, 79 & 79A	315.00	V
106	Madurai-Ramnathpuram - Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	Tamil Nadu	49	186	III
107	Tindivanam-Krishnagiri	Tamil Nadu	66	199.94	III
108	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	Tamil Nadu	67	50.00	III
109	Nagapatnam-Thanjaveur	Tamil Nadu	67	76.70	III
110	Karaikudi- Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu	210	80.00	III
111	Trichy-Karaikudi	Tamil Nadu	210	120.00	III
112	Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni NH 45 Ext & Theni-Kumili NH 220	Tamil Nadu	45 & 220	130.00	III
113	Kerala/ TN Border - Kanayakumari	Tamil Nadu	47 & 47B	70.00	III
114	Walajpet-Poonamalee	Tamil Nadu	4	92	V
115	Hosur-Krishnagiri	Tamil Nadu	7	65	V

1	2	3	4	5	6
116	Krishnagiri-Walajahpet	Tamil Nadu	46	148.00	V
117	Tirupati - Tiruthani - Chennai	Tamil Nadu/ Andhra Pradesh	205	125.00	III
118	Dindigul-Karnataka Border	Tamilnadu	209	266	IV
119	Thanjavur - Pudukkottai -Sivaganga- Manamadurai	Tamilnadu	226	122	IV
120	Tiruchirapalli-Lalgudi-Chidambaram & Meenusuriti-Jayamkondam-Kootu C Road [km 90.20 to km 93.00 (common stretch with km 96.80 to km 99.60 of NH 227)]	Tamilnadu	227 & 45	135	IV
121	Viluppuram- Pondicherry- Nagapattinam	Tamilnadu	45A	194	IV
122	Coimbatore - Karnataka Border	Tamilnadu	67 Ext.	103	IV
123	Varanasi to Gorakhpur	UP	29	209	IV
124	Kanpur to Kabrai section	UP	86	123	IV
125	Aligarh to Kanpur	UP	91	268	IV
126	Agra to Aligarh	UP	93	79	IV
127	Raibareilly to Allahabad	UP	24B	119	IV
128	Sitarganj to Bareilly	UP/ Uttaranchal	74	87	IV
129	Muradabad-Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	24	121.00	III
130	Bareilly - Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	24	152.40	III
131	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	91	126.00	III
132	Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar	Uttar Pradesh/ Uttarakhand	58	80.00	III
133	Varanasi-Aurangabad	Uttar Pradesh/ Jharkhand	2	190.00	V
134	Haridwar-Dehradun	Uttarakhand	58/72	37.40	III
135	Rampur - Kathgodam	Uttaranchal	87	88	III
136	Kashipur-Sitarganj	Uttaranchal	74	97	IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
137	Raiganj-Dalkhola	West Bengal	34	49.53	III
138	Krishnagar-Bahrapore	West Bengal	34	78.00	III
139	Barasat -Krishnagar	West Bengal	34	84.00	III
140	Bahrapore -Farakka	West Bengal	34	100.85	III
141	Farakka-Raiganj	West Bengal	34	103.00	III
142	Barasat-Bangaon	West Bengal	35	60	III
143	Dhankuni - Baleshwar	WestBengal/ Orissa	6 & 60	240	V

Changes in PPP norms under NHDP

2847. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that only 46 per cent of NHDP-II, 6 per cent of NHDP-III and only 1 per cent of NHDP-V has been completed so far which is far behind the targets set;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- the targets set for all the NHDP projects, Phase-wise in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- whether it is also a fact that changes in the PPP norms are the primary reason behind tardy progress of NHDP projects; and
- if so, how Government is planning to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The status of length of National Highways under National Highways Development projects (NHDP) phases II, III and V completed up to 30th June, 2009 is as under:

NHDP Phase	Total length (km)	Length completed	% completion
II	6647	3192	48.02
III	12109	890	7.34
V	6500	130	2

NHDP Phase III and Phase V are in early stages of implementation and are scheduled to be completed by Dec. 2013 and Dec 2012 respectively.

- Targets set for all NHDP projects phase wise in the State of Andhra Pradesh are given in the statement (see below).
- No, Sir. Award of projects in 2008-09 was affected primarily due to inability of investors to raise necessary finance for the project due to prevailing economic down turn.
- Does not arise.

Statement						
Details of NHDP Projects (under implementation) in Andhra Pradesh: Status as on 30.06.2009						
Sl. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Total Length (in km.)	Completed Length (in km.)	Date of Completion as per Contract	Date of Completion/ Anticipated Completion
Andhra Pradesh						
NHDP Phase I						
1	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP)-Balance Work	7	23.10	16.20	Dec-2006	Jul-2009
NHDP Phase II						
1	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-11)	7	42.40	0.00	Aug-2009	Aug-2009
2	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-10)	7	40.00	0.00	Aug-2009	Aug-2009
3	Hyderabad Bangalore section (NS-2/BOT/AP-5)	7	74.65	66.40	Mar-2009	Aug-2009
4	Armur to Kadloor Yellareddy (NS-2/AP-1) (Approved Length 60.25)	7	59.00	0.00	Jan 2012	Jan 2012
5	Islam Nagar to Kadthal (NS-2/BOT/AP-7)	7	48.00	28.12	Mar-2010	Mar-2010
6	Kadal to Armur (NS-2/BOT/AP-8)	7	31.00	29.39	Nov-2009	Nov-2009
7	MH/AP border to Islam Nagar (NS-2/BOT/AP-6)	7	55.00	36.48	Nov-2009	Nov-2009
8	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-15)	7	45.60	0.00	Aug-2009	Aug-2009
9	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-14)	7	42.00	0.00	Aug-2009	Aug-2009
10	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-13)	7	40.00	0.00	Sep-2009	Sep-2009
11	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-12)	7	42.60	0.00	Sep-2009	Sep-2009
NHDP Phase III						
1	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	18	188.75	0.00	June 2012	June 2012
2	Hyderabad-Vijayawada	9	181.63	0.00	Sep 2012	Sep 2012
NHDP Phase V						
1	Chilikaluripet - Vijayawada (Six lane)	5	82.50	0.00	Nov 2011	Nov 2011
TOTAL :			996.23	176.59		

New target for construction of 12,000 km of NH

†2848. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set a new target for construction of 12,000 km. of National Highway;

(b) if so, the name of States and the length of highway identified to be constructed in these States;

(c) the models decided upon for construction of Highway;

(d) the length of road to be constructed under each model; and

(e) the detailed definition of each model and the share of Government and private sector, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes sir. A plan has been worked out by the Government to undertake the works of about 12,000 km of National Highways during the current financial year as per details given in the statement (see below).

(c) to (e) The projects are largely proposed to be implemented on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Toll mode. Projects not viable on BOT (Toll) may be taken up on BOT (Annuity) / Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) mode based on the traffic volume, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. For BOT (Toll) mode Government can give grants up to 40 % for four laning and 10 % for six laning. The balance investment is to be arranged by the Concessionaire. In BOT (Annuity) mode, entire investment is made by the Concessionaire, which is paid back by the Government, in fixed instalments called Annuity during the concession period. In EPC mode the Government bears the entire cost of construction.

Statement

State-wise length of National Highways

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Length of National Highway to be upgraded (in km)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1112
2	Assam	31
3	Bihar	1021
4	Goa	187
5	Gujarat	683
6	Haryana	488
7	Haryana/Uttar Pradesh	180
8	Haryana/Delhi/Uttar Pradesh	135
9	Himachal Pradesh	100
10	Jammu & Kashmir	239

1	2	3
11	Jharkhand	274
12	Jharkhand/West Bengal	120
13	Karnataka	683
14	Kerala	700
15	Madhya Pradesh	717
16	Maharashtra	1006
17	Orissa	612
18	Punjab	206
19	Rajasthan	1321
20	Tamil Nadu	1291
21	Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh	125
22	Uttar Pradesh	399
23	Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand	80
24	Uttar Pradesh/Jharkhand	190
25	Uttarakhand	125
26	West Bengal	639
27	West Bengal/Orissa	240

Proposed big bypass in Bareilly district in U.P.

†2849. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the proposed big bypass in district Bareilly of Uttar Pradesh is likely to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-construction of big bypass in district Bareilly has resulted in the death of thousands of people in road accidents; if so, the reasons for not taking up the proposed works seriously by Government to check such road accidents;

(c) whether Government has acquired the land and paid the compensation to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Four-laning of Moradabad-Bareilly section of NH-24 is being taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. The proposed bypass of length 33 kms in District Bareilly of Uttar Pradesh falls in this section. Request for proposal (RFP) has been issued for this project with bid due date of 17.08.2009. The project is scheduled to be completed in 30 months time from date of commencement of work.

(b) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Government has acquired about 218.68 Hectare land for which an amount of Rs.864.00 lakh have been made available to Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLAO), Bareilly.

DBFO system for highways

2850. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about Design, Built, Finance and Operate (DBFO) system announced by Union Finance Minister in the 2006-07 Budget Speech;

(b) if so, what are the phase-wise planning and other action for Vadodara-Mumbai Express Highway; and

(c) what is the status regarding acquisition of the land, already frozen by the State Government for the above Expressway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes sir. The various phases of the planning and implementation of Vadodara-Mumbai Express Highway are: fixing the alignment, feasibility studies and facility planning, preparation of land plan schedule, acquisition of land, preparation of bidding document, appraisal and approval of the project, invitation of bids, award of concession, financial close, commencement of construction, completion of the expressway and start of commercial operation.

(c) Process of land acquisition is likely to be started by April 2010. Alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway has been finalized and consultant is appointed for feasibility-study. Services for feasibility study have started in February 2009 and likely to be completed within a period of one year.

Progress of Kota-Bora-Shivpuri, Jhansi NH-76

†2851. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress report of four lane Kota-Bora-Shivpuri-Jhansi section of National Highway-76 which run through Kandla to North Eastern States, which is diagonal part of Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) the name of the contractor who is undertaking this work;

(c) by when this work was to be completed as per plan and by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government is aware that this work is not up to the level of prescribed norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Highway No.76 passes through Kota, Baran, Shivpuri & ends at Junction of NH-76 & NH-25 (Chainage 15.00) in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The section from junction of NH-76 & NH-25 to Jhansi form part of NH-25. The details of Kota-Baran-Shivpuri-Jhansi section is enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(d) Works are executed as per stipulated norms under contract provisions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Status of 4 laning of Kota-Barman-Shivpuri and Jhansi (NH-76)

Status on June, 2009

S.No.	Contract Stretch (State)	NH No.	Length (Km.)	Contractor and its Nationality Supervision Consultants and itsnationality	Progress	Targets for completion	
						Completion (Original)	Anticipated Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Chambal Bridge EW-II(RJ-5) (Rajasthan)	76	1.4	Hyundai Engg. & Constr. Co. Ltd- Gammon India(JV) (Koren & Indian) M/s Louis Berger-COWI(JV) (USA-Denmark) LOA issued on 31-10-06 Agreement signed on 7-12-06)	41.76%	Feb. 2010	Dec, 2010
2.	Kota Bypass EW-II(Rj-4) Km.406.00 to Km.381.00 (Rajasthan)	76	26.42	M/s ITD-Cemindia(JV) (Thailand & Indian) M/s Zaidun Leeng Sdn. Bhd. & Artefact Project(JV) (LOA issued on 5-4-06) Agreement signed on 5.5.06	43.05%	Nov., 2008	June, 10
3.	RJ/MP Border to Kota EW-11 (RJ-9) Km.449.15 to Km.406.00 (Rajasthan)	76	43.15	M/s Sunway Construction (Malasian) M/s Wilbur Smith Associates (USA) (Agreement signed on 2.2.06)	Completed	Apri 1, 2008	July, 09
4.	RJ/MP Border to Kota EW-II(RJ-10-) Km.509 to Km.449.15 (Rajasthan)	76	61.492	M/s KMC Construction (Indian) M/s Vilbur Smith Associates (USA) (Agreement signed on 2.2.06)	Completed	April, 2008	July, 09

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
5.	RJ/MP Border to Kota EW-II(RJ-11) Km.579 to Km.509 (Rajasthan)	76	67.49	M/s L&T, ECC Division (Indian) M/s Wilbur Smith Associates (USA) (Agreement signed on 2.2.06)	Completed	March, 2008	July, 09
6.	Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ Border EW-II(MP-I) Km. 15.00 to Junction of NH-76/ NH-3 of NH-25 & Km.610 to Km.579.00 of NH-76 (Madhya Pradesh)	76/25	53	M/s CSCHK-Soma JV (Chinese & Indian) M/s Renardet S.A. (Switzerland) (Agreement signed on 24.11.05)	Completed	Feb., 2008	July, 09
7.	Jhansi to Shivpuri EW-II(MP- 2) Km.50 to Km. 15 (Madhya Pradesh)	25	35	M/s ITD-Cemindia JV (Thailand & Indian) M/s Renardet S.A. (Switzerland) (Agreement signed on 24.11.05)	Completed	Feb., 2008	Nov., 08
8.	Jhansi to Shivpuri EW-II(UP/MP-1) Km.91 to Km.50 (Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh) Border at Km.80.00	25	41*	M/s Oriental Structural Ltd. (Indian) M/s. Renardet S.A. (Switzerland) (Agreement signed on 24.11.05)	Completed	Apr, 2008	May, 09
9.	Jhansi Bypass DW-II (UP-3) Km. 104 to Km.91 (Uttar Pradesh)	25	15	M/s Oriental Structural Ltd. (Indian) M/s Renardet S.A. (Switzerland) (Agreement signed on 24.11.05)	58.10%	May, 2008	Dec, 2009

Progress of Vadodara-Mumbai expressway

2852. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what progress has been made regarding Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway;
- (b) what are the phases of the planning and implementation;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the State Government has frozen 300 m width land along the proposed alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway way back in 1991, if so, by when the land acquisition is likely to start; and
- (d) whether any time frame has been decided by his Ministry for starting of construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway has been finalized and consultant is appointed for feasibility study. Services for feasibility study have started in February, 2009 and likely to be completed within a period of one year. The various phases of the planning and implementation are: fixing the alignment, feasibility studies and facility planning, preparation of land plan schedule, acquisition of land, preparation of bidding document, appraisal and approval of the project, invitation of bids, award of concession, financial close, commencement of construction, completion of the expressway and start of commercial operation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Process of land acquisition is likely to be started by April 2010. The construction work is likely to be started by April, 2012.

Opening of sub-ways for pedestrians on G.T. road

2853. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several sub-ways constructed at the G.T. Road are lying closed for the past several years resulting in deaths of pedestrians while crossing the road;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not opening such sub-ways for pedestrians; and
- (c) the time by when all such sub-ways will be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The subways at km 17.325, km 19.5, km 20.150, km 22 and km 61.5 on GT Road (NH-1) are closed due to construction work in progress. Subways at km 61.5 is targeted to be opened by 31.10.2009 and remaining subways are targeted to be opened by July, 2010.

Construction of new bridge on river Tista on NH 31

†2854. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is considering construction of a new bridge as an alternative to the old bridge over river Tista falling on National Highway No. 31, out of the budget for new bridge; and

(b) whether Government is aware that the bridge, on the river Tista on National Highway No. 31 that passes through Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Dooars and North East has become very old?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Complaints received by NHAI regarding bad condition of roads under NHDP

2855. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints has been received by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) regarding bad condition of roads under National Highway Development Project (NHDP);

(b) the steps taken by NHAI for redressal of complaints;

(c) by when NHAI is going to resurface the existing highways of NHDP length in Gujarat; and

(d) the planning and time frame fixed by NHAI for resurfacing of roads damaged during the recent monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) A number of complaints have been received regarding bad condition of various roads under NHDP from time to time. It was mainly due to damage of roads during monsoon season and poor maintenance by some contractors. Concerted efforts are made by NHAI for carrying out urgent repair work, re-surfacing, termination of contract of non-performing contractors and re-awarding the work etc. Provisions have been made in the operation & maintenance contracts to ensure that road is made traffic worthy and serviceable. Flood damage repair is also undertaken as and when required.

(c) and (d) Repair and maintenance is an ongoing process and roads under NHDP in Gujarat are being maintained in traffic worthy condition. Resurfacing is done generally once in five years.

Construction of bypass on National Highways around Jaipur city

†2856. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy traffic on National Highways bypasses are required around Jaipur city;

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance will be given by the Government of India for construction of a bypass linking Ajmer-Jaipur road (NH-8) to Jaipur-Tonk road (NH-12); Tonk-Jaipur road (NH-12) to Jaipur-Agra road (NH-11) and Agra-Jaipur road (NH-11) to Jaipur-Delhi road (NH-8); and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is already a Jaipur by-pass on western side of NH-8 connecting NH-8 (Delhi-Jaipur), NH-11 (Jaipur-Bikaner) and NH-8 (Jaipur-Ajmer). Proposal for construction of ring road/bypass is included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VII approved by the Government.

Cutting of trees for construction of roads

2857. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trees planted along the roads in the country have been cut during the construction of roads under your department;

(b) the total number of trees cut all over the country including Uttar Pradesh and the details of the varieties of these trees alongwith their botanical names, State-wise;

(c) whether the trees of the same variety have been planted in lieu of the trees which have been cut and if not, the reasons therefor: and

(d) whether Government has any plan to plant trees of the same variety which have been cut, so that the environment can be saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) During widening and improvement of National Highways, existing trees are generally preserved as far as possible. Where the cutting of trees are unavoidable, the executing Agencies take clearance from the concerned Government Departments. For major projects, environment clearance which includes cutting of trees, is obtained from the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(b) Details of the number of trees cut all over the Country including Uttar Pradesh, is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Requisite amount for compensatory afforestation is deposited with the Forest Departments. At least twice the number of trees cut are planted under compensatory afforestation. The choice of species is left to the discretion of Forest Departments.

Allocation of funds for NHDP-IV

2858. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for completion of highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP-IV);

(b) the length of road laid so far and the length of road for which contract has been awarded but the work has not been started and the length of road for which contract has not been awarded so far;

(c) the amount allocated for the project (NHDP-IV) since its launching and the amount spent so far; and

(d) the reasons for very slow progress of the programme and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Government has, so far, approved 5000 km National Highways length under NHDP-IV A, with target date of completion as December, 2013.

(b) Feasibility Studies for 3200 km length have been initiated. No contract has so far been awarded.

(c) The estimated cost for 5000 km length is Rs.6950 crore (Based on March, 2007 price). Out of which, Government share is Rs.2342 crore. So far, Rs.0.22 crore has been spent for ongoing feasibility report preparation.

(d) The programme is proceeding as per schedule.

Sluggish progress in implementation of highway projects

2859. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has submitted a report to Government on the reasons behind the sluggish progress in implementing the highway project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government on the findings of the report;

(c) whether private investors have expressed difficulty in supporting highway projects due to certain provisions of the model concession agreement, particularly the termination clause;

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Review of progress of implementation of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is an ongoing process. During the process of review, various constraints in implementation are identified and necessary steps are taken for resolution of the issues so as to ensure timely implementation of the project. Modes of delivery, process of pre-qualification, Model Concession Agreement and effect of global slowdown, etc. are some of the issues which have been identified in this regard on the basis of recent review.

(c) to (e) Model Concession Agreement (MCA) lays down the framework for development of highways on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. The private investors have pointed out some

difficulties in regard to some provisions of the MCA including the clause dealing with termination of the contract prematurely by the Authority and variability of concession period. It is the endeavour of the Government to address various issues after due consultations with all concerned.

Construction of bypasses on various NHs in Assam

2860. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of projects taken up for construction of bypasses on various National Highways in Assam indicating the reasons for delay in commissioning the actual work and the target set for completion;
- (b) the progress made "in chronological order" from the date of first proposal till end of May, 2009 on each of such by passes, year-wise;
- (c) the total outlays, amount utilized during the Tenth Plan period and proposed for Eleventh Plan;
- (d) whether Ministry has evaluated the actual causes of delay and evolved a mechanism to expedite the execution; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Guwahati Bypass on NH-37 under National Highways Development Project-I (NHDP-I) has been completed, For other bypasses taken up on various NHs of Assam, their status of completion and reasons for any delay has been mentioned in the statement (see below).

(c) No separate outlays are earmarked for the bypasses.

(d) and (e) Higher Officers of Ministry and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) take review of the progress of bypasses from time to time and take remedial measures for expediting the progress.

Statement

Construction of bypasses on various NHs in Assam

Sl. No.	Name of bypass	Target date of completion	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4
A NH(O)			
1	Karimganj	July, 2009	Delay due to Land Acquisition problems.
2	Kathakal	2002 (except for 2 ROB's)	Delay is due to Technical reasons.
B East - West Corridor under NHDP-II			
3	Baihata Chariali	December, 2010	Delay in handing over the land free of encumbrances.

1	2	3	4
4	Nagaon	March, 2010	Delay in handing over the land free of encumbrances.
5	Udharbondh	June, 2010	Delay in Land acquisition/ Reimbursement of compensation/ Court litigation, tree cutting, shifting of utilities and poor law and order.
6	Daboka	March, 2010	Delay in Land acquisition/compensation/ cutting of trees and shifting of utilities.
7	Maibong	December, 2010	Delay in handing over the land to NHAI by the State Government, tree cutting, shifting of utilities and poor law and order.
8	Lumding	December, 2010	Delay in Land acquisition/compensation, cutting of trees and shifting of utilities.
9	Lanka	September, 2010	Clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) for Lumding Reserve Forest clearance awaited.
10	Mahour	December, 2010	Delay in Land acquisition/Reimbursement of compensation/court litigation. Clearance from MOEF for Borail Reserve Forest clearance awaited.
C 4-laning from near about Numaligarh to Bogibeel Bridge approach and Dibrugarh bypass under SARDP-NE			
11	Moran	March, 2012	No Delay
12	Dibrugarh	March, 2012	No Delay
D SARDP-NE Phase 'A'			
13	Tinsukia	March, 2011	No Delay
14	Mohanbari - Chabua - Makum - Doom Dooma	March, 2013	No Delay
15	Digboi - Margharita - Ledo	March, 2013	No Delay
16	Silchar	March, 2012	No Delay
17	Hailakandi	March, 2013	No Delay
18	Katlicherra	March, 2013	No Delay
19	Lala	March, 2010	No Delay

Repairing and maintaining NH in H.P.

2861. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Himachal Pradesh Government has sent any proposal to Government for repairing and maintaining National Highways in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when these proposals are likely to be approved and funds are likely to be released accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 13 proposals amounting to Rs. 24.47 crore have been received from the State PWD under Periodical Renewals scheme during 2009-2010.

(c) 9 proposals amounting to Rs. 13.09 crore are being sanctioned shortly. Funds to the tune of Rs. 4.6 Crore under Periodical Renewal and Rs. 2.00 crore for ordinary repair have already been released. Further funds will be released depending upon progress of works and utilization of funds by the State PWD.

Funds released by CRF for H.P.

2862. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds released by Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last two years, State-wise and the length of road alongwith the districts where the roads have been constructed;
- (b) whether Government has received any proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for constructing roads in the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the current status of the proposal; and
- (e) by when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) State-wise and year-wise details of fund released under Central Road Fund (CRF) for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the Statement-I (see below). District-wise length of roads in the country constructed/completed under CRF in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the Statement-II (see below). Information in respect of the remaining States is being collected and same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (e) A priority list of 12 road works amounting to Rs.124.82 crore has been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh on 6th July 2009 for approval under Central Road Fund.

The State Government has been requested to furnish the details of these roads, specification proposed and the estimates. The proposals can be considered for approval as and when received from the State subject to fulfilling the CRF guidelines and availability of funds.

Statement

*State-wise and year-wise funds released under Central Road Fund
(CRF) during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.*

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	135.61	273.63
2	Arunachal Pradesh	18.13	25.96
3	Assam	26.13	15.09
4	Bihar	16.14	32.03
5	Chhattisgarh	40.35	26.52
6	Goa	4.17	8.99
7	Gujarat	97.07	177.14
8	Haryana	54.76	91.18
9	Himachal Pradesh	15.48	4.36
10	Jammu & Kashmir	50.85	84.62
11	Jharkhand	17.02	38.47
12	Karnataka	102.42	148.87
13	Kerala	29.45	43.60
14	Madhya Pradesh	93.85	87.45
15	Maharashtra	96.68	222.85
16	Manipur	3.86	0.60
17	Meghalaya	4.06	9.93
18	Mizoram	4.74	5.67
19	Nagaland	4.42	3.55
20	Orissa	31.66	83.49
21	Punjab	52.92	72.18
22	Rajasthan	132.45	180.60
23	Sikkim	2.07	2.54
24	Tamil Nadu	68.84	142.10

1	2	3	4
25	Tripura	0.00	3.78
26	Uttarakhand	14.02	10.54
27	Uttar Pradesh	159.34	234.55
28	West Bengal	35.70	42.69
29	A & N Islands	0.50	0.00
30	Chandigarh	0.00	1.17
31	Delhi	9.50	41.29
32	Puducherry	0.00	6.56

Statement-II

State-wise, District-wise and year-wise length of road constructed/completed under Central Road Fund (CRF) during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

(Length in kms)

Name of the State/ UT	Name of the District	Length of roads constructed/completed during the year 2007-08	Length of roads constructed/completed during the year 2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	3.00	3.20
	Anantapur	5.00	26.00
	Chittoor	9.40	12.40
	East Godavari	18.50	19.50
	Guntur	10.60	26.80
	Kadapa	0.00	21.60
	Karimnagar	6.60	27.00
	Khammam	5.00	9.50
	Krishna	16.60	15.50
	Kurnool	9.40	19.00
	Mahabubnagar	7.39	18.00
	Medak	22.90	8.40
	Nalgonda	16.00	12.60
	Nellore	5.00	16.00
	Nizamabad	12.30	21.00
	Prakasam	0.00	14.00

1	2	3	4
	Ranga Reddy	15.50	16.00
	Srikakulam	0.70	11.00
	Vizianagaram	11.30	11.00
	Vishakapatnam	0.00	6.20
	Warangal	12.30	5.00
	West Godavari	7.80	16.00
Bihar	Sitamarhi	3.24	0.06
	Chapra	0.50	0.00
	Supaul	0.00	5.50
Goa	North Goa	0.00	22.95
	South Goa	0.00	2.8
Jharkhand	Koderma	0.00	20.76
	Ranchi	0.35	0.00
Karnataka	Bagalkot	33.00	24.00
	Bangalore Rural	27.75	69.90
	Bangalore (Urban)	31.55	7.00
	Belgaum	18.38	45.51
	Bellary	23.20	25.70
	Bidar	19.15	0.00
	Bijapur	31.32	23.42
	Chamaraja Nagar	26.29	18.35
	Chikballapur	32.91	12.50
	Dakshina Kannada	28.20	34.15
	Davangere	17.30	7.55
	Dharwad	16.00	31.30
	Gadag	8.70	0.00
	Gulbarga	26.00	57.20
	Hassan	48.41	43.12
	Haveri	11.75	14.67
	Kodagu	15.63	29.90
	Kolar	97.37	86.76

1	2	3	4
	Koppal	23.61	5.70
	Mandya	29.10	50.57
	Mysore	17.35	28.65
	Raichur	11.50	19.00
	Shimoga	14.00	31.84
	Tumkur	28.75	62.93
	Udupi	45.30	12.90
	Uttara Kannada	16.70	18.15
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	28.80	39.50
	Kollam	12.50	0.00
	Alappuzha	0.00	25.36
	Pathanamthitta	0.00	15.20
	Ernakulam	15.00	43.75
	Thrissur	0.00	24.00
	Kozhikkode	30.00	10.00
	Malappuram	0.00	22.00
	Wayanad	0.00	30.00
Maharashtra	Akola	12.00	4.00
	Amravati	10.00	11.00
	Ahamadnagar	0.00	27.02
	Beed	28.50	0.00
	Buldhana	12.00	13.40
	Bhandara	0.00	15.08
	Chandrapur	13.40	0.00
	Dhule	0.00	19.65
	Gondia	4.99	0.00
	Hingoli	0.00	11.00
	Jalana	25.00	30.00
	Jalgaon	5.40	0.00
	Kolhapur	4.80	0.00
	Latur	16.00	183.80

1	2	3	4
	Nanded	21.60	10.00
	Nashik	67.58	0.00
	Nagapur	0.00	46.80
	Nandurbar	0.00	38.69
	Osmanabad	0.00	4.00
	Pune	38.90	0.00
	Parbhani	0.00	16.80
	Raigad	7.60	9.00
	Sangli	88.20	33.95
	Satara	4.00	0.00
	Sindhudurg	7.00	18.00
	Solapur	9.70	0.00
	Washim	13.00	0.00
	Yatmal	33.20	0.00
Orissa	Nayagarh	17.55	3.00
	Mayurbhanj	2.00	7.20
	Bhadrak	4.00	0.00
	Ganiam	24.30	27.50
	Baragarh	8.00	0.00
	Keonjhar	9.40	1.00
	Angul	10.90	5.60
	Kalahandi	12.00	17.00
	Jagatsingpur	10.00	6.50
	Dhenkanal	10.50	0.00
	Sambalpur	6.00	4.50
	Sonepur	3.46	8.00
	Koraput	0.00	6.00
	Sundargarh	0.00	10.56
	Balasore	0.00	4.50
	Kandhamal	0.00	0.70
Uttar Pradesh	Mainpuri	46.00	10.3.5
	Firozabad	31.00	9.50

1	2	3	4
	Shahajanpur	6.00	5.00
	Etawah	10.00	33.20
	Gautambudh Nagar	8.00	1.00
	Hathras	0.00	9.27
	Amroha	30.50	0.00
	Moradabad	45.00	27.00
	Raebareilly	14.50	11.80
	Hardoi	11.00	0.00
	Jaunpur	5.00	20.65
	Azamgarh	12.00	0.00
	Kheri	28.80	0.00
	Sultanpur	0.00	10.00
	Balrampur	0.00	2.00
	Pratapgarh	0.00	5.00
	Jalaun	0.00	3.00
	Lucknow	0.00	32.00
	Sitapur	0.00	4.00
West Bengal	Hooghly	10.00	18.00
	Burdwan	45.00	20.00
	Purulia	67.35	0.00
	Purba Midnapore	32.30	8.00

Loans from ADB for NH and State highways

2863. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Asian Development Bank has provided loan to Government for refurbishing National Highways and State highways system;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any action plan has been finalized by Government;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the amount Government proposes to allocate to Himachal Pradesh State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. The Asian Development Bank has provided loan to Government for development/improvement of National Highways as per details given in the statement.

Statement

Details of ADB Loan for NHAI

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Details of Project	Date of Agreement	Effective date of Loan	Date of Closing	Loan sanctioned US\$
1	1747-IND	Surat-Manor Tollway Project	05/10/2000	8/11/2000	30/09/2005 Closed	16,50,00,000
2	1274-IND	ADB III, Total 5 Road Works	12/9/1996		29/06/2002 Closed	24,50,00,000
3	1839-IND	Western Transport Corridor Project	14/12/2001	4/2/2002	30/06/2008 Closed	24,00,00,000
4	1944-IND	East-West corridor Project	25/08/2003	19/11/2003	30/06/2008 extended upto 30/06/2009	32,00,00,000
5	2029-IND	National Highways Corridor Sector-I Projects	27/10/2004	24/01/2005	30/06/2008 extended upto 31/12/2009	40,00,00,000
6	2154-IND	National Highways Corridor Sector-II Projects	15/12/2005	20/02/2006	31/12/2008 extended upto 31/12/2009	40,00,00,000

Highway projects underway

†2864. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of highway projects underway in the country alongwith the cost of these projects, project-wise;
- (b) the tender provision regarding highway projects;
- (c) whether Government has suspended work on some highway projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways and roads other than National Highways are under the purview of the respective State Governments. 202 numbers of National Highway projects with a total project cost of Rs. 72768.89 crore under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and 2491 numbers of National Highway projects with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 13847.41 crore with State Public Works Departments (PWDs) & Border Roads Organization (BRO) are under implementation as on 30.6.2009, the project-wise details are given in the statement (see below).

(b) Under NHDP, tenders are awarded on International Competitive Bidding. For works costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore and executed by the State PWD, tender provisions of Standard Bidding Document (SBD) of the Ministry apply. For other works, tender provisions as per State Government's procedure are adopted. BRO follows tender provision as per their own guidelines.

(c) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement

*Project-wise details of National Highway projects under implementation
in the country as on 30.6.2009*

Sl. No.	National Highway projects	Number	Total Project Cost (Rs in crore)
1	NHDP Phase-I	30	6325.08
2	NHDP Phase -II	127	34160.71
3	NHDP Phase -III	36	22554.98
4	NHDP Phase -V	8	8073.12
5	NHDP Phase -VII	1	1655.00
6	NH(O)	2491	13847.41

Need to amend Motor Vehicle Act, 1988

2865. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to plug the loopholes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) to (c) There are no loopholes in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

However, review of the Act and amendments therein is a continuous process to keep pace with the emerging modern day requirements and challenges. Keeping this in view, the Act is also proposed to be amended to make the penalties for traffic violations more deterrent, to delegate more powers to the State Governments and make the authorities in the States more responsive to streamline the provisions relating to payment of compensation to road accident victims and also to enhance the amount of compensation etc.

Medical assistance for victims of highway accidents

2866. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that increasing number of accidents taking place on highways in the country resulting in many deaths which are attributed due to lack of emergency medical assistance soon after accidents;

(b) whether there is a lot of scope for reducing number of deaths by making available immediate medical assistance for which ambulances can be stationed at every 5 to 10 kms. points and highways with qualified medical personnel linked up with nearest speciality hospitals for medical assistance;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) to (d) During the 11th Five Year Plan, the Government has approved a proposal of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for 'establishment of an integrated network of Trauma Centres' along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West Corridors of the National Highways by upgrading the trauma care facilities in 140 identified State Government hospitals, at a total outlay of Rs. 732.75 crore. Setting up of the integrated network of Trauma Centres along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East West Corridors will ensure that each accident victim on these corridors is able to get competent medical assistance within the shortest possible time thereby saving precious lives. The trauma care network provides three categories of trauma care centres, i.e., Level-I, Level-II and Level-III. Level-I trauma centre in the states would provide the highest level of definitive and comprehensive care of patients with complex injuries. The level-II trauma centre would be available at every 300 km. The Level-III trauma centre would be available every 100-150 km. The present Scheme covers entire Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors. Subsequently, after evaluation of this project, other National Highways with substantial traffic density would be taken up.

The Network has been so designed that no trauma victim has to be transported for more than 50 kilometer. It will bring down the morbidity and mortality on the road by observing the golden hour concept. The project comprises of well equipped life support Ambulances at every 50 Kilometer of the completed stretches of the National Highways with well-equipped & staffed trauma centre at every 100-200 Kilometer of the National Highways.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under the scheme "National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS)" has been providing cranes and ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of accidents by way of evacuating road accident victim to nearest medical aid centre and for clearing the accident site. National Highways Authority of India is also providing ambulances with the state of art equipments, deployed with qualified staff, at every 50 km on completed stretches of National Highways.

Maintenance of NHs

2867. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of India is preparing a clear policy for maintenance of existing roads during construction phase of four laning/six laning by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);
- (b) if so, what is the said policy;
- (c) whether there is any complaints that some of the National Highways are not being maintained as per prescribed standard by the NHAI, particularly in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Under NHDP wherever 4/6 laning works are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, maintenance of existing roads are carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement. Wherever 4/6 laning has not yet started, maintenance of existing roads are being carried out by NHAI directly or through State PWDs. Maintenance of completed National Highways is carried out by NHAI through Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contracts selected through national competitive bidding.

