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OFFICIAL REPORT
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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 31st July, 2009/9 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Regulation of Human Genetic Research

*401. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any legislations to regulate Human Genetic Research;
- (b) if so, what is the institutional mechanism to regulate the same;
- (c) whether there are any provisions for protection of medical data derived from patients; and
- (d) whether there is any provision for protection of genetic material taken from human body?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There are no specific legislations to regulate Human Genetic Research, although the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act covers some aspects of Human Genetic Research. However, a bill to regulate Bio-medical research on human subjects is being finalized.

(c) and (d) There are no direct provisions for protection of medical data and genetic material. However, guidelines have been issued by the Ministry, for exchange of Biological Material in 1997 for protection of genetic material in case the biological material is to be transferred to another country.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the answer shows the pathetic condition, in India, regarding this genetic research. Twelve years have passed since the U.S. Declaration on Human Genome and Human Rights. And in 2003, the Hyderabad Convention directed the Government to make an enactment as the Genetic Privacy Act. But nothing has happened. Some reports are there that the MNCs have misused this genetic research for their purpose and some countries have used this for their vested interest. Sir, I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether the existing provisions are sufficient to prevent the misuse and commercialisation of genetic samples taken as a research subject.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: No, Sir. The present Act or the guidelines are not, really, sufficient, and that is the reason why a new Act is coming in front of the Parliament, which is known as the Biomedical Research on Human Participants (Promotion and Regulation) Bill. At the moment, it is in wide circulation, and to prevent such misuse which the hon. Member has, rightly, pointed out, because at the moment, it does not come under any particular regulation as such; it only comes under the guidelines. Once this Bill is passed as an Act, I am sure, this will cover the entire gamut of genetic research.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI P. RAJEEV: Sir, the Minister has mentioned no reason for an unjustifiable delay in making this enactment. This is, actually, not a right action to the country and to the people. Sir, there is some Ethics Committee like the Animal Ethics Committee, at the institutional level, for monitoring the research using animals as a subject, and also, some Bio Safety Committee. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any plans to constitute a Genetic Safety Committee to monitor genetic research at the institutional level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, this new Bill, about which I just mentioned, covers the entire gamut. It also envisages a regulatory body. At the moment, it is at the nascent stage, establishment of Biomedical Research Authority, under which the Ethics Committee also would come. At the moment, the Ethics Committee is just in the form of guidelines. So, I totally agree that as in terms of the delay, Sir, if you permit me, I can answer that also.

SHRI P. RAJEEV: That is good further. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have answered the question.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, if Mahatma Gandhi can be made to reborn with all his genes, his quality, his honesty, his dedication, thoughts and simplicity, this will be a research and law worth having it. All of us... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: All of us who are going astray need guidance, maybe, through Mahatma Gandhi in a clone form. Any response from you?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: I have no doubt; the entire population of this world would like to become Mahatma Gandhi. But till such time, we only have to adopt his principles, which we all are trying to do, Sir.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually the genetic research is in its infancy stage and, therefore, there are not many regulations for its preservation. Now, the Health Ministry has converted one

unit of the Indian Council of Medical Research into a department headed by an officer of the Secretary level. They can now push for genetic research in India also. When the genome research was going on, India did not participate. That is the hindrance. I would like to know from the Minister what he proposes to do in the coming years to give a boost to genetic research.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, the hon. Member is a doctor and he had an illustrious innings in this particular Ministry. We have started a new department which is known as "Department of Health Research". Earlier many researches were taking place in this country. India is very proud, as far as knowledge is concerned. The entire world looks at India because this is a country of knowledge. But, unfortunately, that knowledge has not been channelised. Dr. Sahib was the one who had created the base when he was the Health Minister. Genome is something in which we have experts in this country. To answer this question, we already have a new department since September, 2007 and this department will channelise all the research which is taking place so that all the results can be coordinated.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, it is apprehended that genetic research seeds, which have been distributed with or without the knowledge of the Government, will affect the genome type of the Indian population. Is there any institutional mechanism to regulate the same?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, at the moment, there is no mechanism; there are only guidelines. Whenever we send some samples abroad for scientific study or diagnosis, it comes under these guidelines for exchange of human biological material for biological research purpose of 1997. But, again, I repeat that once we pass this particular Bill into an Act, your concern will be covered by that.

Railway projects in Rajasthan

*402. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:††

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that certain Railway projects, which were announced 10 years, 15 years and 20 years ago, are still incomplete in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extra amount spent by the Railways, project-wise, besides the cost of the original project due to the above delay; and

(d) by when these delayed projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania.

Statement

(a) and (b) There are two ongoing projects in Rajasthan which were taken up more than 10 years back. These include new line from Dausa-Gangapur City (92.6 kms) and Gauge Conversion of Sriganganagar-Sarupsar Canal loop (116 kms) both included in Budget 1997-98. However, for the later project the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was received in January, 2003.

(c) The original cost and latest anticipated cost of the above mentioned two projects is as under:—

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Original Cost at the time of inclusion in Budget (Rs in crore)	Latest anticipated Cost (Rs in crore)
1.	Dausa-Gangapur City new line	151.84	410.08
2.	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar Canal loop gauge conversion	47	168.80

Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources, as a result of which the projects take long time in completion. This coupled with other reasons e.g. escalation, change in standards of construction and technology, scope of the work and conditions of the areas etc. during the intervening period lead to increase in cost of projects.

(d) The aforesaid projects would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, my first query is: For delay and cost escalation, which has affected adversely the revenue of the State, was any inquiry held in respect of each project? Was anyone held accountable? Was anyone punished? This is my first query, your Honour?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I have already replied to the question in the statement laid on the Table of the House. The Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources, as a result of which the projects take a long time for completion. There are many such projects in the whole country. We have been trying to adjust the available resources to take up the projects and complete them as early as possible.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, a reply has not been given to my specific query. Has any inquiry been held? Has anyone been held responsible? Has anybody been punished? It is a travesty, your Honour. Rajasthan is only symptomatic. If the whole India figures are taken, then billions of dollars have been wasted only because of delay. Delay is as harmful in the completion

of projects as it is harmful in the decision of court cases also. It is something surprising. Why has somebody not been held accountable when the nation's money has been wasted?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I have mentioned that one reason is the limited availability of resources. There are some other reasons too like escalation, change in standard of construction and technology, scope of the work and conditions of the areas, etc. So far as these two projects are concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that there are certain reasons. This has not been taken up earlier because several clearances had to be obtained from the Government to start the work. It is not because of any default of an individual. For example, this new line Dausa-Gangapur City project was included in the Railway Budget of 1997-98, at the cost of Rs. 151.84 crores. The detailed estimate was sanctioned in May, 2002....(*Interruptions*)... The increase in the revised detailed estimate was 96.45 per cent. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 410.08 crores, instead of Rs. 151 crores. Due to the provision of....

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: This is all written here. There is no need of repeating it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask your second supplementary please.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, my second supplementary is ..

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Was it not his second supplementary?

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: No, it was not second supplementary. Sir, I had asked specifically....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary please.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: I am asking my second supplementary. I had asked specifically as to when these projects would be completed. Such a vague, dateless, timeless assurance has been given 'as per availability of resources'. If resources were not there, why were these projects announced? Why was such an assurance given to the public?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I would like to inform the hon. Member that these are not the only two projects that have been delayed in the country.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: This is the regret. Hundreds and hundreds of projects are there.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: There are many other projects also. I do admit that these projects have been delayed due to various reasons. Sir, I may be permitted to answer for the information of the hon. Member that these projects are pending for more than 10 years. In the country, four new lines and one M.T. project which were announced 20 years ago, are still incomplete. The total number is five. In the 15 to 20 years category, there are five new lines, five gauge conversions, one doubling and two electrification; there are 13 works. In the 10 to 15 years

category, there are 39 new lines, 22 gauge conversions, 9 doublings, etc. and the total is 72 works, all over the country. As a matter of fact, in Rajasthan, there are only two projects which have been delayed. If the hon. Member wants more details as to why it has been delayed, I have this information with me...

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Mr. Chairman, let him give the details to the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the details will be made available.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सभापति जी, यह सिर्फ राजस्थान का प्रश्न नहीं है, यह पूरे हिंदुस्तान का प्रश्न है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: पाणि जी, आप बैठ जाइए...(व्यवधान)...यह आपका प्रश्न नहीं है...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, proper answer is not coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, this is not your question. ...*(Interruptions)*... The answer is being given to the Member concerned.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given the information which is with me. That is all I can share with the hon. Members of the House. These are the reasons. In Rajasthan, the number of ongoing projects is 16, new lines — 4, gauge conversions — 7, doublings — 4, and RE-1, for which the Government has spent about Rs. 1,500 crores....

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, this information is not required. I have not asked for this information. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: In Rajasthan, works completed in the last 10 years new line — 111 kilometres, doubling — 55 kilometres, gauge conversion — 1199 kilometres for which Rs. 2,500 cores have already been spent. The total amount required for these projects in Rajasthan is about Rs. 3,200 crores. I do not know when the Government will be able to provide the funds. However, this year, in the Budget, Rs. 780.25 crores have been provided. So, Rajasthan is not neglected. Whatever money is allocated, it will also be made available to Rajasthan.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने दो लाइंस की चर्चा की है, जो 11 साल पहले शुरू हुई थीं और जिनकी date of completion गए बहुत समय हो गए। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उसी प्रकार राजस्थान में रामगंज मंडी से भोपाल, अजमेर से पुष्कर, दौसा से गंगापुर, भिलड़ी से संदरी, उदयपुर-हिम्मतनगर आमान परिवर्तन, अजमेर-फुलेरा, इन सब लाइनों की date चली गई। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ, उन्होंने resources की बात की, मुझे भी पीडब्ल्यूडी मिनिस्टर रहने का अवसर मिला था, कि क्या यह सम्भव नहीं है कि आप जब प्रोजेक्ट्स स्वीकृत करते हैं, तो date of completion स्वीकृत कर दीजिए और अगले सालों का बजट स्वीकृत कर दीजिए, बाकी बजट में शेष परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति दीजिए, तो देरी नहीं होगी? क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मैंने जिन लाइंस की चर्चा की है, उन्हें किस दिन, कौन से वर्ष में आप पूरी कर देंगे?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I do appreciate the hon. Member's concern and sentiment. But we also have, all over the country,...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, 'all over the country' का क्या मतलब है? हमें समझ में नहीं आता।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The supplementary is on Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)*... I understand it; the supplementary is on Rajasthan.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: As for projects pertaining to Rajasthan, which the hon. Member has also referred to, I would like to mention that in Rajasthan, the work on four new lines is in progress. If the hon. Member wants the details, I can give him one-by-one. But it is a lengthy one. Again, the gauge conversion work is going on in seven lines; like, Ajmer to Phulera...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, आपके मार्फत मेरा बड़ा specific सवाल है। क्या आप उनके जवाब से संतुष्ट हैं? वे तो सारा वर्णन बता रहे हैं कि उन्होंने क्या-क्या किया।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I will read out the entire thing...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can this information not be made available to the hon. Member?

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सर, ठीक है, वे information दे दें।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: If the hon. Member writes to me, I will give him ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: I have put a supplementary in the House? मंत्री महोदय, आप कमाल कर रहे हैं!

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Please permit me to read it out. I have the details with me. The new line,...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय मंत्री महोदय, मैंने केवल उनकी चर्चा की है, जो delayed हो गई हैं।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: The projects, which you have referred to, are in progress. I will not be able to say when it will be completed. But the work is in progress. I have already told you that about Rs. 780 crores have been allocated to Rajasthan ...*(Interruptions)*... If the hon. Member wants the details of each and every project, I will read out everything...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: I want a specific answer from you as to what the date of completion is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the specifics of the projects, which the hon. Member wanted to know, would be made available to him.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: If he wants to know any other thing also, I will give him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you...*(Interruptions)*... Just a minute, please. The hon. Members have read this question which relates to railway projects in Rajasthan. So, I will allow supplementaries on this specific subject. Shri Baishya, do you have a supplementary on railway projects in Rajasthan? If it is 'No', then, please don't ask...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry, please read the question. एक मिनट सुन लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप पूरी बात सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...। Mr. Baishya, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...
Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I want to know... ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट, पाणि जी ...(व्यवधान)... आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...। Mr. Baishya, please.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, चौदह दिन पहले मैंने आपके माध्यम से उड़ीसा के लिए जी.एम. की मांग की थी ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: देखिए एक मिनट आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...। आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, चौदह दिन हो गए हैं ...(व्यवधान)... ईस्ट कोस्ट जनरल मैनेजर के लिए हमने बोला था ...(व्यवधान)... सर, चौदह दिन पहले, in this House, through you, ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: पाणि जी, मेरी बात सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...। एक मिनट, मिस्टर वैश्य, प्लीज़, आप भी बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... साबिर अली साहब, आप भी जरा बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... देखिए, आप पहले सवाल की वर्डिंग्स देखिए। यह सवाल सिर्फ राजस्थान में रेलवे प्रोजेक्ट पर है, इसलिए जो सप्लीमेंटरीज़ होंगी, वे भी इसी पर होंगी। अगर किसी को राजस्थान के बारे में पूछना है, तभी प्रश्न पूछिए। Mr. Bagrodia, do you have a question on Rajasthan? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister mentioned about ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, मुझे लखनऊ के बारे में पूछना है ...(व्यवधान)...।

श्री सभापति: क्या वह राजस्थान में है?

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, मुझे चौदह दिन हो चुके हैं, in this House ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: सुनिए, सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज़, पाणि जी, देखिए इससे क्या फायदा होगा ...(व्यवधान)... नहीं-नहीं ...(व्यवधान)...।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: राजस्थान को बचने दो, भाई ...(व्यवधान)...।

श्री सभापति: देखिए, इससे क्या फायदा होगा ...(व्यवधान)... दूसरे मੈम्बर्स का समय वेस्ट हो रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए, प्लीज़ ...(व्यवधान)...।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: राजस्थान को बचने दो ...(व्यवधान)... मत मारो राजस्थान को ...(व्यवधान)... पाणि जी, प्लीज़ ...(व्यवधान)... आप चेयरमैन की बात सुनते ही नहीं हो ...(व्यवधान)...।

श्री सभापति: प्लीज़, आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Baishya, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would request you, please resume your place ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: आप चेयरमैन की रूलिंग नहीं सुनते हो ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not expected of you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Are you asking a question about Rajasthan? If it is on Rajasthan, you ask the question after him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Mr. Bagrodia. ...*(Interruptions)*... One at a time.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has mentioned about...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please resume your place? Now, Mr. Bagrodia. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us have the supplementary question. साहू जी, प्लीज़ ...(व्यवधान)...।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: सर, हम राजस्थान के बारे में पूछना चाहते हैं।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: चेयरमैन साहब बोल रहे हैं न, आपका भी नम्बर आएगा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़ ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned that there are projects which are beyond 10 years, 15 years and 20 years. Because of paucity of funds, they could not be completed. So, I would not ask him as to why more projects are not coming up in the State. We understand it. But, there are projects which are already there, like Udaipur-Delhi Chetak Express; another one, 2996, 2995, Ajmer-Udaipur City-Bandra. These trains are running only thrice a week. Can you make it daily? Similarly, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: This is not a question on railway projects. This is about railway. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This supplementary is not on railway projects. The question is about railway projects. ...(Interruptions).... Please read the question. It is about railway projects. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Railway projects? All right. I will ask the supplementary about railway projects. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Good. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I will abide by the ruling of the Chairman. Because he said that he could not do these projects, I thought I would ask a supplementary about, at least, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no;

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Regarding projects, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the State-wise data about rail network in the country, whether it...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask the supplementary about Rajasthan.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I have not completed. ...(Interruptions).... Let me complete my sentence. ...(Interruptions).... Sir, let me complete my sentence. ...(Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right; go ahead. ...(Interruptions).... Please, go ahead. ...(Interruptions)....

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, Rajasthan is the largest State in the country. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. How does it stand in comparison to railway network vis-a-vis other States, as far as the railway network is concerned? That is related to the railway network. I mean, this is...(Interruptions)....

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: सर, हम राजस्थान के बारे में पूछना चाहते हैं।

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, आपका नम्बर आएगा।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I would like to inform the hon. Member that Rajasthan is having the second largest rail network in the country; the first being UP. Rajasthan has 5802 kilometers and in Rajasthan there are around sixteen works which are now on-going and 8 works are completed. Rajasthan is given the largest consideration also which they rightly deserve to have it. It is such a big State and they have a lot of requirement and the Railway works have been going on. The only thing is, there is limited availability of the resources, especially in view of the fact that more projects are being taken up and more gauge conversion is required and the other requirement is railway development throughout the country. Therefore, whatever resources are available we will be taking up all these projects with the help of those resources and we will try to see as far as possible that the old projects are completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri. Please ask a supplementary on the question. Please don't go on a fishing expedition. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपकी बारी नहीं आई है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए।

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Sir, my question is very specific. सर, जो दोनों प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, वे 10 सालों से लम्बित पड़े हैं। इसके कारण देश को 370 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हो रहा है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले 10 सालों में से 5 साल एन.डी.ए. ने सरकार चलाई है और 5 साल यू.पी.ए. ने भी सरकार चलाई है ...*(व्यवधान)*... इस प्रकार इन 370 करोड़ में, ये दोनों इस पाप में हिस्सेदार हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इसकी enquiry के लिए कोई Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) बनाएँगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ। इसकी enquiry तो होनी चाहिए न? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप सुन लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सुन लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: इसके लेट होने के कारण का पता तो लगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: रेलवे बजट पर पूरा discussion इस सदन में हो चुका है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... मंत्री जी को बोलिए तो सही। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: थैंक यू। डा. प्रभा ठाकुर। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: सभापति जी, पर्यटन की दृष्टि से राजस्थान एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण राज्य है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगी कि जितने माननीय सांसदों ने यहाँ पूछा है, क्या उनको राजस्थान के बारे में इसकी पूरी जानकारी से अवगत कराने का कष्ट करेंगे कि 10 वर्ष, 15 वर्ष और 20 वर्षों पूर्व ऐसी कौन-कौन-सी रेलवे परियोजनाएँ हैं, जो घोषित की गईं, लेकिन उसके अनुसार पूरी नहीं की गई? वे कब तक पूरी की जाएँगी तथा उसके लिए कितने रुपए आवंटन का लक्ष्य आपने रखा है?

श्री सभापति: आप भी वही सवाल पूछ रही हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... जो अजमेर-पुष्कर रेलवे लाइन है, वह बहुत समय से लम्बित है ...*(व्यवधान)*... अजमेर को विश्वस्तरीय रेलवे स्टेशन बनाने की जो घोषणा की गई है, इस पर कब से कार्रवाई होगी? अजमेर से पुष्कर की जो रेलवे लाइन है, वह बहुत समय से लम्बित है। उस बारे में कब तक कार्रवाई पूरी होगी?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman Sir, I have a long list of work in progress in Rajasthan and also the work completed in Rajasthan. If you permit me it will be made available to the hon. Member.

Global recession in international market

*403. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:††

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government is working out a Rs. 62,000 crore financial plan for micro, small and medium enterprises to gain an edge in the international market, as many enterprises have closed down in the United States and European Union in the wake of global recession;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan;

(c) whether Skill Development Corporation has been set up with Rs. 1000 crore corpus to be topped up every year; and

(d) whether a national fund has been set up for the unorganized sector with a corpus of more than Rs. 1000 crore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There is no specific financial plan of Rs. 62,000 crore for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). For the promotion and development of MSMEs and to enhance their competitiveness, the Government is implementing a number of schemes/programmes, which include the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme and schemes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/skill development, etc. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India have also taken several recent measures to augment the credit flow to the MSMEs to address their credit needs.

(c) To coordinate and stimulate skill development efforts, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been constituted as a “not for profit” company under Section 25 of the Companies’ Act, 1956 with an initial authorised capital of Rs. 10 crore. In addition, the National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) has been registered as a Trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1982 to act as a receptacle for contributions from Government/multilateral and bilateral agencies/private sector organisations. A sum of Rs. 995.10 crore has been transferred from the Government Budget to the NSDF, in order to fund the schemes/programmes forwarded by the NSDC.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rajeev Shukla.

(d) A Fund for the Unorganised Sector with a corpus of Rs. 1,000 crore is under consideration.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, if I go through the reply of the Minister, he has said that there is no specific financial plan to support the micro, small and medium enterprises. But at the same time, he has said that several measures are being taken to enhance the competitiveness of the sector. I want to know from the hon. Minister because of global recession this is one area which is hardly hit. So, which are the major sectors in this area where actually recession has hit and what steps Government is planning to take to improve the situation?

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: माननीय सभापति जी, वैसे तो यह प्रश्न वित्त मंत्रालय के आधार पर पूछा गया है और कोलकता से निकलने वाले अखबार Financial Express में छपा है, उस के ऊपर से यह प्रश्न पूछा गया है। मेरे डिपार्टमेंट का तो इस से कोई संबंध है ही नहीं, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है तो उस में बहुत से उपाय सोचे गए हैं। सभापति जी, आज 2001-2002 के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक उद्यमों की संख्या 1 करोड़ 30 लाख है, रोजगारों की संख्या 4 करोड़ 20 लाख है, उत्पादन में योगदान 39 प्रतिशत है, निर्यात में योगदान 31 प्रतिशत है और जी.डी.पी. में योगदान 6 प्रतिशत है, लेकिन अभी 2006-2007 के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक उद्यमों की संख्या 2 करोड़ 7 लाख और रोजगारों की संख्या 5 करोड़ 90 लाख है। उस में बढ़ावा होने की वजह से प्राइम मिनिस्टर रोजगार सृजन योजना और रिजर्व बैंक के साथ मिलकर यह योजना बनायी गयी है।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आप कृपया यह बताएं कि कौन-कौन से क्षेत्र, कौन-कौन से उद्योग प्रभावित हुए हैं?

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: सभापति महोदय, गेम्स, रेडीमेड गारमेंट्स, आभूषण, रत्न, diamonds, leather, furniture, automobiles के उद्योग प्रभावित हुए हैं और जो export oriented items ज्यादा प्रभावित हुए हैं। इस की वजह से 16.6 परसेंट डॉलर्स भी कम मिले हैं।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: मान्यवर, भारतीय बाजार चीनी सामान से पटे पड़े हैं और उस का सब से ज्यादा असर लघु उद्योगों पर पड़ रहा है। महोदय, छोटे-छोटे manufacturers सब से ज्यादा प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। हालांकि सरकार ने कुछ कदम उठाए हैं और कुछ चीनी सामानों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उन का मंत्रालय इस बारे में Commerce Ministry से बात करेगा कि इस क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए और जो चीनी सामान भारतीय लघु उद्योग को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं, उन के ऊपर रोक लगायी जाए?

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: माननीय सभापति महोदय, वैसे तो 60 साल के बाद भी आज लोगों की परदेशी माल, यू.एस.ए. मार्का, made in England मार्का सामान में ज्यादा रुचि होती है। Made in India वाला सामान लोगों को, सभी को कम रुचिकर लगता है। सर, चाइना वाली बात भी है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: सर, ऐसा नहीं है। यह सही नहीं है...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, this is not the fact. There are many people who prefer Indian goods. मंत्री जी, आप के पास लोगों की सोच का सही अनुमान नहीं है(व्यवधान).... Maybe, he can speak for the Government. He cannot speak on behalf of the people. ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: मैं आप को नहीं कह रहा हूं। मैं लोगों की रुचि बता रहा हूं कि आज लोग ...(व्यवधान).... मैं भी लोगों में से आता हूं ...(व्यवधान).... मुझे भी लोग चुनकर भेजते हैं।

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: मैं पार्लियामेंट का मॅबर हूं तो लोगों की सोच से ही आता हूं ना। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री बलवीर पुंज: सर, वे सरकार की तरफ से यह स्टेटमेंट दे सकते हैं, लोगों की तरफ से यह ठीक नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, प्लीज ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please allow the answer to proceed ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज, प्लीज।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा: यह लोगों की तरफ से कैसे कह सकते हैं।

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: सर, मैं यह इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि * मैं यह इसलिए कह रहा हूँ और अगर आप को इस में कोई बात गलत लगे तो इस को नहीं मानिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं वही कह रहा हूँ। मुझे सुनिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer the question.