(c) and (d) National Highways under NHDP including the state of Maharashtra are being maintained in traffic worthy condition by NHAI depending on inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Declaration of new NHs in Maharashtra

2868. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has submitted a proposal for declaration of new National Highways; and
- (b) if so, by when these National Highways are likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposal for declaring

3 roads of Maharashtra as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Schemes from Chhattisgarh

†2869. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schemes sent by Chhattisgarh Government for approval;
- (b) the number of schemes out of the above proposals to be implemented in naxalite affected areas and length and cost thereof; and
- (c) the details of schemes that have been approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of Chhattisgarh has sent 5 proposals under Public Private Partnership (PPP) for Rs. 2280 crore, which are at feasibility study stage and 4 proposals for widening to 2 lanes with paved shoulder under National Highway Development Project-IVB scheme, which is yet to be approved by Government. In addition, under the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scheme 27 proposals for Rs. 1561 crore for aggregate length of 1168 km and under National Highway scheme 13 proposals for Rs. 76.22 crore have also been sent by Government of Chhattisgarh, which are at various stages of approval.

- (c) No scheme has been approved so far.

Delay in NHAI projects

2870. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various reasons attributable for delays in the various NHAI projects;
- (b) whether it is a fact that same or most of the delays in the NHAI projects relate to land acquisition disputes;
- (c) if so, whether Government would consider a better compensation mechanism, wherein landowners are compensated with land next to the highways which would significantly appreciate in value, and therefore, reduce risk of disputes; and
- (d) if so, by when a decision in this matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) There has been some delay in implementation of some projects under NHDP due to various constraints. The major constraints in implementation of the projects are due to delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining clearances for forest/environment and Road over Bridges, poor performance of some contractors and law & order problem in some states.

(c) and (d) The land for the National Highways is acquired under the provisions of National Highways Act 1956. The compensation to land owners for their land is determined as per the section 3G of National Highways Act.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Financial status of textile parks

2871. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial status of textile parks in the country;
- (b) the losses for each park during the current Five Year Plan;
- (c) the package announced for exporters of textile industry; and
- (d) the workers' condition in textile parks SEZs in the Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):
(a) and (b) The Textile parks sanctioned under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) are in different stages of implementation. So far, no loss has been reported in any of the Textile Parks approved under SITP.

(c) The Government has announced two stimulus packages on 07.12.2008 and 02.01.2009 to boost exports, arrest the impact of global slowdown and to improve liquidity. These measures inter alia include:-

- (i) Additional allocation of Rs. 1400 crore under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) during 2008-09. Further, in the Union Budget 2009-10, an allocation of Rs.3140 crore has been announced under TUFS.
- (ii) All items of handicrafts to be included under 'Vishesh Krishi & Gram Udyog Yojana (VK&GUY)'.
(iii) Across-the-board cut of 4% in the ad-valorem Cenvat rate till 31.3.2009.
- (iv) Interest subvention of 2% upto 31.3.2009 subject to a minimum of 7% per annum on pre and post-shipment export credit (since extended to 31.03.10 in the Union Budget 2009-10).
- (v) Provision of additional funds for full refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Central Sales Tax.
- (vi) Enhanced back-up guarantee to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) to cover for exports to difficult markets/products.
- (vii) Refund of Service Tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10% of FOB value of exports as well as refund of service tax on output service while availing benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme.
- (viii) Credit targets of Public Sector Banks revised upward to reflect the needs of the economy.
- (ix) State Level Bankers Committee would hold meetings for resolution of Credit issues of Medium, Small & Micro Enterprises (MSMEs).
- (x) Guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme doubled to Rs. 1 crore with cover of 50%.
- (xi) Duty Entitlement Pass Book rates restored to pre-November, 2008 levels and extended till 31.12.2009.
- (xii) Duty Drawback on knitted fabrics enhanced retrospectively from 1.9.2008.

(d) In the State of Andhra Pradesh, three (03) Textile SEZ parks, promoted by Brandix India Apparel City Private Limited, MAS Fabric India Park Ltd. and Neogen Properties Ltd. have been approved under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP).

In the textile park of Brandix India Apparel City Private Limited, approximately 3500 persons, mostly women are employed. The park management has initiated extensive training and capacity building measures with the objective of training the local women.

Projects of MAS Fabric Park (India) Private Limited and Neogen Properties Private Limited are under execution and yet to commence commercial operation.

Decline in production of textile fabrics

2872. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the production of textile fabrics declined during 2008-09;
- (b) if so, the comparative details during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):
(a) and (b) The production of fabrics in mill and decentralized hosiery sector showed an increase whereas the production in handloom and decentralized powerloom sector has declined. The details of production of fabrics in different sectors for the last three is given in the statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Production of fabrics in different sector

(Mn.Sq. Mtrs.)

Mill Sector			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09(P)
Cotton	1305	1249	1259
Blended	330	422	426
100% Non Cotton	111	110	111
Total	1746	1781	1796
Handloom Sector			
Cotton	5717	6076	5840
Blended	99	123	118
100% Non Cotton	720	748	719
TOTAL	6536	6947	6677

Decentralised Power Loom Sector			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09(P)
Cotton	9647	9923	9621
Blended	5025	4918	4764
100% Non Cotton	13207	19884	19263
TOTAL :	32879	34725	33648
Decentralised Hosiery Sector			
Cotton	9569	9948	10178
Blended	1428	1425	1458
100% Non Cotton	507	431	441
TOTAL :	11504	11804	12077
All Sectors			
Cotton	26238	27196	26398
Blended	6882	6888	6766
100% Non Cotton	19545	21173	20534
TOTAL :	52665	55257	54198
Khadi, Wool & Silk	724	768	768
GRAND TOTAL :	53389	56025	54966

P = Provisional

Figures in bracket indicates the corresponding figures of the previous year.

Statement-II

Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).
- (ii) To facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector, Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (iv) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty.
- (v) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. September, 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (vi) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).

(vii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.

(viii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

(ix) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

(x) In order to promote the Technical textiles, Government has approved a Scheme, which aims at baseline survey of technical textiles units and for setting up of four Centres of Excellence, one each for Agrotech, Buildtech, Meditech and Geotech with the total outlay of Rs.48 crore for 11th Plan period.

(xi) With a view to making textile industry more competitive, import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG has been reduced from 7.5% to 5% in November 2007 and import duty on PSF, PFY and Polyester chips from 7.5% to 5% in November 2007. The import duty on all man-made fibres / filament yarns/spun yarns excluding that of Nylon has been reduced from 10% to 5% and that of Paraxylene from 2% to 0% in November 2007. In the Budget 2008-09, the peak rate of CENVAT of all goods (including textile machineries) reduced from 16% to 14%. The three major advalorem rates of CENVAT-14%, 12% and 8% applicable to non-petroleum products have been reduced by 4% each, i.e., to 10%, 8% and 4% respectively and CENVAT on cotton textiles and textile articles has been reduced from 4% to Nil as a measure to stimulate the economy in the context of global economic recession by Government of India on 7th December 2008. In the Interim Budget 2009-10, the peak rate of CENVAT of all goods (including textile machineries) reduced from 10% to 8% and Service tax rate reduced from 12% to 10%. The optional duty scheme for non cotton textiles other than man made fiber and filament yarns continues. The concessional import duty of 5% on 387 machinery of List 30, 31, 32, 45 and 46 continues to be at 5% and import duty on other textile machinery continuous to be at 7.5 %. Central Sales Tax reduced from 3% to 2%.

(xii) National Textile Policy 2000 aimed at developing a strong and vibrant textile industry that can attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing in the globalized scenario.

(xiii) In order to strengthen the small scale powerloom sector, schemes such powerloom cluster development scheme, upgradation of textile testing laboratories & weaver service centers, modernization of powerloom service centers etc. have been taken up by the government.

Sick and closed textile units

2873. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the sick and closed textile units during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Union Ministry of Textiles has taken any step to revive those closed units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) The state wise details of sick and closed textile units during the last three years is given in the Statement (see below).

(b) and (c) Government seeks to foster a policy regime, which facilitates growth and development of Indian industry. It has taken a number of steps to revive sick industrial units which, inter-alia, include, guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Social Provisions) Act. etc. For restructuring of high cost debts of textiles units, in the organized sector. Ministry of Finance, Banking Division, in September 2003 introduced a Debt Restructuring Package to help textiles units overcome their unsustainable debt burden.

Statement

List of Government and private sick mills (State-wise)

S. No.	State	Private mills	NTC mills
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	53	6
2	Assam	5	1
3	Bihar	2	2
4	Chandigarh	1	-
5	Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	-
6	Daman & Diu	1	-
7	Delhi	46	-
8	Goa	1	-
9	Gujarat	122	11
10	Haryana	26	-
11	Himachal Pradesh	1	-
12	Jharkhand	1	-
13	Karnataka	43	4
14	Kerala	14	5
15	Madhya Pradesh	31	6
16	Maharashtra	167	35
17	Orissa	6	1
18	Pondicherry	1	1
19	Punjab	38	4
20	Rajasthan	45	4

1	2	3	4
21	Tamil Nadu	176	13
22	Uttar Pradesh	40	11
23	Uttranchal	5	-
24	West Bengal	38	12
25	Chhattisgarh	-	1
TOTAL		868*	117

*Out of 868 textile cases, 62 textile cases have been declared no longer sick by BIFR and 21 textile cases have been dropped as networth become positive. In respect of 64 textile cases, schemes/draft scheme have been prepared/sanctioned.

Impact of economical slowdown on textile industry

2874. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of global slowdown on Indian textile and clothing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of exports declined as a result of global slowdown during the last year and the steps taken by Government to boost the textile and clothing industry; and

(d) the details of further measures initiated by Government to improve textile exports and competitiveness of Indian textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not conducted any study to assess the impact of global slowdown on Indian textile and clothing industry. However, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry and other Textile Export Promotion Councils have conducted a study on "Impact of Economic slowdown on Indian Textile and Clothing Industry". The study showed decline in textile production and textile exports, decline in textile imports by India's major trade partners and deterioration in the financial performance of textile and clothing companies during 2008-09.

(c) As per data published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata, India's textiles exports have declined to US \$ 18.52 billion during April-February' 2008-09 from US \$ 19.55 billion (5.31 per cent) as compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

To strengthen and boost the export-intensive industries, the Government announced two stimulus packages, one on 7th December, 2008 and the other on 2nd January, 2009. These packages contained several measures which were beneficial to textile exporters.

(d) The Union Budget 2009-10 also contained several measures to boost the textile industry and textile exports. The important measures announced in the Budget are the following:

(i) Enhancement of the Annual Plan 2009-10 outlay of the Ministry of Textiles by Rs.2000 crore to Rs.4500 crore as compared to the BE 2008-09 of Rs.2500 crore. An outlay of Rs.3140 crore has been earmarked for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(ii) Interest subvention of 2 per cent on pre-shipment credit for seven employment oriented export sectors extended beyond the current deadline of September 30, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

(iii) List of specified raw materials and equipment imported by manufacturer-exporters of leather goods, textile products and footwear industry which are fully exempted from customs duty, subject to specified conditions, to be expanded.

(iv) To facilitate flow of credit at reasonable rates, Rs. 4000 crore provided as special fund out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). This will incentivise Banks and State Finance Corporations (SFCs) to lend to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by refinancing 50 per cent of incremental lending to MSEs during the current financial year.

(v) Adjustment assistance scheme to provide enhanced Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) cover at 95 per cent to badly hit sectors extended upto March 2010.

Additional funds for technology upgradation

2875. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving additional fund for technology upgradation;

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

(c) the details of the amount his Ministry has given to Uttar Pradesh during last three years and the criteria fixed for additional funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):
(a) to (c) The Government has provided for enhanced budget outlay of Rs.3140 crores for the current financial year. Funds released during the last three years and the current year are as follows:-

(Amount in Rupees crores)

Year	Fund released
2006-07	823.92
2007-08	1143.37
2008-09	2632.00
2009-10	606.62

TUFS is a demand driven scheme and the funds are not allocated State wise. Funds are released to the nodal agencies. However the funds released by the nodal agencies to Uttar Pradesh as on 31.3.2009 is Rs.1017.88 crores. The statewide details of progress of TUFS as on 31.3.2009 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Progress of TUFS (state-wise/Nodal Agency wise) (Provisional)
(01-04-1999 to 31-03-2009)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State/U.T	Sector	No. of Applications	Sanctioned		Disbursed	
				Project Cost *	Amount	No. of Applications	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	Non SSI	303	7796.1	3838.1	302	3183.83
		SSI	74	117.99	81.38	74	71.06
			377	7914.09	3919.49	376	3254.89
2	Chandigarh (UT)	Non SSI	21	307.55	152.46	21	148.02
		SSI	3	330.06	21.14	3	21.14
		24	837.61	173.60	24	169.16	
3	Dadra and	Non SSI	41	539.68	45426	41	357.09
	Nagar Haveli(UT)	SSI	11	15.87	6.35	11	6.35
			52	555.55	460.61	52	381.44
4	Daman and Diu (UT)	Non SSI	15	423.86	64.38	15	64.17
		SSI	4	12.15	11.48	4	5.44
			19	436.01	75.86	19	69.62
5	Delhi (UT)	Non SSI	203	3572.33	1517.83	202	1268.13
		SSI	216	241.39	131.27	216	117.31
			419	3813.72	1649.11	418	1385.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Gujarat	Non SSI	902	13953.13	5398.42	901	4362.16
		SSI	10271	2687.90	1869.09	10271	1515.59
			11173	16641.04	7267.50	11172	5877.76
7	Haryana	Non SSI	218	2061.98	1208.31	207	1069.96
		SSI	404	484.74	237.92	364	172.37
			622	2546.72	1446.23	571	1242.33
8	Himachal Pradesh	Non SSI	27	824.95	377.26	27	365.95
		SSI	7	11.13	5.02	7	4.88
			34	836.08	382.28	34	370.83
9	Jammu and Kashmir	Non SSI	22	612.45	447.24	22	337.84
		SSI	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
			22	612.45	447.24	22	337.84
10	Jharkhand	Non SSI	3	48.50	29.80	3	18.00
		SSI	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
			3	48.50	29.80	3	18.00
11	Karnataka	Non SSI	173	2213.23	1180.46	173	1049.20
		SSI	256	198.33	137.69	234	102.41
			429	2411.56	1381.14	407	1151.61
12	Kerala	Non SSI	47	1395.82	479.69	45	390.30
		SSI	19	17.07	10.52	19	7.80
		66	1412.89	490.21	64	398.11	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	Madhya Pradesh	Non SSI	59	1562.64	750.73	58	650.92
		SSI	14	6.20	8.46	14	8.05
			73	1569.04	759.19	72	658.96
14	Maharashtra	Non SSI	1096	36263.65	16708.56	1093	13733.69
		SSI	788	4105.66	544.75	781	443.92
			1884	40369.31	15253.3	1874	14177.61
15	Orissa	Non SSI	1	3.75	2.75	1	2.75
		SSI	1	2.09	1.34	1	0.92
			2	5.84	4.09	2	3.67
16	Ponndicherry	Non SSI	2	45.57	33.65	2	30.28
		SSI	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
			2	45.57	33.65	2	30.28
17	Punjab	Non SSI	620	26990.18	11637.8	616	8147.34
		SSI	1857	1153.85	604.53	1853	497.79
			2477	28144.03	12242.3	2469	8645.13
18	Rajasthan	Non SSI	632	20805.40	4781.73	631	4265.14
		SSI	317	382.81	192.79	317	177.99
			949	21188.21	4974.52	948	4443.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19	Tamil Nadu	Non SSI	2467	30066.55	16701.11	2463	14910.79
		SSI	3214	3036.48	2024.36	3206	1855.39
			5681	33103.03	18725.5	5669	16766.18
20	Uttar Pradesh	Non SSI	92	2983.14	1047.70	92	972.60
		SSI	89	106.43	53.99	86	45.28
			181	3089.56	1101.70	178	1017.88
21	Uttarakhand	Non SSI	4	269.65	119.03	4	74.97
		SSI	1	0.15	0.11	1	0.11
			5	269.79	119.14	5	75.08
22	West Bengal	Non SSI	78	1062.24	562.05	78	415.57
		SSI	113	125.87	82.97	113	64.69
			191	1188.11	645.02	191	480.25
Total		Non SSI	7026	153802.54	66493.32	6997	55836.71
		SSI	17659	13036.16	6025.17	17575	5118.50
			24685	166838.70	72518.49	24572	60955.21

Note:

1. * Project cost would include equity (non-loan amount), loan for non-TUF eligible investment.
2. Govt. Outflow under TUFs is around 5% of the disbursed amount.

Steps to promote handicrafts

2876. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether government has taken any step to promote handicrafts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that a large number of handicraft industries have been closed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to revive the handicraft industries particularly the closed units in the country; and
- (f) the time by when these industries are likely to be reopened for production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For promotion and development of handicrafts in the country, the Government is implementing various schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan, which include: Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana; Marketing Support; and Services scheme; Design & Technology Upgradation Scheme; Handicrafts Artisans Welfare Scheme; Human Resource Development Scheme and Research & Development Scheme.

(c) to (f) No such information of handicrafts industries being closed, has come to the notice of the Government.

Knitwear technology mission

2877. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Knitwear Technology Mission has been set up;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fund has been sought for the mission to prepare synthetic fibre; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Knitwear Technology Mission is an industry-driven effort initiated in Tirupur with initial support of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

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

Targets and achievements of TUFFS

2878. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets and achievements of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the handloom sector since its inception; and

(b) in the current financial year, how much amount was disbursed for handlooms and powerlooms under the TUFS, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) No targets have been fixed for handloom sector. No release under the scheme has been made so far.

(b) No fund has been released for handloom under TUFS in the current financial year. Funds disbursed for powerloom sector under TUFS - 20% MMS for the current financial year, state-wise and district-wise as under:-

District/State	Amount disbursed (Rs. in lakh)
Thane/Maharashtra	4.94
Valsad/Gujarat	13.66
Total	18.60

Skill development mission

2879. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to launch Skill Development Mission to remove scarcity of skilled workers in organized sectors;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the mission;

(c) whether this mission will create opportunity for lakhs of the workers of unorganized sectors and unemployed workers of the country to get specialized training and get a chance of employment in the organized sectors of textiles industry; and

(d) whether there is any plan to associate National Institute of Fashion Technology with the mission for providing fashion designing skill to the trainees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Status of handloom cooperative in UP

2880. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR :

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of handloom cooperatives, State-wise especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the financial assistance given to each cooperative in Uttar Pradesh during last three years, year-wise and cooperative-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to give major push in Uttar Pradesh, especially in Amroha, Moradabad, Lucknow, Azamgarh etc. in a time bound manner, particularly for minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) Based on the information received from NABARD, a statement is enclosed (*See below*).

(b) The financial assistance given to each cooperative under various schemes such as Marketing and Export promotion and 10 % Rebate is not maintained at Central level.

(c) To give major push to the development of handloom sector in the state of Uttar Pradesh, 4 clusters have been sanctioned under Phase-I, 21 clusters under Phase-II and III and 14 clusters under Phase-IV. In addition to that, 76 group proposals have also been sanctioned. Moreover, Vairanasi has been declared as a Mega Cluster and a sum of Rs. 70.00 crore has been earmarked for the development of the cluster.

Statement

Present state-wise status of cooperatives

Sl. No.	State	No. of Viable/ Potentially viable handloom cooperatives	No. of Non- viable/Defunct/ Dormant Handloom cooperatives	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	628	792	1420
2.	Assam*	1261	1514	2775
3.	Bihar@	45	1044	1089
4.	Chhattisgarh	133	137	270
5.	Himachal Pradesh	183	10	193
6.	Karnataka	378	280	658
7.	Kerala	459	299	758
8.	Madhya Pradesh	202	329	531
9.	Mizoram	16	146	162
10.	Orissa	483	237	720
11.	Rajasthan	73	323	396
12.	Tamil Nadu	1009	215	1224
13.	Pondicherry	9	5	14

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	969	2891	3860
15.	Tripura	9	0	9
16.	West Bengal*	398	51	449
17.	Maharashtra*	114	6	120
18.	Nagaland*	8	0	8
19.	Gujarat*	127	49	176
20	Punjab*	83	402	485
TOTAL		6587	8730	15317

*Position as indicated by State Governments in 2006.

@ Data not available for other societies.

12.00 Noon

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 599/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 40 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs:

- (1) G.S.R. 199 (E), dated the 25th March, 2009, publishing the National Human Rights Commission (Annual Statement of Accounts) Amendment Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 388/15/09]
- (2) G.S.R. 379 (E), dated the 2nd June, 2009, publishing corrigendum to the Hindi version of the Notification No. G.S.R.199 (E), dated the 25th March, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 727/15/09]

**MoU (2009-10) between the Government of India and the Handicrafts
and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), for the year 2009-10. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 581/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Defence

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAMRAJU): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 47 of the Armed Forces Act, 2007, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Defence:

- (1) G.S.R. 6 (E), dated the 14th May, 2009, publishing the Armed Forces Tribunal (Practice) Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 7 (E), dated the 18th May, 2009, regarding the Armed Forces Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rule, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 531/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Labour and Employment

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Labour and Employment:

- (1) G.S.R. 451 (E), dated the 29th June, 2009, publishing corrigendum to Notification G.S.R. 689 (E), dated the 26th September, 2008, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 536/15/09]
- (2) G.S.R. 514 (E), dated the 10th July, 2009, publishing the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 535/15/09]

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.**
- II. **Report and Accounts (2006-07) of the National Highways Authority of India and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
 - (1) S.O. 1068 (E), dated the 30th April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 284.600 to Km. 332.600 (Karur-Coimbatore Section) on National Highway No. 67 in Coimbatore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (2) S.O.1249 (E), dated the 18th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 0.313 to Km. 73.900 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) on National Highway No. 68 in Coimbatore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (3) S.O. 1265 (E), dated the 19th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, for construction of Chennai Bypass (Phase-II) connecting National Highway No. 4 at Km. 13.8 and National Highway No. 4 at Km. 13.8 and National Highway No.5 at Km. 12.6 in Ambathur Town Ward 'D' and Ward 'E' and 50. Madhavaram-II of Ambathur Taluk, Thiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (4) S.O. 1271 (E), dated the 19th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 192,800 to Km. 267.300 (Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) on the National Highway No. 45B in Thoothukkudi District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (5) S.O. 1272 (E), dated the 19th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 192.800 to Km. 267.300 (Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) on the National Highway No. 45B in Thoothukkudi District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (6) S.O. 1341 (E), dated the 25th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 333.000 to Km. 392.150 (Trichy-Dindigul Section) on National Highway No. 45 in Trichi District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (7) S.O. 1368 (E), dated the 28th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, for construction of Chennai Bypass (Phase-II), connecting National Highway No. 4 at Km. 13.8 and National Highway No. 5 at Km. 12.6 in Ambathur Town, Ward 'C' Menambedu Village, Thiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (8) S.O. 1369 (E), dated the 28th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, for construction of grade separator at Koyambedu Junction in Koyambedu and Arumbakkam Villages, Egmore-Nungambakkam Taluk, Chennai District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (9) S.O. 1435 (E), dated the 10th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, connecting National Highway No.45 at Km. 27.800 and National Highway No.4 at Km. 13,800 for widening of Chennai Bypass (Phase-I) and stretch of the land for widening of National Highway No. 45 from Km. 26.000 to Km. 28.000 in Tambaram Village, Tambaram Taluk, Kanchipuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu. [Placed in Library. For (1) to (9) See No. L.T. 400/15/09]
- (10) S.O. 864 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or

without structure, from Km. 35.000 to Km. 38.000 (Lala bypass) on National Highway No. 154 (Dhaleswari-Bhairabi Road) for construction of double-lane road under SARDP-NE programme in the State of Assam.

- (11) S.O.865 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 0.000 to Km. 3.500 for construction of double-lane road under SARDP-NE programme in the State of Assam. [Placed in Library For (10) & (11) See No. L.T. 549/15/09]
- (12) S.O. 1226 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 56.500 to Km. 100.000 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) on National Highway No.47 in Erode District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (13) S.O. 1233 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 56.500 to Km. 100.000 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) on National Highway No.47 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (14) S.O. 1237 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, amending Notification S.O.2126(E), dated the 28th August, 2008, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (15) S.O. 1248 (E), dated the 18th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 73.900 to Km. 136.670 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) on National Highway No.68 in Villuppuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (16) S.O. 1269 (E), dated the 19th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 73,900 to Km. 136.670 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) on National Highway No.68 in Villuppuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (17) S.O. 1270 (E), dated the 19th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 73.900 to Km. 136.670 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) on National Highway No.68 in Villuppuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (18) S.O. 1339 (E), dated the 25th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km.146.600 to Km. 192.800 (Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) on National Highway No.45B in Virudhunagar District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (19) S.O. 1340 (E), dated the 25th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 3.600 to Km. 37.920 (Pondicherry-Tindivanam Section) on National Highway No.66 in Viluppuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (20) S.O. 1342 (E), dated the 25th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 333.000 to Km. 392.150 (Trichy-Dindigul Section) on

National Highway No.45 in Trichy District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (21) S.O. 1442 (E), dated the 11th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 345.000 to Km. 409.000 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) on National Highway No.7 in Dindigul District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (22) S.O. 1443 (E), dated the 11th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 345.000 to Km. 409.000 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) on the National Highway No.7 in Dindigul District in the State of Tamil Nadu. [Placed in Library. For (12) to (22) See No. L.T. 400/15/09]
- (23) S.O. 1568 (E), dated the 26th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 66.500 to Km.73.200 (Kuruli-Kiratpur Section) on National Highway No. 21 in Roopnagar District in the State of Punjab.
- (24) S.O. 1584 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 189.810 to Km. 212.161 (Panipat-Jalandhar Section) on National Highway No. 1 in Ambala District in the State of Haryana.
- (25) S.O. 1585 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 152.225 to Km. 189.810 (Panipat-Jalandhar Section) on National Highway No. 1 in Kurukshetra District in the State of Haryana.
- (26) S.O. 1586 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 100.000 to Km. 152.225 (Panipat-Jalandhar Section) on National Highway No. 1 in Karnal District in the State of Haryana.
- (27) S.O. 1587 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 96.000 to Km. 100.000 (Panipat-Jalandhar Section) on National Highway No.1 in Panipat District in the State of Haryana.
- (28) S.O. 1630 (E), dated the 6th July, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 41.945 to Km. 62.960 (Zirakpur-Panchkula-Kalka Section) on National Highway No. 22 in Kalka Taluk in Panchkula District in the State of Haryana.
- (29) S.O. 1631 (E), dated the 6th July, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 41.945 to Km. 62.960 (Zirakpur-Punchkula-Kalka Section) on National Highway No. 22 in Panchkula Taluk in Panchkula District in the State of Haryana.

- (30) S.O. 1592 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding fee to be recovered from users of the four-laned stretch from Km. 407.100 to Km. 456.100 (Jalandhar-Amritsar Section) on National Highway No. 1 in the State of Punjab.
- (31) S.O. 1593 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding fee to be recovered from users of the Section from Km. 135.469 to Km. 211,000 (Kothakota Bypass to Kurnool Section) on National Highway No. 7 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (32) S.O. 1659 (E), dated the 7th July, 2009, regarding fee to be recovered from users of the four-laned stretch from Km. 30.000 to Km. 90.000 (Amola Village to Jhansi Bypass Section) on National Highway No. 25 in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- (33) S.O. 959 (E), dated the 13th April, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for acquisition of land on National Highway No.203 (Bhubaneswar-Puri Section), National Highway No.200 and National Highway No.23 (Chandikhole-Duburi-Talcher Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (34) S.O. 1347 (E), dated the 26th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 0.000 to Km. 24.000 (Pannikoili-Rimuli Section) on National Highway No. 215 in Jajpur District in the State of Orissa.
- (35) S.O. 1348 (E), dated the 26th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 143.000 to Km. 206.397 (Pannikoili-Rimuli Section) on National Highway No.215 in Keonjhar District in the State of Orissa.
- (36) S.O. 915 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 116.500 to Km. 136.500 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) on National Highway No.67 in Tiruchirappalli District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (37) S.O. 916 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 333.000 to Km. 392.150 (Trichy-Dindigul Section) on National Highway No.45 in Trichy District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (38) S.O. 920 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 146.600 to Km. 192.800 (Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) on National Highway No.45B in Virudhunagar District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (39) S.O. 921 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure from Km. 138.200 to Km. 146.600 .(Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) on National Highway No.45B in Madurai District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (40) S.O. 1144 (E), dated the 4th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km.0.313 to Km.73.900 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) on National Highway No. 68 in Salem Taluk in Salem District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (41) S.O. 1145 (E), dated the 4th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 0.313 to Km. 73.900 (Salem-Ulundurpet Section) on National Highway No.68 in Valappadi Taluk in Salem District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (42) S.O. 1229 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 41.000 to Km. 91.200 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) on National Highway No.7 in Vachakarapatti Village in Virudhunagar District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (43) S.O. 1230 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 41.000 to Km. 91.200 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) on National Highway No.7 in Kottaipatti Village in Virudhunagar District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (44) S.O. 1231 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 41.000 to Km. 91.200 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) on National Highway No.7 in Chinnamoopanpatti Village in Virudhunagar District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (45) S.O. 1232 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure from Km. 41.000 to Km. 91.200 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) on National Highway No.7 in Pattampudur Village in Virudhunagar District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (46) S.O. 1236 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 163.400 to Km. 199.200 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) on National Highway No.7 in Salem District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (47) S.O. 1247 (E), dated the 18th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 166.400 to Km. 203.400 (Trichy-Karur Section) on National Highway No. 67 in Karur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (48) S.O. 1581 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, amending Notification S.O.219 (E), dated the 13th March, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (49) S.O. 1588 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 285.500 to Km. 325.000 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) on National Highway No.45 in Tiruchirappalli District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (50) S.O. 786 (E), dated the 19th March, 2009, regarding levy of fees on mechanical vehicles for use of high level permanent bridge at Nandghat across Sheonath river at Km. 66/2-8 on National Highway No. 200 in Chhattisgarh.
- (51) S.O. 1539 (E), dated the 24th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 167.750 to Km. 224.360 (Kadapa-Kurnool Section) on National Highway No. 18 in Kadapa District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (52) S.O. 1540 (E), dated the 24th June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 160.000 to Km. 190.600 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section) on National Highway No. 9 in Nalgonda District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (53) S.O. 1589 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, amending Notification No. S.O.1535 (E), dated the 13th September, 2007, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (54) S.O. 1623 (E), dated the 3rd July, 2009, amending Notification No. S.O.810 (E), dated the 13th July, 2004, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (55) S.O. 1662 (E), dated the 8th July, 2009 amending Notification No. S.O. 196 (E), dated the 19th January, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (56) S.O. 1663 (E), dated the 8th July, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for acquisition of land (Chilakaluripet-Vijayawada Section) on National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (57) S.O. 340 (E), dated the 27th January, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for acquisition of land from Km. 9.500 to Km. 171.000 on National Highway No. 59 (Indore-M.P./Gujarat Border Section), in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (58) S.O. 551 (E), dated the 26th February, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 20.150 to Km. 52.000 on National Highway No. 75 in Gwalior District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (59) S.O. 911 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 379.000 to Km. 405.770 (Jhansi-Lakhanadon Section) on National Highway No. 26 in Seoni District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (60) S.O. 912 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 287.000 to Km. 379.000 (Jhansi-Lakhanadon Section) on National Highway No. 26 in Narsinghpur District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (61) S.O. 607 (E), dated the 4th March, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 55.758 to Km. 56.966 and 58.392 to 77.610 (Indore-Khalghat Section) on National Highway No. 3 in Dhar District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (62) S.O. 861 (E), dated the 26th March, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 60.000 to Km. 61.000 (Dholpur-Morena Section) on National Highway No. 3 in Morena District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (63) S.O. 395 (E), dated the 3rd February, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 10.000 to Km. 29.500 (Bangalore-Nelamangala Section) on National Highway No. 4 in Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural District in the State of Karnataka, together with delay statement.
- (64) S.O. 860 (E), dated the 26th March, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km. 110.000 to Km. 191.200 (Nelamangala-Hassan Section) on National Highway No. 48 in Mandya and Hassan Districts in the State of Karnataka.
- (65) S.O. 1140 (E), dated the 4th May, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for land acquisition for installation of "Weigh-in-Motion-cum-Automatic Traffic Counter-cum- Classifier" between Km. 244 .000 to Km. 245.000 (Ankola-Gooty Section) on National Highway No. 63, Koppal District in the State of Karnataka. [Placed in Library. For (23) to (65) See No. L.T. 549/15/09]
- (66) S.O. 1141 (E), dated the 4th May, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for land acquisition for installation of "Weigh-in-Motion-cum-Automatic Traffic Counter-cum- Classifier" (between Km. 201.000 to Km. 202.000 (Bangalore- Mangalore Section)on National Highway No. 48 in Hassan District in the State of Karnataka. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 726/15/09]
- (67) S.O. 1199 (E), dated the 12th May, 2009, regarding rates of fee to be recovered from users of Hubli-Dharwad Bypass from Km. 403.800 to Km. 433.200 on National Highway No. 4 in the State of Karnataka.
- (68) S.O. 1264 (E), dated the 19th May, 2009, regarding acquisition of additional land, with or without structure, to be required for the construction of the Kodungallur Bypass from Km. 407.900 to Km. 412.235 on National Highway No. 17 (Chandappura- Kottapuram) (Kodungallur Bypass) in Thrissur District in the State of Kerala.
- (69) S.O. 1537 (E), dated the 23rd June, 2009, regarding acquisition of land, with or without structure, from Km.110.500 to Km.119.600 (Bharatpur-Mahua Section) on National Highway No. 1 in Dausa District in the State of Rajasthan.

- (70) S.O. 1573 (E), dated the 29th June, 2009, amending Notification S.O. 2153 (E), dated the 18th December, 2007, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
 - (71) S.O. 1574 (E), dated the 29th June, 2009, amending Notification S.O. 2153 (E), dated the 18th December, 2007, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
 - (72) S.O. 1517 (E), dated the 19th June, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for acquisition of land on National Highway No. 80 (Mokama-Munger Section) in the State of Bihar.
 - (73) S.O. 1624 (E), dated the 3rd July, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for acquisition of land, on National Highway No. 31 (Khagaria-Purnea Section) in the State of Bihar.
 - (74) S.O. 1583 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, regarding appointment of competent authority for acquisition of land on National Highway No. 1 in the State of Punjab. [Placed in Library. (67) to (74) See No. L.T. For 549/15/09]
- II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 24 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:-
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (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. 548/15/09]

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Finance (No.2) Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Finance (No.2) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 2009,

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

**REPORT ON INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION
AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report on the participation of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the One hundred and Twentieth Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 5th to 10th April, 2009.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the thirtieth and
Thirty-first Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Defence**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the
Thirty-third and Thirty-Fifth reports of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Labour**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I make statements regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fifth Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Plight of cycle rickshaw pullers in cities

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, सन् 1870 ईस्वी में जापान में रिक्शा का आविष्कार हुआ था। उसके करीब 60 साल बाद ढाका तथा हिन्दुस्तान में कोलकाता जैसे शहर व अन्य शहरों में हाथ रिक्शा व साइकिल रिक्शा पहुंचा। तब से लेकर आज तक पूरे मुल्क में लाखों करोड़ों लोग रिक्शा चलाकर अपना जीवन बसर करते हैं। हुजूर, आप जानते हैं कि जब रोजी-रोटी के लिए तमाम दरवाजे बंद हो जाते हैं, तब इंसान रिक्शा चलाने के लिए मजबूर होता है। यह रिक्शा चालन पॉलूशन फ्री है, इससे हलाल की कमाई होती है तथा लोग अपनी मेहनत से रिक्शा चलाते हैं, लेकिन सरकारों की नीतियां कुछ ऐसी हो गई हैं कि विकास की एक अंधी दौड़ चल रही है। सड़कें चौड़ी हो रही हैं तथा बड़े-बड़े Highways बन रहे हैं, लेकिन आप रिक्शा चालकों के लिए सड़कों का कोई प्रावधान नहीं कर रहे हैं। आज जगह-जगह रिक्शा चालन पर बैन लगा रहा है। रिक्शा चालकों पर पुलिस डंडा चलाती है और कहती है कि इस रास्ते पर रिक्शा चलाना मना है, इस शहर में रिक्शा चलाना मना है। सर, दिल्ली में भी ऐसा हो रहा है और कोलकाता जैसे शहर में भी ऐसा हो रहा है। मैं पिछले सप्ताह कोलकाता में था, वहां के रिक्शा तथा साइकिल रिक्शा चलाने वालों का कहना है कि उनके लाइसेंस का नवीनीकरण नहीं हो रहा है। वहां की विधान सभा ने एक बिल पास करके हाथ से चलने वाले रिक्शा को बैन कर दिया है। हुजूर, हमारा यह कहना है कि

जो अमीर लोग सड़क पर गाड़ियों में चलते हैं, यह सड़क केवल उन्हीं के लिए नहीं है, यह देश केवल उन्हीं का नहीं है। जो मेहनत से कमाई करने वाले लोग हैं, हमारे संविधान ने उनको livelihood का अधिकार दिया है, mobility का अधिकार दिया है, फिर आप किस कानून के तहत इन रिक्शा वालों को उनकी रोजी-रोटी से मेहरूम कर रहे हैं? उनके लिए किसी रोजगार का इंतजाम किए बिना, उनका कोई पुनर्स्थापन किए बिना आप उन्हें इस तरह से क्यों रोक रहे हैं? यह सब जगह हो रहा है। हम लोग रास्ते पर चलते हुए देखते हैं कि एक साधारण सिपाही तुरंत डंडा लगा देता है, उनको डंडे से पीटने लगता है, कहता है कि इससे सड़क जाम हो रही है। एक परिवार में हर मैम्बर के पास गाड़ियां हैं। वे गाड़ियों से चलते हैं, सड़कें उनसे जाम हो रही हैं। छोटे से रिक्शे सट-सटकर आपस में चलते हैं। एक रिक्शे पर चार आदमी, आठ आदमी, बैठते हैं। बच्चे स्कूल जाते हैं, सामान भी ढोते हैं, लेकिन आप देखते होंगे कि एक गाड़ी में एक आदमी, दो आदमी चलते हैं, उसकी लंबाई और चौड़ाई को देख लीजिए, उसके अगल-बगल जाने वाले रास्ते को देख लीजिए। प्रतिबंध जाम पर लगना चाहिए, पॉल्युशन पर प्रतिबंध लगना चाहिए। एक परिवार में जो लोग एक से अधिक गाड़ियां रखते हैं, उन पर प्रतिबंध लगना चाहिए, लेकिन ये खुद्द लोग, खटकर खाने वाले लोग...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : हो गया है।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : ये मेहनत करने वाले लोग, इन पर प्रतिबंध लगाना कहीं से भी उचित नहीं है।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करती हूं।

श्री शांता कुमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूं।

Clearance of relief material sent by the Indian Red Cross Society from Colombo port

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, last week, during Question Hour, on 23rd July, 2009, the first question raised by Shri Shreegopal Vyas was on the camps of Tamil victims in Sri Lanka, The Government admitted that the total number of Eelam Tamil refugees in the camps was 2,87,970. The Government also said that the Government and the High Commission were monitoring the situation and providing extensive humanitarian assistance to the IDPs in relief camps.

Sir, disturbed, perturbed and concerned about the plight of Tamils in Eelam, the Tamil diaspora, particularly from the West, sent 840 tonnes of relief material in 27 containers by the ship, M.V. Captain Ali. The Sri Lankan Government disallowed the ship saying that it was carrying cargo sent by the LTTE for propaganda. The ship was stationed near Chennai for days. There was hue and cry from the people of Tamil Nadu. Finally, the Government of India saw to it that Sri Lanka accepted it. The containers were unloaded in Chennai; the Indian Red Cross took charge of it and shipped it to Colombo by M.V. Captain Colorado. The cargo reached Colombo on 9th July. But because of the tussle between the Sri Lankan Red Cross and the Indian Red Cross over port charges and transportation charges, the relief materials lie in the Colombo Port since July 9. The Indian Government has washed its hands off saying that it got the materials shipped to Colombo. The Sri Lankan Government publicised the humanitarian face of it by allowing it to come to Colombo and did nothing after that. But the relief materials have not reached the refugees for whom they were intended. It is not a simple relief material, Sir. A lot of emotions from the umbilical-cord relations are

attached to it. If this is the way the matter is treated, I wonder whether the relief materials sent earlier by the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu had also met with similar fate.

I urge the Government of India, particularly the External Affairs Minister, to intervene, sort out the matter and see to it that the relief materials reach the refugees for whom these are intended.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, okay. All the Members associate themselves with what he has said. .Now, Shri D. Raja.

**Failure of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes to present
Annual reports to Parliamentary Regulatory**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising an issue which is very important. I hope the entire House takes note of this.

Sir, there has been an increase in violence against dalits and people belonging to Scheduled Castes. There has been an increase in atrocities committed against them. There is all-out social and economic exclusion of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and dalits in the country. I do not want to take the time of the House in listing out visible forms of crimes and injustice done to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes.

There is a National Commission for Scheduled Castes. It has been given enhanced powers; it has been given the responsibility under Article 338. The Commission has to investigate; it has to monitor the implementation of safeguards provided to the Scheduled Castes under various arrangements and, in doing so, it has to cover a wide gamut of activities which include implementation of laws, provisions relating to compensatory discrimination such as reservations in recruitment, promotion and admission to educational institutions, economic development including educational development. This Commission is required to submit a report every year to the President, and the Government is required to lay it on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament, after incorporating the Action Taken Report. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has submitted seven Reports since 1992-93 onwards. The newly constituted National Commission for Scheduled Castes had submitted its first Report in 2004. The Government has not placed any report on the Table of the House since 2001. I find an amount of * on the part of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes in not submitting the Annual Report to the President regularly. I find * on the part of the Government to place the Report on the Table of the House with

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the Action Taken Report. If this is the attitude to the people of Scheduled Castes, if this is the attitude to the Dalits, I think, it should be a major concern for the entire House. I demand the Government to place the Reports on the Table of the Parliament, along with the Action Taken Reports.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, we all associate ourselves with this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with this subject.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to reply to the discussion.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Thank you very much, Sir. At the onset, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who participated, not only participated in this discussion but also gave some very valuable suggestions. The intensity of participation demonstrates how roads affect the lives of all sections of people, across all States, covering so many districts, and roads have a component, as a trade component, an industrial component and an agricultural component. Roads represent a very important part of our domestic economic stimulus because it is not only employment generation but it also creates highways to betterment and progress. Sir, several valuable suggestions have been made, and I have taken note of most of these valuable suggestions. I was rather surprised, or, I would say, I am also happy that Members have gone into a lot of depth in this, in analysing the problems, which, I thought, I would be saying in my reply, Members have brought it out in their discussions in the points they have made.

Sir, this programme which was launched in the year 1999, the Highway Development Programme, obviously seeks a connectivity across the country. First, the connectivity which was called the Golden Quadrangular; then, to connect the East-West, and then various phases of the programme have come up. Sir, the endeavour now is to step up this programme as much as possible, and I have said that we will be endeavouring in this direction. We have set a target of doing 7000 kilometres per year. Towards this, there is an enormous amount of capacity building which is

required; capacity building both within the NHAI structure, capacity building in technical consultants for preparation of technical feasibility reports of DPRs, capacity building of contractors. But the most important subject, Sir, in building roads is the question of land. One of the problems which we have encountered — and which is across all States; in some States it is more and in some States it is less — that the land acquisition is one of the major causes of delay. Sir, I have taken it up with the Chief Ministers and taken it up with the State Ministers and taking it up at various levels because States are as important stakeholders as anybody. With the land acquisition process confined not only to a district, but would also start at the lower-level, at the official level where it is the Tahsildar or the revenue officer. There, some times, it does not get the political attention. In fact, I would urge and request all Members for support in this, with their various States, to sensitise the State Governments to ensure that the land acquisition is done on a priority.

Sir, as far as the compensation is concerned, some times, there are problems; but, then, largely with the liberal compensation which is paid, with the increase in value of the land on the sides, this gets compensated. The issue is not, I believe a contentious issue, it is 20 metres here and 10 metres there; they are not very big joints of land. So, we have set this target. I am hopeful that we will build our capacity to achieve 7,000 kms. per year, which is about 20 kms. a day. Sir, I would be continuously seeking the cooperation of more State Governments in this regard.

Sir, amongst the points made out by various Members, I will not try and respond to every single point, but just recognise. I do recognise the concerns of Members when they talked of safety; I do recognise the concerns of all Members when they talked of the quality of roads. We are building in to every road programme the issues of safety and the issues of maintenance. Sir, roads are of three types. We are taking on roads which are of BOT toll; we are taking on roads on annuity basis; we are taking on roads which are pure EPC. Last year, there was a view that we should only be doing toll roads. Now, Sir, it is a reality that all roads cannot be tolled. We have to recognise that especially in some States.

As the hon. Members will recognise, who are coming from various States, some roads cannot be tolled. So, we have taken a decision that about 60 per cent of the roads would be tolled roads and the balance 40 per cent of the roads would be non-toll roads. Sir, the objective is that there must be a toll on every road. But, this depends on what the traffic can bear both in the literal sense and in metaphoric sense; and, norms have been set up. Where we will have two lanes with shoulders, I mean 10 metre road, where we will have four lanes, where we will have six lanes and so on and so forth. Sir, certainly we do not want to over-engineer. I would also say that we should not under-engineer. Over-engineering increases the capital cost, makes the roads non-viable and under-engineering impinge upon the users' concerns of safety.

Members have talked about underpasses, about service roads. So, we are trying to ensure that the engineering of these is absolutely correct. Of course, there would be concerns in every particular road that this is somewhere under-engineered, or, somewhere it is over-engineered. On the other

hand, Sir, where there is just a four-lane traffic, and a projected traffic—we are not just talking of today's traffic, we are going to look at the projected traffic too; where the traffic demand is four lanes, we will go for the four lane road. Where the traffic just demands a 10 metre road, it is roughly two-lane road with shoulders, we will go for two-lane roads with shoulders. Where it is six-lanes, we will go for six-lanes. But, we do not want to look at four-lane roads where there is no traffic because we are trying to do the maximum with the minimum. With the minimum of resources, we are trying to do the maximum. In doing this maximum, we have to make some index and this index is based on traffic volume, on the studies which are carried out. We propose that we will do these studies very diligently. In this year, Sir, there were some issues that bids are received and bids are made and nobody responds to these bids. Sir, it has been a fact because last year 60 projects were bid and we did not receive bids in the 38 of the projects, nobody came to bid for 38 of these and in 7 projects there was only one bidder. So, we have to re-look at these projects where there are no bids. People do not want to bid. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not disturb him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: People have concerns on the viability of this. These were BoT roads, toll roads. The toll estimates that we had calculated, which the Government had calculated were not acceptable and there was no viability of these roads. There were certain aspects in the concessionaire agreement, which leads to some kind of reservations by people to bid on this. Sir, in the last two months it has been my endeavour to look at all this. One of the concerns raised by the Members was on the Planning Commission that the Planning Commission does not do this. Sir, let me assure you all that I have not outsourced the Ministry to any other Ministry or to the Planning Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, of course, the Planning Commission provides a valuable input and at the end accountability to this House is of this Ministry for the progress. So, the Planning Commission does provide some very valuable inputs, it is for us to assess those inputs and it is for the Ministry not to accept these inputs. The Planning Commission has done many studies and they provided some useful information. There is no one size fits all. Roads in Bihar are very different to the roads in Kerala; the roads in Kerala are very different to the roads in Madhya Pradesh, In Kerala there is an issue of density, One of the biggest challenges in Kerala is land acquisition. The biggest challenge is in Assam and in all the Silchar area we have not able to acquire land because of extremist movements. We have got the plan; we have got the projects. Now, how do we address this; how do we deal with this? You cannot build the roads unless people want, we must be very clear on that. Unless people feel, want, are hungry for the roads, unless the State is hungry for the roads, and want the roads, there cannot be any road, no matter what you have. You may have the resources, you may have good planning but they must be hungry for the roads, they must want the roads. So, there is no one size fixed for all in many issues. So, while I was telling about the Planning Commission, certainly, I have had several discussions with the Planning Commission and we are

converging on many issues where they have their views. In certain areas, they have different views, but at the end of the day, we have to ensure that the roads are built, that we move on because one of the biggest challenges for us in this decade is infrastructure. We can have a good airport, but, unless you have a good road to the airport, that airport will not have all the value. We have a good port; we need to have very good port connectivity. So, what roads really represent is bedrock and the most important ingredient of our infrastructure. Sir, as I said that having now set this target, I am very happy to say that this year we will be awarding 15,000 kms. of roads with a value of one lakh crore of rupees. Now, this is triple the length that was awarded when this project was started. I am not making this NDA vs. UPA issue but I am trying to give it in terms of quantum jump we are doing. Of course, when it was started in the beginning it was slow. This is not a bipartisan issue. So, I do not want to frame it as a bipartisan issue. But when it was started the total roads awarded in the first five years was only 5,050 kms. This year alone we will award 15,000 kms, of road length amounting to one lakh crore of rupees. Similarly, next year, we will award another 15,000 kms. because if we are going to do 7,000 kms., we must have three times of the amount of roads, of work in progress to be able to complete 7,000 kms. per year.

So, we are slowly heading towards that target and, as I said that, these roads will be on toll, they will be on annuity, they will be on EPC depending on what financing is available. While we need land to build the roads, we also need money to build roads and the money, should it come from the user, should the maintenance come from the user and should the capital cost come from the user. These are issues, where over the last ten years, there has been a lot of experience which the Government has gained, where we are able to make some very accurate assessments. Sir, we are going to lay more emphasis on less developed States like Bihar. My friend Mabel Rebello raised the issue of Jharkhand and we have earmarked Rs. 200 crores for the roads in Jharkhand. She raised some specific issues about the Bahari-Ranchi-Jamshedpur road. This is likely to be awarded shortly. The Ranchi-Jamshedpur is not viable. We have got to re-engineer it. We have to re-examine it. What is the alternative mode? Some of the roads are not viable on toll. If we have to move it to annuity or to EPC we would have the funding. We are working this out and now we have worked on work plans. Work Plan 1 relates to this year, it means we need to do all the work to award contracts next year. We are looking at Work Plan 2. We are going to have a feasibility study. After the feasibility study, we are going to invite a bid. That takes three to four months. A feasibility study takes eight months and after that to convert it into a bid it takes a huge amount of time again. Even works which we expect to commence after two years or three years, the work in this has to start now. What will be the correct alignment, what will be the traffic density, what will be the other issues of local population, what will be the right engineering for this? All these issues are being gone into. Sir, where land acquisition is

concerned, we have set up special land acquisition units to expedite land for the NHAI projects. As I said, I seek the support of Members in sensitising their own States in this regard. Sir, the toll issue has been raised by Members here and one of the issues was that MPs are now required to pay toll. Sir, from December of last year, the toll rules has been revised. In deference to the Members' wishes, I will re-examine the toll policy. I will consult the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Speaker, Deputy Speaker of both Houses and we will take a view on this because some of the Members mentioned that it is not a question of payment. Members are required to stand in a queue and there is a lot of harassment. Some of the Members pointed this out that, 'we do not want this'. The other issue is, what do we do about tolling of two lane roads? So I have decided to review the toll policy that should the toll for a two-lane road be enough for only capital cost, should it be only for maintenance. Certainly, we must have toll for maintenance at least. What about capital cost? Where does the capital cost come from? There are all these issues. I am going to look at the toll policy again and we will look at how we can have a...

DR. BIMAL JALAN (Nominated): Sir, with your permission I would like to make a very small suggestion to the hon. Minister who has given very good reply to all the issues raised, which is about the toll rate. Sir, we must make sure that the toll rate is in round number. It should be Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 30 so that it is not a question of giving a set of rupees and then getting Rs. 3 back or Rs. 8 back because that takes time. So, if you have a large number of people coming there, you have a problem because there may be service tax, there may be State tax, there may be something else but the problem is on the arithmetic. If you say, instead of Rs. 22 if you make it Rs. 20 the only thing you do is to make a division. If the Centre's share is Rs. 18.20 paise, then, you can give the rest to the State. The short point I am making is that please give instructions for the toll that it should be something which can be done with Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 30 or Rs. 50 rather than Rs. 52, Rs. 53, Rs. 56 because that requires transaction which takes time. This is a very simple, arithmetical solution to this. As you would know everywhere abroad it is always a round number. There is never this kind of a confused number.

And, the people should be able to use their credit card or debit card or whatever it is. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I want to thank the hon. Member. It is a good suggestion. Previously, toll was rounded off to the nearest one rupee. Now, it is rounded off to the next five rupees. We will look at how we can round it off to the nearest Rs. 10. Obviously, it is...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): The suggestion is not to raise it. Don't misunderstand that. You can also bring it down.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I got your point. We will expedite it so that change is not required to pay. It is fair enough. We will look at it from that point of view. As I said, we are looking at the Toll Policy. Sir, the Toll Policy needs to be looked at for various reasons which the hon. Members have mentioned and for the reason of two lane, for the reason of four lane and also there is a serious concern on bypasses. Sometimes, it is said that the cost of diesel or petrol to use the bypass is less than the toll, because the cost of toll is more. At the same time, the cost of bypass also depends on what kind of bypass it is. So, if we try and use a formula which is based on the capital cost, the cost of bypass may be huge. That is why I appreciate the concerns of the hon. Members on toll. Appreciating those concerns on toll, I will, certainly, look at Toll Policy again. I would look forward to any suggestion that the hon. Members may like to give.

One of the issues raised was, 'why not we look at the World Bank for more financing?' Sir, the Ministry of Finance has indicated the possibility of World Bank's assistance of US \$ 2 billion for non-national highways development. There are a large number of such roads. We have the Highways of about 30,000 kms. under the NHAI. There are some with the Ministry. But, then, there are some which are non-NHDP. They don't come under any highway development programme. And, we are going to look at these.

Sir, amongst the new initiatives, I would like to submit that the Ministry has appointed a consultant for preparing a network of expressways for the country aggregating to 15,600 kms. The draft Report is ready. We intend to finalise the network of expressways in consultation with the State Governments. We shall put this on net to know the public response on the expressways. These expressways will be in addition to 1,000 kms. expressways i.e., Baroda-Mumbai, Dhanbad-Kolkata, Chennai-Bangalore and Delhi-Meerut which have already been improved under the NHDP.

Sir, another initiative which we are looking at is renumbering of our National Highways to facilitate easy identification. We have the National Highway No. 4 here and the next National Highway is NH No. 60. So, there is no relation. Similarly, highways on odd and even number must signify whether it is going from East to West or West to East which is done all over the world. So, we are looking at how we can rationalise and renumber our highways which start from the Eastern part of the country or the Northern part so that the highway number itself gives the details. When you look at the map and try to find the National Highway No. 44, you don't know whether it goes from East to West or North to South. We don't know which State to look at. So, at least, we want to make sure that as we move in the numbering of highways, it is done correctly.

Sir, one of the issues raised was roads in the Naxalite areas. It is a very important point. The Government has approved a programme for improvement of 1200 kms. of National Highways and

4,500 kms. of State roads at a cost of Rs. 7,300 crores in Naxal-affected districts in eight States. This includes 534 kms. of National Highways and 41 kms. of State roads. The proposals are being received. Some have already been received. We are going to give this programme an absolute priority. The Ministry, in terms of utilizing funds, has been able to use the entire allocation in 2008-09. In fact, the additional allocation, which came as domestic stimulus, of Rs. 500 crores has also been fully used.

Sir, there has been specific mentions of roads. Hon. Member, Ramgopal Yadavji, had mentioned the Kanpur-Lucknow section. He is right that some part of the road is very poor. This is because of the termination of the contract. Bids for improvement have been received and are under evaluation. We will be awarding this shortly.

The Delhi-Agra road has been a matter of concern. This is already a four-lane road, and bids are being invited for widening it to six lanes.

Hon. Member, Shri Kalraj Mishra, is not here, but he had raised the issues on Hapur-Garhmukteshwar, and on the ring roads to Aligarh, Kanpur and Varanasi. The four-laning and some case feasibility studies are on.

Then, there were issues raised by the hon. Members, Ms. Mabel Rebello, Shrimati Pradhan and Shri Rajniti Prasad. Instead of going into each and specific section, I will respond to these Members separately on the sections that they had named. I am happy that they have brought this to my notice. I will look forward to their continued information to me to inform me because Members of Parliament are sources of good information on the progress and the shortcomings.

In conclusion, I would like to say one specific thing to this House, This year we will build — I hope this will be taken in the spirit that it is not something in the context of UPA versus NDA because road is a thing where every Member of the House is involved — more roads than the total completed by the NDA Government in its five years. Just in one year we will build more roads than what was done in five years when this project commenced. Fine, that was the commencement of the project. What I want to say is that we have improved upon it. Obviously, every year we will be improving. What we are doing this year, we will do more next year. We will do more in the subsequent years. So, every year, you build upon it. But just, as a measure of index, this year alone, we are endeavouring to build more roads than which were built in the entire five years of the NDA Government. Thank you, Sir.
...(Interruptions)...

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

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I have certain clarifications, Sir.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Clarifications! I cannot start the chapter again. ...(Interruptions)...

Okay, only one question.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I appreciate his concern. Hon. Member, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, had raised certain important issues about dispute resolution, which is, again, a contentious issue, I never meant to evade these issues. I don't know how much time I have. But, Sir, hon. Members, had raised some very important issues relating to road safety, motor transport, security number plates, the Motor Vehicles Act. I have taken note of all these issues. So far as the issue of dispute resolution is concerned, the dispute resolution is one of the major reasons where contractors are finding it unattractive to bid. There is a dispute resolution mechanism. Then, that carries on into litigation over many years. So, construction company's working capital gets blocked in this dispute resolution. So, we are going to look at this to be able to resolve this issue.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir,(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has already replied to whatever you wanted to ask. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: No, Sir, he did not listen to me. In fact, I did not even open my mouth.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, only one question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: It is the question of one or two. This is the House and it is in peoples' interest to. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no, there is time limit also.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Okay, Sir. The hon. Minister has said that the Planning Commission will give inputs, but he need not follow them, as they are only suggestions. I would like to categorically point out that it is not taking place in the real implementation. The clash with the Planning Commission is going on. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no, that is not the question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my second point is with regard to the Dispute Boards. Already, there is a mechanism in the present system. Whenever there is a dispute, a few experts are there to take a decision on that, but nothing is taking place. The Government should ensure a categorical, practical and positive system within 100 days.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (Uttar Pradesh): There is a very important reply that the Minister has given in just three sentences.

First, Shri Kamal Nath was just now saying that the Ministry is accountable to the House and he has rightly said that there has been deterioration in the Kanpur-Lucknow Highway. Sir, I have to travel on it because of the IIT, Kanpur; therefore, I have a suggestion to make. Whenever there is a nature deterioration on a road, which has been completed, maybe as a disincentive to contractors, would the hon. Minister not like to start a practice that every six months or once in a year, he will

report that to the House itself in the form of a written Statement that in such and such segment, on such and such highway, there was a big deterioration and we have taken such and such measures? That is one suggestion. The second is, in regard to the Planning Commission, is it or is it not a fact that the standard contract document, drawn up by the Planning Commission, is one of the deterrents which has slowed up many projects in the infrastructure sector? Would you like to review that or not?

Sir, my third point is, there was a very good precedent in the Pune-Bombay Highway, which was the first highway that was set up in India, in which the Government there had instituted a system of large incentives and very substantial penalties. If you completed the segment before the prescribed time, great incentive was given including publicity and if you failed to do it, then, a very substantial penalty was imposed including publicity that this contractor has failed. Would you consider these for the general programme? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We cannot allow those who have not participated in the discussion to seek clarifications, because, through this route, it will be like participating in the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*.. No, no, I have not called you, Mr. Darda.

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री से मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि 4 लेन और 6 लेन बहुत बन रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, ऐसा नहीं होता। Clarification should be a limited one.

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : इसके साथ सुरक्षा के जो पहलू हैं, उनकी ओर भी हमको ध्यान देना होगा, क्योंकि जैसे-जैसे अच्छे रोड़ चालू हो गए हैं, उसके कारण जरा एक्सीडेंट्स का सर्वे कराएँ कि कुल मिलाकर किन रोड़ों पर क्या स्थिति है? कहीं न कहीं उनमें mechanical defects हैं, engineering defects हैं और कहीं पर बीच में कट वगैरह हैं, उनको ठीक करने की जरूरत है। दूसरा इतने हाइवेज पर जो trauma centres वाला मामला है, वे बराबर इफेक्टिव काम नहीं कर रहे हैं, इसलिए इसकी भी मॉनीटरिंग करने की जरूरत है। इसलिए जहां इनकी ज्यादा जरूरत है, वहां इन सेंटर्स को या तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपने हाथ में लेकर या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के साथ मिलकर, उनको इफेक्टिव बनाए, अन्यथा इन एक्सीडेंट्स की संख्या भी बढ़ती रहेगी।

DR. PRABHAKAR KORE (Karnataka): Sir, my specific point is that the first corridor from the South to the North, which is connecting from Chennai to Pune, that is, the National Highway-4, is, still, not completed. There is no land acquisition problem. I don't think there is any problem. Whatever road has been completed, the quality of that road is very, very bad. There is no service road. Will the hon. Minister take note of this?

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि जो-जो सदस्य बोले हैं, वे केवल उन्हीं के प्वाइंट्स का रिप्लाय देंगे ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : सर, केवल एक क्लेरिफिकेशन मांग रहा हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow that.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : सर, केवल एक क्लेरिफिकेशन ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, जल्दी से बता दीजिए।

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : उपसभापति जी, मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो आपने सेंट्रल रोड फंड फ्रीज किया हुआ है, उसे कब हटा रहे हैं?

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, यह जो tol tax है, यह limited period के लिए है या everlasting story है?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, I am very happy that some Members have raised some points. I will try to reply all of them very briefly. I know that the hon. Minister of Finance is here to take up the Finance Bill, I am very happy that he is here. I hope the hon. Members will make all efforts in ensuring that he gives adequate funds to this Ministry. Sir, deterioration of roads is one thing; it is a fact. We will try and see how we can bring this for the information of the Members — where roads have deteriorated and where there is a delay. There is a system of a bonus for early completion and penalty for delay. As for the hon. Member's suggestion that we should publicise it so that the public is aware that the construction company or the contractor is causing delay, well, I can only say, we will look into this. I cannot respond to that immediately.

Sir, on Planning Commission and the MCA, the hon. Member is right that there are some issues. In my discussions recently with the Planning Commission, we have agreed on resolving this. I have had very constructive discussions with the Planning Commission. We are resolving some of the issues, which we believe, are deterrents. The hon. Member is right; there are certain things which are deterrent by the investors, by people, by construction company, by concessionaires; and most of these are being resolved. The major issue really is dispute settlement. I propose taking up even with the Finance Minister the issue of how we can find a fast-track method. It is true, it is built in to the Agreement, but still there is enormous litigation. Where the Central Road Fund is concerned, I want to assure the hon. Member that, for Rajasthan, we will release the Central Road Fund from today. Where the question of toll is concerned, the toll is in perpetuity. Now, when we look at the revised toll rules, this is one of the areas we would be happy to look at again. In conclusion, I want to again thank the hon. Members for their participation.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2009-10, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at this stage, I would not like to inflict a long speech or introductory observations because, as per the practice, after the Members make their observations, I will respond

to their observations at the end of it. After all, in the discussion on the Finance Bill to some extent — apart from the technicalities and clause-wise, section-wise discussions — a substantial part of the General budgetary proposals will also be repeated and, as it happens almost every time, I have after the presentation of Budget, as per the practice, received representations and memoranda from various stakeholders on the impact of these proposals; and there is no harm in it. Of course, it was not possible for me to point out that I have accepted all their recommendations or all the suggestions which are worth consideration because of the constraints under which the Finance Minister is functioning. I had to take only those measures which I could afford within the financial constraints. Now, there is an overall gloomy situation all over the international financial area. There is no sign of immediate restoration of the economy in the whole of Europe or a major part of North America. Of course, after injecting trillions of dollars, which was injected in the system through various stimulus packages announced by various countries, there has been some impact in the US economy. In Europe, as per the forecast of the IMA, still there will be negative growth unless they revise it sometimes in later part of the year. I cannot say that. But despite that, by taking certain measures, both fiscal and monetary measures, we have been able to prevent the deterioration of the further growth and, as the hon. Members are aware, we have ended the year 2008-09 with 6.7 per cent growth. I do hope that we would be able to maintain this level of growth. Certain signs of improvement, though slow, are visible and it is too early to predict whether it would be steady. But I do hope the stimulus packages, both in terms of the financial concession, fiscal measures and monetary measures which have been announced by the Reserve Bank of India, will have their desired impact.

With these words, I commend the Bill for consideration to this august House.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for lunch till two o'clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at two of the clock,

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad to start the discussion on the Finance (No.2) Bill, 2009.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am extremely grateful that you have given me the opportunity to initiate the debate on the Finance Bill in this House. Sir, the Finance Bill is a part of the whole Budgetary exercise, which begins with the presentation of the Budget, the financial statement, the consideration of the Appropriation Bill and now the present Financial Bill. Sir, this time this whole exercise was being looked with great expectation and excitement. There were two obvious reasons for this. One was that this was the first exercise of this Government after coming to power after General elections, and the second was that hon. Pranab Babu was presenting it after a gap of 25 years. Sir, we have great regard for Pranab Babu for his vast

learning. He is one of the few political leaders in the country who have extensive understanding of a variety of issues of governance from foreign affairs to Defence, to strategic issues, to finance, to trade, to commerce and also parliamentary practices and precedents. I remember when I became the Member of this House nine years ago, I used to sit there. I was told by my seniors that if I want to learn parliamentary practice make it a point to listen to when Pranab Babu speaks. And I used to listen to you, Sir, with great attention. You used to sit here. Even when I became the Minister and my bench was pushed a little ahead, even then I used to give due attention to him because of his vast learning. When Pranab Babu presented the last Budget, it was 25 years ago. The world has changed thereafter. He used to head the Finance Ministry in the hay days of licence permit quota raj. It was the time where if an industry produced more than what was entitled, it used to be penalised. After 25 years what change has occurred in the world, in the global scenario and in India's entrepreneurship, all this was keenly awaited as to how it was reflected in the Budget being presented by the same eminent political leader after a gap of 25 years. Has Pranab Babu changed? Has his outlook changed? Has the Government changed after the new election? Sir, a final verdict is still awaited.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is always a debate between equity and growth. Are they competitive? Do the one outsmart the other? This debate has been going on. Sir, growth is possible without equity. It would be lopsided; it would be elitist and it would be pro-rich. But genuine equity can never come without growth. If the bread is small, distribution would be difficult. If the bread is bigger, distribution would be easier. Sir, if we see post-independence period, we have spent a good part of our politics debating as to how bread should be distributed. But we have rarely significantly concentrated on the politics as to how the number of bread needs to be augmented and their number needs to be increased. Sir, the reason I am saying so, रोटी कैसे बंटे, इसकी राजनीति बहुत चली। शायद अब इस राजनीति की गंभीर शुरुवात करने की आवश्यकता है कि रोटी की संख्या कैसे बढ़ाई जाए। It is this premise I was trying to look into the entire budgetary exercise, of which the Finance Bill is an instrument. What is the expectation? Does it fulfil those expectations? Does the Finance Bill lay down a roadmap for that? Now, Sir, what is the context of this whole exercise? For the last nearly one-and-a-half years, we were having international meltdown, Whenever we used to raise the issue in this House or that House, or outside, there was a common response by the Prime Minister and his distinguished predecessor, Mr. P. Chidambaram, "The fundamental of Indian economy is strong, stable; we need not worry about." Sitting in this House, we used to protest, and they said, "Sorry, your protest is not relevant. We are comfortable." Now, what is the position today, Sir? The Economic Survey says, "International meltdown is responsible for everything in the country today, be it the fiscal deficit, be it the industrial slowdown, manufacturing slowdown, service slowdown; all because of international factors like capital inflow, volatility in price and general meltdown." Sir, I saw a foreign hand again. Sir, I hope the foreign hand has ceased to play in the politics of India for the last many years. The invisible foreign hand used to play a very important role 20-30 years ago.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Only difference is that it is now visible.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I remember, as a student, when I had come to the Parliament for the first time in Lok Sabha to watch the proceedings from Visitors' Gallery, the great Pilo Mody on that day entered the Lok Sabha with a placard, "I am a CIA agent." He was a man of great learning and very eminent Parliamentarian. It was a kind of his humorous response to the kind of politics being practised there. Sir, I am little surprised as to how the foreign hand again is being attributed the main reason for the entire slowdown. Now, kindly see the Economic Survey. It says that because of this decline in export and other things, one lakh people have lost their jobs. Is it right to underestimate like this? It is your own concrete governmental record. The Labour Bureau of the Department of Labour of the Government of India last year, in around October-November, came with report that five lakh people had lost their jobs in six organised sectors like gems and jewellery, automobiles, etc. If we include, with a wide experience, you know that the majority of employment is possible only in the unorganised sector. If we include the unorganised sector, then the unemployment would go into — we cannot even guess — crores. We remember that for the last five years, your Government in the earlier avatar of UPA-I has been assuring the nation, "We shall be giving one crore jobs every year." Now, I see from your Budget, you have raised it to 1.25 crores. This pious wish would have been taken seriously if there would have been an authoritative audit on the floor of the House as to how much was given in the context of promise of one crore every year in the last five years. It is a little disturbing. I will be grateful if you clarify that position in your reply which you very extensively touch. The rich-poor divide is rising very fast. In the Human Index Report of the U.N., India stands at 132 out of nearly 175 countries. What is our roadmap for them? It is very important, Sir. Do we want them to survive only on doles, or do we want to create an atmosphere conducive for them to also prosper? That is the fundamental difference. Sir, therefore, I had thought very honestly that when a man of the eminence of Pranab Babu is undertaking the whole exercise after a huge gap of 25 years, there must be an honest attempt at introspection. The real fact ought to have been brought on record. We know, Pranab babu makes his mind clear. Is it a slowdown because of external factors or is it because of the fact of the entire exercise of initiative of reforms, which was implemented sometime by Narasimha Rao Government, of which you were a part, and, which were boldly extended when Vajpayee Government was there, of which, I had the privilege to be a Member, like Venkaiah ji and Arun ji.

We pushed entrepreneurship, laid the roadmap for reforms from disinvestment to investment, to infrastructure, to what not. That gave a push where a new aspect of 'aspirational India' emerged. That was the big reason. I understand your problem, hon. Finance Minister. I remember one of your important speeches given in Bengal during the course of the last Lok Sabha elections. You said, "By the present trend, my friends of the Left will have to wait for hundred years to come to power." That

statement of yours was very widely reported. But it was a statement of great intent, and, I could see the pain you were suffering because of their company. Now, their company is not there. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, their company is not there, Mr. Finance Minister. तो सारा आकाश आपका था, जनता ने आपको इतना बड़ा सपोर्ट भी दिया था।

And, therefore, in that context, what is very important is: what is the philosophy of this whole exercise, what is the roadmap that you have set for yourselves, or, what are the basic growth intentions which you have underlined behind those exercises. That is very important.