श्री विक्रम वर्मा: सर, मंत्री जी अपनी सोच लोगों पर नहीं थोप सकते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सी.पी. ठाकुर: सर, इसे delete कराइए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever is inappropriate will be deleted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of Opposition.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: If you kindly analyse the Minister's reply, the Minister is saying that India is a perpetual violator of intellectual property of other countries. We have a city called * This is going to be used against us on various international fora. Your Minister has admitted on the floor of the House, 'we are perpetual violator of IPR.' ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, आप बैठ जाइये। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: This is no trivial manner of answering questions. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: जेटली साहब, मैं तो Short Form बोल रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you allow the House to proceed? ...**(Interruptions)**... आप सिर्फ इनके सवाल का जवाब दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please. ...**(Interruptions)**... जो सवाल पूछा गया है, आप केवल उसका जवाब दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: सदस्य ने चाइना की बात की है तो मैं यही बता रहा हूँ कि anti-dumping के लिए जो application आती है, उसके बारे में Ministry of Commerce जरूर सोचती है और अगर ऐसी बात हमारे पास आयेगी तो भी हम Commerce Ministry से बात करके उसके बारे में आगे कुछ करेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister's remarks must be expunged. ...**(Interruptions)**... They can't go on record. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair will look at the remarks and if inappropriate, due action will be taken.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Indian economy, the small, medium and micro enterprises have a very important role to play. In fact, during the unprecedented global crisis in the economy, our hon. Prime Minister gave a call to the entire Indian industry to convert global crisis into an opportunity for India. So, I would like to know in this background, keeping in view the hundred days' target, what efforts he is going to make so that small-scale, medium and micro enterprises would be able to achieve the best results. Though banking sector doesn't come under him, but it is his responsibility to involve the Finance Ministry and the banking sector to give more help to the medium and minor enterprises. Sir, normally, from the reports what we see is that they give assistance only to the big industrialists, big people and not to the small people. So, you must make an effort to see that they give assistance to small people also. This is what I want to know.

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बताया है, उसके बारे में भी कोशिश की गई है और प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार सृजन योजना जो 2009-10 में शुरू की गई है, उसमें भी भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक 2008-09 के दौरान सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों से सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्योगों को लगभग 64000 करोड़ रुपये का अतिरिक्त लोन मिला है, जोकि 25.7 परसेंट की वृद्धि दर्शाता है। जो पहले सूक्ष्म उद्योगों को दिया जाता था, अब मध्यम उद्योगों को भी 24000 करोड़ रुपये ज्यादा दिया गया है। प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार सृजन योजना में भी ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को लाभ मिले, इसलिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि यह योजना सभी स्टेट्स में लागू हो। इसमें सामान्य वर्ग के लिए 10 परसेंट, इनवेस्टमेंट के सामने परियोजना की सब्सिडी 15 परसेंट है और यह ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में 25 परसेंट है। अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए 5 परसेंट, इनवेस्टमेंट पर 25 परसेंट सब्सिडी और गांवों में 35 परसेंट की सब्सिडी दी जाती है। इस प्रकार, उनको बढ़ावा देने के लिए पूरी कोशिश की जाती है।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I have seen the reply given by the hon. Minister. I admit that skill development is of dire necessity. The Government has created the National Skill Development Council. But the Government is not depending on this. It is transferring the responsibility of this Government Corporation to a trust called NSDF. The first part of my supplementary is, why do they do so?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one supplementary, please.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I am raising only one supplementary. Why is there no scheme to provide the skill development skills in the large North-Eastern region so far as the khadi and village industry is concerned.

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल: माननीय सभापति महोदय, कौशल विकास प्रयासों के समन्वय एवम उन्हें प्रेरित करने के लिए कम्पनी अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 25 के तहत 10 करोड़ रुपये की आरम्भिक प्राकृतिक पूंजी से राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम का "लाभ हेतु नहीं" कम्पनी के रूप में गठन किया गया है। इसके अलावा राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास फंड को भी भारतीय ट्रस्ट अधिनियम 1982 के तहत सरकार बहुपक्षीय, द्विपक्षीय एजेंसियों, निजी क्षेत्र संगठनों से अंशदान प्राप्ति कर्ता के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए पंजीकृत किया गया है। एनएसडीसी द्वारा अग्रेषित योजनाओं ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, he has repeated the same thing that is ...
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. He is answering a question. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: There is a Government corporation. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, he is repeating the same thing that is given in the statement. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल: सर, कम्पनी एक्ट के आधार पर यह किया गया है और उसमें सरकार तथा और लोग भी जुड़ सकें, इसलिए 51:49 की वजह से यह किया गया है। अगर 51% हो जाएगा तो सरकारी हो जाएगा, निजी लोगों को इसमें कोई फायदा ही नहीं मिलेगा। इसलिए निजी लोगों को साथ जोड़ने के लिए कम्पनी एक्ट की वजह से 49:51 से यह काम किया जाता है।

DR. (SHRIMATI) KAPILA VATSYAYAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is apropos of the reply given by the Minister that Indians prefer foreign goods. May I ask the Minister whether there is any statistical report on the preference of Indians for foreign goods and a *tilaanjali* of all that Mahatma Gandhi, Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya and Rukmani Devi stood for? And, do the Members of the Rajya Sabha wear only imported clothes? ... (Interruptions)...

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्या का प्रश्न वैसे तो इससे relevant ही नहीं है। इसके साथ यह relevant नहीं है ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is relevant to the statement made by you. ... (Interruptions) ... It is totally relevant. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री बलबीर पुंज: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल: अभी मेरे पास इसकी कोई जानकारी नहीं है, अगर माननीय सदस्या मुझे नोटिस देंगी तो मैं जानकारी उन्हें दे दूंगा। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: श्री महेन्द्र मोहन।

श्री बलबीर पुंज: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है ... (व्यवधान) ... बिल्कुल relevant है।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि कौशल विकास प्रयासों के लिए जो कम्पनी बनाई गई है, राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम और राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास फंड, इससे जो सहायता दी जा रही है, उससे कितने उद्योगों को उन्होंने पुनर्जीवित किया है? क्योंकि, सवाल वहीं पर आ जाता है कि implementation part पर कोई कार्य नहीं होता, केवल इन्हें बना दिया जाता है। 1,000 करोड़ रुपए के कॉरपस की निधि विचाराधीन है, तो यह कब से विचाराधीन है, यह बतलाने का कष्ट करें?

श्री सभापति: आप कृपया एक ही सवाल पूछिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: मेरे एक ही सवाल के दो भाग हैं कि यह जो निधि बनाई जा रही है, यह निधि कब तक बना दी जाएगी और जो कम्पनी बनाई गई है, उससे कितने उद्योगों को, कितने number of industries को लाभ पहुंचाया गया है, जिससे कि उनका पुनरुद्धार हो सके और वे अपनी स्ट्रीमलाइन में प्रोडक्शन पर आएँ?

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल: सर, Tailoring and Readymade Garments का percentage 14.71% है, Food Products का 12.41%, Fabricated and Metal Products 8.5%, वस्त्र 6.49%, Furniture 5.69%, Machinery Equipment 4.9% और जो पहले बताया गया है, उद्योगों की बात की गई है तो रिजर्व बैंक और SIDBI के साथ बात करने के बाद जो हुआ, उससे भी उद्योगों में बढ़ावा आया है। 2007 में जो बंद उद्योग थे, उनकी संख्या 1,32,081 थे, मगर इन सभी प्रयासों की वजह से 2008 में उनकी संख्या 99,941 रह गई और इसमें 28% की कमी हुई है। इसलिए कौशल जो बनाया है, उसमें भी जैसा मैंने बोला कि 4.9 और 5.1 के प्राइवेट की वजह से करीब 10 करोड़ राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम और राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास फंड भी दिया गया है, इससे हमारा जो माइक्रो, लघु और मध्यम उद्योग है, उसमें बढ़ावा होगा और इसी तरीके से यह योजना एप्लाइ हो जाएगी।

Failure of NRHM in achieving targets

*404. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:††
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has failed to achieve its targets in the last few years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor: and

(c) the manner in which the various targets are sought to be achieved during the current year?

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

Statement

(a) No. In fact the success of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been validated not only through internal monitoring systems but also through external Surveys and Review Missions. **In fact the Second Common Review Mission has confirmed that NRHM has galvanized the public sector health system in every State, leading to higher Out Patient Department cases (OPD), In Patient Department cases (IPD), institutional delivery and improved coverage of immunization, diagnostics and ambulance services.**

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The achievement of a programme has to be seen on outcome indicators, process indicators, physical and financial progress over a given period. On all of these parameters, the performance of the NRHM over the last four years has been very positive. This is confirmed by external validation by the Registrar General of India and the District Level Household and Facility Survey carried out by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, in 2007-08.

The status in brief is as follows:—

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya.

(i) Outcome indicators:

	Baseline	Current Progress	Target
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) (as per Sample Registration Survey (SRS))	301 (2001-03)	254 (2004-06)	100 by 2012
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) (as per SRS)	58 (2005)	55 (2007)	30 by 2012
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) (as per SRS)	2.9 (2004)	2.7 (2007)	2.1 by 2012
Institutional Delivery (as per District Level Household Survey) (DLHS)	40.9% (2002-04)	47% (2007-08)	80% by 2012
Immunization (as per DLHS)	45.9% (2002-04)	54.1% (2007)	Full immunization by 2012

(ii) Process indicators:

	Target as per framework document	Achievement as per DLHS (2007-08)
Village Health Committee	30% by 2007	29.2%
2nd Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) with Sub Centres*	30% by 2007	19.8%
Primary Health Centres (PHCs) 24 x 7	As per time line, 30% by 2007	53.1%

*The positioning of 2nd ANM is related to availability of human resources. Clearly more time is needed in States where ANM schools had closed down and human resource capacity is inadequate.

(iii) Financial progress:

	2004-05	2006-07	2008-09	Target
Public Expenditure on Health GDP	0.97%	1.27%	1.41%	2 - 3%
as percentage of GDP				by 2012

(iv) Physical progress as on 15.5.09:

ASHA	Village Health and Sanitation Committee	Joint A/C at Sub centre	24 x 7 facility	First referral unit
Selection	Training			
6,96,044	5,81,391	4,01,938	3,18,281	12,785
				2,373

Doctors and Specialists	AYUSH				beneficiaries (In lakhs)
	Doctors	Staff Nurse	Para medics	ANM	
9,172	5,321	22,789	5,428	39,633	186.83

The achievements of NRHM are very significant. Health being a State subject, the Mission allows for a partnership with States to achieve health goals. It has tried to address the issues based on understanding of the problem by the States and their demand. While a lot remains to be done in the field of Primary Health Care, it is also true that a lot has been achieved over the last four years. In any case, public health is a *marathon and not a sprint*.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: सभापति जी, संपूर्ण देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में गरीब और असुरक्षित वर्ग के लोगों को प्रभावकारी प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य सुविधा मुहैया कराने के लिए राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन योजना शुरू की गई है, जो कुछ राज्यों में काफी अच्छी तरह से चल रही है, लेकिन अभी भी कुछ राज्यों में यह योजना ठीक तरह से नहीं चल रही है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या आप इसका evaluation करवाते हैं? दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि जो NGOs इसमें काम कर रहे हैं, क्या उनकी मॉनीटरिंग करने की कोई व्यवस्था है? मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के “ग” भाग के जवाब में बताया है कि ANM का 2007 का जो निर्धारित लक्ष्य था, उस लक्ष्य की तुलना में, उसकी प्राप्ति बहुत कम है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगी कि ये लक्ष्य कब तक प्राप्त कर लिए जाएंगे?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, the hon. Member has, rightly, pointed out that this programme has achieved its objectives, but we have a long way to go. I have no hesitation in accepting that, but, at the same time, we cannot even overlook the achievements, which we have made. Not only us — you take any parameter of the achievements of the National Rural Health Mission — but also the people coming from outside are saying that this is a unique programme. As far as the NGOs are concerned, this programme encourages not only at the Centre and the State level but also at the community level. So, it is a great *sangam* of all of them. So, NGOs do come at the community level. As far as the monitoring of the NGOs is concerned, the entire programme is monitored.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के “ग” भाग के बारे में, ANM के 2007 के निर्धारित लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के बारे में पूछे गए सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल का जवाब फिर भी नहीं दिया है। मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि इस योजना के अंतर्गत गांवों में जो ASHA workers लगाई जाती हैं, उनके दो उद्देश्य हैं — एक तो गांवों के अंदर लोगों को अच्छी स्वास्थ्य सुविधा मिले और साथ ही ASHA workers को जीवनयापन के लिए कुछ पैसा मिले, लेकिन उनको कमीशन के आधार पर रखा जाता है। अब होता यह है कि कमीशन बहुत कम है और कुछ लोग सीधे हॉस्पिटल चले जाते हैं या घर पर ही डिलीवरी करवा लेते हैं, इसकी वजह से उन ASHA workers को कमीशन नहीं मिलता है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि जिस तरह से family health worker को रखा जाता है, उसी तरह से क्या वे ASHA workers को regular basis पर रखे जाने की कोई योजना बना रहे हैं, ताकि वे अपना जीवनयापन कर सकें? कुछ राज्यों में ASHA workers के लिए जो पैसे दिए जाते हैं, वे ASHA workers पर नहीं लगाए जाते हैं, बल्कि दूसरी योजनाओं पर खर्च कर दिए जाते हैं, जैसे कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में किया जाता है, तो इस बारे में आप क्या कदम उठाना चाहते हैं?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, as far as the ASHA workers are concerned, first of all, let me take this opportunity to compliment them. It is a huge exercise and they are not paid commission; they are paid incentives. Incentives are paid to all the ASHA workers in a uniform manner. As far as the question of Himachal Pradesh is concerned, Sir, you will appreciate that Health itself is a State subject and we cannot really force any State to do, but we encourage the States to come into all the uniformity programmes.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, the outlay for the health sector in the Budget has almost entirely gone to the National Rural Health Mission, yet, Sir, the Report indicates that there are many gaps and shortages as far infrastructure is concerned. So, right from the sub-centres to the Primary Health Centres to the Community Health Centres, these shortages seem to be increasing rather than the gap reducing. In fact, the situation is quite alarming and many health centres do not have even labour rooms or operation theatres. So, how does the Minister propose to ensure health for the common man unless he addresses the gap in the health infrastructure?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I am not trying to escape the answer, but I am just trying to tell you the reality. The reality is that this entire implementation is totally dependent on the State. As far as the Centre is concerned, they encourage the State. They oversee the thing and wherever the State requires some kind of assistance, that is where we give the assistance. But, as far as the outlay is concerned, I must mention if you take the Tenth Five Year Plan, and compare it with the Eleventh Five Year Plan, there has been an increase of 217 per cent on this programme.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: महोदय, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री की क्षमताओं पर बिना कोई टिप्पणी किए हुए, मैं इस विषय की गंभीरता को देखते हुए माननीय कैबिनेट मंत्री जी का ध्यान चाहूंगा। पहले तो मैं आपको साधुवाद दूंगा कि आपने तथ्यों को बड़ी ईमानदारी से रखा है और अगर आप प्रश्न के उत्तर के दूसरे भाग को देखें, तो बहुत चिंताजनक स्थिति है। आपने Infant Mortality का टारगेट 2005 में यानी baseline में 58 फिक्स किया है और 2007 में 55 फिक्स किया है, तो 2012 तक यह 30 कैसे होगा? Immunization में आपने 2002 में 45.9% बताया है, वह पांच साल बाद यानी 2007 में 54.1% है, तो मात्र तीन साल बाद यानी 2012 में आप पूर्ण immunization की बात कैसे करते हैं? यह चिंता होती है। अगर भारत का बचपन इतना कमजोर होगा, तो मजबूत बुनियाद कैसे होगी? माननीय मंत्री जी, मैं जानता हूँ कि स्वास्थ्य राज्य का विषय है, लेकिन फिर भी इस विषय की गंभीरता को देखते हुए, जब हिन्दुस्तान में दुनिया के सबसे अधिक कमजोर बच्चे हैं, मजबूर बच्चे हैं, तो आप इसके लिए क्या सार्थक प्रयास कर रहे हैं, ताकि यह टारगेट प्रमाणिकता से प्राप्त किया जा सके?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत ही अच्छा प्रश्न पूछा है और जिस गंभीरता से इन्होंने इसको लिया है, उसी गंभीरता से हमने भी लिया है। सबसे पहले NRHM का कोई भी प्रोग्राम हो, चाहे वह infrastructure से संबंधित हो या manpower बढ़ाने की बात हो या MMR हो या IMR हो, इनको बढ़े सख्त मोनिटरिंग की जरूरत है तथा सेंटर और स्टेट के बीच coordination की आवश्यकता है। साथ ही यह भी देखने में आया है कि जब से, यानी पिछले तीन-चार वर्षों से, सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने यह intervention शुरू किया और यह सिर्फ इसी में नहीं दिखता है, बल्कि आप यह रोड में भी देखेंगे कि जब गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया, चाहे वह आपकी सरकार के जमाने में शुरू की गई हो, जैसे Golden Quadrilateral या उसके बाद हम लोग बिल्कुल गांव तक पहुंचने की बात की, तब से लोग समझते हैं कि अच्छा अब यह गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया ने लिया

है, तो हमारी जिम्मेदारी खत्म हो गई है। इसी तरह से, जब से NRHM के द्वारा गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया ने पैसे की वजह से या infrastructure create करने की वजह से या दूसरी facilities देने की वजह से intervention शुरू किया, तब से मुझे जो लगता है और जो मैं देख रहा हूँ कि आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता the State Governments are trying to chicken out of this, to wriggle out of this. कुछ राज्य जो अपनी जिम्मेदारी समझते हैं कि हमारे पास इतना काम था, सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट की वजह से और इसको धक्का देंगे तथा इसको पूरा करेंगे। वह सोचते हैं कि अच्छा जो चल रहा था, अब उसको यह पूरा ही करेगा, इसलिए हम और किसी तरफ जाएंगे। आपने जिस तरह से फरमाया, मैं सिर्फ इसी में नहीं कह रहा हूँ, इसके बाद जो हमारा इंटर सेशन काल होगा, मैं अपने सभी ऑफिसर्स की टीम के साथ सभी राज्यों में जा रहा हूँ और उन राज्य सरकारों पर यह अनिवार्य करना चाहता हूँ कि हम आपकी मदद के लिए आए हैं कि हमारे पूरे हेल्थ सेक्टर की जो हालत है, उसको हमें तुरंत ठीक करना है, न कि सौ साल के बाद ठीक करना है। इसके लिए तमाम प्रयास किए जाएंगे। यह सिर्फ न केवल एक चीज के लिए होगा, बल्कि जितने भी हेल्थ से संबंधित विषय हैं, उन सभी के लिए होगा।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सभापति महोदय, पहले पूरे तौर पर ट्रेंड हेल्थ कर्मी गांव में काम कर रहे थे, वे कुछ दवाइयां भी देते थे और उनको सम्मानित भत्ता भी मिलता था। उन्हें 2002 में बंद कर दिया गया। वे ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य कर्मी आज भी हैं। सरकार ने नेशनल रूरल हेल्थ मिशन चालू किया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस मिशन में ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य कर्मी को लगा करके इसे और effectively चालू किया जा सकता है, क्या इस तरह की सरकार की कोई व्यवस्था है?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, एनआरएचएम में एक ढांचा बना है और वह पूरे देश के लिए है। अलग-अलग राज्यों का अलग-अलग सिस्टम है। मेरे पास अभी केरल के 12-13 एमपीज़ एक डेलीगेशन लेकर आए थे। उनके कुछ employees हैं, जो 2000 से ज्यादा हैं और जिनकी आठ-दस साल से *ad-hoc* बेसिज़ पर appointment है। इसी तरह से जम्मू-कश्मीर में बहुत सारे लोग हैं जो *ad-hoc* appointment पर काम करते हैं। वे उन सबको एनआरएचएम में डालना चाहते हैं। एनआरएचएम में एक सिस्टम बना है कि डिस्ट्रिक्ट लैवल पर कौन से गैप हैं, जिनको हम पूरा कर सकते हैं — चाहे वह डॉक्टर हो, स्पेशलिस्ट हो, सीएचसी लैवल पर या प्राइमरी हेल्थ सेंटर लैवल पर हो। Indian Public Health Standards ने जो Standards निर्धारित किए हैं, उसमें जो गैप रहता है — डिस्ट्रिक्ट लैवल पर, तहसील लैवल पर, ब्लॉक लैवल पर और प्राइमरी हेल्थ सेंटर लैवल पर — वही गैप हम पूरा कर सकते हैं। पूरे हेल्थ सिस्टम को चलाने के लिए स्टेप की जो अलग-अलग स्कीम्स हैं, उनके संबंध में हमारे पास कोई प्रोविज़न नहीं है। वह राज्य सरकारों को ही देखना पड़ेगा।

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, there are highest number of cancer patients at Barpeta in Assam. Every year, for Cancer treatment, thousands of patients have to go outside, to places like Mumbai, Vellore etc. Will the Health Minister do something with a view to support and take care of the rural people and their health? Sir, in this region, they are not having facilities for treatment of cancer. Will the Government take care of this aspect?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: आप NRHM से कैसर पर कहां चले गए।

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, NRHM means rural healthcare, which includes cancer treatment. So, there should be specific super-speciality hospital in Assam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please finish your question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it is like an epidemic in my District. Thousands of patients are going to Mumbai and Vellore every year. This is like an epidemic. So, we need special super-speciality cancer treatment centre at Barpeta. Will the Government take care of this aspect?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, it is true that the cancer is increasing in our country, and, if one goes to Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, you will find more rush than that on the railway station of Delhi or Mumbai. You have to reach to the Doctor over the heads of few thousand people. So, one has to go deep into this problem, and, I personally feel that unless we have, in each State capital a Tata-like institution, I do not think, we are going to come to any conclusion. Particularly, so far as the North-Eastern States are concerned, the Eastern and North-Eastern States are the ones who are really feeling the pinch of it because they have to go all the way to Mumbai for the treatment. We have some centres at the State capital, but we do not have them at the District level or sub-divisional level.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, आप एम्स का काम पूरा करा दीजिए, बहुत समय से पेंडिंग है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप मंत्री बन गए हैं तो जो 6 एम्स हैं, उनका काम आप पूरा करा दीजिए।

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, our point is that the ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए। उन्हें समाप्त कर लेने दीजिए। Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is answering the question. Dr. Sahib, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, according to the report of the World Health Organisation, maximum number of cancer patients are coming from the...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya, it is not your turn. ...*(Interruptions)*... Have you finished your answer, Mr. Minister?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 405.

CAG on wasteful expenses made by FCI

*405. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:††

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

(a) whether CAG has recently pointed out several discrepancies in expenses incurred by the Food Corporation of India (FCI);

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

(c) whether there is a need to revamp the functioning of FCI and to bring in transparency;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Shobhana Bhartia.

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed on FCI officials who have made wasteful expenses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to prevent such wasteful expenses in future?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CAG has in its report No. CA 24 of 2009-10 laid in the Parliament on 9th July, 2009 pointed out certain discrepancies in expenses incurred by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The observations relate to undue benefit to Roller Flour Mills and Atta Chakkies, excess reimbursement of transportation charges, unjustified payment of work based wages to labour, avoidable expenditure on transportation, failure to recover the value of short/damaged gunny bales, extra expenditure on advertisement, excess recovery of interest charges, wasteful expenditure due to hiring of a private godown and irregular expenditure due to purchase of new vehicles.

As per the laid down procedure the action taken note duly vetted by the C and AG on these paras will be furnished to the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) for their examination.

(c) With a view to improve the working of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had engaged M/s. McKinsey and Co. in November, 2004 to undertake a study of FCI. The main objective of the study was to bring about efficiency improvement in the FCFs functioning.

The major improvement initiatives recommended by M/s McKinsey and Co. are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Responsibility is fixed on FCI officials for wasteful expenditure. The details of disciplinary action taken against officials found responsible on account of wasteful expenditure in the last three years and current year are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(f) The details of the action taken by FCI to prevent such wasteful expenses in future are given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Major improvement initiatives recommended by M/s McKinsey and Co. for FCI

- (i) Financial restructuring through multi-tiered debt structure to reduce the interest burden;
- (ii) Network optimization through linear programming of Rail Movement (Grain Flow Management);

- (iii) Consolidation of Handling and Transport Contracts;
- (iv) Changes in use and sourcing pattern of gunny bags;
- (v) Cost reduction by direct procurement of foodgrains and exclusion of intermediates;
- (vi) Exploring avenues for revenue generation by optimum utilization of all existing assets like godowns;
- (vii) More cost effective and efficient utilization of human resources through rationalization, automation and better Performance Management System (People Management System);
- (viii) Smart Trading approach for global trading in foodgrains;
- (ix) Creation of Price Monitoring Cell;
- (x) Management of operational costs;
- (xi) Management of idle Assets;
- (xii) Vigilance Administration and;
- (xiii) Performance review through defined parameters and fixation of accountability.

Statement-II

Details of disciplinary action taken against officials on account of wasteful expenditure

Year	Disciplinary action initiated	Disciplinary action concluded and penalty imposed
2006	16	6
2007	11	11
2008	15	3
2009 (up to June)	3	—

Remarks

The disciplinary cases yet to be completed are pending with either Inquiry Officer or want of second stage advice from CVC.

Statement-III

Details of remedial action taken by the FCI to check wasteful expenditure

- (i) Two bid tender system is being followed to have a level playing field and to have transparency.
- (ii) Wide publicity to all Notice Inviting Tenders (NITs) to generate fair competition. The tender notices are also uploaded on FCI website to create competition.

- (iii) Placing results of tenders awarded with names of the successful tenderers and rates etc. on website to ensure transparency.
- (iv) Examination of
 - (a) Internal Audit Report
 - (b) CAG Audit Report
 - (c) Observations of inspections by Chief Technical Examiner of CVC.
- (v) In-Depth study of
 - (a) Handling and Transport Contracts.
 - (b) Purchase procedures in FCI
- (vi) Monitoring Progress of disposal of complaints and vigilance cases.
 - (a) Surveillance of officers with doubtful Integrity. These officers are not posted in sensitive positions to avoid any scope of corruption.
- (vii) Use of computers, payment through ECS, restrictions on payment in cash.
- (viii) Up-gradation of mechanical weighbridges to Electronic Weighbridges.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA: Sir, I would like to compliment the Minister for the very, very exhaustive answer and also for asking McKinsey to come and give open-ended suggestions on how best the FCI can improve its efficiency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please. We are running out of time.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA: Sir, with that in mind, the Minister has stated that amongst the recommendations of McKinsey is smart trading approach for global trading in foodgrains. I would like to ask the Minister: is the Foodgrain Management Policy now open to buying from the international market as and when there is a need, realising that the volatility in the international market has reduced and we have sufficient foreign exchange reserves.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we have to protect the interests of farmers and in such a situation it is difficult to accept the suggestion to allow or make open-ended import of anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of power plant at Nabinagar, Bihar

*406. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when was it proposed to form a joint venture with NTPC for setting up of a 1000 MW power plant at Nabinagar, Bihar;

(b) the original project schedule for completion and commissioning of the project; and

(c) the present status of the project, viz. construction and tentative date of commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with NTPC on 18.2.2002 for exploring possibilities of setting up Joint Venture Captive Power Plant. Indian Railways have formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company on 22.11.2007 in Joint Venture with NTPC for setting up 1000 MW capacity power plant at Nabinagar.

(b) The original project scheduled for completion and commissioning was by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) The Contract of main plant (Steam and Turbine) has been placed on 22.01.2008. Out of 1400 Acre land, 750 Acre land has been acquired on date and balance is expected to be acquired by the end of October, 2009. The plant is expected to be operational by beginning of Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Present status of Kuttanad package in Kerala

*407. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority has approved the Kuttanad package in Kerala based on the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Report;

(b) if so, the present status including the schemes sanctioned and the schemes suggested for redrafting;

(c) whether the unique ecosystem prevailing in the Kuttanad area will be considered and the report will be taken as a package for the purpose of implementation;

(d) if so, whether special assistance for implementation of the package will be granted with reasonably relaxed guidelines; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system.

(b) Government of Kerala has so far submitted 41 projects amounting to Rs. 399.11 crores under Kuttanad package. Ministry of Environment and Forests has sanctioned one project relating to measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters involving an amount of Rs. 37.85 lakhs of which Rs. 15.75 lakh has been released during 2008-09. Ministry of Water Resources has approved a research study by IIT, Chennai involving amount of Rs. 35 lakh for

studying the “Modernization of Thanneermukkom Bund and for improving the efficiency of Thottappally Spillway” in June, 2009. Government of Kerala has been requested to revise the projects in respect of 11 projects involving amount of Rs. 166.25 crore to make it in conformity with the extant guidelines of the schemes of Government of India under which the project is proposed to be funded. Government of Kerala has been advised to place one proposal relating to agriculture mechanization involving an amount of Rs. 85.00 crore before the State Level Sanctioning Committee under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for consideration. Government of Kerala has recently submitted 5 revised projects involving amount of Rs. 105.65 crore to the concerned Ministries/Department of Government of India for consideration. 16 projects involving amount of Rs. 22.70 crore relating to development of livestock and Fisheries activities require certain clarifications from the Government of Kerala. On receipt of clarifications, these project proposals will be placed before the Empowered Committee of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for approval of deviations from the prescribed guidelines of the concerned schemes. In respect of one project involving Rs. 91.53 crore relating to irrigation and water resources development, Government of Kerala has been advised to prepare the project proposal in an integrated manner covering entire river basin or a tributary or a major segment of the river/region, as the case may be and forward one set of project to Central Water Commission (CWC) for techno economic appraisal. After obtaining technical clearances from CWC, the proposals are to be submitted through CWC conforming to detailed guidelines after obtaining all mandatory clearances of Planning Commission and making necessary budget provision in annual budget (for central as well as state’s share) for availing central assistance under Flood Management Programme. Further, Government of Kerala has been requested to provide certain clarifications in respect of 7 projects involving amount of Rs. 29.25 crore.

(c) to (e) MSSRF was assigned the study for preservation and development of Kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district with a request to make specific recommendations on strengthening of the ecological security of the Kuttanad wetland Eco-system and expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities for the people of the area. The approved package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system is based on the recommendations made by the MSSRF. The programmes/interventions under the approved package are to be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India within their existing schemes and funding pattern. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has a mechanism to approve certain acceptable deviations from the existing schemes for programmes/interventions relating to livestock and fisheries sector proposed under the package. No further relaxation to the guidelines of extant schemes of Government of India is envisaged for implementation of approved programmes/interventions. Government of Kerala, after identifying the programmes/interventions to be undertaken under the package is to submit Detailed Project Reports for such programmes/interventions to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the

Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for sanction and release of necessary funds. The approved package also stipulates that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs. 50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

Quality testing of food served in hotels and dhabas

† *408. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the test of the quality of food served at hotels and dhabas is not carried out by Government from time to time;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of the survey carried out by the Indian Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow in 2008 according to which dye Sudan-I and Sudan- 4, which are dangerous for health, have been used to adulterate red chilly powder used in several dhabas; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government against the companies producing adulterated spices and dhabas which use them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food Health Authorities of the State/U.T. Governments. The enforcement staff of the Food Health Authorities draw random samples of different food articles from all sources viz. manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and also from hotels and dhabas and get them analysed to see whether the samples confirm to the standards laid down under the PFA Rules, 1955 and other provisions of PFA Act, 1954.

Survey studies conducted at Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow, showed presence of harmful dyes, Sudan-1 and Sudan-4 in non-branded loose chilly powder samples with a range of 0.2-11.7 mg./g. but none of the branded chilly powder samples were found to contain these dyes. None of these chilly powder samples were taken from dhabas/hotels.

Action against persons engaged in such adulteration of food items is taken by the concerned State Governments under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954.

Adverse effect of less rain in agricultural production

† *409. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production is likely to be affected adversely due to shortage of rainfall in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government has made any assessment to ascertain the likely fall in agricultural production due to shortage of rainfall;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the details of economic losses likely to be suffered by States as a result thereof;
- (e) whether Government proposes to provide any economic assistance to the affected States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Agriculture production is dependent on various factors such as climatic and edaphic conditions, area coverage, application of required inputs at appropriate time etc. With improvement in monsoon, the sowing/crop coverage of jowar, bajra maize, small millets, oilseeds and cotton has improved. However, there is a decrease in Paddy area mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh that may adversely impact the production of paddy. As on 27th July, the area coverage under paddy is 168.34 lakh ha, which is 54.68 lakh ha. less than last year's coverage of 223.12 lakh ha. IMD's long range forecast for the 2009 south-west monsoon season (June-September) for the country as a whole was likely near normal. Quantitatively, monsoon season rainfall is likely to be 96% of the long period average with a model error of $\pm 5\%$. For the period ending 22.7.2009, the percent departure of rainfall was (-19%) .

(b) and (c) It is too early to assess the likely fall in agriculture production. Ministry of Agriculture has been constantly monitoring the sowing progress and providing required technical advice to the states through regular video conferences, meetings and telephonic discussions. Contingency plans suitable to specific agro climatic conditions have been prepared. Under the contingency plans- replacement of main crop with alternate crops like, millets, oil seeds, pulses; planning for short duration varieties of the main crop; planning for protective irrigation by efficient use of available water; and Promoting Technical Package of Practice like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc. are being recommended.

(d) to (f) As mentioned earlier it is too early to assess the economic losses. However, States have been given flexibility to utilise the funds provided under Crop Development programs of Ministry of Agriculture such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission to meet the contingent situations in the event of deficient rainfall, particularly for purchase and distribution of additional quantity of seeds, support for micro-irrigation, etc. An amount of Rs. 271.31 crores has been released to the States of Assam, Bihar, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh as a central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance is also provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) on submission of memorandum for assistance by the affected States.

Need for encouragement for sugarcane cultivation

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

(a) whether sugarcane farmers, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, are facing losses in their production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make sugarcane cultivation lucrative and to encourage the sugarcane farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is increase in sugarcane production in the country since 2003-04 except in 2007-08 and 2008-09, when production declined mainly due to reduction in area particularly in Maharashtra and marginally in Uttar Pradesh. The production of sugarcane during last six years in major sugarcane growing States including Uttar Pradesh is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture is implemented in 22 States/Union Territories namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The scheme provides assistance for transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstrations; training of farmers and extension workers, supply of planting material, farm implements, moist heat treatment unit, bearing of tube wells/pump sets, micro-nutrients, etc.

Besides, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is providing soft loans to sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for cane development in mill areas for production of planting materials, irrigation purposes, incentive to farmers for switching over to improved varieties, ratoon management, tissue culture laboratories etc.

From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are receiving crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest and the Government of India and State Governments are providing necessary interest subvention to NABARD and Banks for this purpose.

Apart from the above, Central Government has been fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season to protect the interest of farmers. The Government has fixed SMP of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar seasons at Rs. 107.76 per quintal linked to a basic sugar recovery rate of 9.5%, subject to premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level. This is significantly higher than the SMP for the previous sugar season which was Rs. 81.18 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9 percent subject to a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

premium of 0.90 for every 0.1 percent increase in the recovery above that level for the sugar season 2008-09.

These measures are meant for encouraging sugarcane farmers to cultivate sugarcane and increase production, in the coming years.

Statement

Production of sugarcane in major States during 2003-04 to 2008-09

Production in lakh tonnes

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
Andhra Pradesh	150.70	157.39	176.56	216.92	202.96	166.12
Bihar	42.86	41.12	43.38	59.56	38.54	49.80
Gujarat	126.69	145.70	145.80	156.30	151.90	150.40
Haryana	92.80	80.60	81.80	95.80	88.60	56.88
Karnataka	160.15	142.76	182.67	286.70	26.24	235.05
Madhya Pradesh	18.74	21.48	24.25	28.06	31.80	27.05
Maharashtra	256.68	204.75	388.53	785.68	884.37	508.13
Punjab	66.20	51.70	48.60	60.20	66.90	48.80
Uttarakhand	76.51	64.41	61.34	61.00	76.86	55.55
Tamil Nadu	176.56	233.96	351.07	411.24	380.71	332.83
Uttar Pradesh	1127.54	1187.16	1254.70	1339.49	1246.65	1214.08
ALL INDIA:	2338.62	2370.88	2811.72	3555.20	3481.87	2892.34

*3rd Advance Estimate

Corruption among railway officials

*411. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of officials of railways against whom cases/complaints of corruption/assets more than their income have been registered/filed particularly officials of the Department of Commercial and Traffic during the last three years till date, zone-wise and division-wise;

(b) details of the action taken by the Ministry in cases which are not sub-judice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Cases of disproportionate assets in respect of 52 railway officials have been registered during the calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto June). Action under major penalty/minor penalty/prosecution has been taken in 18 cases. 20 cases are under investigation and the balance 14 cases were closed as no irregularities were noticed.

Requirement of cotton seeds

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the cotton seed requirement in the country in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made as to how many varieties, in terms of quantity, the public sector would supply and how much Bt. and Non-Bt variety of cotton seeds the private sector would supply to the farmers of this country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A requirement of 2,38,224 quintals for 11 major cotton growing States has been assessed for 2010-2011.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of cotton seed requirement in the country for 2010-11

(Quantity in quintals)

Sl. No.	State	Total Cotton Seed Requirement	Public Sector Seed Supply		Private Sector Seed Supply		Remarks
			Non-Bt. Cotton	Bt. Cotton	Non-Bt. Cotton	Bt. Cotton	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25295	—	—	770	24525	
2.	Gujarat	60102	29836	—	8766	21500	
3.	Karnataka	27950	23200	—	1300	3450	
4.	Madhya Pradesh	9350	200	—	250	8900	
5.	Maharashtra	59492	3339	2000	7553	46600	
6.	Tamil Nadu	6120	1750	—	3245	1125	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Punjab	12360	960	—	—	11400	
8.	Haryana	13540	400	—	600	12540	
9.	Rajasthan	22140	4000	—	14750	3390	
10.	Orissa	1500	75	—	1425	—	
11.	West Bengal	375	375	—	—	—	
GRAND TOTAL :		238224	64135	2000	38659	133430	

Extension of Budge Budge-Naihati rail line up to Bandel

*413. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the long pending demand for extension of the existing Budge Budge-Naihati rail line up to Bandel; and

(b) if so, whether Government is considering the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) As per available records, there is no such pending proposal for extension of Budge-Budge-Naihati line upto Bandel. A double line connection already exists from Budge-Budge to Naihati. Naihati to Bandel is connected via Jubilee bridge which is a single line (gauntleted track). Presently, a new Jubilee bridge with double line is under construction in lieu of the old one to improve connectivity.

Delay in Food Security Legislation

*414. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there would be delay in bringing the Food Security Legislation due to absence of consensus on measurement of poverty amongst different Government agencies;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Rural Development had given any proposal to define the 'Below Poverty Line' criteria; and

(c) the position of his Ministry in this regard and the parameters of poverty described by his Ministry and by different Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Central Government for estimating poverty at national and State levels. Based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development issues guidelines for identification of BPL families in rural areas. The earlier guidelines issued by Ministry of Rural Development were

for BPL Census 2002. For the next round of BPL census, the Ministry of Rural Development is yet to issue the guidelines.

The Department of Food and PD uses the poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India to work out the number of BPL families for allocations of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Presently the allocations are made for 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India.

Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act which will entitle BPL families to receive certain minimum quantities of foodgrains per month. However, consultations with various stake holders are presently in progress to work out exact details of various aspects of the proposed law, including the number of BPL families to be covered.

Rail-cum-road bridge at Bogibeel

*415. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of construction of rail-cum-road bridge at Bogibeel over the river Brahmaputra in Assam;
- (b) by when the project would be completed; and
- (c) what is the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The work on various activities of Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge has been taken up including land acquisition, earthwork, minor and major bridges on the link lines. The land acquisition and boulder collection for guide bunds and protection works is nearing completion. Earthwork to the tune of 248.53 lakh cum out of 298.78 lakh cum, 13 super structure out of 19 major bridges and 90 out of 98 minor bridges have been completed. For the main bridge, sub-structure, well foundations have been taken up and for the super structure, tender is under process. The work of South guide bund has also been taken up. Moranhat-Dibrugarh-Chalkhowa (44 km) new line has been completed. An expenditure of Rs. 1392.20 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.03.09. The target for completion of the project is March, 2014.

- (c) Anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 3087.44 crore.

Adulteration in food items

†*416. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken concrete measures to check adulteration in food items on a large scale;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that bones and fat of animals extracted in slaughter houses are processed on hearths and mixed with food items in large quantity; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to check this malpractice and by when these measures would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules, 1955 have been brought into force to prevent adulteration in food stuffs and to save consumers from fraud and deception. The standards of various food articles have been prescribed in Appendix 'B' of the said rules. Food articles sold in the markets are required to conform to the specifications laid down under PFA Rules, 1955. Section 7 of PFA Act, 1954 prohibits manufacture for sale or storage or distribution of any adulterated food or misbranded food.

The implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 is entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff of the States/U.Ts. draw random samples of various food articles from time to time to check adulteration in food commodities and action is taken against the offenders where the samples do not conform to the prescribed standards or do not conform to various provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955.

Having noticed the reports in media about production and sale of spurious ghee in some parts of the country by some unscrupulous traders using animal fat, palm oil, essence and hazardous chemicals, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare requested Health Secretaries of all States/U.Ts to undertake thorough review of the implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 in their States/U.Ts and advise their enforcement staff to be more vigilant and identify the possible elements indulging in this unwanted practice and to take strict action against such unscrupulous elements under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

Essential commodities to poor and middle class through PDS

*417. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide essential commodities to the poor and the middle class through the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of items to be provided;

(c) by when the plan would be implemented; and

(d) what are the products that would be available at subsidized rates?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Government implements Targeted Public Distribution

System (TPDS) to provide essential commodities such as foodgrains (rice, wheat, coarse grains) and sugar to poor families in the country at subsidized issue prices. Under it, foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month are allocated to State and UT Governments for 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Sugar is allocated to State and UT Governments for BPL families @ 500 grams per person except in North-Eastern States, hilly States and Island territories where allocation is made @ 700 grams per person for BPL as well as APL families.

Government also proposes to enact the National Food Security Act under which every BPL family will be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issuance of Targeted Identification Cards to them, food subsidy required, foodgrains required for allocations, convergence of schemes of various Ministries, etc. are being worked out in consultation with different stake holders.

Rail connectivity in Assam

*418. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail connectivity to Tikrikilla, Phulbari, Betasing, Dalu and Tura (Garohills) from Goalpara-Jogighopa Axis (Assam);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new broad gauge line from Panchratna (Jogighopa) to Badarpur has been recently completed. The proposed line passes near to Tikrikila, Phulbari, Betasing and Tura (Garohills). As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 437 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 15894.04 crore with Rate of Return of minus 5.22%. The survey report is under examination.

Prevention of HIV-AIDS

*419. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of HIV and AIDS in the country and whether Government has got the correct statistics of HIV-AIDS affected and infected people, State-wise;

(b) what is the action plan of Government to prevent HIV and AIDS;

(c) whether Government is bringing a Special Legislation, which is drafted by NACO to protect the rights of the people living with HIV and AIDS; and

(d) the total fund spent through NACO for the prevention of HIV/AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) It is estimated that 23.1 lakh (18 – 29 lakh) people are living with HIV/AIDS in India in 2007. The state-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*). These estimates of HIV infections based on an expanded surveillance system and the use of multiple data sources including the National Family Health Survey – 3. The method of estimation of HIV used in India is in accordance with the WHO/UNAIDS HIV Estimation model that ensures uniformity and international compatibility.

(b) In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, Government of India is implementing the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. Launched in July, 2007, NACP Phase-III (2007-12) has the goal to halt and reverse the epidemic in the country over the next 5 years by integrating programmes for prevention, care, support and treatment. The programme is based on a strategy that consists of:—

- (1) Prevention of new infections through a comprehensive approach consisting of the following components:—
 - Bringing down HIV transmission through target interventions among high risk groups;
 - Ensuring blood safety;
 - Ensuring diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases;
 - Expanding awareness and knowledge about HIV; and
 - Ensuring diagnosis and treatment for reducing transmission from Mother to Child.
- (2) Providing care, support and treatment services; and
- (3) Focussed attention on 200 districts where prevalence level are higher.

(c) Keeping in view the prevailing stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS and the need to protect their human right to effective care, support and treatment for HIV/AIDS, a comprehensive Draft Bill on HIV/AIDS is at present under process with the Ministry of Law (Legislative Department).

(d) Total funds spent though NACO for prevention of HIV/AIDS under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is as under:—

NACP Phases	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
NACP-I (1992-93 to 1998-99)	468.45
NACP-II (1999-2000 to 2006-07)	2621.75
NACP-III (2007-08 to 2011-12)	2262.87
	(Up to 22.07.2009)

Statement

State-wise Details of Estimated Number of HIV Infected Persons, 2007

State	As % of Adult Population in age group 15-49 years (Estimated Adult HIV Prevalence)	Estimated number of people infected with HIV/AIDS (in lakhs)
Manipur	1.57	0.24
Nagaland	1.20	0.19
Andhra Pradesh	0.97	4.93
Karnataka	0.75	2.61
Goa	0.72	0.07
Mizoram	0.71	0.05
Maharashtra	0.67	4.56
Puducherry	0.48	0.03
Tamil Nadu	0.44	1.94
West Bengal	0.44	2.23
Gujarat	0.38	1.31
Delhi	0.30	0.33
Chhattisgarh	0.26	0.38
Kerala	0.26	0.55
Haryana	0.20	0.29
Orissa	0.18	0.42
Bihar	0.17	0.83
Rajasthan	0.16	0.56
Jharkhand	0.11	0.19
Madhya Pradesh	0.11	0.42
Punjab	0.10	0.17
Uttar Pradesh	0.09	1.01
Assam	0.03	0.09
National	0.34	23.1

Note: Other States/UTs that are not included in the above table have less than 5000 HIV infections. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.

Rise in prices of food articles

*420. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether consumer overall inflation rate based on wholesale price index that constitutes a very large number of products like food articles and manufactured goods, actually masks the real picture, which is that food inflation is yet to abate sufficiently enough to bring real relief of ordinary consumers;

(b) if so, whether prices of food grains including wheat, rice and vegetables etc., are very high;

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to check rise in prices of food articles, food products and to what extent it has been reduced; and

(d) whether due to shortage of rains the prices may rise further?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The overall Whole sale Price Index (WPI) inflation is based on weighted price change of 435 items comprising Primary Articles (98 items), Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants (19 items) and Manufactured Products (318 items). Whereas overall WPI inflation as on 11.7.2009 was (-) 1.17% (provisional) the Food group inflation was reported at 8.25% (provisional).

(b) The prices of foodgrains such as rice, wheat, have remained relatively stable over the last year. The prices of edible oil have declined. The prices of pulses increased in the range of 0.43% (Gram dal) to 54.40% (Tur dal), Sugar by 49.56% and potato by 73.41% as compared to last year.

(c) Government has been taking steps to check the increase in prices by taking effective measures such as augmenting domestic supplies of rice, wheat, pulses and edible oils through imports at zero/reduced rates of duty and ban on exports. Government measures To control the prices of essential commodities are given in the Statement (*See below*). On account of various measures, the prices of sugar have stabilised for the last 3 months and prices of pulses are now showing a declining trend.

(d) According to latest report, as on 24.07.09, the kharif area coverage is more than 50% of normal in case of cotton, jowar, maize, bajra, coarse cereals, sugarcane, jute and oilseeds. However, less area coverage has been reported in rice (43%) and pulses (46.02%). Kharif sowing continues upto end of July/first week of August. Therefore, area coverage is expected to improve. Secondly, Government has adequate stocks of wheat and rice. It has procured 25.23 million tonne of wheat and 31.91 million tonne of rice as of 24.7.2009. Substantial quantities of edible oil, pulses and sugar have also been imported, which provide the necessary

cushion against inflationary pressures and expectations. Hence in its assessment, the overall impact on prices is expected to be marginal.

Statement

List of Government Measures

(A) Short Term Measures

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero - for wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize (under TRQ of 5 lakh tonnes per annum, beyond which 15% duty will apply);
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;
- (iii) Reducing the import duty on Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) from 15% to 5%.
- (iv) Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills (at zero duty) upto 30.9.2009 (notified on 17.2.2009 and 2.3.2009).
- (v) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 1.8.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.4.2009).
- (vi) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tonnes by 1.8.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.4.2009).

2. Administrative Measures

- (i) The export of edible oils is permitted in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs, subject to a limit of 10,000 tonnes during the next one year up to 31st October, 2009.
- (ii) Export of wheat and wheat products (atta, maida and suji) was permitted after 15th May, 2009, with a cap of 2 million tonnes in 2009-10.
- (iii) Banning export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (iv) Export not more than 20 lakh tonnes of rice, on diplomatic basis through the MEA to friendly countries in KMS 2008-09.
- (v) No changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;
- (vi) Imposition of stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, edible oils and oilseeds;
- (vii) The periodic enhancements in MSP- currently Rs. 1080 per quintal for wheat, Rs. 850 per quintal for common rice and Rs. 880 per quintal for Grade A rice, to maximize procurement of wheat and rice.

- (viii) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at \$185 per tonne for June, 2009) and basmati rice (\$1100 PMT) *w.e.f* 20.01.2009;
- (ix) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY since July, 2002.
- (x) Futures trading in Rice, Wheat, urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 continued during the year 2008-09. Futures trading in sugar has been suspended *w.e.f* 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.
- (xi) Distribution of one million tons of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg.
- (xii) To augment availability of pulses, the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED were permitted to import and sell pulses under a scheme and losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.
- (xiii) Government allowed import of raw sugar under advance authorization Scheme and permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfill export obligation on ton to ton basis.
- (xiv) Levy obligation was removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (xv) Released 6 lakh tonnes of additional non levy sugar for April-June, 2009 Quarter taking the total release to 60 lakh tonnes against 50 lakh tonnes in corresponding Quarter in 2008 and 50 lakh tonnes in January-March, 2009.
- (xvi) The availability of non-levy sugar for April' 09 including the additional quota released stood at 22 lac tons against 17 lacs for March, 2009 and 17 lac tons for April, 2008. For the month of May, 2009, release of non-levy sugar including additional quota released stood at 21 lac tons as against 17.5 lac tons for May, 2008. For the month of June, 2009, the release of non-levy sugar stands at 16 lac tons as against release of 13.5 lac tons for June, 2008. Besides about 1 lac ton of raw sugar imported and reprocessed by sugar mills have been released during the month of June, 2009.