Sir, let me ask a question to myself. What dissuaded Pranab babu to come up with ten major initiatives which could have pushed growth? Not even a single mega project has been announced as part of the Budget. He could have been well advised to come up with ten projects, with project clearance in time before actual bidding so as to completely push the economy which is currently under serious handicap. With his wide administrative experience, he could have come up with a big blue print of how to ensure that there is no leakage in the implementation process and that the massive allocation, which he has sought to provide for rural India, is properly utilized and implemented.

We were looking forward, whether hon. Pranab babu would come up with any proposal as to how the Government's role needs to be shortened a little more; Government's expenses can be curtailed a little more. These were important big pictures which were expected. Regretfully, Sir, I do not find any one of those available here.

You have given allocations with an open hand to rural sector, roads, projects etc. We have no comment to offer. We will see its implementation. You have five years' tenure. But, Sir, what is a matter of concern for us is that this is being done in the context of rising fiscal deficit. It is 6.8 per cent, and, if we include the oil pool account and the deficit of the various States, it will be in the region of 13 to 14 per cent. I remember, while giving reply to the Budget discussion in this House, which all of us heard with pin-drop silence, the hon. Finance Minister said, "Yes, I know there is fiscal deficit, but I have gone for growth. I have created a fiscal space for myself and the fiscal correction can wait." That is how you responded. Hon. Finance Minister, with your kind permission, may I ask a question to myself? Are these two contradictory, or, there has to be amity between these two. If you ignore one completely, you are inviting long-term peril. Kindly see, Sir, it is very important. You have proposed to borrow more than Rs. Four Lakh crore, around Rs. 4.5 lakh crore. Kindly appreciate, where will this money come from? I saw your officers commenting, two lakh crore of rupees will be borrowed from the primary market and the rest shall be managed from open market operations. Now, we see the banking sector, Sir. Yes, bank deposits have risen by 20 per cent. These are Rs. 6.50 lakh crore now. If you borrow substantially from banks only, are you not going to

cripple the private entrepreneurs who also depend upon them for liquidity? And, we will have to acknowledge very sincerely, hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, that we will have to involve the private sector in a big way if we want the growth to really go forward. Sir, there is one more issue on which I want to have a clarification from you. As I understand, correct me if I am wrong, as per the norms, the banks can pick up Government papers only to the extent of 25 per cent, rest would be LIC, etc. Now, if the present scenario is examined, 31 per cent of Government borrowing is already parked with the banks, that is, more than 25 per cent. Now you are pinning up the RBI to go for the OMO, Open Marketing Operations. Now, Sir, I understand that this Open Marketing Operations by the RBI has been on a very small scale, Rs. 37,700 crores couple of years ago. It went to Rs. 1 lakh crore last year. Now, if you are going to fasten the RBI with Rs. 2.5 lakh crore management of Open Market Operations, are you not heating up the economy very much? As I see, Sir, the entire exercise is based upon auto pilot; this much will come from here, this much will come from there, etc. And if anything goes wrong, the entire calculation is going to go haywire. Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the reason why I am saying it today is, Pranab babu very proudly declared that entire expenditure of Government has gone up to Rs. 10.2 lakh crores in comparison to Rs. 7.1 lakh crore in the last two years. Now, it is such a huge expenditure, substantially based upon borrowing alone. If anything goes wrong, I see very serious problem.

Hon. Finance Minister, Sir, you talked of economic stimulus. In paragraphs 13 and 14 of your Budget speech, you said that many of this deficit was referable to this stimulus which had been given. Sir, I do not want to waste the time of the House, but paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Budget mention that. Sir, a very eminent commentator has raised an issue. I would like him to kindly clarify if there is something wrong in this whole projection. What he has said is that the number is not entirely correct. Regarding this Rs. 1.86 lakh crore as a stimulus which you have mentioned, Sir, he has explained, if we see the Revenue Budget and if we see the Expenditure Budget, out of the proclaimed stimulus of Rs. 1.86 lakh crore, Rs. 1.30 lakh crore, that is, more than two-thirds consist of fall in Income Tax collections, then Rs. 40,000 crores for Sixth Pay Commission, Rs. 45,000 crores for fertilizer subsidy, Rs. 11,000 crores for food subsidy, Rs. 15,000 crores for farm debt waiver and Rs. 2,000 crores for extra interest on borrowing. Therefore, out of Rs. 1.86 lakh crore, if more than two-thirds is not towards fiscal stimulus, on what basis this claim has been made, we would like to be clarified. Similarly, for this year, you wish to spend Rs. 1.20 lakh crore over the previous year by way of stimulus. That is what we understand. Of this, an amount of Rs. 44,000 crore is again on account of Sixth Pay Commission due, Rs. 33,000 crores of extra interest, Rs. 10,000 crore for non Plan grants to States, Rs. 10,000 crore for contribution to IMF and loans to PSUs. This adds up to Rs. 97,000 crores. Therefore, what is important is, as an eminent economist has pointed out, that the stimulus of Rs. 1.86 lakh crore and Rs. 1.20 lakh crore does not measure up to stimulus as

claimed. They are under other heads. We would be grateful if you will be kind enough to clarify it. I read from the Budget that you have picked up Rs.35,000 crore from the proposed spectrum sale, and another Rs.10,000 crore is to be raised from direct taxes. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has already explained in the earlier debate as to what * is going on in the Ministry of Communications. Therefore, let us keep this pious wish of earning Rs.35,000 crore from spectrum sale under an area of doubt. Hon. Finance Minister, what I am saying is that you have put the autopilot, and if anything goes wrong, serious consequences are going to ensue. Therefore, I again raise a fundamental question. Sir, I will take some more time. I hope I have some more time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your party has time.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: And I am speaking on behalf of my party.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your party has time, but there are two more speakers.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I will hardly take 10-15 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You asked me that is why I told you.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, now I come to tax proposals. On tax proposals also, we expected that it would lay down a road map for growth in the Finance Bill. Infrastructure is down. Manufacturing is down. Service sector is down. Everything is down. Therefore, we had thought that you would come up with bold initiative in the shape of exemptions and an initiative to ensure that the growth momentum picks up.

Sir, the first thing I will talk of is the housing sector. You have given one per cent interest benefit to be, picked up by the Government. Is it right? Is it fair? Today, it is the time to really encourage massive investment and incentive in the housing sector. If housing sector grows, there will be houses for aam aadmi, steel sector grows, cement sector grows and employment grows. But one per cent is a very small exemption that you have given. I would say that there is a need to have lower housing interest rate up to Rs.30 lakh.

And, please re-introduce the tax holiday under section 80 (1)(B) of the Income Tax Act. We are proud of the IT and software industry, They have done wonders for us. President Obama talked about Bengaluru to Buffalo. But your entire exercise, including tax exemption and the Finance Bill, only gives them an exemption, which under the Software Technology Park earlier was for one year, and now it is extended for one more year. Sir, the entire industry wants a clear road map for a minimum of five years to withstand the global recession which we are experiencing.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Sir, there is a whole range of labour intensive industries. They are having unemployment. To push growth, they ought to have been given proper incentive, so that they could have come of age and employment could have been supported by them. I do not see that.

Service sector is down. Tourism makes an important component of service sector. Hotel industry ought to have been given proper initiative for its expansion, more accommodation, etc. There is a drop in investment in the textile sector by 48 per cent from Rs.90,369 crore in 2006-07 to only Rs.46,613 crore in 2008-09. Job loss due to layoff and shut down in the textile sector is one million. Sir, a meagre tokenism will not do.

Hon. Finance Minister, I mentioned these 4-5 segments because they push growth. It was important to give incentive to some of the key areas whereby growth would have been encouraged with attendant economic activity and employment.

Sir, now I come to general taxation part, particularly income tax. The first suggestion that I would like to give you is this. Please make this whole income tax regime simplified. You have come with Saral-II form to file income tax returns. But, Sir, unfortunately, the Department makes the entire system *jatil*. Therefore, if you want to make the form *saral*, please make the Department saral and also the law saral.

When I see income tax laws, there are 298 sections, at least, thousands of sub-sections, hundreds of notifications, rules, and circulars. When with my professional training as a lawyer, it is difficult for me to understand the implications of these matters unless I am properly assisted by a CA, what would happen to a common man? Sir, it's very important to understand that. I am given to understand that you are coming up with a Direct Tax Code Bill. What will be the nature? We don't know. We would like to be enlightened about that. But, it is high time that the entire legal regime of income-tax is changed. Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice one particular fact and I will be grateful if you could clarify it. As on March 31, 2008, the total income-tax arrear was Rs.1,03,808 crore. Out of which, 40 per cent was categorised as amount not under dispute. Therefore, as high as Rs.64,000 crore was the amount in dispute. Now, Sir, what is the need to complicate matters? Why can't the Department function in a manner so that the honest tax-payer not only gets incentives, but also the encouragement to deposit his tax in time? So much of huge Governmental money is locked up in dispute, and even the collection otherwise is not that happy as far as the non-disputed amount is concerned.

Now, let me give you three instances in the present Bill with which I have serious objection. You have made so many retrospective amendments. Why can't you come up with one amendment law which people can understand? And, why is there this rush for retrospective amendments? If the

Department loses some case, they should honestly acknowledge it. Now, let me give you a very interesting case. Additional Directors were not authorised to undertake search and seizure. Many search and seizures were undertaken by their authorisation. The High Courts across the country and the Supreme Court held such search to be illegal saying that they cannot proceed. Now, by retrospective amendments, you are validating those searches which took place 10-15 years ago and, most curiously, you again say that from now on, Additional Directors will not have any power to do search and seizure. Why is this difference? There must be some stability in the taxing regime.

Similarly, Sir, the amount set aside as provision for diminution in the value of asset is not going to be allowed as a reduction from nearly nine years back. Again, it is a retrospective amendment. Then, you have done retrospective amendment in Section 271(1)(c) where if in the course of any search it is found that tax has not been paid, then, the entire income is deemed as concealed income even though if it is a part of the books of accounts. Again, it is given retrospective effect. Sir, it is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, should I continue or wait for him to come back? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, therefore, it is very important. These are only illustrations which I gave you. This whole rush for retrospective amendments unsettles the entire nature.

Now, Sir, I come to taxation for common man. Why peanuts? For senior citizens, only Rs. 15000; for women, only Rs. 10000; for others, only Rs.10000. Sir, you have removed surcharge. But, surcharge is only for income of Rs.10 lakhs and above. Now, some people have commented that if we calculate, people who earn more would save more. But, ordinary people will be ending up paying more tax. Sir, you must have seen those things, I don't want to initiate that, but, I would like to say one thing. Please increase the exemption limit to, at least, Rs.2 lakhs. I will certainly request you to do that. My party had proposed Rs.3 lakhs. Forget about it. You have also got votes from the urban people in the entire country. Now, you have come with bigger majority. You owe them some responsibility. To give that, therefore, if you could enhance it to Rs.2 lakhs, that will be highly appreciated. Sir, on the duty part and other incentives, we deeply appreciate the exemptions you have given on life-saving drugs and to students from economically backward communities to pursue their studies. But, some of the exemptions did not make any sense to me like branded jewellery. I heard you saying, while presenting the Budget, that you will become popular among the women when you announced it. But, Sir, I am afraid, the entire strategy has boomeranged because cosmetic surgery and plastic surgery have come under the service net. Those who use branded jewellery, also go in for cosmetic surgery.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJE): Anyway, it should be neutral.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, unfortunately, the reality, today, is that cosmetic surgery is most commonly used by my friend's gender! So, please let us not bring women into this in this way. He

can object to branded jewellery because it is a very tiny percentage of women who are having the money to buy that. So, I object to such comments.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Brindaji, what I was saying was that branded jewellery is confined to 'page 3', and beyond that, I have not to say. And cosmetic surgery is also confined to 'page 3'.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Whether men or women!

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I don't mind if it applies to men also. I have no objection.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You are right.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Therefore, Sir, it has become appreciation neutral. I hope, you understand that.

Sir, on jewellery and Silver, the duty has also been raised. So, the jewellery for the common woman is going to become costlier. Sir, one thing I would like to know—this I am not raising as a former Information and Broadcasting Minister who has dealt with this audition — why the entertainment sector has escaped your attention completely. We must understand that Indian films and Indian Television have made us proud the world over. Whenever they make any claim, it is said: "Entertainment tax is a State subject!" But, today, we talk of digitisation; we talk of sound system; we talk of new cameras. We are very proud of the expanse of the television in India. Therefore, the film industry people are also demanding, Indian Films or Indian Television, soft power because when they do something brilliant, the world acknowledges that. It is very important if you please help them, Sir, in this hour. I see a complete silence. I would like to be enlightened as to why they have been ignored completely.

Sir, I have two or three short points to make. This demand to bring back our money, stashed abroad, in Switzerland's Tax Heavens, is something of common consensus. I remember, earlier, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that "within 100 days, we shall take efforts for that." I do not see anything on that score at all. Sir, we would like to be enlightened on that. Are you going to give it a cold shoulder or does this remain an agenda of priority for this Government?

Sir, coming to tax on goods and services, we appreciate that you are going to introduce that tax. But, Sir, you have fixed the target of 2010 April, I suppose. Are you not hurrying it too much? You will require amendments in the law; you will require amendments in the Constitution. All these things are there. Then, we have to factor into the concern of the State Governments. Their interest is not compromised completely. They need to be taken on board. I appreciate that the Group of Finance Ministers is doing a good job. But don't rush it in a way that the larger, positive objective becomes, unnecessarily, prejudiced or complicated.

Sir, here is another issue I would like to flag. I come from the State of Bihar. My State has demanded a special package. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has also raised that point when the Budget was presented earlier. Why is my State being ignored? It is on the road to recovery. The Government of Nitish Kumar-Sushil Modi, of BJP-JD(U), is doing well; the world is recognising that. Bihar is a big State; it also needs to come on stage, Sir. We have no problem at all if Bengal is given because of the cyclone, or if Maharashtra is given, or if Kerala is given. But if this seeping apprehension arises that the Central indulgences are based on political fortunes or preferences of the people, that will not be a right approach to go. A man of great experience and learning, which you are, you always believe that fiscal imbalances, regional imbalances need to be set right at the earliest; otherwise, it causes a long-term damage. Sir, I will, again, demand that a special package be given to Bihar.

Sir, the last issue I would like to flag is this. You have given allocations, massive allocations. Sir, what is the kind of regulatory mechanism that the Government is envisaging so that the aam admi, really gets benefited out of the allocations which you have set for the welfare of the people?

I wish to, again, recall what Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said — I hope, you also remember, of his Cabinet — that "if we send one rupee, hardly 15 paise or 20 paise reach them." Is the situation, Sir, any different now? Some State Governments are doing better, but, in some States, the situation is very pathetic. Many of your own Ministers have said that NREGA implementation is hardly 40 per cent, 50 per cent.

You are giving money. You need to give money. We appreciate that. It is very important that 60 years down the lane the country needs a proper regulatory machinery to ensure that the taxpayers' money and the borrowed money allocated really reaches the poor for whom it is meant. I don't see any flash of that in your financial exercise. I will be grateful if you kindly enlighten me on that.

Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for the indulgence shown to me and it was my honour to make the first intervention on the Finance Bill. Thank you.

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. It is a great honour for me to speak on the Finance Bill, which has created history, presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Pranabji. India will never forget what he has done as Defence Minister, as Foreign Minister and now as Finance Minister. He had avoided the war between India and Pakistan when there were so much of emotions. He never asked the Army to go to the western border of India or to the eastern part of Pakistan three years ago as had happened when the other Government, the NDA Government, was there. The movement of two lakh soldiers to the western part of the border had made the Taliban to come nearer to Lahore. He had avoided that as the Defence Minister and subsequently as Foreign Minister. Even after 26/11 he tried to create calmness among the people of

India and Pakistan and see to it that there was no war again. The history of India will be written in his name because he has avoided the war and made efforts for a peaceful existence between India and Pakistan.

Similarly, he has created a great impression in the world by allowing our nuclear establishments to enter the global market. They were doing research for the last forty years or sixty years. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has created a separate department for nuclear energy. The researches done by the Tata Institute of Nuclear Science, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, etc, are able to get the greatest market in the world as a result of the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

The third one, which India will never forget, is the Budget that he has presented. I read in one weekly what Bernard Shaw had said. He said, "A Government with a policy to rob Peter to pay Paul can be assured of the support of Paul". But here, our hon. Finance Minister has never stolen anything from Peter and, at the same time, he has given Peter, Paul and everybody tried led to please everybody, from the aam admi to the income-tax payers with an assessed income of more than Rs.10 lakhs. This is the way of presenting Budget by one who understands the whole Indian context. This type of a Budget has not been presented here earlier. We feel that we will also suffer just like the western countries. If you look at the daily share market everything goes red throughout the world except in India where we are playing certain games ojily. Otherwise, everywhere the share market is in the red. But we are going up in a proper way. The share market could not understand certain things which were visualised by the hon. Finance Minister for depending on the domestic money rather than on foreign money. He could understand that there is huge surplus money in the hands of the people in rural areas. Many landlords do not know where to put their money. They keep the money in their own house or their nearby relatives' house. This is what is happening. Now, we are opening more branches of the banks and making the people to understand that they can put their money in the banks. The banks are now widening their net by opening more branches in the rural areas. That is also one of the achievements of the hon. Finance Minister. We are very happy that the entire service tax structure is having a new look. The revenue that we are getting from customs duty is Rs. 98,000 crores and from Central excise is Rs. 1,06,477 crores. Before 2007-08, service tax was expected to be Rs. 51,000 crores. In the Budget Estimates, it was increased to Rs. 61,000 crores. But now it has increased to Rs. 65,000 crores. We are expecting more revenue from service tax.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the structure of the Department. It needs to be restructured. The Department of Excise and Customs is being controlled by one Commissioner. There is only one Commissioner to look after the affairs of this Department whose collection is Rs. 65,000 crores. There is a condition that there will be one Commissioner up to a business of Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 500 crores. But here one Commissioner, one Joint

Commissioner, one Additional Commissioner and a few Dy. Commissioners are handling Rs. 65,000 crores. We need to improve that structure so that we can get more revenue from service tax. Persons working in the Excise Department should be given promotions. The persons working at the Inspector level can be promoted to higher levels. They will also feel happy that, at least, after 15 years they are getting some promotion.

Sir, when we talk of service tax, a new clause has been included here, that is, legal service. I would like to quote this clause. It says, "To a business entity, by any other business entity in relation to advice, consultancy or assistance in any branch of law, in any manner; provided that any service provided by way of appearance before any court, tribunal, and authority, shall not amount to taxable service." This clause divides the legal profession into two categories. Everything has been merged under the Advocates Act. Solicitor, arguing lawyer, advocate, lawyer, etc. have all been merged. But now the arguing lawyer has been separated. It means the arguing lawyer does not come within the purview of service tax. But a person who is having an association or a firm, and doing a solicitor's job, will be taxed. Immediately, after the Budget Speech, some of the Bar Associations went on strike. But I hope they have understood that the arguing lawyers would not be affected by this classification. At the same time, the Explanation says, "For the purposes of this sub-clause, business entity includes an association of persons, body of individuals, company or firm." But it does not include individual. That means, Sir, if a senior lawyer argues a case for one hour or two hours and charges Rs. 10 lakh or Rs. 15 lakh, like Shri Ravi Shakar Prasad, he does not have to pay any service tax. But the poor juniors have to pay service tax if they are having a firm. If young lawyers after coming from law schools form their own firm, they have to pay service tax. But a senior arguing lawyer does not have to pay any service tax. I think the senior lawyers should be taxed and the junior lawyers should be protected. I am also a senior lawyer in the Supreme Court. Even then I am arguing for junior lawyers. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no vested interest. I am basing my argument on justice. Therefore, this particular clause needs to be given a re-look. There is another clause in regard to coastal goods. This clause relates to transportation of coastal goods. Here service tax has been imposed even on goods which are transported through coastal areas, National Waterways and Inland Waterways. But we have to take the case of Lakshadweep, or, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Andaman and Nicobar Islands is depending totally on the mainland. All the goods, right from rice, clothes, medicines, everything has to be transported from the mainland. The transport of these goods is facilitated by the cooperative sector. Now, when they are taking the goods from here, they have to pay service tax. Also, when they transport the goods by sea or by air, they have to pay the tax. It means that there will be a 10 per cent increase in prices of products which are sold at Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, they have to be excluded, when this service tax is imposed upon them, so that the mainland price is maintained in the inland also.

Sir, I am very happy that our young Minister of Textiles has stated in a reply to today's question that the Government had announced two stimulus packages on 7th December, 2008, and 2nd January, 2009, to boost exports, arrest the impact of economic slowdown and to improve the liquidity. Here, we find that an amount of Rs.1400 crores was given in 2008-09 for the Technology Upgradation Fund scheme. So, an additional fund has been given. Sir, the small and medium sized textile units are not getting these benefits. In another clause, clause 8, it is stated that the State-level Bankers Committee would hold meetings for resolution of credit issues of small, medium and micro enterprises. But none of the banks is ready to co-operate with the Government; they do not want to sit along such industries and help them get out of the trap. But they only want to see that every mill is closed down. For revision of loans and other things, they are not ready to come forward and help them. They want that the industry should close down. That mentality should go away from the mind of the bankers. The bankers should feel that they are partners in the business. They are shareholders of the business because they have also put their money there. Therefore, they have to have the mindset, just like the Board of Directors, to revive the industry in some way or the other.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is regarding agriculturists, whose sons and daughters wish to be educated in foreign countries. Nowadays, even in the rural areas, people want to go in for higher education in foreign countries. For this, they would, at least, require a loan of Rs.15 lakhs. Now, there is a provision that up to Rs.4 lakhs, the banks should not ask for any security. For loans more than that, they can ask for security. Now, they say that the agriculturists' sons and daughters are not eligible for this. This is because under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, it was giving powers to the bankers that in case of default of payment of loan up to Rs.10 lakhs, the assets can be seized by their bank associates. But there is an exemption under Section 31 (i) that agricultural lands are excluded from that. Therefore, they say that since the agricultural land cannot be taken away in case of default of payment, they would not get the loan. Now, the basis for giving loans to students is on his ability to earn after he finishes his education. And, we are investing on human resources so that these boys and girls can develop their skills and come forward to develop the nation. That is the purpose of educational loans. Just like the investment that we make on building other infrastructure, we will have to invest on building human resources. The bankers do not have that in mind. They say that because of this provision, we are not ready to give the loan. It means that there is total discrimination towards sons and daughters of these agriculturists, who cannot think of getting themselves educated at all in foreign lands, or, for that matter, go in for higher education even in our own country. Therefore, that has to be rectified. They have got other means to get money. Here, even the hon. Minister has given an exemption under Section 80 (E) that interest

on loans taken for higher education is exempt from tax. When such an exemption is given, poor agriculturists' children alone are discriminated. Finally, before concluding, I would like to mention that I had raised this issue regarding savings bank accounts and agents in the Question Hour yesterday. I have been raising this issue again and again. I had raised it with the Communications Minister, Shri A. Raja, and he had said that it was for the Finance Ministry to deal with it. When the hon. Finance Minister replied yesterday, he said it was a matter for the State Governments to consider. Now, where do we go? Sir, it is poor people like widows, pensioners and really small people who depend upon these services of the Post Office. They have been depending upon the Post Offices for the past 150 years. They deposit very small amounts of money in those Post Offices. Normally, agents come to their doorsteps, collect the amounts and give them receipts. Therefore, they are confident that their money is in safe custody. Now, about three years ago, the interest was reduced by one per cent. That needs to be restored after proper discussion with the State Governments. It is said that the Central Government and State Governments are ready to borrow money at low rates of interest from the World Bank and the IMF, rather than taking it from its own people. Now, that may not be the case. But they have to depend upon this. This interest must be treated the way we treat the PF; they should be given more interest for that. Yesterday, the hon. Minister announced in the Lok Sabha that a rebate of one per cent would be given for housing loan. This should be increased further and bonus and other commissions which were given to poor people, the agents, who are depending upon should also be restored.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Mr, Deputy Chairman, Sir, the whole country was anxious about the approach of the new Government towards the financial and economic situation of the country. Sir, at the time of the last Budget, the then Finance Minister had claimed, "It is widely acknowledged that the fiscal position of the country has improved tremendously". That was the feeling and the confidence expressed by the present Finance Minister's predecessor at the time of the last Budget. What is the condition now? Sir, the fiscal profile is very negative today. Standard & Poor's has said about our economy that it has become 'negative' from 'stable'. This is what has been happening in our economy. Actually, Sir, our Budget had talked more about the international financial crisis and its impact on our economy. Even before the crisis had started, the very foundation had been adversely affected. We should not forget that our economic slowdown had started before the onset of the international financial crisis. The peak rate of growth of 9.7 per cent of the GDP and 11.8 per cent of the manufacturing sector were reached in 2006-07, before the onset of the international financial crisis. In every quarter, since the last quarter of 2006-07, growth of manufacturing as a percentage of GDP has been steadily declining from 12.5 per cent annual growth

over the corresponding quarter in the previous year to -0.14 per cent in the last quarter of 2008-09. This is the situation. Continuously, it has been coming down, especially in the manufacturing sector; it has gone to minus level. Sir, we were expecting some good proposal in order to overcome this difficulty. Unfortunately, the proposals in this Budget are grossly inadequate in meeting the challenges of economic recession, growing job losses and declining purchasing power of the poor masses in this country. Sir, in such a situation, we expect a proper stimulus package which would help improve the situation in the country and pump more amount into the social sector, a proper public distribution system and more investment in rural infrastructure. Unfortunately, Sir, this Budget is not moving in that direction, except for some rhetoric for the poorer sections in our society. Sir, in which area the expenditure is mainly going? As far as this Budget is concerned, 27 per cent will be on account of interest payments and another 22.61 per cent will be on account of Defence expenditure. So, Sir, nearly 50 per cent of the total increase in expenditure would be on these heads alone. Apart from these, an additional expenditure on account of salaries of Government employees, hardly any increase in the expenditure has been budgeted. Subsidies, for example, budgeted have actually come down by 15 per cent over the revised figures of 2008-09. And the assistance to the States and Union Territories has also only a marginal increase of 8.22 per cent. The allocation under the Central Plan Assistance directly transferred to States has also been reduced and, if we go through the total schemes, including NREGA, there has been a mere increase of 3.7 per cent compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09, i.e., Rs.58,840.98 crores in 2009-10 Budget Estimates as compared to Rs.56,710.34 crores in the last Budget, That is a very small increase with regard to these flagship programmes for the poor.

Sir, with regard to the tax proposals, here also, the main income is through the selling of spectrum. It has already been mentioned here. The main source of income is from selling of spectrum for Rs.35,000 crores. Will it be possible next year? Unless you have a proper approach for resources and taxation and thinking about some extra income this year, will it be possible next year? That is my doubt.

Similarly, Sir, the Government is thinking only about a net-market borrowing through securities, and their estimate is for nearly Rs.3,97,957 crores. It is already reported that an amount of Rs. 1,89,000 crores has been raised through debt securities between 1st April, 2009 and 17th July, 2009. So, naturally, the interest burden will be increased. Then, what would be the roadmap? The roadmap would be disinvestment, 51 per cent disinvestment. The big business will be very happy. The post-Budget assurance to the big business regarding shedding of the public sector equity surely promises them a goldmine of opportunities to low-cost acquisition of prime public assets. That is the way you are going to make money. Why don't you think about the Swiss Accounts? During the

elections, my friends from the BJP were very vociferous about it. Unfortunately, today, they did not mention about that. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know about that. There was a reciprocal gesture from the Prime Minister at that point of time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I heard both of them. From the BJP, there was a big rhetoric and there was a reciprocal gesture from the Prime Minister at that point of time. Unfortunately, nothing of that sort is heard here. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to say something about it and, at least, he should mention the names of those persons who have their accounts in the Swiss Bank. Let the country know about it.

Similarly, Sir, the concessions are given to whom? We all know that the beneficiaries of the on-going economic policy are the big business people of this country. The number of billionaires have increased and the total amount of their assets have increased from Rs.3,54,000 crores to Rs.10,34,000 crores. Naturally, we will expect that you will make more resources from those who have benefited from this economic policy and those who have got more profits. Unfortunately, you are not making more money from them. As far as the figures are concerned, the Corporate Tax revenue foregone by the Government on account of various concessions was Rs.68,914 crores.

3.00 P.M.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Here, this is the approach. Rather than collecting more taxes from those who are getting more benefit due to the policies, you are giving more concessions to them. So, this approach should be changed. Unfortunately, you have ceded further assistance to them by abolishing the fringe benefit tax.

Then, Sir, the Finance Minister has not only been kind to the big corporate sector in general by not reducing tax concessions, he has also benefited particularly some favoured ones by adding to the list of tax concessions. Clause 13 of the Finance Bill introduces a new section 35AD in the Income-Tax Act; in clause 37 to amend section 80-1B of the Act may be mentioned in this regard. The first proposal is to allow all capital expenditure incurred during the year to be fully allowable at a deduction to specific businesses, to those operating cold chain warehousing facilities for storing agricultural produce, and to those owning and operating cross country natural gas, crude or petroleum oil pipeline network. Clause 37 seeks to extend tax holiday hitherto available in respect to profits arising from commercial production of refining of mineral oil to natural gas. What is it, Sir? Which company will get this benefit? Who will get this concession? And, you are facing big problem of resources! Why did you give concession to these people? My request is you should not give this concession. This part should be withdrawn from the Budget proposals.

In the case of personal Income-Tax also, there is abolition of surcharge. The country is losing Rs.5,000 to 6,000 crores of revenue. Who is the beneficiary? Those who have Rs. 10 lakh-plus income are qualified for this tax relief. We know, the maximum rate of tax is only 30 per cent. So, through this concession, this country is losing Rs. 39,553 crores. This benefit is going to the richer section. That is the situation.

Similarly, Sir, with regard to the wealth tax also, the increase of the wealth tax, this concession is also beneficial to the richer section in the society. This -is the approach. The stimulus package is not for the poor man. The benefit has mainly gone to the richer section in our society. The unwillingness of the Government to extract resources from those who can and should be paying more taxes means that resources available with the Government would be limited. With such limited resources even by incurring fiscal deficit of 6,8 per cent of GDP, the Government would not be able to spend enough; that would be the situation, which is going to happen in the after effect of the Budget. Then, naturally, you have to pay more interest to the borrowings from the market. So, the economy cannot be stabilised. That is the impact of this policy.

Now, the impact is already there! We were discussing about the economic situation. Here, there is a minus inflation. You please go through the inflation rates. Now, there is a minus inflation. It is a big dichotomy in our economy. I do not understand how do we go and explain this thing. Sir, you see, the position of the Wholesale Price Index as well as the Consumer Price Index is, the WPI index is (-)1.4 per cent in June, 2009. At the same time, you go to the market. The prices of the essential commodities are spiralling like anything—whether it is rice or dal. Tur dal is Rs. 100 in Andhra Pradesh, in Chennai it is Rs.90. The price of all the essential commodities is increasing. As far as the village people are concerned, their CPI is 10.19 per cent. Increase in market prices, prices of essential commodities is the immediate impact of this Budget. Do you have any concrete proposal to arrest the process? That you have to announce before the House. You say, 'We are ready to discuss.' You are also ready to discuss, but what is your proposal? Unless we raise this matter in the Parliament, the Government does not take any steps to arrest this process. What is the reason? The country needed an explanation from the Government. In what direction are you moving? You are moving against the farming community in the country. Sir, the Government went and signed the ASEAN Treaty. ...(Time-bell rings)... Sir, it is the backdoor entry of the Doha Round of Discussions related to the agricultural products. This is what is happening. We were resisting it, There is pressure from the rich countries, G-8. These countries were persisting for this. Now, through backdoor, we are signing some agreements. This ASEAN Agreement will adversely affect the poor farmers. Sir, the farmers of my State Kerala, who are producing cash crops like rubber, pepper, cardamom, coconut, cashew and all other such things will be affected by this thing. Our State is not producing that much of rice and pulses. The main source of the income of our farmers is cash crops. All the cash crops have been adversely affected. You imagine what would be the living condition of the farmers. Is it a gift from the Government to the farming community of Kerala? ...(Time-bell rings)... I think, the Government should not go ahead with this proposal. Another thing is about those people who are leaving West Asia. ...(Time-bell rings)... Sir, those four million people who are coming back from West Asia or the Gulf countries, unfortunately there is no rehabilitation programme for them. There is a demand in regard to this from Kerala. The Government should come forward with a proposal. Time

and again, the Government of Kerala, people of Kerala and the MPs from Kerala are raising this issue. But the Budget does not have any proposal for them. Sir, there is one more issue which is particularly related to my State. Sir, as you know, about 73 lakh people in this country are availing of this benefit of education loan. But now the Government has given a direction of not giving this benefit to those students who are studying in Nursing and B.Ed. In their case, the Government is insisting that they should be given this benefit only upto the Government fees. Sir, 95 per cent institutions are self-financed institutions. Why are you denying this benefit to the Nursing and B.Ed students? So, I urge upon the Government to give a direction to the nationalised banks that they should not stop this. Otherwise also they are paying back the amount. We should not stop this benefit to this section of Nursing students and B.Ed students. *...(Time-bell rings)...* So, Sir, this is the situation. Finally, I would like to say that this Government has to change some of its policies. You have to give more funds to the States. The devolution of funds to States should be amounting to 50 per cent of the total taxes. So, in this condition whatever proposals are against the poor people of this country should not be taken forward and this pro-rich *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Your time is over, what can I do? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I want only one minute. *...(Time bell rings)...* Sir, our experience is that the Government which is forgetting the peasantry and trying for disinvestment will lose the election *...(Interruptions)...* That will be your fate also. In order to avoid that, kindly change your policies. This is what minimum I would like to say. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I also agree with you.

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, जहां तक आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी का सवाल है, वित्त विधेयक पर जब चर्चा शुरू हुई तो आदरणीय रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी ने वित्त मंत्री जी के अनुभव के बारे में और उनका जो लम्बा संसदीय जीवन है, केन्द्र में विभिन्न पदों पर रहकर के उन्होंने जो अनुभव प्राप्त किया है उसकी तारीफ की है। मैं भी आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी की तारीफ करता हूँ और उनका प्रशंसक हूँ। आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने सामान्य बजट एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल और वर्तमान वित्त विधेयक जब संसद के सामने पेश करने का काम किया, तो वित्त मंत्री जी का जो अनुभव था उससे देश को बड़ी आशाएं थी, विशेषकर किसानों को, क्योंकि उनकी हालत आज दिन-पर-दिन खराब होती जा रही है। उन्होंने नरेगा में 144 परसेंट की बढ़ोतरी करने का काम किया। उनका जो भारत निर्माण का कार्यक्रम है, उसमें उन्होंने 45 परसेंट आबंटन करने का काम किया। इससे देश में एक आशा बढ़ी है। जो उन्होंने नरेगा का उन्तालिस हजार एक सौ करोड़ रुपए का बजट बनाया है, मैं उस प्रकरण में नहीं जाना चाहता। इसका जो पैसा राज्यों में जा रहा है, जो काम राज्यों के द्वारा कराए जा रहे हैं, कितना सही हो रहे हैं और उनका कितना उपयोग हो रहा है, यह दूसरी बात है, लेकिन माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने उसको बढ़ाने का काम किया। इस देश के अंदर किसानों की हालत खराब है और इस समय कृषि कार्य घाटे का काम हो गया है। कृषि के काम को छोड़कर लोग पलायन कर रहे हैं, आत्म-हत्याएं कर रहे हैं। इस क्षेत्र की ओर भी आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी

ने ध्यान देने का काम किया है और किसानों के कर्ज को चार सौ करोड़ रुपए देने का प्रावधान किया और ऋण अदायगी को छः महीने बढ़ाने की बात भी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने की है। आज महाजनों से बड़ी संख्या में किसान कर्ज लेते हैं और जब महाजन इन कर्जों को वसूल करने का काम करता है तो इसमें जो सामाजिक व मानवीय दृष्टिकोण होना चाहिए, वह भूल जाता है। इसके लिए भी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने एक कार्यबल बनाने की बात बजट में कही है। सर, इस समय पूरा विश्व आर्थिक मंदी से गुजर रहा है। उसका असर देश पर भी पड़ा है। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को मंदी से बचाने के लिए जो उपाय हो रहे हैं वह देश की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए घातक हैं। सरकार आज जिस तरह से उधार लेकर के सार्वजनिक निवेश बढ़ाने में लगी है उसको देखते हुए अनुमान यह है कि सन् 2010 के अंत तक प्रति व्यक्ति सार्वजनिक ऋण जो होगा, वह तीस हजार के करीब हो जाएगा। सरकार पिछले कई वर्षों से बाजार से बराबर उधार लेने का काम कर रही है। जो मात्र 2000 तक बकाया कर्ज है, वह करीब 34 लाख करोड़ रुपया हो जायेगा जो आने वाले 7 वर्षों की तुलना में दोगुना हो जाएगा। जहां तक विदेशी ऋण का बोझ है, वह 2003-2004 में करीब 111 अरब के आसपास था, अब यह 2008-2009 में बढ़कर 221 अरब हो गया, जिसके कारण आज प्रत्येक भारतीय पर करीब 194 डॉलर का विदेशी और करीब पच्चीस हजार रुपए का घरेलू कर्ज है। इस बोझ को कम करने के लिए पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों पर जो विभिन्न प्रकार के कर लगते हैं, उनको हटाने के बजाए सरकार सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कम्पनियों के बाण्ड इश्यू करने का काम करती है, जो भविष्य में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बहुत घातक होगा। वित्त मंत्री जी ने खर्च को 36 परसेंट बढ़ा दिया, जिसको दस लाख बीस हजार आठ सौ अड़तीस करोड़ कर दिया और ऐसे समय में हमको राजस्व मात्र छः लाख चौदह हजार चार सौ सत्तान्वें करोड़ मिल रहा है, यानी सरकार का जो खर्च है, वह दस रुपए हो रहा है और सरकार की आज की जो आमदनी है वह छः रुपए है। यही कारण है कि सरकार का जो आमदनी और खर्च का अंतर है, वह लगातार बढ़ रहा है। इस साल सरकार बाजार से करीब चार लाख नौ सौ छियान्वें करोड़ रुपए उधार लेने का काम कर रही है। सरकार इसके एवज में करीब दो लाख पैंतिस हजार पांच सौ ग्यारह करोड़ रुपया ब्याज पर खर्च करेगी। मंत्री जी की सोच है कि भारत सम्पन्न हो, मांग पैदा हो और जब मांग पैदा होगी तो उपभोग बढ़ेगा, सामाजिक और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खर्च करने से लोगों की आय बढ़ेगी। और उपभोग का विस्तार होगा। सर, यह भी सत्य है कि जो भी योजनाओं के लिए पैसा यहां से जाता है, जो आम आदमी है उसको उसका दसवां हिस्सा ही मिल पाता है।

इस बजट में जो कर प्रस्ताव हैं, इससे आम आदमी के लिए कोई विशेष प्रावधान नहीं है। यदि किसी की सालाना आमदनी 10 लाख रुपये से कम है, तो उसकी कर छूट की सीमा में जो बदलाव किया गया है, उससे उसकी जेब में मात्र 1030 रुपया अतिरिक्त होंगे। अगर किसी आदमी की दो लाख रुपये मासिक आमदनी है, तो उसे मिलने वाली मासिक कर राहत 5000 से ज्यादा होगी। इसके अलावा जो वर्तमान टैक्स हैं और इसमें तो प्रस्ताव हुए हैं, वे अमीरों के लिए ज्यादा लाभप्रद हैं। जैसे - अगर किसी व्यक्ति की ढाई लाख रुपये वार्षिक आय है, तो इस समय उसका वर्तमान कर जीरो और जो प्रस्तावित कर है, वह भी जीरो है। अगर किसी की छह लाख रुपये वार्षिक आय है, तो उसका वर्तमान कर करीब 56650 रुपये है, और जो प्रस्तावित टैक्स लग रहा है, वह 55,620 रुपए है, उसे करीब 1030 रुपये का फायदा हो रहा है। वहीं अगर 24 लाख रुपये वार्षिक आय है, तो उसका वर्तमान कर करीब 6,74,140 रुपया है और जो नया वित्तीय विधेयक आया है, यह जब लागू हो जाएगा, तो उसकी जो प्रस्तावित टैक्स की देयता होगी, वह 6,11,820 रुपया हो जाएगी, यानी कि उस व्यक्ति को 62,320 रुपये का फायदा होगा। इसमें प्रॉविजन किया गया है कि यदि किसी व्यक्ति के पास 15 लाख रुपये से ज्यादा मूल्य की अनुत्पादक परिसम्पत्तियां हैं, जैसे खाली प्रॉपर्टी, जेवरात, नकदी आदि हैं, तो उस पर एक फीसदी कर देय होता था इस सीमा को 30 लाख

तक बढ़ाने का काम इस वित्तीय विधेयक के माध्यम से किया जा रहा है। मेरा मानना है कि इस बजट के जो प्रस्ताव हैं, वे अमीरों और उच्च आय अर्जित करने वालों के लिए ज्यादा फायदेमंद है।

जहां तक फ्रिज बेनफिट टैक्स, एफबीटी को हटाने का प्रस्ताव है, इससे औद्योगिक संस्थानों को सीधे लाभ पहुंचेगा, क्योंकि अब उन्हें कर्मचारियों को दिए जाने वाले विभिन्न फायदों पर कर नहीं चुकाना पड़ेगा, लेकिन ये कम्पनियां इसका लाभ अपने कर्मचारियों को देंगी या नहीं देंगी, इसको वित्त मंत्री जी को देखना है।

वित्त मंत्री जी ने एक बहुत अच्छा काम किया है और मैं उसकी प्रशंसा करना चाहता हूँ। लोग उपहार लेकर काले धन को सफेद करने का काम करते थे। अब इस बजट में अगर 50 हजार रुपए से ज्यादा के नकद के उपहार मिलते हैं, तो आप को कर चुकाना होगा। जो 50 हजार रुपये तक के उपहार होते थे, लोग इसको गहनों के रूप में, अन्य सामान के रूप में ले लिया करते थे, जिससे काले धन को सफेद करने का काम होता था, लेकिन इस बजट में वित्त मंत्री जी ने यह प्रॉविजन किया है कि यह बजट के दायरे में आएगा।

सर, यह जो सरल फार्म है, इसको जब लोग भरना सीख लेते हैं, तो बड़ी विडम्बना है कि इसको बदल दिया जाता है। इस समय जो आईटीआर फार्म है, वह ठीक है। लेकिन इसको हर साल बदल देने का काम होता है। सरकार जी.एस.टी. कानून को बनाने जा रही है। वित्त मंत्री जी ने 1 अप्रैल, 2010 से गुड्स सर्विस टैक्स लागू करने की बात कही है,लेकिन इसमें दिक्कत यह है कि इसको अप्रैल, 2010 से लागू करने की बात कर रहे हैं। सबसे पहले केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच जो राजस्व का बंटवारा है, उसको तय करना होगा। इस प्रकरण पर अभी केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच कोई बातचीत भी नहीं हो पाई है। दूसरी बात यह है कि यह सिंगल रेट होगा या मल्टीपल रेट होगा, इस पर भी बात नहीं हो पाई है। राज्यों में केंद्रीय उत्पाद कर और वैट की जो प्रणाली है, वह अलग-अलग राज्यों में अलग-अलग है। अप्रैल 2010 से पहले इस पर बात पूरी हो जाएगी कि नहीं हो जाएगी - हालांकि अच्छी बात है कि इसको लागू किया जाए, इससे सरकार का राजस्व बढ़ेगा, लेकिन हमें संशय लगता है कि यह अप्रैल 2010 तक पूरा हो भी पाएगा। सबसे बड़ी चिंता की जो बात है, वह राजकोषीय घाटा है। चालू वित्त वर्ष में राजकोषीय घाटा बढ़कर सभी अनुमानों को लांघता हुआ सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का करीब 8.9 प्रतिशत हो जाएगा। यदि इस घाटे में राज्य सरकारें और बजट से हटकर बजटेतर राशियां शामिल हो जाएं तो राजकोषीय घाटा सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 13 प्रतिशत हो जाएगा। छठे वेतन आयोग की रिपोर्ट, किसानों की जो 65,000 करोड़ रुपए ऋण की माफी हुई है, ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना का विस्तार, उत्पादन और सीमा शुल्कों में जो कमी की गई है और सामाजिक क्षेत्र की अन्य योजनाओं की घोषणाओं के कारण ऐसी आशा है कि 2009-10 तक सरकार का राजकोषीय घाटा बढ़ जाएगा। यह सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 9-10 प्रतिशत हो जाएगा। ऐसे में राजकोषीय घाटे को सुधारने के लिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : यादव जी, आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया है।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक मिनट।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : मैं क्या करूँ?

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव : सर, बैकबेंचर्स को आपका संरक्षण चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : संरक्षण हमेशा है, लेकिन एक मिनट में खत्म कीजिए।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव : सर, इस देश में जो तमाम तरह की निधियां हैं, करीब 110 लाख करोड़ के आसपास हैं, ये निधियां हैं, इनमें सड़क विकास निधि, रेलवे सुरक्षा निधि, रक्षा निधि, पेंशन निधि, कर्मचारी कल्याण निधि इत्यादि हैं। मेरा वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि इन निधियों को देश की मुख्यधारा में लाया जाएगा तो निश्चित रूप से राजकोषीय घाटे में सुधार होगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, धन्यवाद। मैं सबसे पहले यह बता देना चाहूंगा कि मुझे अर्थशास्त्र और फाइनेंशियल सिस्टम की बहुत ज्यादा जानकारी नहीं है, लेकिन लंबे अरसे से एक पोलिटिकल वर्कर और सोशल वर्कर के रूप में समाज के बीच में काम करने का जो मौका मिला है, उसके आधार पर ही देश की जो आर्थिक नीति है, जिसकी झलक इस बजट में मिलती है, उसको देखता हूं। अभी हमारे मित्र रवि शंकर प्रसाद जीने कहा कि प्रणब बाबू जो बजट पेश कर रहे हैं देश बहुत उत्सुकता के साथ उसको देख रहा है। मैं इस मामले में उनके साथ सहमत नहीं हूं। इस देश के आम आदमी को बजट से क्या मतलब है? देश की आर्थिक स्थिति, देश की आजादी के बाद लगातार जो बजट पेश किए जाते रहे हैं, उनसे इस देश के आम आदमी की हालत सुधरी नहीं है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं कह सकता हूं कि उसकी हालत बिगड़ी है। उसे लगता है कि आजादी के इतने बरस बाद हमें अब ठहरकर देखना चाहिए कि आजादी के बाद जिन आर्थिक नीतियों को हम चलाते रहे, उन नीतियों की वजह से देश में गरीबी घटी है, देश में बेरोजगारी घटी है, देश में भ्रष्टाचार घटा है, यह जांचने, परखने का समय आ गया है। मैं यह मानता हूं कि ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद के खिलाफ इस देश में जो जंग हुई थी और हमारी आजादी के नायकों ने देश के लोगों के साथ जो वायदा किया था, उसकी वायदाखिलाफी हुई है। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप मानिएगा कि हमारी आजादी के संघर्ष के मुख्य नायक महात्मा गांधी थे। उन्होंने ही आजादी के बाद देश की तस्वीर क्या होगी, आजादी के बाद देश की आर्थिक नीति क्या होगी, इसके बारे में जनता को शिक्षित करने और बताने का काम किया था। आजादी के बाद देश की आर्थिक नीति क्या होगी, इस संबंध में मैं गांधी जी के शब्दों को कोट करके आपके सामने रखना चाहूंगा, उन्होंने कहा था कि जिस तरह सच्चे नीति धर्म में और अच्छे अर्थ शास्त्र में कोई विरोध नहीं होता...। "...जो अर्थशास्त्र धन की पूजा करना सिखाता है और बलवानों को निर्बलों का शोषण करके धन का संग्रह करने की सुविधा देता है, उसे शास्त्र का नाम नहीं दिया जा सकता है।" यह महात्मा गांधी ने कहा है। आगे उनका कहना है, "आर्थिक समानता के लिए वह तो एक झूठी चीज है, जिससे हमें कोई लाभ नहीं हो सकता। उसे अपना कर हम मृत्यु को न्यौता देंगे। सच्चा अर्थशास्त्र तो सामाजिक न्याय की हिमायत करता है, वह समान भाव से सबकी भलाई का, जिनमें कमजोर भी शामिल हैं, प्रयत्न करता है।" यह गांधी जी का कहना है। आज तक हमारे देश में जो आर्थिक नीति चली है, अगर इस कसौटी पर हम उसे जांचने और परखने का काम करेंगे, तो पता चलेगा कि हम देश में जो आर्थिक नीति चला रहे हैं, वह नैतिक नहीं, अनैतिक है। इसने भ्रष्टाचार को जन्म दिया है। इस देश में एक से बढ़ कर एक स्कैंडल्स हो रहे हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी परसों-नरसों यहां Information and Technology Ministry के बारे में चर्चा हो रही थी और लीडर ऑफ ऑपोजीशन सहित कई लोगों ने संदेह जताया, मंत्री से pointed सवाल किया कि इसमें 60-70 हजार करोड़ रुपए की गड़बड़ी हुई है। मैं भी यहां बैठा सुन रहा था और मंत्री जी के जवाब से संतुष्ट नहीं था। आज के अखबारों में भी खबर छपी है, जिसमें बताया गया है कि कारपोरेट सेक्टर में लड़ाई हो रही है, जिसमें एक पक्ष दूसरे पक्ष पर आरोप लगा रहा है कि सरकार 50 हजार करोड़ रुपए का मुनाफा देने जा रही है। यही आर्थिक नीति इस देश में चल रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कोई मुंह से अंदाज पर नहीं बोल रहा हूँ, आप आंकड़ों के दृष्टिकोण से भी देखेंगे, तो इस देश में गरीबी बढ़ रही है। अभी इसी 24 जुलाई को ज्ञान प्रकाश पिलानिया जी के सवाल के जवाब में खुद सरकार ने माना है और बताया है कि राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण-3 2007-08 के अनुसार इस देश में 69.5 प्रतिशत बच्चे, जिनमें 71.5 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण बच्चे और 73 प्रतिशत शहरी बच्चे और 15-49 वर्ष की आयु की 55.3 प्रतिशत महिलाएं रक्त-अल्पता की शिकार हैं, anemic हैं। यह अभी 24 जुलाई को बताया गया है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह हमारे देश की हालत है। हमारे देश की अधिकांश महिलाएं, अधिकांश बच्चे anemic हैं, उनमें खून की कमी है, उनका वजन घट रहा है। हम गर्भवती महिलाओं को अच्छी खुराक नहीं दे पाते हैं। यह मेडिकल साइंस के जरिए साबित है कि जब गर्भ में बच्चे का formation होता है, आगे चल कर वह किस तरह का आदमी बनेगा, किस तरह का बच्चा बनेगा, यह उसी समय decide हो जाता है। हमारे देश के अधिकांश बच्चे कुपोषण के शिकार हैं। उनकी height नहीं बढ़ रही है, उनका mental development नहीं हो रहा है और हम कह रहे हैं कि हम दुनिया में एक आर्थिक शक्ति बनने जा रहे हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश में हालत क्या है? 1956-57 में प्रति व्यक्ति दाल की खपत 72 ग्राम थी। आप जानते हैं कि दाल ही गरीब आदमी के प्रोटीन हासिल करने का जरिया होता है। गरीबों के बीच यह कहावत थी कि हम दाल-रोटी खाने वाले जीव हैं। उस दाल की आज क्या हालत है! 1956-57 में देश के आजाद होने के बाद नई-नई बात थी, उस समय हम 72 ग्राम दाल खाते थे, 1990-91 में दाल की खपत प्रति व्यक्ति 42 ग्राम हो गई और 2005-06 में 33 ग्राम। आज हमें नहीं मालूम है कि यह 33 ग्राम दाल भी कई थालियों से, जिस ढंग से दाल का हम अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं, अधिकांश थालियों से दाल गायब हो चुकी है। आजादी के इतने वर्षों के बाद हम जो आर्थिक नीति चला रहे हैं, यह उसकी उपलब्धि है! यही नहीं, जो अनाज है, गेहूं है, चावल है, उनकी भी प्रति व्यक्ति खपत इस देश में घटी है।

महोदय, हमारे देश के किसानों की क्या हालत है? स्वामीनाथन जी कहते हैं कि जब हम खेती की बात करते हैं, तो इसका मतलब है कि हम 70 करोड़ लोगों की बात करते हैं। उन 70 करोड़ लोगों की क्या हालत है? नमो नारायण मीणा जी ने एक सवाल के जवाब में बताया था कि उनके अनुसार पिछले 30 वर्षों में ग्रामीण परिवार पर कर्ज का बोझ 25 गुना बढ़ गया है। 1971 में प्रति ग्रामीण परिवार औसत कर्ज 487 रुपए था, जो 2003 में 12,585 करोड़ रुपए हो गया। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यही हमारे देश की आर्थिक नीति की उपलब्धि है। मैं यह कह रहा था कि जिन आर्थिक नीतियों को हम चला रहे हैं, उनसे हम क्या हासिल कर रहे हैं, यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती है। इस सरकार को बहुमत मिला है, हमको इसमें एक बात अच्छी लगी। जब सरकार ने शपथ ग्रहण की थी, उससे पहले अखबारों में खबर छपती थी कि फाइनांस मिनिस्टर कोई टेक्नोक्रेट होगा। हमें इस बात की खुशी है कि प्रणब दा फाइनांस मिनिस्टर बने हैं, कोई टेक्नोक्रेट नहीं बना है। क्योंकि जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण सदन में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, उस आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण को पढ़ने के बाद यह डर लग रहा है कि हमारी जो सार्वजनिक कंपनियां हैं, उनका भी विनिवेश हो जाएगा, और तो और बैंक भी प्राइवेट सेक्टर में चले जाएंगे। हमें इस बात का डर लग रहा था, लेकिन मैं हमेशा यह पसंद करता हूँ कि कोई टेक्नोक्रेट आदमी फाइनांस मिनिस्टर बने, उससे बेहतर है कि पब्लिक लाइफ का कोई आदमी इस मंत्रालय का काम संभाले।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपकी बात एन.के. सिंह जी को अच्छी नहीं लग रही होगी।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : प्रणब मुखर्जी जी ने ...(समय की घंटी)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : टाइम खत्म हो गया।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : बस, मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। प्रणब मुखर्जी जी ने जो एक आश्वासन दिया है, उससे हमको जरूर खुशी होती है। उन्होंने कहा है कि बैंकों का विनिवेश नहीं होगा। बैंक हमारे हाथ में मजबूत साधन हैं और उन्हीं के जरिए जिस तबके को भी हम कुछ देना चाहते हैं, उसको हम दे सकते हैं। लेकिन इसमें संतोष करने लायक बात कुछ नहीं है। मैं यह कहूँगा कि जिस तरह से भ्रष्टाचार इस देश में बढ़ रहा है, जिस तरह से समाज में मनुष्य के जीवन की गुणवत्ता खत्म हो रही है, आज आपने आदमी को बिल्कुल एक कंज्यूमर बना करके रख दिया है। उसके जीवन का एक ही लक्ष्य रह गया है कि कैसे हम धन हासिल करें और उस धन के जरिए जो बाजार में उत्पाद बिक रहे हैं, जिनता विज्ञापन टेलीविज़न और सिनेमा के जरिए हो रहा है, उसको हम कैसे हासिल करें। आज मनुष्य के जीवन का एक मात्र लक्ष्य यही रह गया है, बाकी सारी चीजें खत्म हो गई हैं। कांग्रेस पार्टी गांधी जी का बहुत नाम लेती है, गांधी जी ने कहा था कि जिस आर्थिक नीति को आप चला रहे हैं, वह आर्थिक नीति अनैतिक है ...**(समय की घंटी)**... वह भ्रष्टाचार को जन्म दे रही है, गैर बराबरी को बढ़ा रही है, भुखमरी को बढ़ा रही है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : तिवारी जी, तिवारी जी, प्लीज़, हो गया।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : अंग्रेजों के जमाने में अकाल पड़ता था, लेकिन अंग्रेजों के जमाने में हमने कभी यह नहीं सुना कि तब किसान आत्महत्या करता था। आजादी के बाद देश इतना आगे बढ़ा है कि आज इस देश में लाखों किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : समाप्त करो, तिवारी जी।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : और आप कह रहे हैं कि आप देश को विकास के रास्ते पर ले जा रहे हैं। नहीं, देश को आप विकास के रास्ते पर नहीं, विनाश के रास्ते पर ले जा रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : तिवारी जी, आपका समय समाप्त हो गया।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : इस बतट से भी मैं किसी तरह की उम्मीद नहीं करता हूँ कि देश के गरीब आदमी की बेहतरी होगी अथवा बेरोज़गारों को लाभ मिलेगा। इसकी कहीं से कोई उम्मीद नहीं है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : तिवारी जी, बस आपका समय हो गया।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : वित्त मंत्री जी को इस पर फिर से सोचना चाहिए और गरीबों के उत्थान के लिए हाउस में वह नए ढंग से बजट लेकर आएँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : तिवारी जी, हो गया।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : इसी अनुरोध के साथ, आपको धन्यवाद देते हुए मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ।

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, while presenting the Budget, talked about inclusive growth. He explained in detail how the spending on social sector has increased and he took a lot of pains in explaining that the focal point of the

Budget was aam aadmi. I do not know whether it is aam aadmi or khaas aadmi. But if you go into all the allocations and priorities, then, you will come to know what the direction is. And, if you go through the Economic Survey, which has pre-determined the road-map of the Budget, you will come to know about the new liberal policies the Government is going to pursue with much zeal and vigour. There were several instances which were given in that road map. Number one, there is a clear-cut indication that by disinvestment in public sector assets, the Government will realise a minimum of Rs.25,000 crores every year. Then, there will be decontrolling of petrol, diesel, sugar, fertilizers and drug prices. Number three is, privatisation of coal sector. Then, allowing private players in nuclear power, lifting of ban on future trading, passing of the Banking Regulation Act and increasing the FDI limits for inviting foreign banks. These instances, in a clear-cut way, show what the direction of the Government is and which way they want to go. Sir, if you have a closer look, the benefits given to the corporate sector are really immense. In the recent meltdown, the Government has been over-generous for coming to the rescue of the corporate sector. Its direct concession has met a revenue loss of over Rs. 70,000 crores, which my colleague, Comrade Mr. Vijayaraghavan has already mentioned. Further, it has also increased the bank liquidity by over Rs. 3,00,000 crores through reduction in cash revenue ratio, statutory liquidity ratio, etc. Sir, regarding the fiscal deficit, which is now 6.8 percent, I just wanted to suggest one thing. When we are having the NPAs, Non-Performing Assets, to the tune of Rs. 1,35,000 crores, why don't the Government recover these Non-Performing Assets which can fill up the gap of fiscal deficit to some extent? I don't think the Government is giving due consideration for having some sort of concrete proposals. Then, for specific business groups, you have offered 100 per cent tax rebate for investing in oil and gas pipeline, cold chains and agricultural warehousing. You have reduced excise duties on big cars. If you go to take a Mercedes Car from a showroom, the interest rate is only 6 per cent, but, for poor farmers, it is 7-8 per cent. So, this is the disparity and this is the attitude of the Government. You have also abolished the fringe benefit tax and you are also going to give extension of tax holiday for export-oriented units.

Sir, my grievance is that over the years, the Government has not adequately taxed the higher sections unlike the other countries. The income-tax rate in the highest slab of income is 30 per cent, whereas, in other countries, in other developed and developing countries, it is 40 per cent. Unlike most of the countries, here is no dividend tax, no wealth tax, which you have abolished in the year 1993. There is no inheritance tax or gift tax in India, even though the number of billionaires is increasing day by day. The Global Financial Integrity Report estimated that every year 22-27 billion dollars are stashed away illegally from India and the cases of Swiss Bank, Mauritius and other countries are ample examples of this. But, on the other hand, if you see the corporate sector, which is consisting of 8 lakh companies, unfortunately, only 50 per cent companies are filing corporate tax returns. What sort of poor performance is this, and what the Government is doing about this?

Sir, in spite of giving all these concessions to the corporate sector and declaring so many policies, what is the net result? Are we getting some sort of positive results out of it or not? Sir, unfortunately, India falls at 94 among 118 countries Hunger Index, whereas Pakistan stands at 88. So, this is one of the glaring examples. Sir, 40 per cent of the world's undernourished children are in India, and, if you see the rural side, the indebtedness has doubled in the last decade, i.e., 48 per cent. Then, when we are talking about giving priority to the agrarian sector,... **...(Time-bell)...** Just two minutes, Sir. For the past ten years, more than 3000 agrarian banks are closed and the Government is not making any sort of conscious attempt to reopen them. So, I think, it is high time that we have to take a positive stand on the rural side.

Lastly, the allocation in the Budget to the various sectors is not up to the mark. This is my feeling. For example, take public education. For compulsory education to the age group 6-14 years, the Government is supposed to spend Rs. 10,000 crores, but the allocation is only Rs. 1200 crores to the elementary and secondary education. Sir, the allocation to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has declined. The same is the case with the mid-day meal scheme, which has declined from Rs. 7200 to 7014 crores. Lastly, the National Rural Health Mission is one of the priority sectors for which allocation in the Budget has been increased to a mere 1.2 per cent. Hence, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have a relook into all these sectors and give priority to those which are going to help the aam admi whom you have referred to so much. Aam admi should be benefited. The aam admi would be benefited only when you change the priorities.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, much has been said about the economic implications of this Budget. The financial repercussions, the priority given to the various sectors which were discussed in the Economic Policy Resolution as well as in the discussion on Budget on which Mr. Tariq Anwar has already expressed our Party's views. I would, therefore, concentrate on something more mundane, namely, the provisions of the Income Tax Act. But, despite that, I would be failing in my duty if I do not record my appreciation for Pranab babu, who is a very gifted man. I had taken him to Bombay with me when I was President of the Indian Merchants Chamber. And I have seen the way in which he could rattle on facts and figures without referring to any notes, with his fantastic memory and he could silence all critics on all points that were raised.

Sir, I believe that this is a growth-oriented budget and even though the fiscal deficit is 6.8 per cent of GDP, I am worried because there is an increase in the Plan expenditure. And increased Plan expenditure means more activity, more economic benefits, which would ultimately percolate to the common man. Of course, I am worried about the revenue deficit of 4.8 per cent because it means that even for running our day-to-day expenditure, we would have to borrow money from banks and other places. I know that the hon. Finance Minister had a very unenviable task. It was Edmund Burke

who said, 'To love and to be wise, to tax and to please the people, is not gifted to man.' He has tried to overcome this difficulty with some sort of deftness for which I would congratulate him.

As I said at the outset, I want to concentrate on some legislative amendments made in the direct tax laws which require to be reconsidered. I have always believed that the Finance Act is not the medium or the vehicle for amending the tax laws because the time at the disposal for deliberation and discussion is very short and, many of the amendments might have very far-reaching effects, more especially, when they are retrospective in operation. The Finance Act should be used according to me to confine only to removing the drafting anomalies of the previous legislations — If there are some anomalies, they need to be corrected-or to override some Supreme Court judgements which have not correctly reflected the legislative intentions. With these remarks, I would take to some of the provisions of the Income Tax Act. I agree with the hon. Member who said that the Income Tax Act is a nightmare. As a lawyer, I always advise my clients that if they are suffering from insomnia, they should try reading the Income Tax Act at night; they would fall to sleep immediately! Let us look at some of the things he has mentioned in the Memorandum explaining the provisions of the Income Tax Act. When partnership is converted into a limited liability partnership and if all the partners remain the partners in the limited liability partnership as well as the assets and liabilities are properly transferred, then there will be no liability for Capital Gains Tax. Specific mention is made in the Memorandum explaining the provisions of the Finance Act. But I find that there is no amendment in the Act itself. It is only in the Memorandum. Section 47 needs to be amended. It is just like a transfer from the main company to a subordinate company, or, from a subordinate company to the parent company. There are specific provisions that if all the assets and liabilities remain the same, the shareholding pattern remains the same, there will be no liability for Capital Gains Tax. But there are no such provisions. So, how this intention of the Legislature is going to be translated, I don't know?

Then there is Section 80A(5) which is, to my mind, highly inequitable. It says that when a deduction is not claimed in the return filed by an assessee, then the assessee will not be able to claim that deduction even if he is legitimately entitled to it at any stage later thereafter if it is not claimed along with the return. This runs contrary to an earlier Circular issued in 1955 where it was specifically mentioned that the assessee should not be taxed more than what his income is. If he has forgotten to claim any particular deduction, it is the duty of the Income Tax Officer or the Appellate Authority to bring it to his notice and tell him that this is the deduction you are entitled to; you have not claimed it; please claim it; we would like to give it. Now, the present provisions are running contrary to that Circular. Now, I would like to submit that this is something which Kautilya would not acknowledge because Kautilya said, "Take from him that to which you are entitled, don't take from him something

to which you are not entitled." If he has forgotten to claim anything, but if he is entitled to that relief, it must be given to him. So, the provisions of 80A(5) are running contrary to equity and good conscience.

The second thing is, there is something mentioned in Section 206AA, which is a new section. It says that when tax is to be deducted at source, the person to whom money is paid has to provide his PAN number. By any chance, if there is a defect in that PAN number or if there is a mistake, then the deduction will be at the rate of 20 per cent. Normally, the rate of deduction of tax is about 2 per cent, 3 per cent or 5 per cent. But if there is some mistake, then automatically the deduction will be at the rate of 20 per cent which, to my mind, is very atrocious and that is to be changed.

Then there is another section 40a(ia) which says that if we have to deduct tax at source and if we have forgotten to deduct it, to a businessman, the entire amount of expenditure will not be allowed by way of a deduction. Now, in the case of contractors and sub-contractors, the rate of deduction of tax is only 1 per cent or 2 per cent. If 1 per cent is not deducted, then the entire 100 per cent will not be allowed by way of a deduction even if it is a legitimate expenditure. This affects very badly exporters who are paying commission and who are paying freight, that freight, if they have forgotten to deduct the tax, even if it is legitimately incurred is not to be allowed by way of a deduction. This immediately requires some sort of a modification.

Then something is said about Section 56(2). I accept that people used to make their black-money white by getting donations and donations may be in cash or it may be in kind. Now, it is being provided that if a man purchases a property and the Stamp Authority considers that you have purchased it at Rs.5 lakhs but the real value is Rs.10 lakhs, then to the extent of that Rs.5 lakhs it will be considered as his income because he has got it at less than Rs.10 lakhs. So far, so good; there is nothing wrong about it. But it has got triple effects. It affects at three places. First of all, the man pays the income Tax as if it is an income. Then, the seller is paying Capital Gains Tax because for the purpose of computing his capital gains, this amount will be considered as the amount which he has received, even though, in fact, he has not received. The third thing is that when the buyer goes to sell the property, he will not get the deduction for the amount that he has paid. **(Time-bell)**. And, this is very interesting. It will also apply to the agricultural land because the agricultural land, today, is being transferred in large numbers in the countryside. Therefore, so many farmers, so many agriculturists, who are not aware, will have to be brought within the income tax net. I might also mention that MAT, which has been increased to 15 per cent, will also apply to capital gains where the actual tax rate is only ten per cent in some cases. Now, the actual tax rate is ten per cent and if you are charging 15 per cent, you do not call it Minimum Alternative Tax. It becomes the maximum alternative tax. But, that is also one of the provisions which have been introduced in this.