(B) Medium Term Measures:

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Shortfall in agriculture production

3036. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture output fell by 2.2 per cent in the last quarter in 2008-09 from a year earlier;

(b) if so, whether the foodgrain production during 2008-09 fell much below 2.6 per cent expectations;

(c) if so, the reasons behind this shortfall; and

(d) whether during 2009-10 steps would be taken to ensure built-in safeguards so that the projected production is achieved?

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

(a) to (c) Percentage growth in Agriculture and Allied sector during last quarter (January to March) in 2008-09 has increased to 2.7 from 2.2 during the same quarter in previous year (2007-08). The overall decline in annual growth rate from 4.9% in 2007-08 to 1.6% in 2008-09 is mainly due to decline in production of coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane.

(d) Various measures such as advice to State Governments for taking timely action for ensuring availability of quality seeds through Central sector Schemes of Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and promotion of medium and short duration crop varieties to meet contingent situation have been taken by Government to achieve the targets of agriculture production. Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been directed to facilitate extension of weather based Agriculture management plan to the farmers and other stakeholders at the district level.

Under RKVY, the States are incentivized to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in Agriculture and allied sectors in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

A Central Sector Scheme 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds' intends to develop and strengthen the infrastructure facilities for the production and distribution of certified quality seeds.

Expansion of dairy market to neighbouring countries

3037. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any strategy to capture dairy markets of neighbouring countries;

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

(c) whether NDDB proposes to set up cooperative milk societies at villages in neighbouring countries;

- (d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which capture of dairy markets in neighbouring countries will help milk position in the country?

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

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Decline in sowing of Kharif crops in Punjab, Haryana and
Western Uttar Pradesh**

‡3038. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh play major role in foodgrain storage of the country;
- (b) if so, State-wise annual average percentage of the total foodgrain procured from these States;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that sowing of Kharif crops in the above said States upto 15th July is not satisfactory; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps to be taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. FCI in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh regions are having storage capacities to the tune of 70.45 LMT, 23.19 LMT and 26.78 LMT respectively and play major role in foodgrains storage of the country.

- (b) The percentage of foodgrains procured from these States is as under:—

	RMS 2009-10 Wheat As on 29.07.2009	KMS 2008-09 Rice As on 29.7.2009
Punjab	42.40%	26.64%
Haryana	27.34%	4.44%
Uttar Pradesh	15.36%	11.25%

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation are listed in the Statement.

Statement

The steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation

1. Contingency Plans:

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been constantly monitoring the progress of sowing operations with the States and Contingency Plans for specific agro climatic conditions, for different scenarios, has been prepared which include replacement of main crop such as paddy with alternate crops like millets in case of delayed sowing, planning for early maturing varieties of the main crop, planning for protective irrigation by efficient use of available water and promoting technical package of practices like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc.

2. Power:

100 MW of additional power from Central Pool has been allocated to Haryana and Punjab, for timely completion of paddy transplantations and to protect crops already sown. The Ministry of Power has been requested to consider additional requirements of power from Central Pool projected by Uttar Pradesh State.

3. Additional Seed:

The steps taken include availability of adequate quantities of seeds with the public sector institutions, allowing Truthfully Labelled Seeds to be distributed under the Government Schemes and relaxation of age norms of seeds. Uttar Pradesh has sufficient availability of seeds and the State Government has informed that shortages will be tied up at its level.

4. Flexibility to the States:

States have been given flexibility to utilize the funds provided under crop development programmes of Central schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to meet the contingent situations in the event of deficient rainfall, particularly for purchase and distribution of additional quantity of seeds support for micro-irrigation etc.

5. Advisory Services to Farmers:

Weather based Agricultural Management Plans are made available on the ICAR website, on a regular basis, which can be made use of by the State Governments, KVKs, district level officials of Department of Agriculture, for further dissemination of technical information to the farmers of different States.

Growth rate of agriculture

†3039. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual rate of agricultural growth in various States of the country during the period 2000-01 to 2007-08;

(b) the targets set for average annual rate of agricultural growth in each State during the above said period; and

(c) the average amount spent annually on agricultural research and testing in each State during the above said period and the percentage of this amount with reference to annual average income of that State?

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

(a) State-wise Agricultural Growth rate for the years 2000-01 to 2007-08 for Agriculture Sector is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) State-wise Average Annual Agricultural Growth Target for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) and Eleventh Plan (2007-12) is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Amount spent annually on agricultural research and testing and the percentage of this amount with reference to annual average income of that State is not maintained by the Ministry. According to Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), annual public expenditure on agricultural research for 2004-05 was Rs. 3060 crore.

Statement-I

*State-wise growth rate for agriculture sector during the period
2000-01 to 2007-08*

(Annual average in %)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Growth rate							
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.90	-2.24	-11.00	17.75	5.42	8.65	3.82	13.03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.93	-2.34	0.43	6.69	-3.48	2.15	10.75	3.88
3.	Assam	-1.50	-0.85	0.69	1.54	-1.30	2.81	2.75	0.45
4.	Bihar	37.22	-21.92	26.88	-18.23	14.92	-12.56	34.23	-10.17
5.	Jharkhand	-3.16	36.66	-20.38	2.27	12.53	-19.31	7.42	0.72

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Goa	-19.32	-6.40	11.30	3.40	1.85	16.19	-16.24	-15.52
7.	Gujarat	-11.79	33.83	-8.09	44.43	-7.24	22.89	-0.43	
8.	Haryana	3.33	-0.25	-1.24	7.89	3.48	-1.87	14.48	0.92
9.	Himachal Pradesh	19.12	9.19	2.42	13.29	6.52	1.28	-5.61	9.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.22	5.75	2.36	10.83	1.32	0.53	2.99	1.61
11.	Karnataka	-7.46	-12.07	-7.97	-13.75	26.06	3.93	-2.12	17.19
12.	Kerala	2.23	0.82	1.69	-2.08	7.40	3.48	2.70	1.37
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-28.29	24.31	-19.64	40.14	-4.71	8.02	2.42	-2.14
14.	Chhattisgarh	-27.87	50.41	-25.74	49.76	-19.78	35.62	5.67	3.02
15.	Maharashtra	-4.49	5.75	2.91	11.11	-5.88	9.04	10.82	10.78
16.	Manipur	4.19	4.38	-3.96	16.22	10.82	-9.01	9.26	3.75
17.	Meghalaya	5.05	3.49	6.07	1.75	5.99	5.70	4.86	4.86
18.	Mizoram	-8.57	0.09	3.30	-1.66	4.17	2.44	1.62	2.74
19.	Nagaland	36.00	13.13	13.95	10.08	8.79	4.14		
20.	Orissa	-8.59	18.06	-20.39	27.16	3.98	3.12	3.08	4.48
21.	Punjab	1.35	0.75	-1.39	5.64	2.30	1.90	2.82	4.89
22.	Rajasthan	-6.84	27.45	-35.57	87.80	-14.64	-1.28	6.27	6.75
23.	Sikkim	6.93	7.36	6.57	8.23	5.49	4.07	4.70	4.93
24.	Tamil Nadu	5.16	-2.77	-23.17	-2.27	22.51	9.59	14.65	-7.22
25.	Tripura	-10.48	23.61	-1.70	5.15	3.57	7.32	3.20	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.48	1.45	-0.05	3.93	-1.29	1.12	4.72	3.84
27.	Uttarakhand	9.31	-6.19	3.97	5.07	5.99	-1.75	4.80	
28.	West Bengal	-1.24	10.01	-2.54	3.25	0.78	1.49	1.98	5.14
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.47	7.13	9.93	-4.96	-13.43	-16.39	18.79	
30.	Chandigarh	-5.32	1.85	3.75	6.37	-2.42	4.37	-1.30	-2.24
31.	Delhi	1.88	-1.16	-1.15	1.06	1.24	-2.33	0.01	-3.78
32.	Puducherry	1.39	-4.12	-8.07	7.17	-1.23	-0.09	-0.06	0.81
ALL-INDIA:		-0.20	6.30	-7.20	10.00	0.00	5.80	4.00	4.90

Statement-II*State-wise growth target for agriculture sector**(Annual average in %)*

State/Union Territory	Growth target	
	Tenth Plan (2002-07)	Eleventh Plan (2007-12)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	3.05	4.00
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00	2.80
Assam	3.82	2.00
Bihar	3.75	7.00
Chandigarh	-2.00	
Chhattisgarh	3.00	1.70
Delhi	-12.21	
Goa	-0.90	7.70
Gujarat	4.03	5.50
Haryana	4.07	5.30
Himachal Pradesh	4.55	3.00
Jammu and Kashmir	4.20	4.30
Jharkhand	3.00	6.30
Karnataka	4.99	5.40
Kerala	3.05	0.30
Madhya Pradesh	4.00	4.40
Maharashtra	3.56	4.40
Manipur	3.59	1.20
Meghalaya	4.00	4.70
Mizoram	2.00	1.60
Nagaland	4.00	8.40
Orissa	4.07	3.00
Puducherry	1.10	
Punjab	4.07	2.40
Rajasthan	4.50	3.50

1	2	3
Sikkim	5.00	3.30
Tamil Nadu	3.54	4.70
Tripura	3.90	1.40
Uttar Pradesh	4.67	3.00
Uttarakhand	3.50	3.00
West Bengal	5.09	4.00
ALL-INDIA:	4.00	4.00

Drought in North India

3040. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister held an urgent meeting to discuss rain woes and reviewed monsoon and crop situation in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the main points discussed and whether drought threat looms over North India and the first alarm bells ring as paddy sowing is down 25 per cent and oilseeds 50 per cent; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to tackle the situation?

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

(a) to (c) According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2009 (1.6.2009 to 22.7.2009), the country as a whole received 298.7 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 368.8 mm, with a deviation of -19%, which is considered as Normal. Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, 4 received excess rainfall, 13 received normal rainfall, 17 received deficient rainfall and 2 received scanty rainfall, during the period. The States, which received deficient/scanty rainfall during the period include Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. While the Governments of Assam and Manipur have declared drought/drought like situation in all the districts, Jharkhand has declared drought in 4 districts and Uttar Pradesh has declared drought in 47 districts. The deficit rainfall had some impact on sowing operations, primarily paddy. The situation arising out of deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009 and its impact is regularly monitored at the highest level of the Government and steps have been taken, which include preparation of contingency plans, supply of additional quantity of seeds, ensuring availability of fertilizers, giving flexibility to the States to utilise the funds available under crop development programmes, issue of advisories to States, etc.

Contingency plan to address drought

3041. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Prime Minister recently reviewed the crop situation in view of less rainfall and asked the Ministry to prepare a contingency plan in this regard;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has prepared a contingency plan;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the latest situation and how it will impact overall food production; and
- (d) the name of the States under the grip of drought and what kind of help has been rendered to them?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister recently reviewed the crop situation in view of the less rainfall. The Ministry of Agriculture has also been constantly monitoring the sowing progress and providing required technical advices to the States through weekly videoconferences/meetings, telephonic discussions. Contingency plans suitable to specific agro climatic conditions have been prepared. Under the contingency plans-replacement of main crop with alternate crops like, millets, oil seeds; pulses; planning for short duration varieties of the main crop; planning for protective irrigation by efficient use of available water; and Promoting Technical Package of Practice like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc. are being recommended.

Agriculture production is dependent on various factors such as climatic and edaphic conditions, area coverage, application of required inputs at appropriate time etc. With improvement in monsoon, the sowing/crop coverage of jowar, bajra maize, small millets, oilseeds and cotton has improved. However, there is a decrease in Paddy area mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh that may adversely impact the production of paddy. As on 27th July, the area coverage under paddy is 168.34 lakh ha, which is 54.68 lakh ha. less than last year's coverage of 223.12 lakh ha.

(d) The States of Assam, Manipur (All districts), Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh have declared drought in some of the districts . An amount of Rs 271.31 crores has been released to the States of Assam, Bihar, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh as a central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance is also provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) on submission of memorandum for assistance by the affected States. States have been given flexibility to utilise the funds provided under Crop Development programs of Ministry of Agriculture such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. National Food Security Mission to meet the contingent situations in the event of deficient rainfall, particularly for purchase and distribution of additional quantity of seeds, support for micro-irrigation, etc.

Losses of crop yield due to pest attacks

3042. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country losses approximately 18 per cent of its crop yield valued at Rs. 90,000 crores due to pest attacks each year;

(b) if so, whether use of pesticides help reduce crop losses, provide economic benefits to farmers and reduce soil erosion and ensure food safety and security;

(c) whether Indian pesticide industry with 85,000 MT of production during Fiscal year, 2007 is ranked second in Asia behind China and 12th globally; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures Government is proposing to take to check losses due to pest attacks?

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

(a) It is estimated that crop losses due to various pests range from 10 — 30% every year depending upon the severity of pest attack.

(b) Use of approved pesticides as per instructions given on label and leaflets helps in reducing crop losses and can provide economic benefit to farmers.

(c) As per information available, the production of pesticides in India during 2007-08 was 79,756 Metric Tonnes (Technical Grade).

(d) Under the Scheme titled “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest management Approach in India” Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been adopted to check losses due to pest attacks. The Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory for pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and human resource development in IPM by imparting training to agriculture/horticulture extension officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Under the scheme so far 12,111 FFSs have been organized wherein 50,716 Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and 3,64,617 farmers in different States/Union Territories have been trained. Over 116.7 lakh hectares area has been covered under pest monitoring and 27,906 million bio-control agents in 91.89 lakh hectare area have been released for control of different pests and diseases. Government of India has launched a country wide campaign for ensuring 100% seed treatment for important crops of the country.

IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on website www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin. for the use by the extension functionaries and the farmers.

Shortfall in rains

3043. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that shortfall in rains is likely to affect the Kharif crops production and food security this year;
- (b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to declare drought in several parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle the situation?

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

(a) and (b) Agriculture production is dependent on various factors such as climatic and edaphic conditions, area coverage, application of required inputs at appropriate time etc. With improvement in monsoon, the sowing/crop coverage of jowar, bajra maize, small millets, oilseeds and cotton has improved. However, there is a decrease in Paddy area mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh that may adversely impact the production of paddy. As on 27th July, the area coverage under paddy is 168.34 lakh ha, which is 54.68 lakh ha. less than last year's coverage of 223.12 lakh ha. IMD's long range forecast for the 2009 south-west monsoon season (June-September) for the country as a whole was likely near normal. Quantitatively, monsoon season rainfall is likely to be 96% of the long period average with a model error of $\pm 5\%$. For the period ending 22.7.2009, the percent departure of rainfall was (-19%).

It is too early to assess the likely fall in agriculture production. Ministry of Agriculture has been constantly monitoring the sowing progress and providing required technical advices to the States through weekly videoconferences/meetings, telephonic discussions. Contingency plans suitable to specific agro climatic conditions have been prepared. Under the contingency plans-replacement of main crop with alternate crops like, millets, oil seeds, pulses; planning for short duration varieties of the main crop; planning for protective irrigation by efficient use of available water; and Promoting Technical Package of Practice like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc. are being recommended.

(c) and (d) Declaration of drought is being done by States. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur, have declared drought in some of the districts. For management of drought crises management group have been formulated and the situation is being monitored by Central Drought Relief Commissioner on daily basis. An amount of Rs. 271.31 crores has been released to the States of Assam, Bihar, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh as a central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance is also provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) on submission of memorandum for assistance by the affected States.

Recommendation of National Commission on Farmers

3044. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the National Commission on Farmers in its report has suggested comprehensive strategy for food and nutrition security in the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government has since examined those recommendations; and

(d) if so, the time by when those recommendations are likely to be implemented?

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

(a) to (d) The National Commission on Farmers (NCF), set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, in its Second Report submitted in August, 2005 has suggested a medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country. The NCF submitted its Final Report along with a draft National Policy for Farmers in October, 2006. This Draft National Policy for Farmers proposes formulation and enactment of a Food Guarantee Act; the necessity of a well defined Food Security Policy; and setting up a National Food Security and Sovereignty Board. Based on this Draft and consultations with the State Governments, the Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 which *inter-alia* provides for a well defined Food Security Policy and constitution of a Cabinet Committee on Food Security. As per the Union Budget (2009-10), work on National Food Security Act has begun in right earnest.

The NPF document was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament in November, 2007. Subsequently, an Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation finalized a Plan of Action for Operationalisation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October, 2008 to all the State Governments and the central Ministries/Departments concerned for necessary action.

Strategies for Agricultural Mechanisation and Technology

3045. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the strategies and programmes for the Agricultural Mechanization and Technology;

(b) whether it is a fact that training and testing facilities are highly uneven in different parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

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

(a) The strategy and therefore the programmes for agricultural mechanization has been towards promotion of eco-friendly agricultural equipment, which can be optimally and efficiently utilized by the human beings, animals and can be operated by mechanical and electrical power to increase productivity of land and labour, improve utilization and efficiency of various agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water and improve quality of farm operations. Such equipments should reduce the cost of production and drudgery associated with the various agricultural operations. The schemes for the promotion of agricultural mechanization in the country are as under:—

- (i) Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration.
- (ii) Post Harvest Technology and Management.
- (iii) Revised Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme-Farm Mechanization.

(b) and (c) The requirements of training and testing of agricultural equipment are met through four Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes established at Budni (Madhya Pradesh), Hissar (Haryana), Garladinne (Andhra Pradesh) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam). To train large number of farmers at nearby places, outsourcing of training through State Agricultural Universities, Agricultural Engineering colleges, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, polytechnics, etc. is being implemented from the year 2004-05. Demonstration of Equipment at farmers' field is being undertaken from the year 1999-2000. The testing of agricultural equipments has also been decentralized and the State Governments may test the equipment if considered necessary through institutions such as the State Agriculture University, any Engineering College, Indian Council of Agricultural Research institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendra or any other research institute designated by the State Governments to undertake such activity.

Development of horticulture

3046. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge potential for the development of horticulture in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken and programmes initiated for tapping its full potential;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the facilities for horticultural crops and export of horticultural produce are not adequate as a result of which huge volume of horticulture produce perishes every year; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) and

National Horticulture Mission (**NHM**) for the remaining States for holistic development of horticulture to enhance production and productivity of horticultural crops viz., fruits, vegetables and spices. Under these schemes, assistance is being provided for area expansion, establishment of nurseries for raising quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, nutrient and water management, etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. On an average, post harvest losses range from 10 to 30 percent in horticultural crops. The Government has launched several schemes for providing facilities for horticultural crops and promotion of export of horticultural produce which are as follows:—

- (i) Under TMNE and NHM, assistance is provided for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other States. During 2006-07, a new Component has been introduced under the National Horticulture Mission to facilitate setting up of Modern Terminal Markets in the country, which will have state-of-the-art cold chain and other infrastructure and will help in establishing an efficient supply chain right from the farm gate to the consumer/processor/exporter.
- (ii) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes 'Capital Investment subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce' having the same norms and 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-harvest Management' providing back ended subsidy @20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern States/Hilly/Tribal Areas and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States.
- (iii) A Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, titled 'Gramin Bhandran Yojana' for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns in the country through the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection aims at providing scientific storage near the production centers (excluding municipal corporation areas) in order to reduce the losses.
- (iv) A Central Sector Scheme, titled 'Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization' facilitates development of marketing infrastructure, market user common facilities, infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities, infrastructure for supply of production inputs and need-based services infrastructure for e-trading, market intelligence etc. and mobile infrastructure for post harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) by providing credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy to entrepreneurs and direct assistance to State agencies.

Crop loss due to thunderstorms

3047. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that untimely thunderstorms and rain lashed many parts of India in May-June of year, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the loss of crops due to this; and
- (d) the contingency plan of Government to meet the shortfall, if any?

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

- (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Export of cow meat

†3048. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cow meat is being exported;
- (b) if so, the earnings made from this export;
- (c) whether this earning can not be compensated through other means; and
- (d) whether the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries have held discussions on this issue?

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

- (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

Package for drought affected Bundelkhand

†3049. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a special package was declared for Bundelkhand during the drought last year;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not providing the package so far;
- (c) whether Government intends to provide the package this year; and
- (d) if so, the concessions being provided for Bundelkhand in this special package and the details thereof?

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

- (a) to (d) During South-West Monsoon (June-September) 2008, the districts in the Bundelkhand region generally received good rainfall and no report regarding drought in that region during 2008 was received.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States with financial and logistic support. The State Governments have ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures. For additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature, the State Governments are required to submit a Memorandum. No Memorandum for assistance from the NCCF for drought relief in the wake of deficient rainfall in that region during South-West Monsoon 2008 has been received. The existing norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF include assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above, assistance for providing fodder for cattle maintained in the cattle camps, assistance for transportation of drinking water, assistance towards supplementary nutrition and gratuitous relief.

Promotion of brackish water fisheries

3050. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote brackish water fisheries in the country including Jharkhand and other States; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Development of Brackish water Aquaculture is one of the seven components of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture'. Various States of the country can take-up this component for implementation for which financial assistance is shared between the Centre and State in a proportion of 75:25. Jharkhand however has no brackish water availability for aquaculture. No funds have been allocated under this component during the last three years and the current year so far.

Implementation of NFSM

3051. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in selected districts of a few States only;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the scheme all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is presently being implemented in 312 identified districts of 17 States of the country with three components viz.

NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses. The component-wise identified districts are as follows:—

NFSM-Rice: The NFSM-Rice is being implemented in 136 districts of 14 States, *i.e.*, Andhra Pradesh (11 districts), Assam (13 districts), Bihar (18 districts), Chhattisgarh (10 districts), Gujarat (2 districts), Jharkhand (5 districts), Karnataka (7 districts), Kerala (1 district), Madhya Pradesh (9 districts), Maharashtra (6 districts), Orissa (15 districts), Tamil Nadu (5 districts), Uttar Pradesh (26 districts) and West Bengal (8 districts).

NFSM-Wheat: The NFSM-Wheat is being implemented in 141 districts of 9 States, *i.e.* Bihar (25 districts), Gujarat (4 districts), Haryana (7 districts), Madhya Pradesh (30 districts), Maharashtra (8 districts), Punjab (10 districts), Rajasthan (15 districts), Uttar Pradesh (38 districts) and West Bengal (4 districts).

NFSM-Pulses: The NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 171 identified districts in 14 States, *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh (14 districts), Bihar (13 districts), Chhattisgarh (8 districts), Gujarat (11 districts), Haryana (5 districts), Karnataka (13 districts), Madhya Pradesh (20 districts), Maharashtra (18 districts), Orissa (10 districts), Punjab (7 districts), Rajasthan (16 districts), Tamil Nadu (12 districts), Uttar Pradesh (19 districts) and West Bengal (5 districts).

The above districts have been identified based on certain criteria such as for **NFSM-Rice**, those districts were identified which have more than 50,000 ha. area under rice and productivity less than the State's average productivity; for **NFSM-Wheat** the districts in which irrigation coverage under wheat is more than 50% and productivity is less than State's average were identified. The districts for implementation of **NFSM-Pulses** have been selected based on existing large area under pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and utilization of rice fallows.

(c) As specified in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Question, only 312 districts in 17 States are included under NFSM. The rest of the States are not included under the programme as the districts of these States do not qualify the norms specified. These States, however, continue to implement Integrated Crop Development Programme (Rice/Wheat/Pulses), under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). Such food crop development programme can be further intensified under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Therefore, all the States in the country are implementing food crop development programmes from one or the other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Utilization of new farming technology to tackle the drought

3052. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would like to review the situation arising out of the delayed and deficit monsoon;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has drawn any contingent plan to offset losses in production in the event of delayed and deficit monsoon;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has urged State Governments to utilize services of Agriculture Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in educating farmers of the imperative needs to adopt and use new agronomical practices, sow water stressed short duration crops to minimize the impact of drought; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture has been constantly monitoring the sowing progress of kharif crops and providing required technical advice to the States through regular video conferences/meeting and telephonic discussions. Contingency plans suitable to specific agro climatic conditions have been prepared. Under the contingency plans- replacement of main crop with alternate crops like, millets, oil seeds; pulses; planning for short duration varieties of the main crop; planning for protective irrigation by efficient use of available water; and Promoting Technical Package of Practice like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc. are being recommended. Extension services to farmers through ATMA program, Kissan Call Center to provide information on package of practices and special programs through All India Radio/FM stations and Doordarshan are being given to mitigate the drought effect.

(e) and (f) It has been advised to States to draw contingency plan in consultation with State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyaan Kandra's for different agro-climatic regions. Department of Agriculture Research and Education (ICAR) is providing updated contingency information through its website to all the States. Officers of State Agriculture Universities (SAU's) and Research Institution have been declared nodal officers to provide information on all aspects such as new Agronomic Practices, Water stress and short duration crops to minimize the impact of drought.

Production of foodgrain

3053. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to produce another 40 lakh metric tonnes of food;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof in Andhra Pradesh, crop-wise; and
- (c) the growth achieved so far in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh areas like East and West Godavari districts?

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

(a) and (b) Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'National

Food Security Mission (NFSM)’ to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of 2011-12 and “Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)” with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores during Eleventh Five Year Plan for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in the country since 2007-08.

In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Schemes of “Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice/Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice/Wheat)” under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture are under implementation in Non-National Food Security Mission (NFSM) Rice/Wheat districts in the country and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)” under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is in operation in the Coarse Cereals growing States in the country. Besides, Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oilplam and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation in major 14 Pulses growing States.

NFSM-Rice and NFSM-Pulses are implemented in Andhra Pradesh in the identified districts. The State has fixed a target of 30.00 lakh tonnes for Rice and 3.5 lakh tonnes for Pulses by the end of 2011-12.

(c) Regarding growth achieved, the production of foodgrains in major States including Andhra Pradesh during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07, is given in the Statement-I indicating positive growth rates in many States (*See below*).

The increase in foodgrains production in East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh during 2007-08 and 2008-09 over normal is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

The production of foodgrains in major States including Andhra Pradesh during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07

Production in ‘000 tonnes

Sl. No.	States	Production		% increase over 2006-07
		2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16229.00	19303.00	18.94
2.	Assam	3060.00	3470.00	13.40
3.	Bihar	11098.60	10864.10	-2.11
4.	Chhattisgarh	5805.0	6291.90	8.39
5.	Goa	147.40	133.60	-9.36
6.	Gujarat	6499.00	8206.00	26.27

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	14763.00	15307.80	3.69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1382.20	1558.10	12.73
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1572.70	1572.10	-0.04
10.	Jharkhand	3686.80	4164.50	12.96
11.	Karnataka	9599.00	12186.00	26.95
12.	Kerala	640.50	539.70	-15.74
13.	Madhya Pradesh	13747.00	12070.50	-12.20
14.	Maharashtra	12645.10	15191.70	20.14
15.	Nagaland	436.20	473.20	8.48
16.	Orissa	7344.70	8143.30	10.87
17.	Punjab	25313.10	26815.10	5.93
18.	Rajasthan	14208.80	16058.70	13.02
19.	Sikkim	100.30	111.60	11.27
20.	Tamil Nadu	8263.00	6582.30	-20.34
21.	Tripura	630.00	633.30	0.52
22.	Uttar Pradesh	41214.50	42094.80	2.14
23.	Uttarakhand	1735.00	1796.00	3.52
24.	West Bengal	15974.50	16050.20	0.47
25.	ALL INDIA:	217282.10	230775.00	6.21

Statement-II

Increase in foodgrains production in East and West Godavari districts during 2007-08 and 2008-09 over normal

(in lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	District	Normal	Actual 2007-08	increase over normal	Actual 2008-09*	% increase over normal
1	East Godavari	13.46	15.19	12.85	15.74	16.93
2	West Godavari	14.83	16.39	10.52	19.84	33.78

*As DES 4th estimate (Provisional)

Production and procurement of rice and wheat

3054. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of rice and wheat in the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, State-wise; and

(b) the total quantity procured during the same period, State-wise and grain-wise?

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

(a) The details of State-wise estimated production of rice and wheat during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The details of State-wise procurement of rice and wheat during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

*State-wise estimates of production of rice and wheat during
2007-08 and 2008-09*

State/UT	Production ('000 Tonnes)			
	Rice		Wheat	
	2007-08	2008-09*	2007-08	2008-09*
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	13324.0	14207.0	8.0	10.0
Arunachal Pradesh	158.1	#	5.3	#
Assam	3319.0	3775.0	71.0	75.0
Bihar	4418.1	5668.7	4450.4	4396.2
Chhattisgarh	5426.6	4391.8	98.8	92.5
Goa	121.6	#	—	—
Gujarat	1474.0	1290.0	3838.0	2897.0
Haryana	3613.0	3298.0	10236.0	10593.0
Himachal Pradesh	121.5	119.1	504.4	604.9
Jammu and Kashmir	561.3	563.4	495.9	480.2
Jharkhand	3336.4	3304.9	139.9	141.1
Karnataka	3717.0	3690.0	261.0	241.0
Kerala	528.5	589.0	—	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	1461.9	1559.7	6032.5	6521.9
Maharashtra	2996.0	2311.0	2078.7	1471.0

1	2	3	4	5
Manipur	406.2	#	—	—
Meghalaya	200.0	#	1.1	#
Mizoram	15.7	#	—	—
Nagaland	290.6	#	1.6	#
Orissa	7540.7	6762.0	8.7	8.0
Punjab	10489.0	11000.0	15720.0	15753.0
Rajasthan	259.6	241.1	7124.9	6998.5
Sikkim	22.9	#	4.5	#
Tamil Nadu	5040.2	5201.0	—	—
Tripura	624.6	#	1.9	#
Uttar Pradesh	11780.0	13074.0	25679.0	28554.0
Uttarakhand	593.0	580.0	814.0	856.0
West Bengal	14719.5	15554.0	917.3	798.2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	21.9	#	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23.7	#	1.1	#
Delhi	31.4	#	76.2	—
Daman and Diu	3.5	#	—	—
Pondicherry	53.4	#	—	—
Others	NA	1974.0	NA	92.0
ALL INDIA:	96692.9	99153.7	78570.2	80583.4
*4th Advance Estimates	#Included in others		NA: Not Applicable	

Statement-II

State-wise Procurement of rice and wheat during 2007-08 and 2008-09

(Lakh tonnes)

Procurement				
State/UTs	Rice		Wheat	
	KMS 2007-08	KMS 2008-09*	RMS 2007-08	RMS 2008-09*
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	74.17	80.01	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	—	0.03	—	—
Bihar	5.12	10.42	0.08	5.00
Chandigarh	0.09	0.10	—	0.10
Chhattisgarh	27.43	25.98	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	4.15
Haryana	15.72	14.25	33.50	52.37
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	0.01
Jharkhand	0.19	1.33	—	0.01
Karnataka	0.18	1.06	—	—
Kerala	1.68	2.37	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	0.69	2.10	0.57	24.10
Maharashtra	1.60	2.53	—	0.10
Orissa	23.38	26.76	—	—
Pondicherry	0.06	0.07	—	—
Punjab	79.08	85.45	67.81	99.41
Rajasthan	0.19	0.11	3.83	9.35
Tamil Nadu	9.68	11.39	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	28.91	36.12	5.46	31.37
Uttarakhand	1.47	3.49	0.02	0.85
West Bengal	15.08	14.75	—	—
Delhi	—	—	0.01	0.07
Others	—	0.06	—	—
TOTAL:	284.93	318.38	111.28	226.89

KMS: Kharif Marketing Season

RMS: Rabi Marketing Season

*As on 23.07.2009

Production of apples

3055. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of apple in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated/proposed to be formulated by Government to increase apple production in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

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

(a) The production of apples in the country has increased during the past three years except for Himachal Pradesh. There was low production of apples in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2006-07 *i.e.* 2,68,402 MT whereas it increased to 5,92,576 MT in 2007-08, the highest ever till date. During 2008-09, there was normal production of apples *i.e.* 5,10,200 MT. The production of apples in the country during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The reason for low production of apples in Himachal Pradesh during 2006-07 was because of low chilling hours due to less snowfall and precipitation during the winter season preceding the crop season.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz.*, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) for holistic development of horticulture to enhance production and productivity of horticultural crops including apples. Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for area expansion, establishment of nurseries for raising quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, nutrient and water management etc.

Statement

Area and production of apples

A = Area (000' ha.)
P = Production (000' MT)

State/Year	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	A	P	A	P	A	P
Arunachal Pradesh	9.8	9.8	10.8	9.8	10.8	9.8
Himachal Pradesh	91.8	268.4	94.5	592.6	94.7	510.2
Jammu and Kashmir	119.4	1222.2	126.4	1268.5	133.1	1332.8
Nagaland	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05
Uttarakhand	30.6	123.3	32.2	130.5	32.7	132.3
TOTAL:	251.6	1623.7	263.9	2001.5	271.3	1985.1

Assistance to farmers of Himachal Pradesh

3056. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deficient rains have severely affected the crops of maize, apple, off-season vegetables and other agricultural products in Himachal Pradesh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh has sought additional relief from Union Government for farmers and fruit growers;
- (d) if so, the response of Union Government thereto;
- (e) whether Government has agreed to extend additional assistance to the State Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by when this additional relief is likely to be given to Government of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that deficient rains has caused severe losses to the crops of maize, apple, off-season vegetables and other agricultural products in the State amounting to about Rs. 872.36 crore.

(c) to (f) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State with financial and logistic support. The State Governments have ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures. For additional assistance from National Calamity contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature, the State Governments are required to submit a Memorandum. No Memorandum for assistance from the NCCF to deal with the situation arising out of deficit rainfall in the state during South-West Monsoon, 2009 has so far been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The existing norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF, *inter-alia*, include assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above.

Famine in the country

‡3057. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the States where famine situation prevails due to lack of rain;
- (b) the amount of financial aid being allocated by Government to famine affected States to help them in tackling the famine situation; and
- (c) the details thereof?

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

Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Assam

3058. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) how many Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are there in Assam;
- (b) the details of role of these Kendras to boost production of rice and other agricultural products to meet the growing demand in their respective areas; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the K.V.K. meant for the district of Barpeta established in the district of Baksa in Assam?

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

(a) Twenty KVKs are functioning at present in Assam State.

(b) KVKs in Assam State are involved in conducting on-farm trials for technology assessment, and refinement for field application of technologies, demonstrations of proven technologies for their popularization and training the farmers, rural youths and extension personnel towards adoption of the recommended technologies in their field.

(c) No, Sir.

Decline in sowing of paddy

3059. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sowing of paddy, a major foodgrain, has gone down;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve the situation in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The coverage under area of rice has declined so far during Kharif 2009 season due to drought like situation prevailing at present. Less coverage of rice has been reported mainly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal.

The Ministry of Agriculture is constantly reviewing the sowing progress with the State Governments through weekly video-conferences/meetings, particularly in the wake of weak monsoon so far to coordinate adequate response. For different scenarios, contingency crop-plans for specific-agro climatic conditions have been prepared. General features of these plans include replacement of main crop such as rice with alternate crop like millets in case of delayed sowing; planning of early maturing varieties of the main crop; planning for protective irrigation by efficiency use of available water, promoting technical package of practices like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc. Truthfully labeled seeds are allowed to be distributed under various schemes in the affected areas. Age norms are relaxed for the seed varieties distributed under Government Schemes. In case of delayed planting, additional doses of nutrients are recommended for crops in good rainfall areas which to some extent compensate the reduction of production in rain-deficient States/areas.

Live-stock insurance scheme

3060. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of live stock insurance scheme and whether this scheme has been launched belatedly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in its launching; and

(c) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-08) in its 35th report has made recommendation/observations on the subject and if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

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

(a) The Livestock Insurance Scheme has twin objectives of providing protection mechanism to the farmers and cattle rearers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death and to demonstrate the benefits of the insurance of livestock to the people and popularize it with the ultimate goal of attaining qualitative improvement in Livestock and their products. The scheme has been launched belatedly.

(b) The scheme was approved by Government only in February, 2006 for implementing it on pilot basis during 2005-06 and 2006-07 of the Tenth Plan. The funds were released in March, 2006 and the scheme could start only in 2006-07.

(c) The Standing Committee on Agriculture has dwelt on the subject 'Livestock Insurance' and initially made recommendation in their 29th Report. On the basis of an Action Taken Report submitted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), the Committee made further comments in their 35th Report. Further reply on 35th Report by the DADF is given in the Statement.

Statement

Further reply of the Government

The Government has accorded approval on 13th September, 2007 for the continuation of the Livestock Insurance Scheme on pilot basis during 2007-08 in the same format and in the same districts as it was implemented during 2005-06 and 2006-07. The scheme is in full operation in the selected 100 districts across the country. To assess the impact of implementation of the pilot scheme during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 in terms of achieving the objectives of the Scheme and to identify the weaknesses affecting it, an evaluation study has been given to Institute of Rural Management, Anand during the current year. Based on the findings and suggestions of the study, proposal for extending the scheme to the entire country and other species of livestock during 2008-09 and beyond will be taken up. While preparing the proposal afresh for its implementation in entire country during 2008-09 and beyond, various suggestions of the Parliamentary Standing Committee regarding subsidy will be considered.

Production and demand of foodgrains

3061. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether population is growing faster than the production of foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet foodgrain demand beside keeping its prices in control;

(c) the present status of production and consumption of foodgrains and for how many months will the present holding of foodgrains last; and

(d) the measures taken to meet the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The average growth of estimated production of foodgrains in the country during 2004-05 to 2008-09 has been 1.98%, which is higher than the average rate of growth of 1.50% in the population of the country during the same period. However, the Government has taken following major steps to control the prices of foodgrains in the country:—

- Reduction of import duty to zero for wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize.
- Cap of 15 million tones on export of wheat and wheat products *w.e.f.* 15th May, 2009.
- Cap of 20 lakh tones on export of rice on diplomatic basis to friendly countries *w.e.f.* Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09.
- Ban on export of non-basmati rice, wheat and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- Imposition of stock limit orders for paddy, rice and pulses.
- Incentivization on higher production through enhancement in the minimum support price of wheat and rice.
- Reimbursement of losses by the Government to Public Sector Undertaking permitted to import pulses to augment its availability.

(c) Based on the behaviouristic approach, the total demand of foodgrains for 2008-09 has been estimated at 219.01 million tones against estimated production of 233.88 million tones (4th advance estimates released on 21.07.2009).

As regards stock position, inflow and outflow of stocks in Central Pool is a continuous process all over the year. Stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are formed by the quantities of rice, wheat and coarse grains procured during the Kharif and Rabi procurement years. The stocks on 01.07.2009 were 196.16 lakh tonnes of rice, 329.22 lakh tones of wheat and 6.45 lakh tones of coarse grains. The present monthly allocations of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes are 23.21 lakh tones of rice and 18.34 lakh tones of wheat.

(d) In order to further increase production of foodgrains in the country, the Government of India is implementing the following schemes:—

- National Food Security Mission (NFSM) launched in November, 2007 aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tones, wheat by 8 million tones and pulses by 2 million tones by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.* by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts.
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize” (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)” subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October, 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.
- The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) launched in 2007 aims to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector.

Maximum export price for onion

3062. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has brought out that the present system of fixing the maximum export price by NAFED is causing considerable difficulty to the onion producers as also causing loss of export trade for the country;

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

(c) whether Government will decide it before the arrival of Kharif onion crops this year?

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

(a) to (c) There is no proposal from Government of Maharashtra to review fixing of maximum export price of Onion. However, Government of Maharashtra has requested to modify existing Minimum Export Price (MEP) procedure regarding export of Onion and to remove Minimum Export Price. Minimum Export Price (MEP) for export of onions for different varieties is fixed by NAFED every month in consultation with the representatives of Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Agriculture, State Trading Enterprises (STE) and Association shippers. As and when the prices in domestic market rises, MEP is increased to restrict export of onion to improve

availability for domestic consumers. Similarly, when there is bumper production and price crash, MEP is fixed at lower level to increase the outflow of onion from the country for the benefit of the onion growers. It is therefore a regulatory mechanism aimed at balancing the interest of producers and consumers.

Any move to waiving off MEP system may adversely affect the domestic availability and prices of onion as there may not be any control on the export and the domestic consumers may suffer due to less availability and high prices of onion and in case bumper crop of onion, the onion growers may suffer as they may not get remunerative price for their produce.

Settlement of reimbursement of losses

3063. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nonsettlement of demand for reimbursement of losses amounting to rupees 30,000 crores in cotton procurement has been a contributory factor to the large number of suicides taking place in Vidarbha by cotton producing farmers; and

(b) whether the Ministry assures that the matter of reimbursement would be settled before the commencement of the cotton purchasing season this year?

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

(a) and (b) The payment to the cotton growers in the State of Maharashtra under Minimum Support Price (MSP) has already been made and dues are pending.

Potential of employment generation in agriculture sector

†3064. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment generation avenues have declined in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has worked on any action plan for the creation of additional opportunities of employment in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) As per Population Census data released by the Registrar General of India, the number of persons engaged in agriculture sector comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers has increased from 210.68 million in 1991 to 234.10 million in 2001, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. According to the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), (61st Round) as per Usual Status, the estimated number of workers employed in agriculture, has increased from 239.73 million in 1999-2000 (55th round) to 258.59 million in 2004-05 (61st round), showing an increase of 7.86% in five years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Creation of employment in rural areas is one of the policy objectives of the Government. As per the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan, doubling the rate of growth of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 4% per annum will improve rural employment conditions by raising rural wages and reducing unemployment. For the agriculture sector, a series of policy initiatives and programmes/schemes have been taken in vital areas like credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture and extension services to boost investment in agriculture and allied sectors. Efforts are on to enhance production and productivity and to encourage farming as a remunerative profession. This process is being further strengthened through farm mechanization, agri clinics and agri business centres. Programmes have also been taken up to develop rainfed areas. All these schemes and programmes are expected to generate additional employment opportunities in Agriculture Sector. Several development programmes such as Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented. Recently, Government has launched two schemes viz. (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses and (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to incentivize the States/UTs to invest more in the agriculture sector, district wise.

Bio-farming

‡3065. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has carried out any survey with regard to use of bio-farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to encourage bio-farming and provide easy financial support/loan to farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) While the Government has not carried out any specific survey with regard to use of bio-farming or organic farming, the details of area certified or under certification are maintained. Till 2007-08, area of 4.01 lakh hectares had been certified under organic cultivation, while area of 4.64 lakh hectares was under certification.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Government has taken following steps to encourage organic farming:—

- (i) Under “National Project on Organic Farming” (NPOF) financial assistance is provided for capacity building through service providers, setting up of organic input production units, promotion of organic farming through training programmes, field demonstrations, setting up model organic farms and market development.
- (ii) Under the “National Horticulture Mission” (NHM) and the “Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand” (TMNE), promotion of organic farming has been included as a component and financial assistance is provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi-compost units and organic farming certification.
- (e) Does not arise.

Horticulture and floriculture schemes in Goa

3066. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether schemes related to horticulture and floriculture are in operation in Goa;
- (b) if so, the names of the schemes;
- (c) the financial allocation given to the State since the inception of the schemes;
- (d) the activities carried out under the schemes; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following schemes are in operation in Goa for the development of horticulture and floriculture:—

- (i) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) scheme.
- (ii) Micro Irrigation Scheme (MIS); and
- (iii) Coconut Development Board (CDB) scheme.

(c) The financial assistance given to the State of Goa under different schemes is as below:—

- (i) NHM — Rs. 618.84 lakhs (since 2005-06)
- (ii) MIS — Rs 15.73 lakhs (since 2006-07)
- (iii) CDB — Rs. 157.32 lakhs (since inception)

(d) and (e) The details of various activities carried out under these schemes are given in the Statement.

Statement

Various activities under the different schemes for development of horticulture and floriculture in the State of Goa

Sl. No.	Scheme	Activities
1	2	3
1.	Coconut Development Board (CDB)	<p>I. Area Expansion: Assistance provided for cultivation of new area under coconut is Rs. 8,000/- per ha.</p> <p>II. Laying out of demonstration: Assistance provided towards integrated management of coconut gardens at Rs. 35,000/- per ha.</p> <p>III. Organic compost units: Assistance of Rs. 20,000/- is provided for construction of vermi compost units of 5 x 5 x 1 mts.</p>
2.	Micro Irrigation Scheme (MIS)	<p>I. Installation of Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System: 50% of cost is provided for installing 1 ha drip or sprinkler irrigation system.</p> <p>II. Laying of Drip Demonstration: 75% of the cost restricted to 0.5 ha is provided for laying of drip irrigation system.</p> <p>III. Awareness programmes: Trainings for farmers are conducted so that they know the advantages of drip and sprinkler irrigation system.</p>
3.	National Horticultural Mission (NHM)	<p>I. Model/Small Nursery: For Model Nursery, a maximum of Rs. 18.00 lakh is provided per nursery and for Small Nursery, a maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakh is provided.</p> <p>II. Establishment of New Gardens:</p> <p>(i) Fruits (Perennial) Crops like Mango/Kokum/Chickoo — Assistance is provided @ 75% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 22,500/- per ha in 3 installments of 50:20:30.</p> <p>(ii) Fruits (Non-Perennial) Crops like Banana, Pineapple — Assistance is provided @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,000/- per ha in 3 installments of 50:20:30.</p> <p>(iii) Flowers — Cut Flowers, Bulbous Flowers, Loose Flowers — Assistance is provided @ 33% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 25100/- per</p>

1	2	3
		ha for cut flowers, Rs. 29700/- per ha for bulbous flowers and Rs. 7920/- for Loose flowers.
		(iv) Spices Crop's — Assistance is provided @ 75% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 11,250/- per ha.
		III. Plantation Crops (Cashew): Assistance is provided @ 75% of the cost with a maximum of Rs. 11,250/- per ha in 3 installments of 50:20:30.
		IV. Rejuvenation/replacement of senile plantation of Cashew and Mango: Assistance is provided @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,000/- per ha.
		V. Protected cultivation:
		(i) For Green House unit (hi-tech/normal) — 33% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 215/- per sq. mts for hi-tech and 67 sq. mts for normal green house.
		(ii) Mulching — 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,000/- per ha.
		(iii) Shade net — 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3,500/- per ha for 500 sq. mts.
		VI. Promotion of Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Nutrient Management (IPM/INM): 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,000/- per ha.
		VII. Organic Farming:
		(i) Adoption of organic farming — 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per ha.
		(ii) Vermicompost unit — 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per unit.
		(iii) Certification — Rs. 5.00 lakh in a cluster of 50 ha.
		VIII. Human Resource Development (HRD): Rs. 1500/-per farmer for training and Rs. 2500/- for exposure visit.
		IX. Post Harvest Processing and Management:
		(i) Rural markets/apni mandis/direct market — Project based
		(ii) Functional infrastructure for grading, collection, etc. — Project based.

Administration of NIPER Act

3067. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Governors of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali (NIPER) and its various Committees like Academic Planning and Development Committee have not met minimum number of times as per the NIPER Act, since 2005;

(b) if so, whether this Committee was duly constituted as per NIPER Act by the Board of Governors and if so, the details thereof and if not, how does Government ensures strict compliance of the Act; and

(c) the action taken by Government against those who are responsible for these lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Board of Governors of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) and its Committees have met as per the statutory provisions of NIPER Act, since 2005. A few meetings, however, could not be held for reasons beyond control.

(b) The Committees have been duly constituted as per the Act/Statutes of the Institute.

(c) Does not arise.

Disposing off of waste materials

†3068. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Rs. 50 crores for erecting a monument of international standard in the memory of Bhopal Gas Tragedy in Union Carbide campus in Bhopal has been received and if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard;

(b) whether a proposal of Rs. 50 crore for disposing off of waste material kept in Union Carbide campus in Bhopal has been received; and

(c) if so, by when this amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the decision to construct a Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial was taken by the State Government on 23rd February, 2007. The Planning Commission has approved one time additional central assistance of Rs. 10.00 crore for this purpose, provided during 2006-07 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Cabinet Sub-Committee has approved the conceptual plan for construction of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial. The extent of Government of India's responsibility in the matter

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of construction of memorial is limited to the additional central assistance released to the State Government by Planning Commission. The State Government has moved an application before the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Jabalpur in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 pending before the High Court seeking permission to start construction of the memorial. The construction will start after receiving the permission of the High Court.

(b) and (c) No such proposal of Rs. 50 crore has been received by the Government for disposing off of waste material kept in Union Carbide campus in Bhopal. However, the process of disposal of toxic wastes lying at Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) premises is being jointly funded by Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh and monitored by the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur.

Quota of fertilizers to Gujarat

3069. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the insufficient quota of fertilizers allotted to Gujarat during current year;

(b) if so, the actions taken to meet with the demand of fertilizers from the State of Gujarat; and

(c) what permanent measures Government proposes to take for sufficient supply of fertilizers to Gujarat in years to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. However, the availability of urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in Gujarat during current Kharif, 2009 (April'09 to July'09) has been adequate enough to sustain the sales/assessed requirement as under:—

(‘000 tonnes)

Month	UREA		DAP		MOP		NPK	
	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.
April'09	65.50	117.14	33.80	58.47	13.10	27.24	20.50	52.83
May'09	59.00	131.77	97.80	161.31	14.50	22.87	38.80	67.90
June'09	140.00	155.50	100.00	201.07	20.70	25.49	38.50	35.73
July'09	262.00	245.70 *	77.80	144.85 *	21.30	5.11 *	41.70	39.40 *

(*as on 30/07/2009)

As can be seen, availability of Urea, DAP and NPK is comfortable. However, there may be little tightness in availability of MOP in the month of July. The MOP importers have already entered into supply contracts and arrivals of imported MOP vessels will start soon, which will improve MOP supplies to Gujarat.