Sir, much has been said about the black money. Now, I know black money is a curse. It is parallel money. It is a parallel currency which gives rise to parallel economy. Any of our statistical returns are based on the money which is disclosed in the books. But, these are transactions taking place outside the books which are nowhere recorded. Now, how to tap this black money? The black money, which is generated, is either kept abroad in Swiss banks or it is held here in the form of benami accounts. There are two ways of dealing with it. The Government might have tried its own efforts to tap the Swiss banks or the other banks. Swiss Bank is not the only bank. There are banks in Mauritius. There are banks in Bahamas. There are Banks in Cameroon Islands. At so many places, black money is kept. The Government may think in terms of Zero Coupon Bonds for the purpose of tapping this money. So far as the benami moneys are concerned, these moneys can be tapped when we have a Benami Transactions Abolition Act, That moneys which are held, properties which are held by these corrupt people, by the black-marketeers in benami names, can be confiscated by the Government. But, nothing has been done. No authority, which has been appointed, has been given any powers to confiscate the black money. I think this is something very necessary. At the same time, I must also say, once again, that the Budget is not merely an income and expenditure account, it shows the hopes and aspirations of the people, and, to that large extent, the Finance Minister has succeeded in providing us so.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आज हम सब लोग वित्त विधेयक पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। सामान्य बजट पर पूरी चर्चा हो चुकी है, Appropriation Bill भी पास हो गया है, अब वित्त विधेयक के माध्यम से कानून बनाकर बजट में आबंटित सारे धनों का उपयोग उन-उन विभागों में और उन-उन क्षेत्रों में होगा। यह एक तरह से प्रतिवर्ष ritual के रूप में आता है और प्रतिवर्ष पूरे देश में जिस तरीके से गरीबी है, जिस तरीके से आम आदमी परेशान है, उसके बारे में चर्चा भी होती है। लेकिन, आंकड़ों के जाल में फंसाकर लोगों को दिग्भ्रमित करने का प्रयत्न यह किया जाता है कि सही मायनों में तुम्हारे हित की दृष्टि से हम सब काम कर रहे हैं, उसी प्रकार का इस बार का बजट भी रहा है। यद्यपि प्रणब बाबू के अनुभव के बारे में, प्रशासनिक अनुभव के बारे में, संसदीय ज्ञान के बारे में, सबने बताया है और उन्होंने कोशिश जरूर की है कि यथार्थ को सामने रखते हुए उसके अनुरूप बजट बनाकर राहत प्रदान करने की कोशिश की जाए, लेकिन स्वयं उनके भाषण में यह भी ध्वनित होता रहा है कि जैसा वे चाहते हैं, वैसा कर नहीं पा रहे हैं। आंकड़ों के माध्यम से यह चीज उभरकर आई है और इसलिए इस बार जो बजट के अंदर कहा गया है कि 2009-10 के लिए सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 9 प्रतिशत हम लक्ष्य रखेंगे, 9 प्रतिशत विकास दर होगी, उस पर स्वयं IMF ने यह कहा है कि अभी तीन वर्षों के अंदर जो विकास दर रही है, वह 5.4 प्रतिशत रही है। सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का औसत 6.7 प्रतिशत बताया गया है, लेकिन IMF ने उसको 5.4 प्रतिशत बताया है और अभी RBI ने आर्थिक विकास की दर जो पहले 6.5 प्रतिशत बताई थी, उसको स्वयं घटाकर कह दिया है कि 6 प्रतिशत है और 6 प्रतिशत भी होगी या नहीं, इस पर भी संदेह व्यक्त किया है। RBI देश की राजकोषीय हालत को लेकर चिंतित है। सरकार की आमदनी लगातार घट रही है, खर्च बढ़ रहे हैं, सरकार उत्तरदायित्व और बजट प्रबंधन यानी FRBM के लक्ष्यों से भटक रही है। RBI ने सरकार को राजकोषीय संतुलन के लिए एक रोड मैप तैयार करने की सलाह दी है। यानी RBI को स्वयं लगने लगा है कि जो भी वित्त मंत्रालय ने कहा है, वह पूर्ण हो पायेगा, इसमें संदेह है।

4.00 P.M.

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसी का दुष्परिणाम है, इस असंतुलन का ही दुष्परिणाम है कि राजकोषीय घाटा जबर्दस्त तरीके से बढ़ा है। हमारे कई मित्रों ने उदाहरण दिया है कि 34 लाख करोड़ रुपए का देशी कर्जा है और 221 करोड़ डॉलर का विदेशी कर्जा है। अभी हमारे तिवारी जी ने बताया कि एक आदमी के ऊपर 12,000 रुपए का कर्जा है और वह सतत बढ़ता ही जा रहा है। महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है, महंगाई पर सरकार रोक नहीं लगा पा रही है। वित्त वर्ष 2008-09 में महंगाई दर 13 प्रतिशत थी, आज यह दर शून्य प्रतिशत जरूर है, लेकिन इसके वितरीत खाद्य पदार्थों के दाम बढ़ी तेजी के साथ बढ़े हैं। दाल, तेल, सब्जी और आवश्यक वस्तुओं के दामों में 50-60 प्रतिशत से लेकर 100 प्रतिशत तक की वृद्धि हुई है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, स्वयं वित्त मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया है कि राजकोषीय घाटा 4,00,996 करोड़ रुपए का है और कुल GDP 7 प्रतिशत है। 10 लाख, 20 हजार करोड़ रुपए का जो सरकारी खर्च है, जैसे मैंने बताया कि दलहन और अन्य खाद्य पदार्थों के दाम बढ़ी तेजी के साथ बढ़ते जा रहे हैं, इस खर्च में से खेती, सिंचाई और अन्य ग्रामीण विकास के कार्यों के लिए मात्र 62,837 करोड़ रुपए मिले हैं, जो बजट का मात्र 6 प्रतिशत है। ऐसे में वित्त मंत्री जी जो 4 प्रतिशत की कृषि विकास दर की बात करते हैं, उन्होंने अपेक्षा की है कि हम 4 प्रतिशत कृषि विकास दर ले आएं, वह कहाँ से हो जाएगा? यह नहीं हो सकता है। दाल, तिलहन और अनाज के लिए हम विदेशों पर निर्भर हो रहे हैं। महंगाई आसमान छू रही है। हम विदेशों से ये सारे खाद्य पदार्थ मंगाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अपने देश में इन चीजों के लिए जितने धन का आबंटन होना चाहिए, उसका पूर्णतः अभाव होता जा रहा है, ऐसी हालत में उत्पादन कहाँ से होगा? इसलिए महंगाई आसमान छूने वाली है।

महोदय, कृषि में नुकसान के कारण किसान कृषि से विमुख हो रहा है या आत्महत्या कर रहा है। दलहन, तिलहन, गन्ने जैसी नकदी फसलों की पैदावार भी साल-दर-साल घटती जा रही है। इनकी उत्पादकता बढ़ नहीं पा रही है और इसका किसी तरह से उपाय भी नहीं हो पा रहा है। दलहन की पैदावार में 4 प्रतिशत, तिलहन की पैदावार में 5.5 प्रतिशत और गन्ने की पैदावार में 15 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आई है, इसलिए दालों के दाम आसमान छू रहे हैं, तेल के दाम आसमान छू रहे हैं और चीनी के दाम भी आसमान छूने लगे हैं। इसलिए हालत खराब होती जा रही है।

महोदय, 1970-71 में कुल राष्ट्रीय आय का 45 प्रतिशत हम कृषि से अर्जित करते थे, आज उसका हिस्सा मात्र 18 प्रतिशत रह गया है। कृषि से 60 फीसदी लोगों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जाता था, लेकिन आज बढ़ी दयनीय हालत है, क्योंकि रोजगार प्राप्त करने के लिए लोग गांवों से भागकर शहरों में आ रहे हैं। कृषि विकास दर 1.5 प्रतिशत से लेकर 2 प्रतिशत तक रुकी हुई है, इससे आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रही है, फिर 4 प्रतिशत कैसे हो जाएगी? अगर प्रबंधन समुचित होता, तो यह हालत नहीं होती। आज भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद् में हजारों कृषि वैज्ञानिकों के पद रिक्त पड़े हैं। इसी प्रकार से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का भी है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बहुत कहा कि हम आधारभूत ढांचे का विकास कर रहे हैं, जिससे आदमी को खाद्यान्न भी उपलब्ध होगा और स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं भी अच्छी होंगी। लेकिन मैं केवल एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या स्वास्थ्य सुधार करना चाहते हैं? पूर्व सरकार द्वारा एम्स अस्पताल खोलने की घोषणा को आगे बढ़ाया गया, लेकिन एम्स अस्पताल खोलने का बजट वर्ष 2008-09 में 218 करोड़ रुपए था, इसको 2009-10 में घटाकर 177 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया गया, अर्थात् 41 करोड़ रुपए की कटौती कर दी गई। मान्यवर, इस तरीके से चीजें पेश की गई हैं और इसीलिए लोगों ने बजट देखने के पश्चात् अपने को आंकड़ों के

जाल में भ्रमित पाया। लेकिन जब साथ ही साथ एक-एक करके चीजें सामने आनी शुरू हो गईं, तो लोगों को लगने लगा कि इससे तो हमें कुछ फायदा होने वाला नहीं है।

मान्यवर, अभी सरकार ने केन्द्रीय कर्मियों को छठा वेतनमान दिया है, किंतु आय कर की सीमा मात्र 01,60,000 रुपए की है। सरकार द्वारा कुल राजस्व प्राप्तियां 10,20,838 करोड़ रुपए दिखाया गया है, जिसमें से आय कर से आय 01,12,850 लाख रुपए दिखाई गई है। यह कुल राजस्व प्राप्ति का एक प्रतिशत है। अगर आय कर की सीमा को बढ़ाकर दो लाख पचास हजार कर दिया जाता, तो जो छठे वेतनमान प्राप्त किए हैं, उनको भी शायद इससे लाभ प्राप्त हो जाता।

मान्यवर, माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने वर्ष 2006 में Urban Cooperative Bank पर इन्कम टैक्स लगा दिया था और वह अभी चल रहा है। Rural Cooperative Bank पर अभी टैक्स नहीं है, तो अच्छा है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सहकारी बैंक बड़ी तेजी के साथ बढ़ रही है। शहरी क्षेत्रों में भी सहकारी बैंकों से जो कर्जा लेते हैं, वे लोग छोटे-छोटे गरीब तबके के लोग होते हैं और बैंक के कर्ज के माध्यम से अनेकों काम करते हैं, उनको किसी प्रकार की दिक्कत नहीं होती है, लेकिन उनके ऊपर इन्कम टैक्स लगा दिया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी इस पर विचार करके Urban Cooperative Bank से जो इन्कम टैक्स हटाने का कष्ट करेंगे।

मान्यवर, सरकार सेवा कर का दायरा बढ़ा कर मात्र 65 हजार करोड़ रुपए की राजस्व प्राप्ति दिखा रही है, जब कि इससे आम जनता को सीधे-सीधे नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा, क्योंकि सेवा कर प्रदाता इसको अपने जेब से नहीं देता है, बल्कि वह इसको सीधे-सीधे जनता से वसूलेगा। मान्यवर, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को इस पर भी विचार करना चाहिए और इसको समाप्त करना चाहिए।

मान्यवर, माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने विधेयक में Fringe Benefit Tax हटा दिया है और दस लाख से ऊपर के वेतन पाने वाले कर्मचारियों के ऊपर लग रहा दस फीसदी का सरचार्ज भी हटा दिया है, परंतु इन दोनों प्रस्तावों से सिर्फ अत्यधिक वेतन पाने वालों को ही लाभ मिला है। सामान्य वेतन अर्थात् ढाई लाख या पांच लाख वेतन पाने वालों को इससे कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। सरकारी कर्मचारियों को Fringe Benefit नहीं है। ढाई लाख, पांच लाख वेतन पाने वाले सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए exemption सीमा एक लाख पचास हजार रुपए से बढ़ाकर एक लाख साठ हजार रुपए किया गया है, जो बहुत कम है। उससे इन कर्मचारियों को एक साल में मात्र एक हजार रुपए का फायदा हो रहा है, जो कि एक सौ रुपए प्रति माह भी नहीं है। मान्यवर, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को आय कर में छूट की सीमा कम से कम ढाई लाख रुपए करना चाहिए।

मान्यवर, पूर्व वित्त मंत्री जी ने कुछ टैक्स रिफॉर्म के बारे में कहा था और कहा था कि लोगों को राहत देने के लिए टैक्स रिफॉर्म किया जाएगा, लेकिन अभी उसके बारे में कुछ किया नहीं गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी इस संबंध में विचार करें। इसी दंग से अप्रैल, 2010 से Goods & Service Tax नाम से एक नया कर लगाने की घोषणा की गई है। यह कर बाकी सभी कर और शुल्क, जैसे उत्पाद शुल्क, चुंगी, केन्द्र और राज्य बिक्री कर, इत्यादि को खत्म कर सिर्फ एक कर होगा। यह एक अच्छी पहल है और इससे उत्पादकों को लाभ तो होगा, साथ ही हजारों टुक जो नाके पर घंटों खड़े रहते हैं, उनको भी लाभ होगा। यह एक ऐतिहासिक कदम होगा, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ यह बड़ा नाजुक भी है। अगर इसको दंग से व्यवस्थित तौर पर करने की कोशिश नहीं की गई और इसके ऊपर दंग से मोनिटरिंग नहीं रखी गई, तो इसका बड़ा नुकसान भी हो सकता है। इसलिए इसके implementation

के लिए बड़ी सावधानी बरतनी पड़ेगी और इसको ढंग से कराने का प्रयत्न करना पड़ेगा। होम लोन के विषय में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि लोगों को बहुत उम्मीद थी कि होम लोन पर tax exemption की सीमा को बढ़ाया जाएगा परन्तु इस पर वित्त मंत्री जी ने कुछ नहीं किया। इसके बढ़ने से होम लोन लिए हुए व्यक्ति को कर में फायदा होता। अतः मंत्री जी को इस पर पुनर्विचार करना चाहिए। होम लोन के संबंध में मेरा एक और सुझाव है कि इसको सिर्फ एक ही प्रकार के रेट ऑफ इंटरस्ट पर दिया जाए। Fixed rate of interest, floating rate of interest और differential rate of interest इत्यादि जो अनेक तरह के रेट बनाए गए हैं, ये लोगों को भ्रमित करते हैं और उनके लिए परेशानी पैदा करते हैं। इसलिए कर विभाग की सोच में थोड़ा बदलाव लाना पड़ेगा। इसका नेटवर्क ज्यादा है। महोदय, कर वसूल करके विकास के कामों में लगाया जाता है, इसलिए इसको वसूल करने में किसी को आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन जिस तरीके से कर की वसूली होती है - इससे पहले बड़े कूर तरीके से कर की वसूली होती थी - इस प्रकार की वसूली बंद होनी चाहिए। इसके बारे में कहा भी गया है कि जिस तरह से मधुमक्खियां फूलों से रस लेती हैं और फूल भी ठीक रहता है, सही तरीके से सब कुछ चलता है, उसी तरह से ही कर वसूली होनी चाहिए ताकि जो करदाता है, उसको लगे कि यह तो हमारा दायित्व बनता था, हमें कर देना है और वसूल करने को भी शालीनता और मानवीय संवेदनशीलता के आधार पर उसके साथ व्यवहार करना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर इस दिशा में विचार करके काम किया गया तो निश्चित रूप से बहुत अच्छी स्थिति होगी। महोदय, बैंक के कर्ज के बारे में मैं थोड़ा सा बताना चाहता हूँ। सरकार वर्ष 2008 से ही सस्ते कर्ज देने की घोषणा कर रही है। आरबीआई के अनुसार 2009-10 के अब तक के आंकड़ों के अनुसार औद्योगिक ऋण 85 प्रतिशत तक घटा है। व्यवसायी बड़ा उदासीन हुआ है। ब्याज दरों में कमी के बावजूद कुल बैंक कर्ज में कृषि ऋण का हिस्सा केवल 17 प्रतिशत ही है। कारपोरेट क्षेत्र का बैंक कर्ज 2008 के मुकाबले 2009-10 में मात्र 21 फीसदी रह गया है, जबकि पहले यह 27 फीसदी था। आज भी बैंकों द्वारा कृषि ऋण देने का प्रतिशत बैंकों के कर्ज देने के प्रतिशत से काफी कम है। बैंकों के लिए नरसिंह कमेटी ने संस्तुति की थी कि बैंकों को मॉडल विलेज विकसित करना चाहिए। बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया है, किन्तु बैंकों का लक्ष्य केवल कारपोरेट सेक्टर की सेवा करना ही रह गया है। जो मॉडल विलेज की कल्पना की गई थी, जिसके बारे में नरसिंह कमेटी की तरफ से कहा गया था, उसको भी उन्होंने नहीं किया। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, मैं केवल एक मिनट और लूंगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस दिशा में बैंकों को निर्देशित करना चाहिए जिससे वे गांवों में जाकर मॉडल विलेज विकसित करने का प्रयत्न करें। कारपोरेट क्षेत्र को अब तक बैंकों से 5 हजार 697 करोड़ रुपया मिला है। वर्ष 2008-09 की अवधि में यह राशि 30 हजार 631 करोड़ रुपए थी। आंकड़े बताते हैं कि सस्ता ऋण देकर उद्योग को मंदी से उबारने की नीति में गड़बड़ी अथवा गंभीर कमियां हैं। इन कमियों को दूर करने के लिए और उनके अंदर जो निराशा पैदा हो रही है, उसको दूर करने के लिए प्रभावी तौर पर काम किया जाना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे अच्छी स्थिति उत्पन्न होगी। हिन्दुस्तान में जिस तरीके से गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या लगातार बढ़ती जा रही है, उस संख्या को ठीक करने के लिए जो आंकड़े National Sample Survey Organisation की तरफ से दिए जा रहे हैं, मैं समझता हूँ कि वे समुचित नहीं हैं, हर प्रदेश के अलग-अलग हैं। उसके आधार पर आम आदमी लाभान्वित नहीं हो पा रहा है। मैं चाहूंगा कि राज्य स्तर पर जो गरीब रेखा से नीचे रहने वालों की संख्या की गणना होती है, उसको मान्यता देते हुए सरकार उसको स्वीकार करे और उसके अनुसार राज्यों को अनुदान प्रदान करे तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill, 2009 which is aimed at giving effect to financial proposals of the Central Government for the year 2009-10.

Sir, while initiating the discussion on this Bill, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji has mentioned that we are in the safe hands of an experienced Minister who has seen the country growing for the last thirty years. That is why he said, "Growth coupled with equity would be the bottom line for our performance." Sir, I agree with him. But, I would also like to mention that I have some disagreements with whatever he has said. We have clearly laid down the path. Shri Arjun Kumar Senguptaji has been working on this. He is here in the House. We have a clear path as to what is growth, what is growth with equity, how growth has been assessed in this country over a period of time, how the concept of growth has evolved, initially, only with GDP and then, over the years, it is calculated in terms of levels of income and, of course, in these days, it is not only the levels of income but it is the distribution of income coupled with capabilities and capacities of the people to make use of various opportunities thrown open by the market forces to improve their life in terms of not only economy but also social and cultural — as a body, as a human being. The country, as a whole, should grow. I think, in this background, the hon. Finance Minister has done commendable job. I must say. We appreciate his initiatives. He has not only continued the stimulus packages that were given in December last year and January this year, but has also added a bit to give a positive indication to the market forces that growth with justice, growth with equity, is the hallmark with which the present Government is functioning.

Sir, I would like to make a mention as to who are the players in this. It is not only the Finance Minister. There are various instruments contributing to the so-called growth with equity. These instruments are financial institutions, Government machinery, tax structure, etc. While dealing with the present tax structure, my colleague, Mr. Y.P. Trivedi has elaborated on various amendments and changes. Though it is not very relevant now because this is the third and the last phase of the Budget provisions. Now, Her Excellency, the Rashtrapati, has already given the clearance. But, these discussions, I suppose, would form the basis of the Revised Estimates.

In this background, Sir, I would like to suggest something. Sir, there are certain steps taken by the previous Finance Minister in respect of the Statutory Liquidity Ratio and the Cash Reserve Ratio to improve the liquidity in the market. The RBI also has cut down the Repo Rate, that is, the rate at which the commercial banks borrow from the Reserve Bank. Sir, it was nine per cent. The RBI has reduced it to 4.7 per cent. It is a decrease of nearly 2.3 percentage points. That means, the bankers are supposed to pass on this benefit to the various borrowers like small and marginal farmers, and small and marginal entrepreneurs. But, that didn't happen. The banks have reduced the rate from 13.5 per cent to around 11 per cent. So, the benefit which they have got from the reduction of Repo

Rate from the RBI has not been passed on to the borrowers, to the people. So, there is still some scope. I hope, the banks would realise this. Sir, my colleague, Shri Kalraj Mishra, has dealt with in detail as to how a deduction of Rs.10000 in income-tax is only benefiting a small number of people whereas removal of income-tax surcharge has benefited people in the higher income bracket. Actually, instead of Rs.10000, there could have been a little more reduction in the income-tax. Again, I would like to compliment the Minister for giving one per cent concession on loans. There is a discussion on that. Those who take a loan of Rs.10 lakhs for building a house costing Rs.20 lakhs, would get a one per cent concession. Sir, if you work out, this amounts to giving a petty advantage of Rs.10,000/-. That means a Rs.20 lakh house would cost, roughly, Rs.19,90,000 or so. Instead of giving a benefit of Rs.10,000/-, they could have taken some action to reduce the prices.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has given another benefit. He has provided tax benefits to the developers on their income of affordable housing. This is a step which will result in facilitating the middle class people to have more and more houses built. Sir, a mention was also made of fringe benefit tax. That will reduce the cumbersome procedure.

Sir, now, I come to tax reforms. Members have talked about the tax reforms. They are not meant for reforming the tax structure alone. The Finance Minister has said that he would bring the tax code in 45 days. I hope it would be expedited. A lot of improvement is required for on-line filing because it is very convenient. The other day, I got a mail saying this is your income. This has to be propagated and more and more people should be advised to file on-line returns. Sir, that being the case, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards giving a loan waiver extension. An extension of six months is being given to people. But there is some problem. Those who are paying their dues regularly have been given one per cent incentive. This is too small an incentive, Sir. For instance, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has given an incentive ranging up to Rs.5,000 per hectare, and Rs.3,000 crores have been distributed to the farmers who are paying their dues regularly. That is why the recovery rate is high in Andhra Pradesh. When the recovery rate is high, the banks also would show more interest. It is a cyclic process. I think some more incentives could have been given to the farmers who paid their dues in time.

Sir, Ravi Shankar Prasadji also mentioned that the NDA has laid down a road-map for the entire country's 'Vision 2020'. I say it is not the NDA Government alone. You may kindly recall how Rajiv Gandhiji thought of creating a revolution in the telephone and TV networks, in your mobile phones and the IT sector. I think we should remember the good olden days when Pranab Mukherjeeji was also associated when Shrimati Indira Gandhi had taken this growth with equity, so seriously, in late

seventies and early eighties, to introduce, what is called, the Special Component Plan and this Tribal Sub Plan. I will come to that at a little later stage.

Sir, when you talk of economic reforms and tax reforms, I would humbly submit to the hon. Minister that he should remember that the poorest man, the common man, has certain aspirations. Shri Trivedi has mentioned the tax links affecting the common man. I would like to say that in our anxiety to only achieve the growth, we are trying to isolate some major communities because you are talking about 'all inclusive growth'. Sir, we have no problem about this 'all inclusive growth'. But if you see, for the last six or seven years, this 'all inclusive growth' is, sometimes, leading to exclusion of the most disadvantaged sections. For instance, take the credit lending. I mentioned this in the last week. If you look at the banking and other institutional finance in the country, it amounts to around Rs.30 lakh crores. Out of Rs.30 lakh crores, 15 per cent was intended to flow to the weaker sections which include the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities, women and small and marginal farmers. If you segregate it, if you separate it into individual heads, a very meagre amount has flowed to the most disadvantaged sections. This all-inclusive policy has to have an equity component in all programmes. For instance, you take housing. A massive housing programme is taken up by various State Governments. When you say all-inclusive, the higher income groups are getting priority whereas the lower income groups. This is leading to some discrepancy. So, I would submit that you completely saturate the poorest first and then adopt a bottom-up approach where growth and equity will be really meaningful. This should be the case not only in housing but also in other areas. The other day I mentioned about the construction of school buildings under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. You take the number of school buildings in any Block or a district or in any locations which are spread or far away. Take, for instance, the tribal locations or the location where the poorest people live. You should take up construction of school buildings in those localities first and then in other locations where the higher income groups and other social groups live. These are some examples. We have been suggesting to take care of these aberrations and to have a meaningful growth with equity in order to reflect the true spirit of Her Excellency Rashtrapati's Speech, where she mentioned that inclusive development and equitable growth are the guiding principles of this Government. I would submit that growth with equity would only be operational when we have participatory growth in the private sector. What we are saying is not only reservation in the private sector but also giving preference to the poorest in procurement, where they have capacity, where they have the capability. You give them civil contracts of lower amount or you give them various dealerships and agencies so that the educated youth, who are unemployed, can have some means of livelihood or get some sort of earnings out of these ventures. There are people who have entrepreneurial skills or are willing to take up other activities for gainful employment. That is why we are saying, kindly increase the lending percentage. In terms of percentage, so far, we have been

getting only 0.5 of the entire lending in this country. It is a very meagre, almost negligible, amount. So, we have been advocating that growth would be meaningful when you reach the underprivileged and the hitherto-not-covered groups. That is why we are saying, at least, five per cent of the total amount should necessarily and compulsorily be given to the socially disadvantaged sections. There should be proper monitoring. In the Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has not taken our demand seriously and have not earmarked Plan funds equivalent to the proportion of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population, as has been done in various States as per the directives of the Central Government. It is unfortunate that the Central Government, while directing the State Governments, has not been able to earmark such funds in various Ministries. They introduced what is called "Heads of Accounts" in Statement No.21 of Part-I of Demands for Grants. They said that various Ministries would take up activities where 20 per cent of the benefit of those schemes would go to the marginal and disadvantaged sections. There should be a review by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. They should review, through their FAs, the programmes taken up by the various Ministries to meet this obligation where 20 per cent of the benefit should really accrue to these sections. This is not happening despite our repeated requests and pointers. Another area of our concern is this. I am happy that the Government has come up with a special scheme to monitor lending to the minorities in this country. So far, the target is 15 per cent. What is the level of achievement? The level of achievement is very low. Although the target is high, but in terms of physical achievement, it needs to be improved further.

Sir, the philosophy of the Budget, formulations of principles, levying of taxes or giving concessions is one part, but truly and meaningfully implementing them is another part, which is very vital. It should reflect the aspirations of a majority of the people. The monitoring mechanism, the implementing mechanism and the tax collecting system need to be closely monitored. Various speakers have enumerated certain lacunae in the present monitoring system. I would urge the Finance Minister to take care of these deficiencies and evolve a correct monitoring system. I would like to say that unless more money is given to the health sector, the education sector and irrigation, this growth is not going to commensurate with our targets. The benefit of these schemes should reach the underprivileged and the disadvantaged sections as per the principle of growth with equity.

In the end, I would like to sum up by saying that there should be a meaningful and sincere implementation of the programmes enumerated in the Budget. The Committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs, whose Chairman is Shri Pranab Mukherjee, has made certain recommendations. One of the recommendations of the Committee is comprehensive development of 10,000 villages where Scheduled Caste population is around 50 per cent. Sir, the amount of Rs. 10 lakh allocated is not sufficient to make comprehensive development. There are massive problems. We are providing Rs.

10 lakh. I think this is a very small amount. I would also request the Finance Minister to concentrate on other recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs. The Government must not feel complacent. Unless you act, unless you do things, situation will not improve. Mere tokenism and talkism is not going to help. I have great regard for the hon. Finance Minister. I recall as an officer, in 1979-80, Madam Indiraji used to circulate....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: ...a file for formulating Special Component Plan and Tribal sub-Plan. Shri Pranab Mukherjee was a Minister at that time. He is now the senior-most Minister. He is still continuing. He is also the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs. We have great expectations from him. We want overall growth. The country can grow if every section of the society, everybody, till the last man, realises that he is capable of taking advantage of the system. Thank you.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill, especially on the implementation of new taxes. I have already made my observations on the overall Budget. I am really very happy to be here after working as an Officer in the Commercial Taxes Department of the Tamil Nadu Government. I would like to highlight only two points here.

The Government of India has announced an average of 40 per cent pay hike for all the Central Government employees. Many States, including Tamil Nadu have adopted the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission and revised the pay structure. Especially, in Tamil Nadu, the pay revision recommendations have been adopted in toto. The Government of Tamil Nadu has given a pay hike to the tune of Rs. 5,156 crores bay way of recurring expenditure during the financial year.

An amount of Rs.12,000 crores has been set apart for payment of arrears, as non-recurring expenditure.

At this juncture, what I would like to impress upon the Finance Minister is that while the minimum pay rise, given to the employees of the Central Government and some of the State Governments, is 40 per cent, the income tax relief announced is not even 10 per cent, and it is not at all on a par with the salary increase after the implementation of the Pay Commission recommendations. Hence I request the hon. Finance Minister that the tax relief should actually reach the Government employees and not exist only on paper Several welfare schemes are being announced by the State Governments and also by the Central Government. But they reach the needy people and the poor people only through the Government employees. Mr. E.M. Foster used to say it funnily, "King George may caper on banners, but it is Mr. John Bull, who delivers the goods." So, the Government employees should enjoy the benefit.

My next concern is regarding introduction of GST by 1st April, 2010. At this juncture, Sir, I would like to recall how the VAT was introduced. Though the Government of India was insisting the State Governments to introduce VAT, the previous AIADMK regime of Tamil Nadu did not opt to put themselves to the acid test of introducing the VAT. It was announced by the Central Government that it would compensate the loss of revenue which the States would incur. Hence the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Kalaignar, opted to introduce VAT from 1.1.2007. The State Government prepared the original Statement of Accounts to substantiate their loss of revenue and for claiming the compensation. But, Sir, it is not only that the Government of India has compensated the loss only provisionally, but it also tends to cross check the accounts by way of audit, which leads to inordinate delay. Developing States, like Tamil Nadu, should not be discouraged like this; moreover, a State like Tamil Nadu, which cooperated with the Centre in good spirit, should be encouraged. To put in a nutshell, Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu entitles itself for a compensation of Rs.2962.35 crores for the period from 1.1.2007 to 31.12.2008. Now, for the year ending December 2008, the claim is for Rs.2,062 crores. If this is the case of VAT, how is the Central Government expecting the State Government to cooperate with it when it wants to introduce GST? While introducing GST, the Government claims that a single rate of tax, that is, Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) can be introduced. How can the State Governments assess the loss of revenue? The present rates of taxes prevailing are 1 per cent, 4 per cent and 12.5 per cent in VAT. The RNR, which is proposed, will, definitely, be much higher than the rates which are prevailing now. Though the hon. Minister of Finance claims that there is the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers which encourages implementation of GST by 1.4.2010, the Government of Tamil Nadu has already urged upon the Finance Ministry that an appropriate mechanism of compensation, independent of Finance Ministry, — I would like to repeat again, 'independent of Finance Ministry' - and with a say of the State Government should be evolved. I would like to impress upon the hon. Finance Minister to give a second thought to the introduction of GST by 1.4.2010 itself, as it would involve drafting and amending of Bills, introduction of new Act in the States, training the employees and educating the traders about this and also creating software suitable to the State Governments. When there is going to be a dual GST, that is, from the Centre as well as from the States, there will be a very big uproar from the traders.

With these observations, I request the hon. Minister to do the needful which would benefit both the Centre and the States.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, the Union Budget for 2009 was presented in the backdrop of slowdown in the economy and the uncertainties surrounding global recovery. The

Government feels that the worst two quarters since September, 2008 are now behind; and the economy has, still, managed to grow at the rate of 7.6 per cent. The Finance Minister has said that every effort will be made to take the growth to 9 per cent.

Sir, while supporting the Finance Bill, 2009, I want to say that even while there is a slowdown all over the world, the efficient and experienced Finance Minister has presented a Budget, with a total expenditure of Rs. 10,20,838 crores, whereas when the NDA Government was there, the total expenditure was four lakh crores. The quantum of expenditure shows how concerned the Government is about the welfare of the people of this country. Sir, the allocation for NREGA has been raised by 144 per cent. New directions are sought to be given in regard to tax codes. There are efforts to simplify the SARAL-II form. GST, as has been said, is to start from April, 2010. There is no change in the corporate tax structure. There is no surcharge on Income-tax. All BPL families are to be covered by the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Unique Identification Numbers are to be allotted. There is to be one-rank-one-pension. The Commonwealth Games outlay has been raised to Rs.3772 crores. Selected life-saving drugs, LCD TVs, cell phones, jewellery, sports, leather products, packaged software and footwear would cost less. On some other things like gold bars and coins, silver, etc. the tax is more. Farmers' debt of Rs.72000 crores has been waived off and the debt waiver has been extended by six months. Here, I want to say something, Sir. While I appreciate this step, I want to say that some people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have taken loan from the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, or the TRIFED, have taken loan for agricultural purposes, in the waiver circular, the Government has referred to loans from banks only and their loans have not been waived off. So, they are protesting. I request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the case of these SCs and STs who have taken loans from sources other than the banks and waive off their loans too.

Then, Sir, the agricultural credit limit has gone up to Rs. 3,25,000 crores. IIFCL and banks are now in a position to support the project with around one lakh crore rupees. There is also mention about the female literacy mission and empowerment of weaker sections through the SGSY and 20 lakh women self-help groups. Rs. 500 crores have been set aside for Sri Lankan Tamils. Urban infrastructure is sought to be improved through the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Also, there is the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana which would provide housing to every family residing in the slums. There is a mention of direct transfer of subsidy to farmers. The hon. Minister has talked about setting up six AIIMS-like institutions. I am sorry to say that although in Orissa, an AIIMS-like institution has to come up and the foundation stone had been laid down by the then Prime Minister during the NDA Government, no provision had been made in the Budget in this regard. Then, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion about disinvestment. As already stated by the Finance

Minister, 51 per cent equity would be retained by the Government. And I also want to inform the House that this is a very good scheme. It has been said that it will be done only through IPO route, and the disinvestment will be done through open auction. So, there is no possibility that it will go to some particular industrial house. I also suggest to the Government that they can give the shares to the workers and officers working in that particular industry so that they will take special care of that industry.

Sir, the country is moving towards self-compliance when it comes to payment of tax and dues in the area of indirect taxes, both at the Union as well as at the State level, and the Government is going to introduce the Goods and Service Tax from 2010. However, the crucial thing is to have an appropriate deterrent. Sir, if there is no deterrent, no provision of any punishment, then the provisions of both the Central GST and the State GST will dissuade tax-paying units to evade tax. Sir, this is important because the past experience shows that once the litigation starts, it takes many years for the blocked revenue to be collected.

Sir, the second point is, the Government has introduced the area-based exemptions, like hill areas, tribal areas and the districts or States where there are no industries. Apart from promoting investment and industrial activity in these areas, another important objective is to attract green investment. Sir, it has been found that some of the industrialists, instead of starting new industries in the backward and tribal areas or the areas where there are no industries, in order to achieve tax benefits, what they are doing is, they are only shifting industries from one place to another place. It is very detrimental to the interests of the general public. Sir, if the incentive has been found to be used to shift the industries to the tax holiday areas, thereby not facilitating new investment, income generation, growth in the GDP, industrial activity, etc., I would like to urge upon the Government that such area-based exemptions should gradually be done away with under the GST regime, or else, those industrialists who are not setting up new industries and only shifting the industries should not be given the tax benefit. I am saying this because in this way only the industry or the industrialist is getting the benefit, the country is not getting the benefit, as there is no employment generation, there is no GDP growth, etc.

Sir, a very critical element in the indirect tax system is the facility of credit which is available both in the Union tax scheme and the State tax scheme. The misuse of this facility has become a major problem whereby a lot of Government revenue is evaded by the company. Sir, I urge upon the Government to bring in a suitable procedural amendment under the Goods and Service Tax so that such misuses are prevented. One such improvement can be done through information technology and network.

Sir, the Government, over the last few years, has cut the rate of indirect taxes to promote industrial activities which slowed down due to the global economic slowdown. In the past also, the tax rates have been brought down. But, Sir, there is no monitoring as to whether the benefit of

lowering tax rates is reaching the common people or not. Sir, this is a very important question. When the Government is lowering the tax rates on LCD TV, Mobile, or whatever it may be, the benefit of lowering of tax rates should reach the common man. What they do is, they reduce the tax for fifteen days or one month; and after that, they start charging the previous rates. So, in this way, the traders and businessmen are getting the benefit of lowering of tax rates and the benefit is not reaching the common people. So, I urge upon the Government to put in place a mechanism in the tax collection authority which can monitor it. If they do not pass on the benefit of lowering of tax rates, the Government can review its decisions.

Sir, the Government is committed to introduce the Goods and Service Tax from April, 2010, which is expected to generate additional revenue for the country. Sir, agencies like the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Income Tax, etc., are very important machineries with vast infrastructure and establishment in the country. Over the years, they have played crucial role for collection of revenues. Sir, here, I would like to make a very specific suggestion. When we were framing the Budget, earlier there were no consultations. At the time when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, for the first time consultations were started with trade unions, business houses and other persons. Now, there is a greater consultation by the Finance Minister, by talking to various interest groups and stakeholders in the country. Likewise, I suggest that instead of consulting only the Finance Secretary or the civil servants working in Delhi, let there be a wider consultation of workers, officers working all over the country, taking feedback from them about barriers, problems and ways to increase the revenue collection. I think, the greater consultation with workers and officers working in the field will give input to the Government to make a strategy and an action plan to increase the revenue which, ultimately, will be more beneficial for the country.

Sir, if you look at the Budget this year, more money has been given for NREGA which is generating employment, which is the most successful scheme that is launched in the country. In addition to that, I would like to say, in urban areas or in rural areas, the number of uneducated youth is more. Who are they? They are not ITI diploma holders or engineers. They are matriculates or non-matriculates, graduates or post-graduates in arts. They have nothing to do with this scheme. They can neither cultivate the land nor work in NREGA; they even do not have technical qualification or anything to help them. They are the most disturbing element for family, for society. They do not have any employment. I request and urge upon the Finance Minister to find out some scheme for their employment because their number is more and they are unable to get an employment whether there is industrialisation or no-industrialisation, whether NREGA or no NREGA. Secondly, as has been said by many Members, like NREGA also, in the urban population, there must be some scheme for this category of people.