Rise in medicine prices

3070. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of medicines/life saving drugs have increased manifold during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons alongwith the percentage of increase in prices of each medicine in comparison to the last two years;
- (d) whether Government has set up or proposes to set up any high powered committee for review of price control mechanism of medicines;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to keep the prices of medicines/life saving drugs under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995), the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in its First Schedule and the formulations containing any of these drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government fixes or revises prices of the Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

During the current financial year 2009-10 (up to 30th June, 2009), the prices of 481 medicine packs have been fixed/revised by the NPPA, out of which only in 42 cases the prices have increased. The increase is due to upward revision in the notified price of the bulk drugs and cost of inputs. This constitutes 8.7% of the total cases for which prices were fixed/revised during 2009-10. In the remaining cases, the prices were either reduced or fixed for the first time or there was no change in the price.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-Scheduled drugs, the manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on the various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before

01.04.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

(d) to (f) The Government has prepared a draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, which was submitted to the Cabinet for its approval. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Further, it has also been proposed to issue new Drugs (Prices Control) Order on the basis of the new policy framework to replace the existing DPCO, 1995. The Cabinet having considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 decided that it be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM) at the first instance. The GOM held four meetings but did not make recommendations to the Cabinet. Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy can be finalized only after GOM makes its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Shortage of fertilizers and seeds

3071. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an artificial shortage of fertilizers and seeds has been created in Haveri district of Karnataka thus generating discontentment among farmers there; and

(b) if so, what action Government has taken to address the problem there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Department of Fertilizers, Government of India ensures availability of fertilizers at State level. The distribution of fertilizers within the State rests with the State Government. The availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilisers in Karnataka during Kharif, 2009 (April to July, 2009) is as under:—

(^{000 tonnes})

Month	UREA		DAP		MOP		NPK	
	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.
April'09	40.00	68.59	30.00	61.83	30.00	37.74	50.00	86.24
May'09	60.00	81.61	75.00	144.07	27.00	37.82	76.90	107.45
June'09	130.00	135.91	123.30	164.33	51.00	76.22	109.50	94.51
July'09	170.00	171.00 *	85.00	141.56 *	54.00	29.67 *	124.00	85.64 *

(*as on 30/07/2009)

As can be seen, availability of Urea and DAP is comfortable. However, there may be little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of lower level of indigenous production and also as can not be imported as these are not covered under existing concession scheme. There may be a slight shortage of MOP in the month of July. The MOP importers have already entered into supply contracts and arrivals of imported MOP vessels will start soon, which will improve supplies of MOP to Karnataka.

The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing, artificial shortage and hoarding etc.

Fertilizers subsidy

3072. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released for fertilizer subsidy for the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and whether the benefit of subsidy is actually reaching the farmers;

(b) what is the total requirement of fertilizers for the country and per hectare utilization of fertilizers, national average as also, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is thinking of any alternative option to give subsidy to farmers directly?

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

(Rs. in crore)

Item	Amount of Subsidy (Gross) disbursed				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Imported Urea	742.37	2140.88	5071.06	9934.99	12971.18
Indigenous Urea	10243.15	10652.57	12650.37	12950.37	17968.74
Cash Bonds	—	—	—	3500.00	3000.00
Imported P&K	1165.18	2097.00	3649.95	5100.00	23847.69
Cash Bonds	—	—	—	1500.00	8750.00
Indigenous P&K	3977.00	4499.19	6648.16	7833.80	24707.10
Cash Bonds	—	—	—	2500.00	8250.00
TOTAL:	16127.70	19389.64	28019.54	43319.16	99494.71

Further, in the current year, the estimated requirement of fertilizer subsidy has been assessed at Rs. 77,425.19 crore. (gross)

The fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Price of fertilizers which is below the normated delivered cost at farm gate level.

(b) Requirement of major fertilizers for the last five years is as under:—

(In lakh tones)				
Years	UREA	DAP	MOP	Complexes
2004-05	214.08	70.60	23.21	63.42
2005-06	234.26	78.03	28.89	74.40
2006-07	249.46	81.29	33.24	82.90
2007-08	271.72	89.21	36.13	87.40
2008-09	281.33	94.83	37.86	92.32

National average (All India) as well as State-wise per hectare consumption (N+P+K) is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) There are proposals from various stakeholders including industry to review the current fertilizer subsidy regime and look at various alternatives including direct subsidy to farmers. The Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current nutrient based pricing regime, in order to ensure balanced application of fertilizers and increase in agricultural productivity, which can consequently lead to better returns to the farmers. However, no final decision has been taken yet.

Statement

State-wise per hectare consumption of fertilizers (N+P+K) during 2007-08.

(Kg.)					
Sl. No.	State/UT	N	P	K	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	121.80	54.25	32.17	208.23
2.	Karnataka	63.54	31.10	26.56	121.19
3.	Kerala	31.96	14.64	24.78	71.38
4.	Tamil Nadu	92.99	39.04	52.06	184.09
5.	Puducherry	556.67	238.06	237.78	1032.50
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27.86	25.71	8.57	62.14
7.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Gujarat	86.27	34.79	11.97	133.03
9.	Madhya Pradesh	39.56	21.39	3.77	64.72
10.	Chhattisgarh	47.50	20.40	9.19	77.09
11.	Maharashtra	55.98	28.42	18.65	103.05
12.	Rajasthan	32.75	12.10	0.97	45.82
13.	Goa	20.17	10.70	10.58	41.45
14.	Daman and Diu	126.67	20.00	10.00	156.67
15.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20.36	14.29	1.79	36.43
16.	Haryana	146.93	40.24	3.69	190.86
17.	Punjab	164.78	43.08	4.81	212.67
18.	Uttar Pradesh	106.66	31.85	7.06	145.57
19.	Uttarakhand	93.02	19.94	8.29	121.26
20.	Himachal Pradesh	34.15	9.41	9.20	52.76
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.03	15.24	4.22	69.48
22.	Delhi	6.98	1.86	0.23	9.07
23.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Bihar	122.61	25.27	11.13	159.01
25.	Jharkhand	33.83	17.34	3.69	54.86
26.	Orissa	31.36	13.46	7.26	52.08
27.	West Bengal	71.05	40.04	31.60	142.68
28.	Assam	29.09	15.37	15.76	60.21
29.	Tripura	25.65	8.84	7.45	41.94
30.	Manipur	64.06	15.00	5.80	84.87
31.	Maghalaya	9.58	4.57	1.25	15.40
32.	Nagaland	1.16	0.62	0.30	2.07
33.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.64	0.69	0.33	2.65
34.	Mizoram	20.78	11.52	9.78	42.07
35.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ALL INDIA:		74.43	28.47	13.61	116.51

Price rise of food items

3073. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that prices are rising continuously of wheat, onion and oil besides other essential items;
- (b) if so, whether Government is taking any step to effectively control the price rise in the interest of common man;
- (c) whether Government is considering to make available wheat, onion, oil and other essential items in retail stores throughout the country to control the price rise; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reason therefor?

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

(b) As a result of the Various steps taken by the Government, prices of certain essential commodities such as wheat, edible oil have generally declined or are steady. Government measures to effectively control the price rise of essential commodities are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Wheat, Rice, Sugar, Kerosene oil are made available through PDS. A Statement indicating Additional commodities being distributed through PDS outlets (as reported by State/UTs) is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Government Measures

(A) Short Term Measures

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero — for wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize (under TRQ of 5 lakh tonnes per annum, beyond which 15% duty will apply);
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;
- (iii) Reducing the import duty on Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) from 15% to 5%.

2. Administrative Measures

- (i) The export of edible oils is permitted in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs, subject to a limit of 10,000 tonnes during the next one year up to 31st October, 2009.
- (ii) Export of wheat and wheat products (atta, maida and suji) was permitted after 15th May 2009, with a cap of 2 million tonnes in 2009-10.

- (iii) Banning export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (iv) Export not more than 20 lakh tonnes of rice, on diplomatic basis through the MEA to friendly countries in KMS 2008-09.
- (v) No changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;
- (vi) Imposition of stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, edible oils and oilseeds;
- (vii) The periodic enhancements in MSP — currently Rs. 1080 per quintal for wheat, Rs. 850 per quintal for common rice and Rs. 880 per quintal for Grade A rice, to maximize procurement of wheat and rice.
- (viii) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at \$185 per tonne for June, 2009) and basmati rice (\$1100 PMT) *w.e.f* 20.01.2009;
- (ix) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY since July, 2002.
- (x) Futures trading in Rice, Wheat, Urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 continued during the year 2008-09. Futures trading in sugar has been suspended *w.e.f* 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.
- (xi) Distribution of one million tons of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg.
- (xii) To augment availability of pulses, the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED were permitted to import and sell pulses under a scheme and losses, if any, upto 15% are reimbursed by the Government.
- (xiii) Government allowed import of raw sugar under advance authorization Scheme and permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfill export obligation on ton to ton basis.
- (xiv) Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills (at zero duty) upto 30.9.2009 (notified on 17.2.2009 and 2.3.2009).
- (xv) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 1.8.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.4.2009).
- (xvi) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tonnes by 1.8.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.4.2009).
- (xvii) Levy obligation was removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

- (xviii) Released 6 lakh tonnes of additional non levy sugar for April-June, 2009 Quarter taking the total release to 60 lakh tonnes against 50 lakh tonnes in corresponding Quarter in 2008 and 50 lakh tonnes in January-March, 2009.
- (xix) The availability of non-levy sugar for April'09 including the additional quota released stood at 22 lac tons against 17 lacs for March, 2009 and 17 lac tons for April, 2008. For the month of May, 2009, release of non-levy sugar including additional quota released stood at 21 lac tons as against 17.5 lac tons for May, 2008. For the month of June, 2009, the release of non-levy sugar stands at 16 lac tons as against release of 13.5 lac tons for June, 2008. Besides about 1 lac ton of raw sugar imported and reprocessed by sugar mills have been released during the month of June, 2009.

(B) Medium Term Measures:

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

Statement

*Additional commodities being distributed through PDS outlets other than
Wheat, Rice, Coarsegrains, Sugar and Kerosene oil
(as reported by respective State/UT). As on 30.06.2009*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name of Item/ Commodity	Additional Commodities (except rice, wheat, coarsegrain, sugar and kerosene) being distributed through PDS outlets at:—	
			Subsidized rates	Normal rate
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Enriched Wheat floor	Rs. 10/- per kg.	Rs. 20/- to 25/- per kg.
		2. Iodized Salt (G.M)	Rs. 4/- per kg.	Rs. 8/- per kg. and above
		3. Red Gram Dal	Rs. 30/- per kg.	Rs. 40/- per kg. and above
		4. Tamarind	Rs. 30/- per kg. Gr.I	Rs. 34/- to 35/- per kg.
		5. P. Oil	Rs. 30/- per kg.	Rs. 40/- to 46/- per kg.
		6. Black Gram Dal	Rs. 45/- per litr.	Rs. 48/- to 55/- per lit.
		7. Green Gram Dal	Rs. 43/- per kg.	Rs. 55/- per kg.
		8. Palmolein Oil	Rs. 42/- per kg.	Rs. 52/- per kg.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	— Edible Oil	Rs. 45/-	Rs. 59/- and above
		— Pulses	These items are sold on FPS outlets at the normal rates	Normal Rates for all the items
		— Vanaspati Ghee		

1	2	3	4	5
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Milk Powder — Baby Food — Dry Cells — Matches — All types of soap — Paper including newsprint, paper board and straw board — Hurricane Lanterns — Lead writing pencils — Exercise books — Butter — Tea — Yarn 		
3.	Assam	1. Iodised salt under State Zonal quota	Rs. 4.70/- per kg. (powder packet)	Rs. 8/- to Rs. 10/- per kg.
		2. -do-	Rs. 3.50/- per kg (crushed)	Nil
4.	Bihar	<p>The State Government has issued instruction to all District Collectors to sold the following additional items other than PDS items through FPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Milk and Milk Products. 2. Cosmetic for use of rural areas 3. Daily use items <i>i.e.</i> Salt, Tea, Pulses, Stationary items, Soap, Tootpaste, Edible oil etc. 4. 5 Kg. LPG Cylinder. 5. Postal items. 6. Operate the telephone booth for BSNL and other than private companies, sim card and recharge coupon etc. 		
5.	Chhattisgarh	Iodized Amrit Salt	25 paise per kg. for BPL, AAY and ANP families	Rs. 4.00 per kg. for APL families

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Delhi	No additional commodities is sold through FPS on subsidized rates	No additional commodities is sold through FPS on subsidized rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Iodised Salt — All types of edible oil — All kinds of pulses — Candles — Spices — Soaps/detergent powder — Toothpaste — Tea leaves
7.	Goa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sugar 2. Turdal 3. Masur dal 4. Jaggary 5. Rava 6. Atta 7. Maida 8. Tea 9. Palmoleine Oil 10. Urd dal 11. Watana 12. Nachani 13. Green Peas 14. Masur 15. Ground nut 16. Moog dal 17. Moog 18. Pohe 19. Salt 20. Coconuts 21. Jodhala 22. Bajari 23. Exercise books (100 pages) Exercise books (200 pages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs. 17/- to 21/- per kg. Rs. 42/- to 46/- per kg. Rs. 55/- per kg. Rs. 22/- to 24/- per kg. Rs. 18/- to 20/- per kg. Rs. 11/- to 17/- per kg. Rs. 17/- to 18/- per kg. Rs. 90/- to 150/- per kg Rs. 50/- per packet. Rs. 50/- per kg. Rs. 30/- to 44/- per kg. Rs. 13/- per kg. Rs. 32/- per kg. Rs. 45/- per kg. Rs. 50/- per kg. Rs. 50/- per kg. Rs. 42/- to 45/- per kg. Rs. 22/- per kg. Rs. 5/- to 8/- per kg. Rs. 6/- to 10/- Rs. 12/- per kg Rs. 12/- per kg Rs. 12/- Rs. 18/-
8.	Gujarat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iodized Salt 2. Edible Oil 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iodized Salt — Rs. 0.50 per kg. 2. Edible Oil — Lower price than the open marked price 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> —

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Haryana	The State Government has issued instructions to all District Food and Supply Officer to sell also items other than PDS items <i>i.e.</i> Pulses, Copies, Vegetable Oil, Candle, Match Box, Salt and Soap through FPS and the State Government has no objection in regard.	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.. Dal Malka 2. Dal Channa 3. Urad Sabut 4. Mustard Oil 5. Refined Oil 6. Iodized Oil	Rs. 20 per kg. Rs. 25 per kg Rs. 25 per kg Rs. 45 per kg Rs. 40 per kg Rs. 4 per kg	Rs. 37 per kg. Rs. 33 per kg. Rs. 39 per kg. Rs. 65 per kg. Rs. 55 per kg. Rs. 8 per kg.
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.	—	—
12.	Jharkhand	Iodised salt	2 Kg. for BPL family per month @ Rs. 0.25 per kg.	
13.	Karnataka	The State Government has intimated that no non-PDS items are being supplied through FPS in Karnataka State		
14.	Kerala	1. Green Gram 2. U.D. Washed 3. U.D. Split 4. B.G. Bold 5. Lobia 6. Toordal 7. Peasdhal 8. Chillies 9. Corriander 10. Cuminseed 11. Mustard	36.00 49.00 47.00 29.00 27.00 29.00 19.00 57.00 35.00 96.00 23.00	48.00 67.75 62.30 47.00 42.50 39.50 29.00 87.75 57.50 139.50 36.00

1	2	3	4	5
		12. Methi	30.00	48.25
		13. Sabari tea	75.00	87.00
		14. Sabari Palm Oil 1 ltr.	47.00	48.00
		15. Free flow salt 1 kg.	5.00	6.00
		16. Crystal Salt 1 kg.	2.75	4.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.	—	—
16.	Maharashtra	Not reported		
17.	Manipur	Not reported		
18.	Meghalaya	Not reported		
19.	Mizoram	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS- Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Nagaland	Not reported		
21.	Orissa	The Government has allowed to FPS owners to sale non-PDS commodities in FPS. FPS have been allowed to operate Public Telephone Booth.		
22.	Punjab	The State Government has intimated that a large number of FPS are already selling non PDS alongwith PDS items.		
23.	Rajasthan	Iodized Salt		
24.	Sikkim	FPSs in the State are permitted to sell all consumer items, however, no subsidy is provided to the additional items/ commodities sold by them.		
25.	Tamil Nadu	1.. Toor Dhal	Rs. 34.00 per kg.	Rs. 40.00 per kg.
		2. Orat Dhal	Rs. 40.00 per kg.	Rs. 46.00 per kg.
		3. Palm Oil	Rs. 40.00 per liter	Rs. 50.00 per liter
		4. Rava	Rs. 17.00 per kg.	Rs. 22.00 per kg.
		5. Maida	Rs. 16.00 per kg.	Rs. 20.00 per kg.

1	2	3	4	5
		6. Fortified wheat flour.	Rs. 11.00 per kg.	Rs. 17.00 per kg.
		7. Turmeric Powder-50 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		8. Chill Powder-250 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		9. Coriander Powder-250 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		10. Channa Dal-75 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		11. Methi Dal-25 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		12. Mustard-25 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		13. Soump-25 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		14. Pepper-25 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		15. Zeera-50 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
		16. Lavang-10 gms.	Rs. 50/- per packet	Rs. 71.30
26.	Tripura	1. Atta (wheat is converted into whole meal atta)	Rs. 8.75 per kg.	Not furnished
		2. Iodized Salt in I (one) kg poly packet	Rs. 3.50 per kg.	Not furnished
27.	Uttaranchal	Not reported		
28.	Uttar Pradesh	— Soap — Toothpaste — Oil — Pulses — Iodized Salt — Tea — ORS Tablet — Condom and Sanitary napkins	These items are sold on FPS outlets at the normal rates	Normal Rates for all the items
29	West Bengal	1. Mustard Oil Iodized 2. Salt (a) Essential (b) Labonya	Rs. 50/- liter Rs. 3.50 per kg. Rs. 5.50 per kg.	Consumer price has been fixed by the Government at a rate 10% lower than that of the open market.
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.	—	—
31	Chandigarh	FPS are granted to the karyana merchants who apart from distributing		

1	2	3	4	5
		the Essential commodities under TPDS to BPL and AAY are also retailing grocery items and other items of daily use like Toothpaste, soaps, detergent powder, tea, salt, match boxes etc.		
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.	—	—
33	Daman and Diu	Not reported		
34	Lakshadweep	1. Atta 2. Maidha 3. Green gram 4. Toordhall 5. Palm oil 6. Coconut oil 7. Chillies 8. Spices 9. Tea dust 10. Milk products 11. Detergent powder 12. Toilet soaps 13. Salt 14. Cement 15. Steel 16. River sand 17. Granite metal 18. Cloth items 19. Electrical goods etc.		Normal Rates for all the items.
35	Pondicherry	1. Toor Dhal 2. Black Gram Dhal 3. Coriander 4. Chillies 5. Iodised Powdered Salt 6. Tamarind 7. Palm Oil	Rs. 34/- per Kg. Rs. 26/- per kg. Rs. 59/- per kg. Rs. 18.50/- half kg. Nil Nil Rs. 40/- per litre	Rs. 50/- per kg. Rs. 40/- per kg. Rs. 100/- per kg. Rs. 65/- per kg. Rs. 3.50 Rs. 17.50 Rs. 53/- per litre

BPL cardholders

3074. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Central Government the number of BPL cardholders in the country stood at 4.02 crores;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that in a recent meeting held with the States' representatives by Food Secretary, the States have given a figure of 8.13 crore BPL cardholders;

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

(e) the reasons behind this high variation of figures between the Centre and the States; and

(f) by when Government is going to notify the BPL families so as to provide them with food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at national and State levels. For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. The latest level of poverty in the country has been notified by the Planning Commission in March, 2007 for the year 2004-05. According to this, 27.5% population was living below poverty line during 2004-05.

As provided under PDS (Control) Order, 2001, the State/UT governments have to identify BPL families as per the estimates accepted by Central Government (6.52 crore). However, as reported by end of June, 2009, the State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL ration cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards. The State-wise estimated number of BPL families and BPL and AAY cards issued by the State Governments/UT Administrations is given in the Statement (*See below*). The wide variation in number of BPL families accepted by Central Government for allocations and BPL ration cards issued by State Governments is to a large extent because of exclusion and inclusion errors in identifying the BPL families.

(f) For formulating guidelines for next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development has constituted an Expert Group in August, 2008. The new methodology is yet to be finalized by that Ministry.

Statement

*State-wise total no. of BPL households and Ration cards issued to
BPL, AAY households*

*As reported by 30.06.2009
(figures in lakhs)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of estimated BPL families as on 1.3.2000 based on 1993-94 poverty estimates	Ration cards issued by State/UT Governments		
			BPL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	175.54	15.58	191.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	0.61	0.38	0.99
3.	Assam	18.36	12.02	7.04	19.06
4.	Bihar	65.23	39.94	24.29	64.23
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.75	11.56	7.19	18.75
6.	Delhi	4.09	2.88	1.5	4.38
7.	Goa	0.48	0.13	0.14	0.27
8.	Gujarat	21.20	25.75	8.1	33.85
9.	Haryana	7.89	9.05	2.92	11.97
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	3.17	1.97	5.14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.36	4.80	2.56	7.36
12.	Jharkand	23.94	14.76	9.18	23.94
13.	Karnataka	31.29	76.77	12	88.77
14.	Kerala	15.54	14.82	5.96	20.78
15.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25	52.65	15.82	68.47
16.	Maharashtra	65.34	45.13	24.64	69.77
17.	Manipur	1.66	1.02	0.64	1.66
18.	Meghalaya	1.83	1.13	0.7	1.83
19.	Mizoram	0.68	0.42	0.26	0.68
20.	Nagaland	1.24	0.77	0.47	1.24
21.	Orissa	32.98	37.63	12.65	50.28
22.	Punjab	4.68	2.89	1.79	4.68

1	2	3	4	5	6
23. Rajasthan		24.31	16.53	9.32	25.85
24. Sikkim		0.43	0.27	0.16	0.43
25. Tamil Nadu*		48.63	181.91	18.65	200.56
26. Tripura		2.95	1.82	1.13	2.95
27. Uttar Pradesh		106.79	65.84	40.95	106.79
28. Uttaranchal		4.98	3.46	1.51	4.97
29. West Bengal		51.79	37.98	14.8	52.78
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.28	0.13	0.04	0.17
31. Chandigarh		0.23	0.09	0.02	0.11
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.18	0.12	0.05	0.17
33. Daman and Diu		0.04	0.03	0.01	0.04
34. Lakshadweep		0.03	0.02	0.012	0.03
35. Pondicherry		0.84	1.14	0.32	1.46
TOTAL:		652.03	842.78	242.75	1085.53

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

Food security legislation

3075. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware about the greater responsibility they would bear once the food security legislation is passed in the Parliament;
- (b) if so, what pre-arrangement are being made to cope up with workload;
- (c) what is the situation about fair price shops in various States; and
- (d) whether his Ministry is aware about the non-functioning of PDS in most of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to received 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, subsidy component and other implications, etc. are yet to be worked out.

Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for lifting of the allocated foodgrains, their distribution within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration cardholders through fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments,

As per provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001, functioning of FPS is regulated by State/UT Governments.

TPDS is being operated in all States and UTs. For streamlining its functioning, the Government has directed State and UT Governments for:—

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart card based delivery of essential commodities.

Import duty on edible oil

3076. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the competent authority has reduced import duty on edible oil consistently over the past three years;
- (b) if so, the details including the import duty of crude palmolein and palmoil for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;
- (c) the quantity of palmoil and crude palmolein imported during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;
- (d) whether competent authority has taken any step to protect the farmers and coconut growers who are badly affected by the edible oil import;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The import duty on edible oil has been reduced over the past three years. The details of import duty including the import duty of crude palmolein and palm oil for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The quantities imported during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise is given below:—

Quantity in MTs

Item description	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Crude palm oil and its fractions	1959920	2541629	3276662
Refined bleached deodorised palm oil	97	15318	14074
Refined bleached deodorised palmolein	269797	68751	160468
Other refined palm oil	219370	140684	63696

Source: DGCIS, Kolkatta

(d) to (f) Government has taken various steps to protect the interest of farmers and coconut growers in the country include:—

- (i) A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 major oilseeds growing States for increasing production. Under the above Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, gypsum/pyrite/lime/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, training, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow these crops.
- (ii) Enhanced incentives to farmers through fixation of higher Minimum Support Price of major oilseeds.
- (iii) Research for development of higher yielding improved varieties and production and protection technologies in oilseeds.
- (iv) Export of coconut oil has been permitted through Cochin Port and import of crude and refined palm oils through any port in Kerala has been prohibited to help maintain coconut oil prices, thereby protecting the interest of coconut growers.

Statement

Details of import duty including the import duty of Crude Palmolein and Palm Oil for the last three years

Name of Oil	Rates of import duty/effective dates					
1	2					
Crude Palm Oil	70% (11-08-06)	60% (24-01-07)	50% (13-04-07)	45% (23-07-07)	20% (21-03-08)	-Nil- (01-04-08)
RBD Palmolein	80% (11-08-06)	67.5% (24-01-07)	57.5% (13-04-07)	52.5% (23-07-07)	27.5% (21-03-08)	7.5% (01-04-08)

1	2				
Crude Soyabean Oil	40%	-Nil-	20%	-Nil-	
	(23-07-07)	(01-04-08)	(18-11-08)	(24-03-09)	
Refined Soyabean Oil	40%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	
	(23-07-07)	(01-04-08)	(01-04-08)	(01-04-08)	
Crude Sunflower Oil	65%	50%	40%	20%	-Nil-
	(24-01-07)	(01-03-07)	(23-07-07)	(21-03-08)	(01-04-08)
Refined Sunflower Oil	75%	60%	50%	27.5%	7.5%
	(24-01-07)	(01-03-07)	(23-07-07)	(21-03-08)	(01-04-08)

Wholesale and consumer price index

†3077. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the rate of wholesale price index of the country remaining almost at zero in the months of May and June, 2009 the consumer price index was being evaluated at 10 per cent;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the actual status of the rising prices in the country is ascertained only on the basis of consumer price index because this affects the common man; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) in May and June, 2009 was 1.06% and (-) 1.40% respectively, while the Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers) (CPI-IW) inflation for May, 2009, the latest month for which data is available, was 8.63%.

(c) and (d) Inflation in India is currently measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and four Consumer Price Indices (CPI), constructed for specific user groups, such as industrial workers (CPI-IW), urban non-manual employees (CPI-UNME), agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) and rural labourers (CPI-RL) whereas WPI is a single National Index compiled at the national level. CPI is a user specific and centre-specific Index Numbers. All India CPI of each user group is a weighted average of centre specific Index Numbers. Both group of Indices have their unique use. The WPI is used for broad macro-economic quick policy responses. CPIs are used for wage indexation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Disagreement between the Centre and States regarding
determination of poverty level**

3078. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several State Governments have expressed their disagreement with Centre's method of estimating poverty levels and allocating foodgrains on the basis of these much lower numbers;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have no alternative but to subsidise the foodgrains at their cost under the public distribution system; and

(c) whether there is any proposal that the States shall have no say in extending the benefits to other beneficiaries beyond those allowed by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is jointly operated with shared responsibilities by the Central and State/UT Governments. The responsibility for identification of BPL and AAY families as per Planning Commission estimates and guidelines of Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and issuance of ration cards to them, lifting of allocated foodgrains and its proper distribution to the eligible families through Fair Price Shops is of the State/UT Governments.

Under the TPDS allocation of foodgrains is made @ 35 kg. per family per month for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. As provided under PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State Governments are expected to identify BPL families as per their respective share within this ceiling limit and issue foodgrains @ 35 kg. per BPL family per month. However, State Governments have issued 10.86 crore ration cards to BPL families as against 6.52 crore BPL families accepted for allocation.

Based on 2004-05 poverty estimates and March, 2009 population estimates, number of BPL families works out to 5.91 crores in the country. However, presently, allocations of foodgrains under TPDS by Central Government are being continued for 6.52 crore BPL and AAY families.

(c) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every BPL family is to be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, scope for State Governments to extend benefits to non-BPL families, etc. are yet to be worked out.

Lifting of cereals allocated to Bihar

†3079. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cereals allocated by the Central Government through Food Corporation of India is not being lifted by the Bihar Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Bihar Government has explained the situation by writing a letter in this regard; and

(d) if so, the situation according to the letter, and whether Government has relaxed certain rules so that the lifting of the cereals could be easy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The position of allocation and lifting of foodgrains under TPDS in Bihar during 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto May, 2009) is as follows :—

(in thousand tons)

Year	Rice			Wheat		
	Allotment	Lifting	%age	Allotment	Lifting	%age
2008-09	1884.518	916.863	48.65	1073.604	612.159	57.02
2009-10 (upto May, 2009)	314.156	148.085	47.14	249.596	80.890	32.41

As can be seen from these details, lifting of allocated foodgrains by State Government of Bihar has been unsatisfactory. In November, 2008, the State Government reported about non-availability of stocks for sometime in some FCI depots. For this necessary corrective steps were taken by FCI.

As per the existing instructions/guidelines, validity period for lifting of foodgrains allocated under TPDS is 50 days for each allocation month separately, starting from the 1st day of the month preceding the allocation month and ending on the 20th day of the allocation month. Extension of validity period upto 15 days can be granted by FCI authorities in cases where full payment for the allocation had been received by FCI by 15th of the allocation month, but full quantities of allocated foodgrains were not available during the validity period in the assigned or alternatively assigned FCI depots/godowns. Beyond 15 days, extension of validity period is considered by the Ministry. Since October, 2008, three requests for extension of validity period of lifting of foodgrains-received from the State Government have been granted.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Allocation of rice to Andhra Pradesh under TPDS

3080. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) the total quantity of rice allocated and lifted to the State of Andhra Pradesh under TPDS in the last five years, yearwise;

(b) whether it is a fact that last year the allocation of rice to the State has been reduced by 5,37,060 MT;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any request has been made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for restoration of the quantity of rice; and

(e) if so, what action Government has taken on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The allocation of foodgrains including rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made to all States/UTs for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/UT Government, *whichever is less*. While allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all 40.63 lakh families accepted as eligible in Andhra Pradesh, the allocations for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made to all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Year-wise details of quantities of rice allocated to Andhra Pradesh and offtake by the State Government during the last 5 year are as follows:—

(In lakh tons)

Year	Allocation			Offtake		
	BPL+AAY	APL	Total	BPL+AAY	APL	Total
2004-05	17.06	21.13	38.19	17.16	11.04	28.20
2005-06	17.06	21.13	38.19	17.10	14.57	31.67
2006-07	17.06	21.13	38.19	17.11	14.42	31.53
2007-08	17.06	21.13	38.19	18.03	17.93	35.96
2008-09	17.06	18.36	35.42	16.80	18.20	35.00

Based on assessment of procurement of rice during KMS — 2007-08, which was lower than overall demands from States for 2008-09, allocations of APL rice for 2008-09 to all States

including Andhra Pradesh were made on the basis of past offtake. In view of this allocation of APL rice Andhra Pradesh for 2008-09 has been lower than that of 2007-08.

(d) and (e) The State Government has requested for restoration of APL rice allocation at the level of 2007-08. Since, the policy of rationalisation of APL rice allocation based on past offtake is uniformly applicable for all States, the request could not be agreed to. However in view of higher procurement of rice in the State during KMS 2007-08 and higher procurement during KMS-2008-09 assured by the State Government, the Government has made additional allocation of 2.60 lakh tons of APL rice during 2008-09 and 2.00 lakh tons of APL rice during the current year (upto August, 2009) as part of incentive for procurement of rice higher than the target fixed for the State. This incentive based additional allocation of 40,000 tons of APL rice would be continued for September, 2009.

Complaints in consumer courts

3081. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by the consumer courts in the country/ Rajasthan, during the last three years, and their disposal;

(b) the total number of accumulated cases pending disposal at the end of 2008;

(c) whether disposal work is satisfactory or pendency is increasing year by year; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite disposal of complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of complaints received and disposed off by the Consumer Fora in the whole country (including Rajasthan) during the last three years, as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), are given in Statement-I and II (*See below*).

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

Year	National Commission	State Commissions	District Fora	Total
End of 2008	9617	112040	235279	356936

(c) The disposal of cases by the Consumer Fora is satisfactory, keeping in view the various problems being faced by them viz. vacancies of President/Members of Consumer Fora, shortage of supporting staff, inadequate infrastructure and funds, etc. The pendency of cases is increasing due to heavy institution of cases.

(d) The important steps being taken by the Central Government to expedite disposal of complaints are as under:—

- (i) Financial assistance is being provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their infrastructure. 'CONFONET' scheme for computerization and networking of Consumer Fora across the country is also being implemented.
- (ii) With an objective to facilitate the Fora in quicker disposal of cases, several provisions were made through Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 which included enabling the Senior Most Member to preside over the Consumer Fora if the President is absent for any reasons, establishment of Circuit Benches of National Commission and providing for reappointment of President/Members of Consumer Fora.
- (iii) The Central Government has been requesting State Governments to take advance action for filling up expected vacancies of President and Members. Wherever required, adjacent Fora can be clubbed together. Benches can also be established in Consumer Fora.

Statement-I

Year-wise filing and disposal in National Commission and State Commissions

(upto 30.06.2009)

National Commission	2006		2007		2008	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
	5222	4269	4866	4662	5873	5456
State	2006		2007		2008	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2027	1078	2101	720	1785	178
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Arunachal Pradesh	4	7	7	5	2	3
Assam	79	2	47	24	43	0
Bihar	1185	406	780	766.	616	755
Chandigarh	976	821	1228	1090	2376	1448
Chhattisgarh	865	895	728	710	962	451

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dadra and Nagar Haveli/ Daman and Diu	1	1	10	8	0	0
Delhi	1589	2928	1541	2475	1464	1859
Goa	131	113	136	93	89	176
Gujarat	2294	1888	2565	1618	2428	1739
Haryana	3025	1395	3570	1792	2274	2134
Himachal Pradesh	1664	2040	2180	1935	1508	1521
Jammu and Kashmir	162	34	321	200	187	234
Jharkhand	442	447	812	268	250	151
Karnataka	3451	2516	2685	3294	3149	3066
Kerala	976	675	316	236		
Lakshadweep	0	0	2	1	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	2970	2780	3101	2706	3250	3201
Maharashtra	3183	2063	4708	3153	4673	3935
Manipur	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Meghalaya	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Mizoram	6	19	22	21	21	25
Nagaland	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Orissa	1194	1096	1238	1613	1122	573
Pondicherry	45	48	26	5	47	34
Punjab	1661	1187	1716	1303	1742	1396
Rajasthan	2817	4804	3204	5213	3196	4604
Sikkim	3	1	1	1		2
Tamil Nadu	2676	59	2777	91	1039	933
Tripura	79	102	85	82	68	121
Uttar Pradesh	3717	1944	3181	3293	2832	3569
Uttaranchal	241	17	453	23	290	15
West Bengal	659	1196	409	639		
TOTAL :	38122	30562	39950	33378	35413	32123

Note: 'N.A.' means 'Not Available'.

Statement-II

Year-wise filing and disposal in District Fora

(upto 30.06.2009)

State	2006		2007		2008	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	4117	1526	6749	3345	5618	2343
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	N.A.	N.A.				
Arunachal Pradesh	11	16	7	6	16	9
Assam	620	151	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Bihar	7424	8873	3846	2942	2873	2326
Chandigarh	2187	2370	1421	1348	2908	2791
Chhattisgarh	2187	2084	1966	1606	1976	2105
Dadra and Nagar Haveli/ Daman and Diu	9	4	13	14		
Delhi	11313	10616	11770	10528	11378	10358
Goa	206	358	202	305	213	334
Gujarat	16898	16116	11714	10382	9418	7895
Haryana	10619	11871	12299	13139	10986	8751
Himachal Pradesh	2096	1880	2064	2332	2153	2290
Jammu and Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Jharkhand	2311	1746	1658	1372	642	640
Karnataka	8397	8385	9541	9524	10072	9328
Kerala	4444	3113	3113	1553	5517	1069
Lakshadweep	0	3	1	0	0	1
Madhya Pradesh	10850	9597	12008	10398	12267	11006
Maharashtra	10942	14614	11780	12830	16956	16375
Manipur	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Meghalaya	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Mizoram	28	28				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagaland	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Orissa	2844	3083	5444	4306	4099	4108
Pondicherry	88	88	89	108	101	61
Punjab	6302	4663	7089	7028	6319	6429
Rajasthan	14064	13853	14247	12208	17690	15558
Sikkim	15	10	4	2	5	2
Tamil Nadu	3194	3086	7529	357	3363	3354
Tripura	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Uttar Pradesh	17568	14512	24271	26832	24203	21993
Uttaranchal	1413	898	1220	1636	1073	939
West Bengal	3518	3165	2735	2466		
TOTAL :	143665	136709	152780	136567	149846	130065

Note: 'N.A.' means 'Not Available'.

Impact of strike on availability of essential commodities

3082. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has assessed the impact of strike by truck operators and public sector petroleum companies officers on the availability of essential commodities;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that essential commodities are available to consumers unhindered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prices of food items, including cereals, vegetables and fruits, have remained steady in the wholesale market across the country during the strike period. There was also no problem of availability of essential commodities. As per the reports from the Civil Supplies departments of respective State Governments, there has been little impact on prices of essential commodities on account of the transporters strike. The strike of petroleum Public sector companies officers did not have direct and immediate impact on availability of essential commodities.

(c) In view of (b) above, Does not arise.

Food security and proper distribution of foodgrains

3083. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of State Food Secretaries was held in New Delhi recently to discuss food security and the modalities for identifying the poor under the food security schemes;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that foodgrains are not being distributed properly; and

(d) if so, the corrective action taken thereon, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act.

Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to received 25 kg of food grains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them etc. are yet to be firmed up. In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action to examine of different aspects of the proposed law. Consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is presently in progress. A meeting was held with the State Food Secretaries at New Delhi on 10th June, 2009. The State Governments have been requested to furnish comments/suggestions on the proposed law on National Food Security. So far comments from 18 State Governments have been received.

Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and bulk allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for lifting of the allocated foodgrains, their allocation within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration cardholders through fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments. Therefore, complaints received from time to time regarding malpractices in distribution-are sent to concerned State/UT Governments for inquiry and appropriate action under the law.

The Government has initiated a series of measures to streamline TPDS by:—

- i. continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- ii. ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- iii. improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels;

- iv. introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart card based delivery of essential commodities; and
- v. getting periodically evaluated functioning of TPDS.

Commission to PDS shop-owners

3084. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that owners of Public Distribution System (PDS) shops are receiving abysmally low commission;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons in this regard; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to revise the commission of PDS shopowners so as to minimize pilferages etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. As provided under this, State Governments regulate functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs). For each FPS, a licence is issued and certain number of ration card holder families is attached to it. The State Governments issue foodgrains to Fair Price Shop licensees which they distribute to the attached rations cards holders.

In order to enable State/UT governments to increase the commission of the Fair Price Shops (FPS) licensees, since 2001 they have been given flexibility in fixing the commission.

Further, to make operations of fair price shops economically viable, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to allow FPS licensees to enlarge basket of commodities sold by them by allowing sale of non-PDS items of daily use as per local requirement. By end of June, 2009, it has been reported by 23 State/UT Governments that the FPS owners are selling non-PDS items like edible oil, pulses, vanaspati ghee, milk powder, baby food, soaps, exercise books, butter, tea iodised salt and tooth paste, etc.

Rice and wheat at cheap rate

†3085. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether providing of rice and wheat at cheap rate of Rs. two/three per kg. has been implemented across States in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States with number of people and rate at which rice and wheat being provided to them;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the subsidy being provided by the Centre for this programme, State-wise;

(d) whether the State Governments are properly using the subsidy being provided by the Centre; and

(e) the measures taken by the Central Government for its monitoring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) As per present allocation norms, the Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at subsidized rates. However, for the poorest of BPL covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), the allocations are made at highly subsidized Central Issue Prices of Rs. 3.00 per kg rice and Rs. 2.00 per kg wheat. These issue prices of rice and wheat under AAY are uniformly applicable in all States/UTs. The details of AAY families covered and monthly allocation of foodgrains made for them at these issue prices is given in the Statement (*See below*). The food subsidy provided under AAY is the difference between the economic cost of foodgrains to FCI and the issue prices charged from these families. The ratio of rice and wheat in allocations also affects the amount of subsidy. Lifting of allocated foodgrains by AAY families is monitored by obtaining reports and utilization certificates from State/UT Governments.

Statement

The details of AAY families covered and monthly allocation of foodgrains made for them at issue prices

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of AAY families covered (lakh)	Monthly allocation of foodgrains (July, 2009) (Rice and Wheat) (in thousand tons)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.58	54.524
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.38	1.331
3.	Assam	7.04	24.641
4.	Bihar	24.29	84.999
5.	Chhattisgarh	7.19	25.162
6.	Delhi	1.50	5.257
7.	Goa	0.15	0.509
8.	Gujarat	8.10	28.340

1	2	3	4
9.	Haryana	2.92	10.235
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.97	6.895
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.56	8.949
12.	Jharkhand	9.18	32.128
13.	Karnataka	12.00	41.991
14.	Kerala	5.96	20.855
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15.82	55.355
16.	Maharashtra	24.64	86.240
17.	Manipur	0.64	2.227
18.	Meghalaya	0.70	2.457
19.	Mizoram	0.26	0.910
20.	Nagaland	0.48	1.664
21.	Orissa	12.65	44.260
22.	Punjab	1.79	6.280
23.	Rajasthan	9.32	32.624
24.	Sikkim	0.17	0.578
25.	Tamil Nadu	18.65	65.262
26.	Tripura	1.13	3.960
27.	Uttar Pradesh	40.95	143.290
28.	Uttaranchal	1.51	5.293
29.	West Bengal	14.80	51.807
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.04	0.150
31.	Chandigarh	0.02	0.052
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.183
33.	Daman and Diu	0.02	0.053
34.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.041
35.	Puducherry	0.32	1.129
TOTAL :		242.75	849.631

Import of sugar and pulses

3086. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to import sugar and pulses to meet the domestic needs in view of increasing cost of such commodities; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government with a view to augment domestic availability of sugar has permitted import of raw sugar by sugar mills under Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS) at zero duty upto 30.09.2009, and under Open General License (OGL) upto 01.08.2009 and import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons at zero customs duty under Open General License (OGL). Import of pulses at zero duty is permitted from June, 2006.

Increase in prices of essential items

†3087. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of essential items and foodgrains have increased drastically;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is unreasonable difference between the rate of consumer price index and actual rate in the market;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the plans and proposals with Government to remove the unreasonable gap between Government data and actual data; and
- (f) by when these will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir; Prices of some essential commodities have arisen.

(b) The All India average wholesale prices of foodgrains and edible oils are either stable or have declined over the last one year. Prices of sugar increased by 49.56%, pulses such as tur dal by 54.40% and potato by 73.41 % over the past one year.

(c) No, Sir. Consumer Price Index (CPI) is weighted average price increase of large number of commodities in the basket in large number of markets in the country and is based on the market data on retail prices of these commodities. So the price hike of one or few commodities in the specific markets are sometimes not visible in the overall all commodities CPI Numbers, though they are utilized in the compilation of CPI Numbers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) to (f) In view of (c) above, Do not arise.

Cash incentives to BPL families through PDS

3088. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to pay cash incentives to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families instead of food items through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, whether such a scheme would be workable at all when prices of essential commodities are touching the sky; and

(c) what is the guarantee about availability of food items in remote areas and against the exploitation of poor by greedy traders selling them at a much higher price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals for approval to direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in lieu of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) on a pilot basis in five districts *i.e.* Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central District in Delhi. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination. In response to the concept note circulated on the proposed National Food Security Act, Government of Bihar has also now suggested for introduction of cash subsidy under TPDS. The State Government has been requested to submit a proposal in this regard.

As envisaged under the scheme, with the food subsidy given to BPL families in cash, they would be at liberty to purchase wheat/rice/sugar of their own choice and quantity from open market. However, the pilot scheme has been formulated based on requests of State governments and its implementation would precisely test its feasibility.

Restoring the allocation of rice to Kerala

3089. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre would consider restoring the allocation of rice to Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocations of food grains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families have been maintained @ 35 kg. per family per month as per entitlement for all States and UTs, including Kerala. However, allocations of APL rice and

wheat to States and UTs, including Kerala are being made based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, allocations under APL category are made @ 10.5 kg. per family per month to Kerala.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made @ 17056 tons per month on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years *i.e.* 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, subsequently, on the basis of requests from the State Government and higher availability of rice in the central pool, *ad hoc*/additional/festival allocations of 1.46 lakh tons of rice were made during the year. The total APL rice allocation to the State was 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of 3.07 lakh tons.

For the current year 2009-2010, monthly allocation of 36,056 tons of rice under APL category has been made thereby substantially increasing the annual allocation of rice to 4.33 lakh tons as compared to last year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons. Thus the allocation of APL rice to Kerala during the current year has already been increased as compared to the previous two years.

Hunger and malnutrition

3090. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a new 'Save the Children' report states that one million infants die of malnutrition every year in India;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that according to a World Food Programme report released last month it has been pointed out that more than 455 million Indians survive of US \$1.25 a day or less, compared with 420 million in 1981 and about 230 million people supposed to remain hungry;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stamp out hunger and malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The report entitled "Freedom from Hunger for Children under Six" of 'Save the Children', an NGO has stated that every year, 2 million children die in India and more than half of these deaths could be prevented if children were well nourished.

As informed by World Food Programme (India), no report was released by them last month mentioning figures on hunger and malnutrition.

According to FAO's "The State of Food Insecurity in the World" — 2008 report, the number of under nourished people in India during 2003-05 was 230.5 million. The World Bank's Policy Research Working Paper 4703 entitled "The Developing World is Poorer than We Thought, But No less Successful in the fight against Poverty" prepared in August, 2008 has mentioned that the number of persons living below US\$1.25 a day in India during 1981 were 420.5 million and in 2005 it was 455.8 million.

The problem of malnutrition is a multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through holistic coordinated interventions in areas of food security, sanitation, safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation. National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development highlights a systematic collaboration among National Government agencies, State Governments, NGOs, private sector and the international community. NPAN is an affirmation of the Government's commitment to alleviate various forms of malnutrition and achieve an optimal state of nutrition for its people.

The steps taken by the Government to remove hunger and malnutrition include the following:—

- (i) Government is allocating foodgrains @35 kg per family per month at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of population.
- (ii) Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by Department of Food and Public Distribution through the State Government of Orissa, in eight KBK Districts of Orissa, foodgrains (rice) at BPL rates are being allocated to State Government of Orissa for about 2 lakh beneficiaries.
- (iii) To mitigate the problem of malnutrition among pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development in which Supplementary Nutrition is a component. Universalization of this scheme is being taken up with focus on SC/ST/Minority habitations and revision of norms of supplemental nutrition. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) also focuses on providing nutritional supplement to adolescent girls by providing foodgrains to them. Besides, Nutrition Education, Awareness and Counseling are being taken up by that Ministry.
- (iv) Another major initiative is implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality, compounded by malnutrition.
- (v) The Government also implements other intervention programmes for proper growth, development and survival of children in the country through a life cycle approach.
- (vi) Besides the above, Government allocates foodgrains under different other Welfare Schemes, which include Annapurna Yojana, -Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Village Grain Bank (VGB) scheme. These schemes are intended to make available foodgrains to the targeted population to enable them to improve their nutritional level.

Zero duty import of raw and white sugar

3091. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allowed zero duty import of raw sugar and white sugar to cope up with domestic demands during 2009-10 at fair prices;

(b) whether international raw sugar prices has shot up ever since India announced the zero duty import, from around US \$ 280 per tonne to \$ 380 per tonne; and

(c) if so, whether this would lead to higher sugar prices in domestic market than stabilized fair prices envisaged earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to augment domestic availability of sugar, the Central Government has permitted duty free import of white/refined sugar upto 1 million ton under OGL by the designated agencies upto 01.08.2009 *vide* notification dated 17.04.2009. Further, the Government has also permitted sugar factories to import raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme upto 30.09.2009 and under Open General License (OGL) upto 01.08.2009 and sell the processed raw sugar within India so as to cope up with the domestic demand in the current sugar season and during 2009-10 sugar season.

(b) International prices of raw sugar have increased due to global deficit in sugar including decline in sugar production in India. The futures price of raw sugar were quoted on 30th January, 2009 for the month of March, 2009 was 12.67 c/lb (approx. US \$ 280 per ton). It is being quoted at 18.43 c/lb (approx. US \$406 per ton) on 27th July, 2009 for the month of October, 2009.

(c) The domestic price of a commodity including sugar in the open market depends upon a number of factors *viz.* supply, demand, international prices and market sentiments etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the impact of import of sugar on prevailing price situation in domestic market.

Growing population and economic implications

3092. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of the country is growing exponentially;

(b) whether this will have a debilitating effect on the economic development of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the States are lagging behind in achieving the population stabilization target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's action thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. Though India's population has increased from 36 crore in 1951 to 102.87 crore in 2001, the country has witnessed significant decline in both fertility and mortality. The crude birth rate, which was recorded at 40.8 per 1000 in 1951, has declined to 23.1 in 2007, as per the estimates available from the Sample Registration System (SRS). The crude death rate, which was recorded at 25.1 per 1000 in 1951, has declined to 7.4 in 2007. Infant mortality rate has come down from 146 in 1951-61 to 55 in 2007. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has come down from 6.0 in 1951 to 2.7 in 2007.