Today, I attended a meeting of scavengers and sweepers. I am sorry to inform that, maybe, in 1993, there was legislation for their protection. After that, there was a Commission. There was a decision taken to provide houses to scavengers in the urban areas. The Rajiv Awas Yojana and Nehru Awas Yojana were started and the Government now is thinking of an action plan to give a house to each and every person in slum-areas. But, I am sorry to inform this House that till today we have not yet achieved the target to give houses to scavengers and sweepers who are doing the dirtiest work in urban areas or semi-urban areas and serving the people. We have not achieved the target. Now, the point is, our schemes may be good. But, we should question ourselves with what seriousness we are implementing the schemes. About the personal income-tax, I agree with many Members. The fringe benefit has been exempted from tax. Everybody who is looking from outside may probably be thinking that the fringe benefit tax has been exempted for the employees and workers. But, actually, it is exempted for the employers. Earlier, the fringe benefit tax was paid by the employer; he had to pay the income-tax on that. But, now, the fringe benefit tax is to be paid by the individual income-tax payee. Whether officer or engineer, the employee working has to pay the fringe benefit tax. Sir, I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister, so far as the individual income-tax deduction is concerned, since by way of fringe benefit tax also, the lower-level workers and officers are not getting any benefit from the waiver of fringe benefit tax as also from the surcharge, the limit of income-tax deduction may be extended up to Rs. 2,50,000 instead of Rs. 1,60,000; that will be more useful.

Sir, I want to mention here that it is the salaried employees who are paying the income-tax truthfully. Other than the salaried employees, other groups — I do not mention anybody particularly or blame any group — are not declaring their assets notwithstanding what the wealth or income they have. Sir, the salaried people who are paying tax truthfully and who are not hiding it, their number is more. So, my suggestion would be that they should be given exemption. Sir, we are talking about the black money whether it is inside the country or outside the country. Many discussions have taken place on how we can increase our revenue in our own country.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

Sir, the Parliament has passed an Act enabling the banks to take action against the borrowers and collect the money. We have given power to the bankers. So, why can't we frame some rules or pass some Act in this regard? In the whole of the country you will find there are thousands of tax cases with regard to Income Tax, Sales Tax, etc. Of course, they have the provision of a Commissioner and three-member group to take a decision in this regard. But I do not know how far it will be useful and how they will be successful in settling these cases and to collect the money, which is due from them. Sir, I think this is very much required. There is one more way also to solve

this. Of course, the Finance Minister did not agree the other day to announce any special scheme for those who have black money. I also request the hon. Finance Minister that he should find a way, maybe, by reducing the tax rates so that they can pay tax in India and bring back the money. Or, we can take strong steps to find out where the black money is and how it can be collected from them so that our revenue deficit is managed. Sir, with these words, I once again say that the Budget, which has been presented for the year 2009-10, is definitely very good for the people of this country and everybody has full confidence in the Finance Minister. We believe that the country and people are safe in his hands and in the hands of the UPA Government. With these words, I once again support the Finance Bill, 2009.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. Sir, we have had a lot of discussion on the Budget and the Finance Bill for the last few days and from all this discussion it is clear that we need more resources from various sources, both for physical infrastructure, social infrastructure, and, of course, because we have, which has been admitted by the Finance Minister himself, a very high fiscal deficit which is understandable this year because of the global meltdown and our difficulties. So, because of the limited time at my disposal I restrict myself to two points, which have been discussed earlier, to raise resources. One of them I had mentioned when, I think, the Finance Minister was here a few days ago during the Question Hour. First is disinvestment and the second is bringing money from abroad. Disinvestment, Mr. Deputy Chairman, is a sensitive issue. I have heard statements here that we must strengthen the public sector. Of course, I am not saying that you destroy the public sector. I am saying strengthen India, the Indian economy. Everything is in the national sector whether it is public sector or the private sector. In the mixed economy that we have, whoever does a better job in a particular situation, should be encouraged. The Minister of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, Vilasraoji Deshmukh, I think, a few days ago mentioned about 20 or 30 companies. The names are not important - Scooters India, HMT etc. What are they doing in the Government, Sir? I would myself, at least, today not recommend the disinvestment, forget privatisation, of strategic industries whether it is SBI, the State Bank of India or ONGC or oil marketing companies. Nobody is suggesting that, Sir. But, Sir, there are two or three hundred other companies and they are eating taxpayers' money, national money because they are making losses. They are eating money or even if they are not making losses, they can make much more profit in a different management system. So, I do not think that especially, disinvestment is a dirty word, but do it in a transparent manner, as I said earlier. Do it, to start with, Sir, at the right time, so that you get right price and not when the stock market is down. And, yes, I said this earlier, Sir, do it initially to give confidence to all of us through the stock market route. Do not sell it, I would not mention names, to big industrialists, 1, 2, 3 or A, B, C or D. Through the capital market route, you may make a limit, nobody should own more than two per cent, maximum five per cent of those

companies so that nobody can control them, Sir. I would, of course, go forward and say, why even 51 per cent in these companies where you have no strategic stake, whether it is a hotel or whether it is something else. What we need to keep, let us keep. Nobody is saying, 'let us not keep', and, I have always said a monopoly is not right. Monopoly cannot function well, but, if at all we need a monopoly, as a private sector man also, I prefer a public sector monopoly to a private sector monopoly, I do not like a private sector monopoly and I don't even like a public sector monopoly. It becomes inefficient. So, what is our problem? You want to raise resources. That is our objective. Whether you would put that money back into some public sector companies, whether you would use it for fiscal deficit, whether you would use it for social infrastructure, whether you would use it for physical infrastructure; utilisation of those resources, Mr. Deputy Chairman, the House can be announced earlier or later. We are short of funds. So let us use those resources. Let us go for certain things. Why not sell 100 per cent? I am not throwing away the family silver. ONGC is the family silver. Some oil marketing companies are the family silver. The State Bank of India is the family silver. I do not want to name them, but, not 200 other companies. This absolutely, I am sorry, in my humble view is an ideological aberration, which may have been all right in the 50s or 60s or 70s, but, not in this globalised world of 2009. Yes, my friends here love what I am saying, especially those of the CPI, CPM, Forward Bloc and RSP. They love what I am saying. But, it can't be helped.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): It is entertaining.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Yes, entertaining, useful. Through you, Sir, may I request my friend, Mr Sen, not to interrupt me?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not interrupt.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: I wish all the best to his State. I wish his State catches up with my State, Maharashtra as soon as possible. But it will take a long time. Taking money from abroad, I have said earlier, I have been against, it on ethical grounds. But, I have to be pragmatic also. Tax it first, whatever you think proper. I say, whatever is the maximum rate today, 33 per cent or 30 per cent, at that rate, tax it. So, partly the ethical ground goes away except the timing. You didn't take it earlier. You are taking it now. You can't tax too high because it won't come back. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is not going to come on its own. I won't go into details. You won't give me the time. Swiss Bank or otherwise, the regulations will take a long time. I go there every year, twice or thrice a year and meet all the bankers. Nothing is going to happen because that economy will collapse. Switzerland is not going to allow. They have made tax fraud a crime. They have said you need not convict a guy before you send a Letter Rogatory and all that has been done. But, no fishing inquiry, no roving inquiry will be permitted. So, give a stick, a solid stick and a carrot. The stick is, if you don't declare — in whatever time — say in six months, and after that, we find out, hundred per

cent will be taken away by a new law, also you may go to jail for 12 months or two years, whatever you want to do, but put the fear of God in them once and for all. Otherwise, we have had two to three schemes, little bit came, Rs. 10,000 crores, Rs. 15,000 crores; we have lakhs of crores of rupees probably lying. Nobody knows. The carrot is, it becomes official money, maybe with 30 per cent only going and that identity should be protected because there are some very big people whose moneys may be there. Small guys will come; big guys can't come because their names will be known to their income tax officer, to the Government. No questions asked, but no identity to be known even to the Government. There are various ways in which it can be done. It is not easy. I gave the example of bearer bonds. Bearer bonds to be sold — Government will pay only in rupees, we are bringing money here — there, anybody can go. Denomination of million rupees can go. Thousand of bonds purchased abroad. No questions are asked. Nobody knows who gave the money and here, it is encashable. So nobody knows. Tax is already paid. The Bond price will be, say Rs. 1300, but when the time comes for maturity, he will get Rs. 1000, instead of Rs. 1300. He has paid 30 per cent tax.

I am pleading. I have no personal interest at all in this, except by strong stick- reasonable tax- whatever the hon. Finance Minister decides in the Cabinet and no identity to be known. If you do that — both in India and abroad — I think, a huge amount of money will come. Even ethical questions will not arise, because you are asking him to pay full tax. So, these two points — disinvestment and bringing money from abroad — provide us resources in addition to what the hon. Finance Minister proposed in his Budget which I had supported. This is over and above and relatively no pain to anybody. I am not going into the dangers of inflation or otherwise. And, you use it as you like. You don't have to use it only for reducing the fiscal deficit. Use it for NAREGA. Use it for everything. Use it for building roads, airports and anything else. Thank you very much.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting the historic Budget with more than Rs. 10 lakh crores by focussing in the areas of rural development, health, agriculture, education, infrastructure, irrigation, power, concentrating on the economic growth and the social sector.

At the outset, I support the Finance Bill with all the official amendments. I would now like to highlight that many people are commenting on the fiscal deficit. I would like to clarify that 6.8 per cent fiscal deficit for this year is mainly due to two reasons. Firstly, the development outlay has been increased from Rs. 2.43 lakh crores to Rs. 3.25 lakh crores. It had never ever gone like this. Secondly, the outflow of 60 per cent arrears due to recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission led the Government to share more burden. At the same time, due to global recession, exports have

reduced and the revenue has come down. These are the major reasons behind the fiscal deficit, The appreciable thing is that there are no extra taxes. The hon. Finance Minister anticipating that, in the year 2010-11, fiscal deficit going to come down to 5.5 per cent and in the next year i.e., in 2011-12, the fiscal deficit would be 4 per cent in a disciplined monitoring system.

Sir, I would like to mention one more thing. The Finance Bill, 2009, proposes to introduce 'Safe Harbour, rules by empowering the CBDT, an apex tax administrative body, to frame such rules. Sir, Clause 55 of the Finance Bill, 2009, has proposed to introduce a new Section 144C in the Income Tax Act, 1961, providing the mechanism. The Notes to Clauses of Finance Bill, 2009, states that the provisions of Section 144C are proposed to cover only of transfer pricing adjustment of the eligible assesses only. It is a welcome factor.

I am also very happy that the Government has acceded to the request of the export sector and tax holiday benefits under Section 10A and 10B of the I.T. Act, 1961, which were set to expire in March, 2010, have been extended by another year. It is also a welcome factor.

The commitment to introduce a new Direct Tax Code signifies the Government's vision to keep tax laws simple and promote tax certainty and improve the quality of tax compliance is also a welcome factor. Here, I would like to say that to achieve 9 per cent growth industrialisation is most important. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister that there are three financial institutions-IDBI, ICICI and IFCI — which have been doing commendable job for the last 30 to 40 years and playing a very key role in helping industrial growth. I would like to say, even though the Industrial Finance Corporation also has played an important role, particularly for core sector, but for the last 5 or 6 years it got stuck, financially it was sick and not able to do well. Now, I understand that it has been revived. It has got surplus money and in every quarter it is making a profit of Rs. 200 crores. So, I suggest that, along with IDBI and ICICI, IFCI, which is expert and played a very important role to finance steel, cement, sugar and various other core industries, should also be utilised and it must become, if necessary, as IFCI bank and make the public to participate and strengthen. It is very important and helps us a lot.

I am very happy that the Finance Minister wants to strengthen the hands of the Indian Infrastructure Finance Corporation. It is a very welcome step. This is going to play a very important role in the power sector, roads and irrigation. So, this corporation should be strengthened.

I would like to submit one more thing that in the year 2008, that is, before the inflation reached up to 13 per cent, all the banks in the country were charging only 10-12 per cent interest. Subsequently, when the inflation came down, the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, said that the banks should decrease the interest rates so that the inflation could be controlled. In March 2009, the

inflation reached at the zero level. Now, the inflation has gone into minus. But the banks have not yet reduced the rate of interest. They were very vaguely told to reduce the rate of interest. No, they will not reduce it. They are enjoying fruits. I would, very categorically, like to request that the banks must come back to the same level of interest rate what they had been charging in the year 2008, before the inflation reached to the level of 13 per cent. I don't understand why they are not reducing it on their own. Why should they be requested to reduce it? But, they will never reduce it.

Sir, my next point is regarding the service tax. Though it has been going on very systematically, yet I would like to seek a small clarification. In the case of the irrigation projects, road construction projects, dam construction projects, infrastructure projects, etc., whether it is a State project or a Central project, there is no service tax. I would like to request that canal projects should also be covered under this scheme. Canals are a part of a dam project. When any project is constructed, the water will go through the canals. Therefore, canals should also be covered under this scheme.

Now, I come to the EPC. The Government gives the modalities of giving the EPC system. But they say, "The EPC word is not there in the system, so we want a clarification." EPC means giving responsibility to the construction companies. The EPC controls the turnkey system. My submission is that if it is a part of Government system, we need not charge any service tax.

Then, despite the recession, Rs. 1,40,000 crores have been given in the market. The rate of inflation went down and problems came. In the course of these seven months, the RBI relaxed the rules to such an extent that they could send the liquidity of Rs. 1,40,000 crores. Therefore, so much cash was pumped in. Even it is not a big problem for the Government to raise rupees four lakh crores. People have got a wrong notion that if the Government raises the money, it is because of the deficit budget. We are going through a problem for the normal commercial banking, for lending to industries. No! In fact, today, we have Rs. 1,20,000 crores cash available, every day, for all commercial banks to give to the entire system of the country. Therefore, there is not going to be any problem. There is a system in place. Last year also, the RBI had planned to bridge the deficit financing in such a way that there was no problem. Therefore, I appreciate that the deficit finance budget is not going to create any problem at all. It is going to be very smooth. As on today, we are having very good results. The production of steel has gone up. The production of cement has gone up. The Stock Market is moving up every day. All over India, everybody wants to invest in the country. Despite global recession, they want to come here. Our country is number one in the world.

Now, I come to Twenty-Point Formula. Banks have to play a very important role in the Twenty-Point Formula. Under the Twenty-Point Formula, there are a number of schemes to given loans to

the minorities, dalits, and also for self-employment schemes and so many other things. But, we find that the banks are not very keen to implement this Twenty-Point Formula for various reasons. So, there should be a mechanism to look into this. Also, the banks should be told that they must meet the target and, accordingly, inform the Ministry also. It must be ensured that the Twenty-Point Formula is implemented very effectively. Sir, in conclusion, I would like to say once again that we will achieve the nine per cent growth rate. We are also going to have a very spectacular progress and the nation would prosper. I would only request the hon. Finance Minister, who is a wizard, and who in such a critical time has presented this Budget, that there should be some mechanism and speedy implementation of reforms should be there and red-tapism should be done away with. In every system, some mechanism should be there. Red-tapism should not be there in the industry, infrastructure and all these things. The Ministry of Finance has to play an important role to achieve all these. Once again, I congratulate the Minister of Finance and support the Finance Bill. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, thank you for completing in exactly nine-and-a-half minutes.

SHRI SABIR ALI (Bihar): Mr, Deputy Chairman, Sir, I stand here to support the Finance Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have five minutes.

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, I will conclude in five minutes. Before I start, I would like to say that I had supported the Budget earlier, but, at the same time, in my speech, I also made a mention of this. Sir, the allocation made to the NREGA is a big issue. Why? The reason is that the allocations made to NREGA in the last year, that is, 2008-09, by the Government of India were misused. This is an open secret. The people who are sitting here know that allocations made to NREGA have been misused. In spite of that, allocations made for NREGA have been increased by 1.49 per cent. सर, हम लोग जिला कमेटी की मीटिंग में बैठते हैं। अभी तीन दिन पहले शनिवार को मैं जिला कमेटी की मीटिंग में बैठा था। जब जिला कलेक्टर से और जिला कलेक्टर के नीचे जिसको डीडीसी कहा जाता है, उनसे सवाल पूछे गए, तो पता चला कि ब्लॉक लेवल पर पैसा भेजने के लिए दस से पंद्रह परसेंट कमीशन डीडीसी लेता है। वहां बीडीओ बैठा रहता है। यह फैक्ट है। उनका दस से पंद्रह परसेंट कमीशन होता है। वह पैसा ब्लॉक में उन लोगों को दिया जाता है, जो ऐसी नदी पर पैसा खर्च करते हैं, जिसमें फावड़ा लगाकर मिट्टी को खींच लिया जाता है। अगर दो फीट मिट्टी खींची गई तो उसको पचास फीट बताया जाता है। इससे साबित होता है कि नरेगा का पैसा आज पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में जमीनी स्तर पर दस परसेंट भी नहीं पहुंचा है और उस पैसे का मिसयूज हुआ है। इसलिए मैं इस नरेगा के allocation का विरोध करना चाहता हूं और बताना चाहता हूं कि इस देश की इतनी huge amount ऐसी जगह जा रही है, ऐसे ब्यूरोक्रेट्स के हाथ में जा रही है जिसमें लूट-खसोट लगी हुई है। इससे कोई इन्कार नहीं कर सकता। जब हम जानते हैं कि इस पैसे में लूट-खसोट लगी हुई है तो वहां allocate न करके उसी पैसे को अगर हम कहीं

और allocate कर दें, स्मॉल इंडस्ट्री को दे दें तो वह गांव के उन गरीबों तक चला जाएगा जिनको हम नौकरी लगाने की बात करते हैं, रोजगार देने की बात करते हैं। अगर उनको 25 हजार, 50 हजार या 1 लाख रुपया दे दिया जाए तो हर प्रखंड में, हर गांव में कम से कम दस ऐसी छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज़ लग सकती हैं। इसका उदाहरण हम चाइना से ले सकते हैं जैसे बटन बनाने के लिए, मोजा बनाने के लिए, जूता बनाने के लिए, चप्पल बनाने के लिए, सुई बनाने के लिए हम इंडस्ट्री लगा सकते हैं। इन चीजों को हम विदेशों में एक्सपोर्ट कर सकते हैं और उसी पैसे से हम लाखों लोगों को नौकरी दे सकते हैं। उस एक्सपोर्ट किए हुए माल से हम रेवेन्यू भी generate कर सकते हैं। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं, विनती करना चाहता हूं कि उस allocation को आप reassess कीजिए और उस पैसे को ऐसे फील्ड में divert कीजिए, जहां पर उसका सही-सही उपयोग हो, न कि उस पैसे का दुरुपयोग हो। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक और बात कहना चाहता हूं कि इस देश का सबसे बड़ा फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन एलआईसी था। पिछले बीस साल से एलआईसी हमेशा प्रॉफिट कमाता रहा है, लेकिन इस बार 2008-09 में साढ़े 29 परसेंट घाटे में गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि एलआईसी का कौन चेयरमैन है, कैसी उसकी functionaries हैं कि इस बार इतना बड़ा वित्तीय घाटा हुआ है? वह ऐसा इंस्टीट्यूशन है, वह इस देश की सबसे बड़ी इंडस्ट्री को लोन देता है जिसकी डेढ़ लाख करोड़ तक लोन देने की capacity है, ऐसा इंस्टीट्यूशन घाटे में जा रहा है। इस प्रकार के inefficient लोगों को आप ऐसे मुकाम पर बिठा देते हैं जो आपके वित्तीय घाटे को बढ़ावा देते हैं। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक और बात यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जैसे मुझसे पहले बीजेपी के वरिष्ठ नेता ने कहा, इलेक्शन के दौरान भी उनका बहुत बड़ा स्लोगन था कि अगर हम सत्ता में आएं तो सौ दिन में बाहर के पैसे लेकर आएंगे। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वह कौन सा mechanism था कि आपके 6 साल के सरकार के कार्यकाल में आपने उस mechanism को नहीं अपनाया। और आप उसका मुद्दा बनाएं, मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं कि पैसा बाहर से आना चाहिए। लेकिन अगर उसका मकेनिज्म आपके पास है, सरकार बनी है, यह इसी देश की सरकार है, जो आपके सामने है आप उस मकेनिज्म को बताइए, उजागर कीजिए अगर आपके पास कोई मकेनिज्म हो। हमसे पहले राहुल बजाज साहब भी कह रहे थे, ऐसा लाखों करोड़ रुपया बाहर है, वह पैसा आना चाहिए। सर, बड़ी शर्म होती है, जब हम लोग फ्लाइट में होते हैं, बगल में कोई आदमी बैठा हो तथा वह बिजनेस क्लास का हो, हम कुर्ता पजामा में बैठे रहते हैं, तो वह पूछता है कि क्या आप पोलिटिसियन हैं? उसके मन में यह बात आती है कि उसक बगल में बैठा हुआ पोलिटिसियन चोर है। सर, यह हकीकत है, इस स्थिति को दूर करना चाहिए। अगर किसी के ऊपर करप्शन की बात उठती है तो, सर, अगर उसका हमारे यहां कोई टेस्ट है - नारको टेस्ट है या कोई भी मकेनिज्म है जिससे उसकी जांच की जाए, तो उसके दायरे में लाकर सब की जांच करनी चाहिए और जो ब्लैक मनी है उसको सामने पटल पर लाना चाहिए, इस देश को दिखाना चाहिए, कम से कम हम लोगों पर, पोलिटिसियन पर जो दाग लगता है आप किसी टेलीविजन को देख लीजिए कि जब भी पोलिटिसियन के अलावा कोई दूसरी किसी भी फील्ड से आता है चाहे वह पोलिटिक्स को छोड़ करके किसी सिनेमा फील्ड से आए, किसी इण्डस्ट्री से आए वह डायरेक्ट आरोप लगता है कि यहां के देश का पोलिटिसियन, यानी अवाम के अंदर भी यह फीलिंग है कि इस देश का पोलिटिसियन चोर है। सर, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हो सकते हैं कुछ लोग, इससे इंकार भी नहीं किया जा सकता, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ इस देश के कम से कम पांच हजार ऐसे ब्यूरोक्रेट हैं जिनके पास हजारों-करोड़ों रुपए की ब्लैकमनी है। हमारे यहां सिस्टम ऐसा है,

जिसको सुधारने के लिए हमें प्रयास करना चाहिए। मैं जानता हूँ कि इस बार इस देश को जो वित्त मंत्री मिले हैं, वे बेदाग रहे हैं, उनका राजनीतिक जीवन ऐसा है कि वे जिस पार्टी से हैं, उस पार्टी के संकटमोचक रहे हैं। उन्होंने हमेशा अच्छे काम किए हैं। महोदय, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से इस बार माननीय मंत्री जी से चाहता हूँ कि आप ऐसा कुछ काम कर जाइए, जिससे आने वाली नसलों में आपको हजारों साल तक जाना जाए। सर, आपके माध्यम से मैं आखिरी दो और बात कहना चाहूँगा कि आपके यहां गैस की बहुत बड़ी कमी है। Sir, just one minute; I will conclude. Today, large quantity of oil and gas has been discovered and is produced from both offshore and onshore areas on the East Coast. The problem is certain fiscal benefits extended by the Government to procurers like ONGC and others that are first announced with much fanfare, are then not honoured by the Government. This kind of flip flop is proving extremely negative to the reputation of the country as one which can offer a stable business environment for long-term investments. Thank you, Sir.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, इससे पहले मैं अपनी बात रखूँ, मुखर्जी साहब को मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने बहुत ईमानदारी से अपना बजट रखा है। लेकिन, सर, हमारी आजादी को 62 साल हो गए हैं, एक छोटा सा जुमला है - "दर्द बढ़ता ही गया, ज्यों-ज्यों दवा की।" सर, आपने जितना प्लान बनाया लेकिन गरीबी बढ़ती ही गई, अभी अर्जुन सेनगुप्त जी बैठे थे, जो चले गए, उन्होंने एक रिपोर्ट दी है कि 77 परसेंट लोगों को बीस रुपया रोज की आमदनी है। तो, सर, यह कौन सी योजना आप बनाते हैं, किस तरह की योजना बनाते हैं? आपने नरेगा को 144 परसेंट करके उसको आगे बढ़ा दिया। तो हमारे साबिर अली साहब ने सही कहा कि नरेगा आपकी सक्सेजफुल स्कीम नहीं है। उन्होंने सही कहा कि अगर इतना पैसा कॉंटेज इण्डस्ट्री को खोलने में देते तथा गरीबों के लिए रोजगार करने को देते, तो शायद अच्छा होता। सर, यह नरेगा सरकारी मशीनरी के लिए व्हाइट एलीफेंट है। सर, वह दलालों के लिए पैसा है, गरीबों के लिए पैसा नहीं है। हो सकता है कि आपको कहीं पैराडाइज़ मालूम पड़ता हो कि NREGA बहुत बढ़िया स्कीम हो गई है। सर, गरीबों को 100 दिन का रोजगार नहीं मिलता है। अगर उसको मिलता भी है, तो उसको काम करने की जरूरत नहीं है, बल्कि उसको 100 रुपया दो दिन में मिलेगा, तो उसको 50 रुपया मिलता है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : उपसभापति महोदय, क्या आरजेडी NREGA का विरोध करती है?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : मैं NREGA का विरोध नहीं कर रहा हूँ। आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान).... सर, हम जो बात बोलना चाहते हैं, वह बोलना बहुत मुश्किल है।...(व्यवधान).... सर, मुझे आपका प्रोटेक्शन चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिए।...(व्यवधान).... मैं आपको प्रोटेक्शन दे रहा हूँ। अब आप बोलिए।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, आप जानते हैं कि जब मैं बोलने लगता हूँ, तो ये इंटरप्शन करने लगते हैं, जिससे मेरा लिंक टूट जाता है। इस बात को ये जानते हैं, इसलिए इन्होंने ऐसा किया है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : वह इसीलिए करते हैं। आप लिंक क्यों तोड़ लेते हैं?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : नहीं, नहीं। सर, यह तो मेरी आदत है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, मुझे एक बात कहनी है।...(व्यवधान).... पटना में इनके खिलाफ पार्टी वाले इनको इंटरैप्ट कर देते हैं, इसलिए संसद में उसको आप बदलिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, मैं NREGA का विरोध नहीं करता हूँ। आप कहते हैं कि इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन राज्य सरकार को दे दो। लेकिन अगर आप 49 हजार करोड़ रुपया दे रहे हैं, तो इसके लिए कोई सरकार की रेग्युलेटरी अथॉरिटी होनी चाहिए। वहां मशीन से काम होता है। गरीबों के लिए मशीन से काम होगा, उसको काम नहीं मिलेगा।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी जी ने कहा कि क्या हम NREGA का विरोध करते हैं, हम NREGA का विरोध नहीं करते हैं। यह बहुत बढ़िया स्कीम है, लेकिन सरकार की कोई रेग्युलेटरी अथॉरिटी नहीं है, इसलिए सब पैसा दलालों में चला जाता है। हम इसका विरोध करते हैं।

सर, हम एक बात और कहना चाहते हैं। हमारे रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी ने बहुत अच्छी बात कही है कि आपके पास कोई वृहत योजना नहीं है, रोजगार देने के लिए आपने वृहत योजना नहीं बनाई है, आपने कोई मेगा स्कीम नहीं बनाई है। 1999 से 2004 तक केन्द्र में एनडीए की सरकार रही है। उसने कहा था कि हम हर हाथ को काम, हर खेत को पानी देंगे। चलिए, ठीक है। कितने हाथ को काम मिला और कितने खेत को पानी मिला, इसके बारे में आप खुद जानते हैं। वर्ष 2004 में हमारी सरकार आई, यानी यूपीए नम्बर वन, उसने कितने खेत को पानी दिया, कितने लोगों को रोजगार दिया, यह हम लोगों को पता नहीं है। सर, बेरोजगारी काफी बढ़ी है और हमारे जो मिनिस्टर साहब हैं, उनको बेरोजगारी का आंकड़ा सही मायने में मालूम नहीं है। अन-आर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर में काफी गरीबी है, अगर कोई कारखाने में काम करता है, तो उसका रिट्रैवमेंट हो जाता है। सर, आप बताइए, यह कैसे चलेगा? मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि ऐसा कोई कानून बनाइए, ऐसा कोई नियम बनाइए, ऐसी कोई योजना बनाइए जिससे कि लोगों की गरीबी दूर हो सके। आजादी के बाद भी किसान लोग आत्म-हत्याएं कर रहे हैं। गरीब लोग मर रहे हैं, उनको खाना नहीं मिल रहा है, आज किसान लोग क्या-क्या कर रहे हैं, यह तो आपको मालूम है। बेरोजगार लोगों को बेरोजगारी भत्ता नहीं मिलता है। आपने कहा कि गांव के लोगों को NREGA में सौ दिन का काम मिलेगा, लेकिन जो अर्बन में अन-एम्प्लाइड लोग हैं, उनका क्या होगा? मैंने शहर में रहने वाले अन-एम्प्लाइड लोगों के बारे में एक बार कहा था कि उनके लिए कोई योजना बनाइए, उनको भी बेरोजगारी भत्ता दीजिए। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि आपने ऐसी कौन-सी योजना बनाई है?

आज दाल 100 रुपये किलो बिक रही है, क्या आपके द्वारा सरकारी दाल बेचने से कुछ हो सकेगा? क्या सरकार द्वारा दाल 72 रुपये प्रति किलो बेचने से चलेगा? गांव और ऐसे शहर जहां पर सरकारी दाल नहीं बिकती है, वहां पर क्या 72 रुपये किलो दाल मिलेगी? क्या आज 100 रुपये किलो तेल का दाम नहीं है, जिसे हम सब्जी में डालते हैं? सर, महंगाई भी बढ़ रही है, बेरोजगारी भी बढ़ रही है, करप्शन भी बढ़ रहा है और दूसरी तरफ कुछ लोग मालामाल हो रहे हैं। दुनिया में जब टॉप टेन का नाम आया, तो उसमें चार टॉप टेन इधर ही हैं, उसके चार आदमी इधर हैं। उनका अखबारों में नाम छपा, यहां गरीबी का नाम नहीं छपता है, उनका नाम छपा कि टॉप टेन में से चार इधर हिन्दुस्तान में हैं। सर, जो हमारी योजना बनती है, हम लोग पहले नारा लगाते थे, टाटा-बाटा की सरकार नहीं चलेगी। हम लोग यह नारा लगाते थे, "धन और धरती बंट के रहेगी।" हमारा नारा था, "रोको महंगी, बांधो दाम, नहीं तो होगा चक्का जाम।" यह समाजवादी नारा है। शिवानन्द तिवारी जी भी हमारे साथ नारा लगाते थे और ये हमारे साथ जेल भी जाते थे। सर, अगर यह महंगाई खत्म नहीं हुई, तो आपका योजना बनाने का क्या फायदा होगा? इसलिए इस पर जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। अगर आप इस पर विचार नहीं करेंगे, तो जो आपकी योजना है, यह ज्यादा दिनों तक नहीं चलेगी। सर, मैं आप से निवेदन करने के लिए यह बात कह रहा हूं। मैं अंत में एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि हम गरीबों के लिए किसी भी स्कीम का विरोध नहीं करते हैं। मैं माननीय शिवानन्द तिवारी जी का भी विरोध नहीं करता हूं। आप समाजवादी स्कूल से आए हैं।...(समय की घंटी)... एक सेकंड। हमारा

NREGA का विरोध नहीं है, लेकिन यह सही इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं हुआ है। आप बिहार में जाइए और देखिए कि NREGA का कितना इस्तेमाल हो रहा है, यह बात शिवानन्द तिवारी जी से पूछ लीजिए। मैं किसी का नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ। कैसे-कैसे दलाल और ठेकेदार NREGA का पैसा खा रहे हैं, इसलिए मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि रेग्युलेटरी अथॉरिटी बनाइए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members and my distinguished colleagues who have participated in the discussion on the Finance Bill. We have entered the last phase of the annual budgetary exercise which is a time-consuming exercise and a bit laborious, no doubt. Today with the seal of approval of this House when the Finance Bill will be returned to the other House, that annual exercise will come to an end so far as the year 2009-10 is concerned. I deeply appreciate the observations of the hon. Members who have made their contribution while participating in the General Discussion on the Budget, subsequently, on the Appropriation Bill, and also on the Finance Bill. There is one current trend in the observations of all the Members. They want that this country's economy should stand on sound footing; the fundamental problems should be addressed; poverty should be alleviated and regional and other disparities prevailing in various strata of the society should be eradicated. That is the common theme of all the hon. Members. Of course, there will be emphasis on certain aspects. But this very basic common objective is not diluted by their observations and this is the strength of our multi-party democratic system. Therefore, I deeply appreciate it. The initiator of the discussion, my good friend, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is an eminent lawyer and a veteran parliamentarian - veteran not in the sense of age, but his competence and capability in parliamentary intervention - has paid me handsome compliments. I accept them with all humility at my command. But, perhaps, I do not deserve that. I am just like any other ordinary Member of this House. So far as this House is concerned, as you know, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have some sort of nostalgia because till now, of my 40 years' presence in these premises, merely six years, little more than five years, I have spent in the other House, but seven times more than that, I have spent in this House. So, it is quite natural that whenever I come here, I find myself more comfortable, more at home. Of course, that does not reflect that I am not at home in the other House. Otherwise, I will be summoned to the Bar of the House there. But, somehow or other, as I spent much more time in this House, it will understand me and I understand the nuances of this House very well. It is also a very interesting feature of our Parliamentary system that normally, the Upper House does not have much say in the financial matters. But, we have evolved mechanism, in our Constitution itself, and subsequently, through other innovations, for the involvement of the Upper House, which is not directly elected by the people, in this process. They also have a say in these matters. For instance, the Appropriation Bill, like any other Bill, is also to be discussed in this House. They do not have the right to approve the Demands for Grants, but we have evolved a mechanism through which they

express their views on the functioning of the Ministry and in that way, they can make necessary suggestions and corrections which can be surely examined by the Minister in charge. And, on the top of it, through the instrumentality of the Department-related Standing Committees, of which eight such Committees are being chaired by the hon. Members of this House, and each of 24 Committees has representations of Members of this House. They have the mechanism through which they can scrutinise the entire expenditure proposal, Demands for Grants, and which is an elaborate exercise which we do every year. This year, we had to dispense with it because of certain reasons. But, this is a noble mechanism. As Foreign Minister, when I used to visit many parliamentary democratic countries, they were curious about this mechanism. I used to advise them to send some of their people to our Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training and to see our Committee system functioning, and they would appreciate it. Therefore, it is not correct to say that Upper House has nothing to do with matters of money and finance. They make their very valuable contribution by being associated with the watchdog Committees like PAC, COPU and various other Committees in addition to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Sir, the basic approach which Ravi Shankarji and many other Members have also elaborated is that I have taken a risk, no doubt, by having 6.8 per cent fiscal deficit, having substantial quantum of borrowing. No doubt, there was a little bit risk in it. But, the option before me was just to tread the conservative route of reducing the deficit, not borrowing so much, settling myself with whatever be the level of growth for four-and-a-half per cent. After all, this country has the experiences. As other veteran Members and my good old friend, Shri Rahul Bajaj, are fully aware, at one point of time, people used to tell jokingly, "India's growth syndrome is the Hindu growth rate." From 1951 to 1979, long 28 years, it was just three-and-a-half per cent at the annual average. Though in every Five Year Plan, we used to project a higher level of growth, but we could not reach that level of growth. In the 80s, there were improvements. From three-and-a-half per cent, we reached 5 per cent-plus. In the 90s, there were further improvements. And, during the last six years, I would say, the higher growth scenario began from 2003-04, the last year of the NDA Government, and continued. Though there was a sliding down in 2008-09 but taking the average in these six years, it was 8.6 per cent. Therefore, I thought, let us try to build up, as quickly as possible, and achieve higher level of growth of around eight to nine per cent; and, for that investment is required. From where will the investment come? Surely, with regard to the revenue, you cannot expect to have the buoyancy which we enjoyed, our economy enjoyed from 2004 to 2007-08. As you will recollect, the tax GDP ratio was around 9.6 per cent up to 2003-04, but from 2004-05 to 2007-08, the tax GDP ratio reached to 12.6 per cent, and, last year, it came down to 11.6 per cent because there has been a revenue shortage. If the manufacturing sector goes down, if the exports go down, then, it is not possible to have the mobilisation through the revenue route; the mobilisation of resources. And, we had to, therefore,

resort to borrowing, and, dispense with the fiscal prudence. I am fully aware that this level of fiscal deficit is not sustainable.

That is why, I have myself indicated in my Budget speech that I would like to come back sooner than later to FRBM, at least, to four per cent by 2011-12, and, around five per cent by 2010-11. But this year, it is not possible to have the FRBM level which has been prescribed. Look at the world around us; I am not going to compare with the level of some advanced countries where the deficit is 11 or 12 per cent, where substantial quantum of money, budgetary resources are being injected to revitalise their banking system because of the collapse of the banking system in many developed countries as a result of this international financial crisis. I am not going to that level but I thought that — the phrase which I used, and, which has been repeated by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad — I must have some little more fiscal space, but surely, it is for a temporary period, and, I cannot afford to have it for every year.

And my optimism that I would be able to come to the reduced level of fiscal and revenue deficit is based on the fact that the type of expenditure which we had to bear this year, is some sort of extraordinary situation and extraordinary responsibility. I would not like to join issue about Rs. 1,86,000 crore fiscal stimulus because the subsidies are already there. If the financial crisis was not there, if the tax reduction would not have taken place in two phases, practically, in three phases, excise duty, customs duty, even then the subsidies were there. During 2008-09, fertilizer subsidy had been substantial, food subsidy had been substantial, and, interest payments and defence expenditure are more or less the committed expenditure. Therefore, how do we account for it? It is not necessary that these amounts have come out of Rs. 1,86,000 crore. It is not that.

Therefore, my submission is, yes, I wanted to create a fiscal space to achieve the higher growth trajectory and I have felt little confidence from the sense that these stimulus packages starting from December, January, February, and, subsequently, in the Budget of July, there has been positive impact on it. There has been some positive impact on it. Particularly, if you look at the manufacturing sector's growth in the month of June, there has been a positive indication. With regard to crude oil, steel, cement, consumer items, etc., there has been a positive trend in the first quarter. I would not say it is very high. But from continuously downward trend that downward trend has been arrested—certain positive trend has begun. I do hope it will be possible to maintain that and it will gather momentum particularly when the busy season comes. With that momentum, it will be possible to achieve the desired level of growth. As you know, normally the RBI's estimate is a bit conservative; I would not say very conservative, but a bit conservative. Even they have upgraded our GDP growth. The international rating agencies, including IMF, have also graded it a little. Earlier it was thought of 5 per cent or less, but now everybody agrees that India will have around 6.6+ per cent of GDP growth.

Certain other issues have also been raised. I would definitely like to respond to those issues. But, before that, I do feel, the Finance Bill, which I have presented to the hon. Members, is not exactly the same which I presented at the time of the Budget which I introduced. I made certain amendments and those amendments were approved by the Lok Sabha yesterday. Through the specified amendments, I have brought changes in the Finance Bill and the Finance Bill, as amended, has been circulated to the hon. Members. For instance, there were all procedural aspects. When we were adding the new areas of service taxes, expanding it, bringing new services, then the various industries and others made a representation saying that when you bring the changes from the day of notification to the day of application, you allow us some time for adjustment. I find it a legitimate claim. So, I have made the necessary amendments in the relevant sections of the Finance Bill. I do hope all the notifications will be issued latest by 1st of August and it will be applicable from the 1st of September.

Similarly, I have introduced another amendment. Everybody understands the importance of roads. Earlier the facilities were on the tax front. Construction or laying of a new road was excluded from the service tax. But construction and laying a new road is okay. It is desirable. But maintenance and repairs of the existing roads is equally desirable. Therefore, it was found necessary to extend the same benefit, which was not available earlier, for maintenance and repairs in this Finance Bill. I have made the additional facilities, i.e., exemption from the service tax for maintenance and repairing of the roads. Clause 32 of the Bill proposes to amend the provision of Section 80 (E) of the Income Tax Act.

It will allow deduction in respect of interest paid on higher education loans. Sometimes beneficiaries are self-employed persons who go abroad to pursue higher education by availing themselves of bank loan or sometimes parents. We received some representations in this matter. Sometimes parents of students are not alive. In that case, their grandparents or somebody else or their legal guardian bear the expenses of education by borrowing money from banks. But they are not entitled to have tax benefit. So, instead of going into the details, I have decided that parents or legal guardians, parents are always the legal guardians, of the students will be entitled to have this tax benefit.

Section 80-IA of the Income-Tax Act provides for tax holiday in respect of profits derived by an undertaking from the development, operation, and maintenance of industrial park. This benefit was available and the sunset clause was applicable up to 31st March 2009. Representations were received from various stakeholders. They wanted to have the extension of the sunset clause, because the year 2008 was extremely difficult for the world economy and our economy. Therefore, I have made the necessary amendment by extending the sunset clause for two more years up to 31st March 2011.

Clause 37 of the Bill seeks to amend the provisions of sub-section (9) of section 80-IB of the Income-Tax Act. It is to provide tax holiday on undertaking engaged in commercial production of natural gas in blocks licensed under new exploration licensing policy (8th round). Representations have been received asking that this benefit should also be extended to the commercial production of natural gas in blocks licensed under 4th round of bidding of exploration of the coal-bed methane. Therefore, as I have extended the benefit to the gas, I extended this benefit to the coal-bed methane. This benefit will be available, of course, prospectively from the assessment year 2010-2011.

In respect of housing, particularly for the lower and middle-income group, we feel that it deserves to be supported. This general criticism was made in this House and the other House also. In order to stimulate this segment of house owners, I extended the benefit of providing one per cent interest subvention for the lower-income group persons who will buy house, and those who will take loan up to Rs. ten lakh, an interest subvention of one per cent will be provided to them. We have also stipulated that this interest subvention will be available to buyers belonging to the lower-income group and not for construction of commercial usage of skyscrapers and others. Therefore, we have stipulated that the value of such should not be more than Rs. 20 lakh. For this, I have made an additional provision of Rs. 1,000 crore in the Budget.

I also made some arrangements for providing further stimulus to housing sector by providing some tax relief. I made the necessary amendment in section 80-IB (10) of the Income-Tax Act, so as to allow tax holiday in respect of profits derived from projects approved between 1st April 2007 and 31st March 2008, if such projects are completed on or before 31st March 2012. Because, practically, from the middle of 2007 to 2008, housing activities were slowed down. So, I want to provide this benefit to them. Of course, I am reiterating my expectation from the developers, who will get this advantage, that it should get reflected in the reduced price of houses which they will sell to buyers.

Unfortunately, it happens in our country. They forget it and they do not pass it on. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have some belief in their good sense that they should do it. Otherwise, no Finance Minister would extend this concession to them in future which they require. And, I do hope, a good businessman will keep his customers happy. Sub-Section (11 A) of Section 80-IB of the Income-Tax Act provides tax holidays in respect of profits derived from business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits and vegetables. Representations were made that we extend it to other perishable products. Therefore, we have extended this facility to milk, poultry, meat, dairy products, etc. so that they can also get this benefit which is available to fruits and vegetables. Under the existing provisions of Section 80U of the Income-Tax Act, an assessee being a person with

disability and severe disability is eligible for a deduction of Rs.50,000 and Rs.75,000 respectively. These limits were fixed in 2003-04 and I thought that I should give some relief, not a very substantial relief. So, I have enhanced this limit from Rs.75,000 to Rs.1,00,000. There has been some consequential amendment and except that, there is no other substantive amendment and this amendment Bill has been placed for your consideration and return.

Sir, a couple of other general issues have been raised. Particularly, several Members have raised a point that I have expressed my confidence about the introduction of GSP from April 2010. What is the basis of my expectation? My basis of this expectation and confidence is the type of support which I receive from both sides of this House. After all, they man the State Governments. Their parties form the State Governments. This time, as you know, because of the extraordinary situation, I thought that I should expand my consultation mechanism. So, instead of having limited four groups, those which represent interests of farmers, organised trade union movement, industrialists and economists, I extended it to larger group. I had interactions with the exporters; I had interactions with the IT industry; I had interactions with the financial sectors; and also, I thought it prudent to invite my colleagues from the State Governments, the State Finance Ministers, to give their inputs, not merely on Budget but how to tackle the overall economic situation. I had one full day session. I came out with very high satisfaction with the type of deliberations which we noticed there and the commitment which the State Finance Ministers showed. Therefore, I feel, there is a broad consensus that economy is to be revived and the country has to be brought back to the high growth trajectory. Yes, we have divergent political views. We fight against each other before the people who are our supreme masters to seek their support. But, when we assemble here, on the other side also, on broad national issues, there is more convergence than divergence. I did not have the privilege of listening to each and every speech sitting here, but I had the privilege of listening to them on television sitting in my office. So, what I found, both in the general discussion on the Budget and in the discussion on the Finance Bill, is that there is an urge, that we would like to see, that the financial crisis is over and the country is brought back to the higher growth trajectory. If a broad consensus among the political fraternity is there, why can't it get reflected in the States? After all, those who are ruling the States belong to these political parties. They have not come from a separate planet. So, it is possible. And if there is a broad consensus, if a constitutional amendment is required, whatever legal requirements are there, it can be done. I am told by the empowered Group of Finance Ministers that they have brought broad convergence of views. In a limited area, there are differences of opinion, which, they hope, they will be able to sort out. I am also cooperating with them. After the Budget Session is over, again, I will have interaction with them, and we are trying to do that because these are the two major steps concerning tax reforms. One is GST in respect of Indirect Taxes. Ravi Shankar Prasadji very correctly pointed it out, and many other Members have also shared with him,

that if he, even as an eminent lawyer, does not understand the complex Direct Tax laws, or requires the help of tax experts, what will be the situation for a poor person like me who does not understand anything of the law? Therefore, it is necessary that we must have simplified the tax laws. Coming to the Direct Tax Code, I promised that within 45 days, after the presentation of the Budget, I will put it on the website; I am working on that. I would like to adhere to the deadlines and, preferably, I would like to pre-pone it a little bit so that there is informed discussion, and, thereafter, I won't like to make it in a hurry. I would like to consider all the inputs; I would like to have informed discussions consisting of as many stakeholders as possible so that the new Direct Tax Code which we present for you and to the other House for their approval, that becomes simple, that becomes user-friendly, and that is not as complex as it is. One of the reasons is, maybe, it is our psychology because I was associated with the Revenue Ministry for quite some time. Even I was very young in the early seventies. I found that you want to achieve too many objectives with one set of instrument. Sometimes, I wondered: Is Income Tax merely for collecting taxes or is it for providing encouragement to charitable work, encouragement to research and development, encouragement to family planning, encouragement to benevolent actions, encouragement to many other social objectives, and if we want to achieve too many objectives with one set of instrument, it is bound to be complex, and more we tried to simplify it, the more complex we made. Therefore, the decision was taken, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, to scrap it, bring out a new code. My predecessor, distinguished Finance Minister Mr. Chidambaram, did a good job; he prepared it. It is a new Code; it is simplified. It will be put on the website for the information and structured discussions. After that, we will be doing that.

Another important issue has been raised: Why are we trying to make 'retrospective effect' in respect of certain provisions of the Income Tax Act? Generally, I agree with the view that there should not be any 'retrospective effect'; there should be 'prospective effect'. But you know about the constitutional scheme. The Leader of the Opposition is present here, an eminent constitutional lawyer; if I am wrong, he can correct me.

So far as the Constitutional practice is concerned, we impose taxes for a year. Article 265 vests this power in the law-maker. No tax can be levied, except by the authority of the law. So, with an intention we impose a tax. But, ultimately, it is the highest court, the Supreme Court, which has to interpret the law. When it interprets the law, that is the final law. It is not necessary that it will always reflect the intention of the law-maker. Therefore, how can we achieve that? Now, what would happen? Imagine a situation where it gives to a particular provision a particular meaning by interpretation. If you want to implement it prospectively, then the result would be a difficult situation. There was a specific case, 147, where retrospective effect had been given from 1989. If retrospective

had not been given to it, all the amounts collected from 1989 would have to be refunded because that tax would become an illegal tax. That is the interpretation of the Court. Therefore, to obviate that, sometimes, with the help of lawyers like you, we have to bring the necessary amendments and, sometimes, give retrospective effect. This is the scheme of the Constitution through the separation of judicial power and other things. We have to do that.

Another important issue, which has been raised on earlier occasions also, is disinvestment. As I mentioned, disinvestment is a continuing process. There is nothing dramatic about it. From 1991 onwards, if I remember correctly, we have mobilised Rs.53,000 crores. This level of resources has been mobilised through the process of disinvestment. We have clearly spelt out the Disinvestment Policy in the President's Address which she delivered to the Joint Sitting of the Houses on 4th July, in my Budget Speech on 6th July and in my response to the General Discussion on the Budget. It is a continuing one. It is an obvious and continuous process. By whatever nomenclature you may call it — you may call it disinvestment or people's participation or strategic sale; you can give whatever nomenclature you may like to give — it is a continuing process. But our present policy, as was decided earlier, is that it should be invested in the National Investment Fund, (NIF) and from the corpus of the National Investment Fund it may be used for specific social sector projects. Part of it will be utilised for meeting the requirements of the public sector like upgradation, modernisation and expansion and in whatever manner necessary. Therefore, it is not merely to meet the fiscal deficit.

In respect of unearthing the black-money, the Prime Minister suggested that we would initiate action within 100 days. Actions have been initiated within 100 days. Now we are going to accept the code which has been prescribed by G-8 countries by which the exchange of information will take place. The legal framework for that is the avoidance of double taxation. We have entered into such avoidance of double taxation agreements with various countries, which are nearly 100. We have taken up amending the provisions of those Acts so that exchange of information is possible. There was a case. To a particular question and supplementaries, I responded in this very House itself that we had difficulty. We had got certain information. But we got that information under the condition that we would not disclose that information even to our sovereign Parliament. They said that otherwise it would not be possible for them to give the information. Every country has its own rules. Certain countries have their own secrecy banking rules. Switzerland is well known for it. But in the context of the financial crisis, now they have agreed to share this information, provided there is a legal framework and it is required only for the purpose of tax collection, not for any other purpose. Keeping that in view, we are proceeding. Therefore, action to bring back the money, which has been stashed away, is also being taken.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would not like to prolong my observation at the fag end of the

debate. Many valuable suggestions have come. One point has been raised about NREGA. NREGA is, basically, an employment generation scheme. It is a wage-earning scheme. In order to make it effective, we have entrusted the Panchayat, which is the lowest representative body of the country, to implement it to avoid the bureaucratic control. If there is any misuse, as some hon. Members have pointed out, surely we shall be in touch with them. The Administrative Ministry, the Ministry of Rural Development is fully aware of it. There is a very competent Minister. He will take it up with the State Governments to find out a mechanism through which the misuses could be avoided. This is one benefit which can reach the people directly. The Government of India has accepted, despite its financial difficulties, that 100 per cent wage component will be met by the Government of India and 75 per cent of the material component will also be met by Government of India. Therefore, practically, it is almost a totally Centrally-funded project, except a small component of it. After all the State Governments are also elected by the people, the same electorate, but a little small in size. Therefore, we need not have this sense that only we are the custodians of all wisdom and knowledge and they are not responsible to their people. Let us not assume that. If there is any irregularity, if there is any deficiency, let us sit with them and try to rectify it. This scheme has been very effectively implemented in certain areas. We have seen the experience in certain areas where the local bodies, the civic authorities and other authorities have done a very good job. Restoration of water bodies, apart from providing employment to people for 100 days and construction of good roads in some places has taken place. As the hon. Members have pointed out, in many other areas this might not have taken place. Therefore, the answer does not lie in abandoning this scheme, but the answer lies in rectifying the deficiencies and in pointing out how you can do it.

There is one last point which has been pointed more than often. I know every State has its own problems. It is not that out of 28 States, there is a single State which is problem-free and which does not have a problem specific to it. But if we want to address that, it would be a conglomeration of the State-specific issues in the General Budget. That is an extremely difficult position. Secondly, when we discuss the Budget, any Finance Minister will expect from his colleagues, as they point out that for this area you have given less, for this area you should have given more, for that area you should have allocated to this extent, at least, from the next year, to please indicate where the Finance Minister will find the money from.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

That the Finance (No.2) Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 117, the First Schedule, the Second Schedule, the Third Schedule, the Fourth Schedule and the Fifth Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to take necessary steps to finalise locations for the proposed regional greenfield airports in Andhra Pradesh

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the new international airport at Shamsahabad is going to be operational in March, 2008, and will make Hyderabad an important aviation hub in South Asia. Hyderabad is well connected to important destinations in India and abroad. There is a need to develop feeder channels within Andhra Pradesh. In order to improve the connectivity of the major growth centres within the State, development of Regional Airports on a hub and spoke model through Public Private Partnership is envisaged.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is keen for development of eight Regional Airports at strategic locations in the State, namely, Nellore (Nellore District), Ongole (Prakasam District), Ramagundam (Karimnagar District), Kothagudem (Khammam District), Kurnool (Kurnool District), Taepalligudem (West Godavari District, existing World War II air strip), Nizamabad (Nizambad District) and Bobbili (Vizianagaram District, existing World War II air strip). The concerned district administration has identified about 500 to 2000 acres of Government land for setting up of Greenfield airports.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary measures so that the finalisation of locations is made and the eight Regional Greenfield Airports in Andhra Pradesh, as approved by the State Government, are considered immediately.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda. Not present.

Shri P. Rajeeve.

Concern over the adverse impact of ASEAN Free Trade Agreement of the economy of Kerala

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, would like to draw the attention of the House to the impact of ASEAN Free Trade Agreement on Kerala's agriculture sector. The Agreement contains many clauses which would have far-reaching consequences for the agricultural economy of the State. The Agreement was being signed at a time when the market possibilities of coconut oil and pepper had dimmed from liberalised import.

This Agreement would lead to the liberalised import of rubber, tea, pepper and edible oil. These are the products on which Kerala had a stake. The free trade of these items, as per the guidelines of the ASEAN, would lead to the collapse of the prices and lead to direct fall in the income of farmers. This would be another big blow on the surviving farmers.

The Agreement, in the present form, would not provide any protection to most of the farmers. It would also badly affect the fishermen's community. The liberalisation of fish imports would render over 10 lakh people jobless in Kerala. Trade Agreements and policies of such a strong nature, which does not take into consideration people's problems, are bound to cast a shadow on people's lives.

So, I urge upon the Prime Minister to reconsider the decision to sign the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I would like to associate myself with it. I would also like to know the response of the Government to this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will get the reply. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan.

**Concern over the alleged step-motherly treatment given to Urdu in
NDMC schools of Delhi**

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान (आंध्र प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब का ध्यान एनडीएमसी में उर्दू के साथ किए जा रहे सौतेले बर्ताव की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। एनडीएमसी के स्कूलों में श्री लैंग्वेज फार्मूले के तहत छठी क्लास के बारहवीं क्लास तक उर्दू थर्ड लैंग्वेज की हैसियत से पढ़ायी जानी चाहिए। इस फार्मूले के मुताबिक अगर किसी क्लास में 6 बच्चे उर्दू को बाहैसियत थर्ड लैंग्वेज पढ़ने के लिए ऑप्शन देते हैं तो उनके लिए एक उर्दू टीचर का इंतजाम किया जाना लाजिमी है। हर साल एनडीएमसी के एजुकेशन डिपार्टमेंट के जरिए स्कूलों को इस फार्मूले के तहत circular भेजा जाता है जिसके जवाब में स्कूलों के प्रिंसिपलों के जरिए एनडीएमसी के education department को demand letters भेजे जाते हैं जिनमें उर्दू पढ़ने के खातिर बच्चों के नाम, उनकी तादाद, क्लास और दूसरी जरूरी तफसीलात दर्ज होती हैं। लेकिन अफसोस की बात है कि हर साल डायरेक्टर, एजुकेशन इन तमाम demand letters को दबा कर बैठ जाते हैं। इस तरह से बरसों से उन पर कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया जाता। इसलिए मेरा मुतालबा है कि इस पूरे मामले की जांच कराई जाए और इसके लिए जिम्मेदार अफसरों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई की जाए। मेरा यह भी मुतालबा है कि आइंदा उर्दू जवान के संवैधानिक अधिकार के हनन को रोकने के लिए कारगर कदम उठाए जाएं। शुक्रिया।

جناب محمد علی خان (آندھرا پردیش) : آپ سبھا پتی مہودے، میں ہوم منسٹر

صاحب کا دھیان این ڈی۔ایم۔سی۔ میں اردو کے ساتھ کئے جارہے سوتیلے برتاؤ کی

طرف دھیان دلانا چاہتا ہوں۔ این ڈی۔ایم۔سی۔ کے اسکولوں میں تھری لینگویج

† [Transliteration in Urdu Script]

فارمولے کے تحت چھٹی کلاس سے بارہویں کلاس تک اردو تھرڈ لینگویج کی حیثیت سے پڑھائی جانی چاہئے۔ اس فارمولے کے مطابق اگر کسی کلاس میں 6 بچے اردو کو بہ حیثیت تھرڈ لینگویج پڑھنے کے لئے آپشن دیتے ہیں تو ان کے لئے ایک اردو ٹیچر کا انتظام کیا جانا لازمی ہے۔ ہر سال این۔ڈی۔ایم۔سی۔ کے ایجوکیشن ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ذریعے اسکولوں کو اس فارمولے کے تحت سرکلر بھیجا جاتا ہے جس کے جواب میں اسکولوں کے پرنسپلوں کے ذریعے این۔ڈی۔ایم۔سی۔ کے ایجوکیشن ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو ڈیمانڈ لیٹر بھیجے جاتے ہیں جن میں اردو پڑھنے کے خواہشمند بچوں کے نام، ان کی تعداد، کلاس اور دوسری ضروری تفصیلات درج ہوتی ہیں۔ لیکن افسوس کی بات ہے ہر سال ڈائریکٹر، ایجوکیشن ان تمام ڈیمانڈ لیٹرس کو دیا کر بیٹھ جاتے ہیں۔ اس طرح سے برسوں سے ان پر کوئی ایکشن نہیں لیا جاتا۔ اس لئے میرا مطالبہ ہے کہ اس پورے معاملے کی جانچ کرائی جائے اور اس کے لئے ذمہ دار افسروں کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کی جائے۔ میرا یہ بھی مطالبہ ہے کہ آئندہ اردو زبان کے سنیویدھانک ادھیکار کو بن کو روکنے کے لئے کارگر قدم اٹھائی جائیں۔ شکریہ۔

**Need to take effective steps to expedite the construction of canals
under the Narmada project in Gujarat**

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, several Chief Ministers of Gujarat have claimed that the Narmada Project is the life-line of Gujarat. The present regime in Gujarat wanted the Narmada project to be declared a National Project by the Central Government. From 1997 to 2004, there was NDA's rule in the State, but even they did not declare the Narmada Project as a National Project. On the other hand, the present Minister of Water Resources has declared that no such demand or request is pending with the Central Government. Whatever may be the truth, the fact of the matter is that poor farmers in the command area of the Narmada Project are not getting irrigation benefits from the Narmada project in spite of a State expenditure of more than Rs.15,000 crores. The reason is that the dam height is nearly 119 meters and the main canal of 458 kms has already been constructed. The farmers would get water for irrigation only when the sub-canal and minor canals are constructed. According to one report, only 24 per cent of the sub-canal and minor canals are constructed. It means, only 18081 km canals are constructed and 56087 km minor and sub-canal are yet to be constructed. Sir, thousands of tribals have been displaced from their homes and villages. The very purpose of constructing big dams is defeated due to delay. According to media reports, it may take ten years more for completion of canals.

It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government should take stock of the situation in the interest of poor people and farmers of Gujarat.

**Need to formulate an effective policy for the disposal of e-waste
generated due to cell phones in the country**

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the booming use of cell phones which has created a new, but dangerous, stream of e-waste. A recent survey reveals the fact that nearly eight lakh tonnes of e-waste would have been generated in our country by the end of 2012. E-waste is made up of multiple components, some of which contain toxic substances that have an adverse impact on human health and environment if not handled properly. Often, these problems arise out of improper recycling and disposal methods. Though we have specific laws to cover generation, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste, there is no law for maintenance of e-waste. For instance, we have laws like the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, but such laws do not cover the disposal and recycle management of e-waste which has especially been created due to discarding of cell phone and its accessories. At present, only three per cent e-waste reaches the recycler despite the fact that 80 per cent of cell phone parts are recyclable and, if recycled in a scientific manner, environmental pollution would be reduced. Presently, such e-waste generated by discarded cell phones is recycled without proper guidelines and rules which would be a threat to environment and health.

Therefore, I request the Government to immediately initiate a special policy and legislation on disposal and handling of e-waste generated by cell phones and its parts to save our environment.

**Need to allot or give on lease the additional and unused land of railways to poor people already
settled in that land**

श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान उन लाखों गरीब लोगों की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा, जो वर्षों से रेलवे की अतिरिक्त भूमि पर रह रहे हैं। महोदय, जैसे कि आप जानते हैं कि रेलवे के पास ऐसी काफी जमीन पड़ी हुई है, जो उपयोग में नहीं है। इस बार रेलवे बजट में भी इस बात को मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकारा है और उन भूमियों पर पी.पी.पी. माध्यम से नया प्रोजेक्ट लगाने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया है। महोदय, जो भूमि रेलवे के उपयोग में नहीं है और जहां वर्षों से गरीब लोग बैठे हुए हैं, उन लोगों को उচ্ছেद करके प्राइवेट कार्पोरेट हाऊस को ले आना कदाचित उचित नहीं होगा। उन भूमियों को व्यवसायीकरण करने के नाम पर गरीबों को हटाया गया तो वहां बैठे लाखों गरीब लोग बेघर हो जाएंगे। महोदय, रेलवे सिर्फ रेलगाड़ी ही नहीं है, बल्कि रेलवे से जुड़े हुए हर लोग, व्यवसाय, कालोनी, कर्मचारी, उसके कुली सबके मिलाकर एक बड़ा संगठन है। रेल से जुड़े व्यवसायों, कालोनी, कर्मचारी, उसके कुली सबको मिलाकर एक बड़ा संगठन है। रेल से जुड़े व्यवसाय एवं हॉकर्स को साथ में लेकर व्यवसाय शुरू करें तो उन लोगों का भी गुजारा होगा। अगर बाहर से बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियों से व्यवसाय शुरू करने लगे तो उन गरीब लोगों का हाल बेहाल हो जाएगा। महोदय, देश भर में ऐसी बहुत जमीन है, जो रेल के उपयोग में नहीं है और वर्तमान में रेलवे की कोई परियोजना भी नहीं है। इस अतिरिक्त भूमि को उन गरीब लोगों को लीज में दी जानी चाहिए, जो वहां वर्षों से रह रहे हैं। कई राज्य सरकारें उन गरीब लोगों को पट्टा देने के लिए राजी हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार उन तमाम अतिरिक्त जमीन को पूरा भुगतान करके उन जमीन पर बैठे लोगों को पट्टा देना चाहती है। पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य के अन्तर्गत भी ऐसी बहुत सी रेलवे की भूमि है, जो उपयोग में नहीं है। उत्तर बंगाल में विशेषकर सिलिगुड़ी, जलपाइगुड़ी और दार्जिलिंग आदि क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त जमीन पर हजारों गरीब लोग रहते हैं, उन बस्तियों को स्थाई करना जरूरी है।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि रेलवे के पास जो अतिरिक्त भूमि है, जो उपयोग में नहीं है, उन पर बैठे लोगों के लिए लीज़ की व्यवस्था की जाए या उन जमीनों को राज्य सरकारों को उचित मूल्य पर लौटा दिया जाए, ताकि उन लाखों गरीब लोगों को अपना ठिकाना मिल जाए। धन्यवाद।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

Need to include human rights in the school curriculum

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, School Education is getting increased attention in the country nowadays. The Education Policy of 1986, which was revised in 1991, may have to undergo substantial change in coming days in view of the proposed reforms announced by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development, recently.

In this connection, I would like to suggest introduction of "Human Rights" as a subject in the school curriculum so that, students realise the relevance of human values side by side, when they learn physics, chemistry, maths or literature.

Study of "Human Rights" will also prepare the students to be worthy citizens, more so, when they serve the society as teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers or even as common citizens. In order that "Human Rights" get a proper place in our education system, the concept firstly, has to be included in the New Education Policy and, in the curriculum of the State Governments, prepared by the mandate of the respective Education Acts and Rules.

Similarly, despite the increasing need felt with respect to inculcating scientific temper in the minds of the students, no serious efforts are being made in the matter by the State Governments. Society, by and large, having remained the same, household practices of following superstitious beliefs are not getting reduced. It is, therefore, again, through the education system, formal as also informal, that the evil can be eradicated from the society. The school curriculum, therefore, is the only medium through which the objective can be effectively achieved.

I hope the Government will give due consideration to these suggestions.

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Sir, I associate myself with it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

Need to ban the open sale of thinner for white fluid used in typing work

श्री नंदी येल्लैया (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, एक एनजीओ "चेतना" ने "विश्व नशा विरोधी दिवस" पर यह खुलासा किया है कि सिर्फ दिल्ली में ही सड़क के कामकाजी बच्चों की तादाद चार लाख से ज्यादा है। इनमें 50 फीसदी बच्चे नशे के तौर पर टाइपिंग में काम आने वाली white fluid की थिनर (Talvin Chemical) पीते हैं या

सूँघते हैं। इसकी एक शीशी बाजार में 27 रुपये की है और एक बार में आधी शीशी ही इस्तेमाल की जाती है। इससे 10 साल का बच्चा 6 से 8 घंटे नशे में रहता है। इससे इन बच्चों को कैंसर, निमोनिया, दिल-दिमाग की बीमारियां और नाक गले का infection हो सकता है। इसका इस्तेमाल इतना बढ़ गया है कि दिनभर में ये बच्चे 27 लाख रुपये का थिनर पी जाते हैं।

अगर सरकार सड़कों पर जीने वाले इन बच्चों की ज़िंदगी बचाना चाहती है, तो मेरा स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि वे इस थिनर की खुलेआम बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगायें। वह ऐसे बच्चों के पुनर्वास (Rehabilitation) की व्यवस्था करें। इसके साथ ही white fluid के पैक में मिलने वाले थिनर को अलग से बेचे जाने के बजाए, इसे white fluid में मिलाकर ही बेचे जाने के लिए निर्देश जारी करें। धन्यवाद।

Need to take effective steps to protect the land for Gurudwaras in Pakistan

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Everyone is aware that at the time of partition of India in 1947, the Sikh Community migrated to India. The majority of historic holy places of Sikhs were in that part of India which is now Pakistan. Even the birth place of our founder, Guru Nanak Devji is at Nankana Sahib, forty kms. from Lahore. The Archaeological Department of Pakistan had listed 130 important historical holy places of the Sikhs in that country. All these Gurudwaras had large holdings of land which were donated mostly by Maharaja Ranjeet Singh and other Sikh Chieftains from time to time. The Janam Asthan Gurudwara at Nankana Sahib has thousands of acres of land. After 1947, the Waqf Board of Pakistan took the control of all the Gurudwaras and they are still managing the Gurudwaras as well as land attached with the Shrines.

Both India and Pakistan signed an agreement called Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact in which it was assured that the Pakistan Government will properly maintain the Sikh shrines and the properties. Few days ago, 34 acres of land belonging to Gurudwaras Bebe Nanki, sister of Guru Nanak Devji, has been taken for construction of Defence colony. This Gurudwara is located at Dera Chahal, 35 kms. from Lahore. Similar cases have been occurring many times. Even the conservation and maintenance of the holy Sikh shrines has been neglected and many historical places have already disappeared. UNESCO has issued direction to maintain tenable and untenable cultures of the communities. Pakistani Government has never cared to abide by this and to maintain and conserve the Sikh historical places. The Sikhs lived there for centuries. This is a serious matter which requires an immediate diplomatic approach at the highest level with the Pakistan authorities. The Government of India should take up this important issue with the Pakistan Government. We fear that slowly and slowly, the traces of our history will vanish in Pakistan.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention.

Need for A monitoring committee to oversee the proper utilisation of Haj subsidy

श्री प्रभात झा (महोदय) : महोदय, हज यात्रियों को अपने टिकट तथा पासपोर्ट के लिए मुम्बई एवं दिल्ली के कार्यालयों में भटकना पड़ता है। अपने टिकट तथा पासपोर्ट को प्राप्त करने में ही उनका अधिकांश पैसा खर्च हो जाता है। इतने कम समय में उनको टिकट एवं पासपोर्ट दिया जाता है कि वे अपनी तैयारी भी नहीं कर पाते। हज

यात्रियों के सामान की सुरक्षा कतई नहीं की जाती। यात्रियों को अलग से बस में भेजा जाता है तथा उनका सामान अलग जाता है। उनके सामान को सड़कों पर ढेर बनाकर फेंक दिया जाता है। एक सबसे बड़ी समस्या यातायात की है। कई हजार यात्रियों के लिए केवल दो या तीन बसें होती हैं, जिससे अनेक यात्रियों, बूढ़े, बच्चे और महिलाओं को काफी दिक्कत होती है। यात्रियों को कई-कई घंटे बसों में कैद कर छोड़ दिया जाता है। हज यात्रियों को गेस्ट हाउस के प्रत्येक कमरे में 4, 5 या 6 लोगों को रखा जाता है। कई जगहों पर तो पश्चिम स्टाइल के टायलेट ही हैं और भारत से जाने वाले अधिकतर हज यात्री ग्रामीण परिवेश के होते हैं। इसी प्रकार मीना और अराफात में कई हजार यात्रियों के बीच में केवल दस या बारह टायलेट होते हैं। महिलाओं को और बुजुर्गों को खुले में शौच करना पड़ता है, जिसके लिए कोई पर्दा नहीं है। ऐसा मामला भी सामने आया है कि हज यात्रियों को टॉयलेट का पानी पीने को दिया जाता है और बार-बार शिकायत करने पर वहां के ए.एच.ओ. ने अपने अधिकारियों को इस बाबत फैंक्स भी किया, किन्तु कुछ नहीं हुआ। मीना में हज यात्रियों को टेंट में ठहराया जाता है तथा एक टेंट में 60 लोग रहते हैं। महिलाओं के लिए पर्दा नहीं है। उनका शरीर आपस में छूता रहता है, जो उनके धर्म के विरुद्ध है। इसी प्रकार अराफात में शामियाने लगाए जाते हैं और नीचे दरी बिछी होती है, जहां हजारों यात्री ठहरते हैं और पुरुषों अव महिलाओं के बीच कोई पर्दा नहीं होता। अन्य देशों के यात्रियों की प्रत्येक चीजें व्यवस्थित होती हैं तथा हज की सभी रीतियों को पूरा करने के बाद वे शीघ्र अपने देश चले जाते हैं। सब कुछ होने के बावजूद भारतीयों को वहां पूरे 45 दिन का समय बिताना होता है, जिससे बिना वजह खर्च बढ़ता है।

अतः मेरी मांग है कि सरकार जो करोड़ों रुपया सब्सिडी के रूप में दे रही है, उसका सदुपयोग हो। इस हेतु एक मॉनिटरिंग कमेटी बनाई जाए, ताकि हज यात्रियों को समस्याओं से बचाया जा सके।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirty-one minutes past six of the clock,
till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 30th July, 2009.