(c) and (d) Some States are lagging behind in achieving population stabilization. 5 States namely Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Orissa, are near to achieving the replacement level as they have attained TFR between 2.3 to 2.7. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, may not be able to achieve the replacement level in the near future as these States have TFR from 3.1 to 3.9 as per SRS 2007.

The Government is committed to give focused attention to the demographically weak performing States through provisioning of all kinds of support including public awareness programme under NRHM, for which the States are free to project their priorities depending on local needs to further the task of population stabilization in the States specific Project Implementation Plans (PIPs).

Upgradation of small scale pharma units

3093. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the investment, value-wise, that is required for infrastructure, machinery changes, etc., that a small scale pharmaceutical company set up before 2001 would have to spent for upgradation to schedule M;

(b) whether Government has failed to make budgetary provision for funds since 2001 leading to closure of small scale pharma units and vaccine units; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in light of 181st report of the Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation in Rajya Sabha in February, 2009 to provide level playing field to the small scale pharma units?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has informed that as per available information, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has a scheme for Technology Upgradation of Micro and Small Enterprises namely credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for approved 48 Sub-Sectors, including Pharmaceuticals Sub-Sector. Under this scheme 15% capital subsidy is provided upto a loan of Rs. 1.0 crore. Year-wise fund released under CLCSS for 48 various Sub-Sector including Pharmaceuticals Sub-Sector is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
1.	2000-2001	5.0
2.	2001-2002	0.1945
3.	2002-2003	3.45
4.	2003-2004	3.00
5.	2004-2005	5.41
6.	2005-2006	25.88
7.	2006-2007	73.637
8.	2007-2008	76.4
9.	2008-2009	108.888

Upto March, 2009, 126 Units have benefited under CLCSS and Rs. 554.37 lakh subsidy released to Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Micro and Small Enterprises.

(c) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 which regulates the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs marketed in the country, does not distinguish between small scale or large scale Pharma units.

Purchase of medical equipments

3094. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the medical equipments, which can be procured by the concerned States under NRHM, equipment-wise alongwith the complete list;

(b) whether fiberoptic and video gastroscope and colonoscope for stomach disorders are permissible under NRHM;

(c) if not, what steps Government proposes take to include fiberoptic and video gastroscopes under NRHM;

(d) whether video colonoscopes are permitted under NRHM; and

(e) the details of steps being taken to allow such cancer screening equipment under NRHM at PHC/CHC level?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) NRHM provisions for all health facilities viz., Sub-Centre, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals to reach the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) as per facility specific requirement which *inter-alia* includes medical equipment. The IPHS are available on the official website of this Ministry i.e. www.mohfw.nic.in.

Funds are released for health facilities in the State, as per their requirement reflected in the Annual State Programme Implementation Plan annually, which is appraised and approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) under NRHM.

Cervical and uterus cancer

†3095. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of deaths cause by cervical and uterus cancers in the country during June, 2007 to till date;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to prevent the same, whether vaccination, etc., was done, if so, to what extant it has been successful; and
- (c) the causes of cervical and uterus cancers indicating the precautions that should be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health being a state subject the information is not centrally maintained. However, according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) based on Population basis Cancer Registry, the estimated number of deaths in India in cervical cancer and uterus cancer from June, 2007 to till date is 65,835 and 13,730 respectively.

As reported by ICMR, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by ICMR with a leading company for carrying out the clinical trials of HPV Vaccine in cervical cancer.

The major risk factors associated with causation of uterus cancer include, obesity estrogen-alone based hormone replacement therapy, history of benign growth of uterine lining, nulliparity, early menarche, late menopause etc. Causes of Cervical Cancer include infection by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), having sex at an early age, multiple sexual partner, repeated child birth, un-hygienic condition etc.

Immunization with HPV Vaccine and sexual hygiene protection would protect from colonization of HPV Viruses in cervical tract.

Guidelines for disposal of bio-medical wastes

3096. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued guidelines for the disposal of bio-medical wastes of health care facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) what is the mechanism to monitor the compliance of such guidelines at the district level;
- (c) whether Government has observed laxity in compliance of such guidelines; and
- (d) what are the major constraints in implementing the guidelines?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management were prepared and circulated to States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March, 2002. These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Bio-Medical (Management and Handling) Rules, 1988 notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, by developing comprehensive plans for segregation, collection, treatment, transportation and disposal of the hospital waste.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also developed in April, 2007 operational guidelines as instruction manuals for healthcare workers at primary level healthcare facilities *i.e.* Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-Centres to facilitate waste management and infection control.

Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. As far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College and its associated hospitals, New Delhi are concerned, strict adherence to Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 is maintained while disposing of hospital waste material.

Doubled rate of child mortality in Delhi

†3097. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in capital-Delhi infant mortality rate has doubled during last five year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of beds per thousand persons at hospitals in a capital; and

(d) whether the hospitals in the capital are able to implement the standards suggested by the World Health Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. As per the information received from the Government of Delhi, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Delhi as per the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) is as follows:—

Year	IMR
1	2
2000	32
2001	29
2003	28

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
2004	32
2005	35
2006	37
2007	36

(c) and (d) As per information received from Government of Delhi, it is 2.2 beds per 1000 population in Delhi as against the national average of 1 bed per 1000 population. There are no global norms because the number of beds required is based on multiple criteria such as admissions, average length of stay, average occupancy rate etc.

**Salary disbursement according to the Sixth Pay
Commission recommendations**

†3098. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that all employees of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi are getting their salaries on the basis of recommendations made by the Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the time since when the said pay scales have been implemented;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Assistant Professors of this institute are not being given pay scales on the above basis; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and by when they will get their dues?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) All the employees serving in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi except faculty staff are being paid salaries as per the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission *w.e.f.* 01.01.2006. Since pay scales, allowances and conditions of service of faculty staff serving in AIIMS, including Assistant Professors, are not similar to that of Central Government employees, a Group of Officers/Committee was set up in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) to examine the proposals for revision of pay scales etc. of faculty staff in terms of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance's OM No. 7/23/2008-EIII(A) dated 30.09.2008. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

However, as an interim measure of relief, *ad-hoc* increased salary matching to those recommended by the Sixth Central Pay Commission is being paid to faculty staff, including Assistant Professors, except 18 faculty members who refused to accept increased *ad-hoc* salary.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Single medical entrance test

3099. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has proposed one All India Entrance Test for admission to all Medical colleges in the country, both private and Government run ones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) This Ministry has received a proposal from Medical Council of India from conducting single entrance exam for admissions in medical courses in India. The proposal is under consideration of the Ministry and will require consultations with State Governments.

Swine flu cases

3100. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI P.R. RAJAN:

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

(a) how many swine flu cases have been traced in the country so far and give geographical profile of such cases;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to contain the infection from spreading;

(c) whether the State Governments have been issued guidelines in this respect and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to equip the State Governments to prevent and cure the infection?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There have been 454 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu] as on 27th July, 2009 in our country. State-wise and city wise list of cases is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) to (d) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers is continuing at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing, There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued

to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Statement

Influenza A H1N1 case in India State-wise-city-wise details
(As on 27th July, 2009)

Sl. No.	State	City	No of cases
1	2	3	4
Imported cases (317)			
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore	41
2.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	22
		Coimbatore	2
		Madurai	1
3.	Delhi	Delhi	94
4.	Punjab	Fatehgarh	1
		Jalandhar	13
		Gurdaspur	2
		Hoshiarpur	1
		Amritsar	2
		Roopnagar	1
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	40
		Vishakhapatnam	1
6.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	18
		Pune	11
7.	Goa	Panjim	5
8.	Haryana	Gurgaon	7
9.	West Bengal	Kolkata	4

1	2	3	4
10.	Kerala	Calicut	11
		Cochin	11
		Trivandrum	8
11.	Gujarat	Kandla	1
		Ahmedabad	3
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	2
13.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	2
14.	Chandigarh (UT)		2
Indigenous Cases (123)			
1.	Delhi	Delhi	37
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	13
		Vishakhapatnam	3
3.	Punjab	Gurdaspur	1
4.	Haryana	Gurgaon	5
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore	5
6.	Maharashtra	Pune	40
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	3
8.	Kerala	Trivandrum	6
		Cochin	1
9.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	4
10.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	2
		Coimbatore	1
11.	Goa	Panjim	1
12.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	1

Breast feeding for all children upto two years age

3101. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is not a fact that due to malnutrition in the country, 50 per cent of children below five years have stunted growth;

(b) if so, what action plan does the Ministry have for proper breast feeding and vitamin supplements in the first two years of children to address malnutrition;

(c) whether any statistics are maintained about malnutrition in the country, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the latest available National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3), conducted in 2005-06, 48 percent of children under five years of age were stunted.

(b) The Ministry implements the Infant and Young Child feeding guidelines wherein promotion of:—

- early initiation and exclusive breast feeding for the first six months of life.
- complementary feeding from six months onwards with continued breast-feeding upto two years of age is done.

For vitamin supplements, Vitamin A is supplemented every six months from nine months to 5 years of age and iron folic acid is supplemented as a syrup to all children found anaemic from six months to five years of age.

(c) Statistics in the country are made available through the periodically conducted National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the latest NFHS (NFHS 3) was conducted in 2005-06.

(d) The details regarding malnutrition in children under 5 years of age, State-wise, are given in the Statement (*See below*). As per the NFHS 3, 32.5 percent of children under five years of age in Andhra Pradesh were underweight.

Statement

*Nutritional Status of children under 5 years of age, by
state NFHS III (2005-06)*

State/UT	Weight for age
1	2
All India	42.5
Larger States	
Andhra Pradesh	32.5
Assam	36.4
Bihar	55.9
Chhattisgarh	47.1
Gujarat	44.6

1	2
Haryana	39.6
Jharkhand	56.5
Karnataka	37.6
Kerala	22.9
Madhya Pradesh	60.0
Maharashtra	37.0
Orissa	40.7
Punjab	24.9
Rajasthan	39.9
Tamil Nadu	29.8
Uttar Pradesh	42.4
West Bengal	38.7
Smaller States	
Arunachal Pradesh	32.5
Delhi	26.1
Goa	25.0
Himachal Pradesh	36.5
Jammu and Kashmir	25.6
Manipur	22.1
Meghalaya	48.8
Mizoram	19.9
Nagaland	25.2
Sikkim	19.7
Tripura	39.6
Uttaranchal	38.0

Vacant posts of doctors

†3102. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the total number of vacant posts of doctors and medical staff in remote villages and inaccessible areas;

(b) whether the State Governments have been advised by his Ministry to fulfil the vacant posts of doctors and medical staff;

(c) whether it is being proposed to appoint doctors on contract basis; and

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for the appointment of doctors and medical staff on contract basis and whether any decision has been taken to provide them double pay?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The vacancy position as per the Bulletin on Rural Health Statistics in India, 2007 (updated to March, 2007), is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) Yes. The State Governments have been advised by this Ministry to fill up the existing vacancies.

(c) Yes. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], the doctors are being appointed on contract basis by State/UT Governments.

(d) No time limit has been fixed for the appointment of doctors and medical staff on contract basis. Under NRHM, the State/UT Governments have already appointed staff on contract basis. Monetary and other incentives are also being provided to Doctors and Medical Staff for posting in rural, difficult, remote areas etc. by many States/UT Governments. To emphasize need of paying incentives in difficult, most difficult and inaccessible areas particularly in hilly and tribal areas this Ministry has recently taken up the matter with the State/UT Governments.

This Ministry releases funds to State/UT Governments under NRHM as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee which includes funds for contractual appointment and incentives of medical staff also.

Statement

Vacancy position at a Glance (As on March, 2007)

Sl. No.	State/UT	ANM	MPW [M]	HA[F]/LHV	HA [M]	MO [PHC]	Specialists	Pharmacists
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	623	1213	50	242	283	278	72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
3.	Assam	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Bihar	1653	895	359	15	228	176	550
5.	Chhattisgarh	668	966	70	611	388	651	282
6.	Goa	0	16	8	7	0	11	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Gujarat	203	1959	214	797	39	240	550
8.	Haryana	*	384	134	131	230	56	91
9.	Himachal Pradesh	377	738	68	52	0	NA	140
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	376	4	58	0	25	134	0
11.	Jharkhand	1177	1153	183	154	1604	*	379
12.	Karnataka	1512	1247	39	465	196	152	463
13.	Kerala	36	80	90	8	*	309	43
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1393	610	116	24	280	444	1204
15.	Maharashtra	2655	4356	82	0	609	1180	391
16.	Manipur	5	0	*	10	*	29	53
17.	Meghalaya	59	0	10	15	21	2	32
18.	Mizoram	21	63	0	0	18	0	34
19.	Nagaland	0	*	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	353	1519	0	8	0	NA	56
21.	Punjab	667	1483	27	81	284	166	56
22.	Rajasthan	0	1440	0	224	209	278	20
23.	Sikkim	0	0	6	22	10	11	28
24.	Tamil Nadu	16	3278	56	81	276	96	93
25.	Tripura	0	181	7	60	11	0	*
26.	Uttarakhand	165	199	1	135	90	84	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1756	3348	407	1651	NA	697	NA
28.	West Bengal	456	4482	499	946	111	68	273
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	26	0	0	0	12	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	4	3	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	9	0	7	NA	8	0	2
34.	Lakshadweep	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	2	5	0	0	1
ALL INDIA:		14180	29653	2497	5747	4920	5078	4814

Notes: NA: Not Available.

Vulnerability to tobacco use

3103. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether as per National Family Health Survey conducted in the year 2006-07, 11 per cent adult female and 57 per cent adult male are addict of smoking;

(b) whether it is a fact that youths are most vulnerable to tobacco use and 80 per cent of adult smokers initiate their tobacco use before 18 years of age;

(c) whether lower taxes resulting in low price, facilitate easy accessibility to tobacco products; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce the use of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – III was carried out in 2005-06, according to which 57% of male and 11% of women in the age group of 15-49 in India consume tobacco (smoking and chewing/smokeless) in some form or other.

(b) Yes, youth are most vulnerable to tobacco. Data relating to percentage of adult smokers, who had initiated use of tobacco before 18 years of age, is not available.

(c) Yes, lower taxes resulting in low price facilitate access to tobacco products. The WHO – Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), ratified by India in 2004, identifies tax and price measures as an effective demand reduction strategy.

(d) In order to protect the youth and masses from the adverse harmful effect of tobacco the Government of India has enacted comprehensive Act “the cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003”. The specific provisions of the said Act include:—

(i) Ban on smoking in public places. **(Section-4)**

(ii) Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. **(Section-5)**

(iii) Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 year and ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. **(Section-6)**

(iv) Specified health warnings on tobacco products. **(Section-7)**

Further the Government of India has also launched a new National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to implement the Anti Tobacco Laws and to bring about greater awareness about the ill-effects of tobacco. The Objective of NTCP is to build up an appropriate IEC and awareness campaign including School Health Programme, product testing laboratories for effective monitoring and implementation of anti tobacco initiatives at State/District level.

Harassment of BDS students

3104. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS) students studying in CCS University, Meerut affiliated institutions are mentally traumatized and harassed due to the absence of any exam related grievances redressal mechanism and had to approach the court of law to get justice;

(b) if so, the number of times the Lucknow High Court or the other judicial authorities have to intervene during the last five years; and

(c) the details of the cases and decisions given by the court and the action taken thereon by concerned college, University and the Dental Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) BDS Course Regulations envisage that any candidate who fails in one subject in BDS course is permitted to go to the next higher class and appear for the failed subject and complete it successfully before he is permitted to appear for the next higher examination. As per DCI norms and standards, any student who completes 240 educational days can only appear in the next examinations. Some of the students demanded to allow them to appear in the next examinations which were rejected by the University. Hence they filed writ petitions in the High court.

(b) There were three writ petitions filed in the High Court of Allahabad and Lucknow Bench.

(c) The details are as under :—

(i) Writ No. 5439, year 2007, Utkarsh Tripathi, S/o Sri. O.S. Tripathi — the applicant was provisionally allowed to appear in the 4 year of BDS course.

(ii) Writ No. 24060, year 2009, Gourav Verma, S/o B.G. Verma — the applicant was not allowed to appear in the BDS course examination.

(iii) Writ No. 29565, Year 2009, Shruti Shekhar and others — 5 students were allowed to appear in the BDS 2nd year examination.

Infant and maternal mortality in the country

3105. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the detailed findings of UNICEF's 'the State of the world's children 2009, maternal and newborn health' Report;

(b) whether child birth becomes a death sentence for 78,000 mothers, in the country annually, where a pregnant woman dies every 7 minutes;

(c) whether 50 per cent pregnancy deaths are of SC/ST mothers;

(d) whether 2.1 million children dies before their fifth birthday in the country; and

(e) if so, how horrendous is the scenario of IMR and MMR in India/States and how they compare with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The key findings of the UNICEF's Report, 'The State of the world's children 2009' are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) The Ministry relies on the reports released by the Registrar General of India (RGI) for estimates on maternal mortality. There are no official estimates on absolute number of maternal deaths in the country. However, the Sample Registration System (SRS) conducted by RGI captures Maternal Mortality Ratio through periodic surveys. Based on the official estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India has shown a substantial decline from 301 per 100,000 live births (RGI-SRS, 2001-03) to 254 per 100,000 live births (RGI-SRS, 2004-06). This translates into an approximate number of 67,000 maternal deaths.

(c) RGI-SRS does not provide disaggregated data, class-wise or caste-wise, for maternal deaths.

(d) The Under Five Mortality Rate for the country as per National Family Health Survey 2005-06 is 74 per 1000 live births. As per UNICEF report 'State of World Children 2009' 1.95 million children dies annually in the country before attaining their fifth birthday.

(e) The IMR and MMR for India State-wise and the MMR and IMR for some other countries are given in Statement II, III and IV respectively.

Statement-I

State of the World's Children 2009

General Maternal Mortality Data

In India, during 2001-2003, an estimated 78 thousand¹ women died annually from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. This means on an average, every seven minutes, one woman dies from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. The average lifetime risk of a woman in a least developed country dying from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth is more than 300 times greater than for a woman living in an industrialized country. No other mortality rate is so unequal. In Uttar Pradesh, a woman has a 1 in 42 lifetime risk of maternal death, compared with a probability of just 1 in 500 for women in Kerala. For every mother who dies, an estimated 20 others suffer pregnancy-related illness or experience other severe consequences. Some 10 million women each year experience such adverse outcomes.

¹Maternal Mortality in India 1997-2003, Sample Registration System, Office of the Registrar General, India.

In industrialized countries, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) remained broadly static between 1990 and 2005, at a low rate of 8 per 100,000. In developing countries overall MMR rises to 450 per 100,000 TK. And in Sierra Leone — the country with the highest rate of maternal death, it is 2100 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Millennium Development Goal 5 calls for a reduction of the maternal mortality rate to 109 by 2015. In order to meet this target, India will have to achieve about two-thirds reduction in maternal mortality rate from 301 estimated for the period 2001-2003.

Neonatal Mortality

Babies whose mothers die during the first 6 weeks of their lives are far more likely to die in the first 2 years of life than babies whose mothers survive. In a study in Afghanistan, for example, about three-quarters of infants born alive to mothers who died of maternal causes also subsequently died. A child born in a least developed country is almost 14 times more likely to die during the first 28 days of life than one born in an industrialized country. In India, the States with the top five neonatal mortality rates — measuring deaths within the first 28 days of life — are: Orissa (52 deaths per 1,000 live births), Madhya Pradesh (51), Uttar Pradesh (46), Rajasthan (45), and Chhattisgarh (43)². (2006)

Regional patterns of neonatal death correlate closely to those for maternal death. Among the top ten countries with the highest neonatal mortality rates, five of them (Liberia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Angola and Mali) also fall in the top ten countries for highest maternal mortality or lifetime risk of maternal death rates. In industrialized countries, the neonatal mortality rate in 2004 was just 3 per 1000 live births. The global neonatal mortality rate declined by one-quarter between 1980 and 2000, but its rate of reduction was much slower than that of the overall U5 mortality rate, which fell by one-third. In India, almost 50 per cent of under-five deaths occur in the first 28 days of life. Neonatal mortality rates are around 20-50 per cent higher for the poorest 20 per cent of households than for the richest quintile. Similar inequities are also prevalent for maternal mortality. Like maternal deaths, 98 per cent of neonatal deaths occur in low and middle-income countries, and most are preventable.

Direct and Underlying Causes of Maternal and Neonatal Death

Three quarters of all maternal deaths in India occur from complications either during delivery or in the immediate post-partum period. These complications include: hemorrhage (38 per cent of maternal deaths); infections (11%); unsafe abortion (8 %); eclampsia or related hypertensive disorders (5 %); and obstructed labour (5%). Some 82 per cent of newborn deaths in India are the direct result of three main causes: 1) infections, including sepsis/pneumonia, tetanus and diarrhoea, 2) asphyxia, and 3) preterm births:—

- Infections account for 24 per cent of all newborn deaths.

Annual Statistical Report: Sample Registration System 2006.

- Asphyxia causes 23 percent of newborn deaths.
- Preterm birth causes 35 per cent of newborn deaths.

Child Marriage as a factor in Maternal Mortality:

- Girls who give birth before the age of 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s.
- If a mother is under the age of 18, her infant's risk of dying in its first year of life is 60 percent greater than that of an infant born to a mother older than 19.
- In India almost half the women aged 20-24 were married before they were 18. In Bihar 69% women aged 20-24 were married before 18 years. Worldwide, more than 60 million women aged 20-24 were married before they were 18.

Factors Influencing Maternal and Neonatal Health

Signs of Progress:—

- Substantial progress has been made in a number of key maternal health areas. For example, 77 per cent of women in India now receive antenatal care from a skilled provider at least once during pregnancy.
- South Asia's progress is particularly striking, from 46 percent in around 1995 to 65 per cent in 2005.
- There has been a marked increase in skilled delivery attendance in all regions of the dev. world over the last decade, with the notable exception of sub-Saharan Africa.

Research has shown that approximately 80 percent of maternal deaths could be averted if women had access to essential maternity and basic health-care services. Three quarters of all maternal deaths occur from complications either during delivery or in the immediate post-partum period. Skilled health workers with access to essential drugs, supplies and equipment to provide adequate care could prevent the vast majority of these deaths. A quarter of the world's unattended deliveries take place in India, which is 1 of 10 countries which together account for 2/3 of births not attended by skilled health workers.

Within countries, the likelihood of being attended during delivery varies widely depending on a woman's geographic location and economic status. In 2000, a skilled attendant was present at just 20 percent of deliveries in rural communities, compared to 69 percent in urban areas. And, for the developing world as a whole, the deliveries of women from the poorest fifth of households are half as likely to be attended by skilled health workers as those from the richest households. The world is facing a shortage of 4.3 million health workers, with every region except Europe showing a shortfall. There are not enough skilled health workers — doctors, nurses or midwives — to attend all the world's births.

A study found that countries need an average of 2.28 health-care professionals per 1000 people to achieve the minimum desired level of coverage for skilled attendance at delivery. Fifty-seven countries fall below this threshold, 36 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. The countries with the largest shortages of health workers in absolute numbers are in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia. However, the largest relative need is in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of health workers would have to rise 140 percent to achieve the requisite density.

Many women in developing countries have no say in their own health-care needs. In Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Malawi, for example, more than 70 percent of women say their husbands alone make the decisions regarding their health care. Studies conducted throughout the developing world (with the exception of Latin America) showed that more than one-third of women surveyed said their husband alone made the decisions regarding their health care.

Statement-II

Infant Mortality Rate

Sl. No.	States	2007
1	2	3
	ALL INDIA	55
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54
2.	Assam	66
3.	Bihar	58
4.	Chhattisgarh	59
5.	Gujarat	52
6.	Haryana	55
7.	Jharkhand	48
8.	Karnataka	47
9.	Kerala	13
10.	Madhya Pradesh	72
11.	Maharashtra	34
12.	Orissa	71
13.	Punjab	43
14.	Rajasthan	65
15.	Tamil Nadu	35

1	2	3
16.	Uttar Pradesh	69
17.	West Bengal	37
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	37
19.	Delhi	36
20.	Goa	13
21.	Himachal Pradesh	47
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	51
23.	Manipur	12
24.	Meghalaya	56
25.	Mizoram	23
26.	Nagaland	21
27.	Sikkim	34
28.	Tripura	39
29.	Uttaranchal	48
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	34
31.	Chandigarh	27
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34
33.	Daman and Diu	27
34.	Lakshadweep	24
35.	Pondicherry	25

(Source: RGI, (SRS) 2007)

Statement-III

*Maternal Mortality Ratio
India and State wise*

Major State	MMR (2004-06)
1	2
India Total	254
Assam	480
Bihar/Jharkhand	312
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	335

1	2
Orissa	303
Rajasthan	388
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	440
Andhra Pradesh	154
Karnataka	213
Kerala	95
Tamil Nadu	111
Gujarat	160
Haryana	186
Maharashtra	130
Punjab	192
West Bengal	141
Others	206

(Source: RGI, (SRS) 2004 – 06)

Statement-IV

Comparative IMR and MMR of some Neighbouring and Western countries

Neighbouring countries	IMR	MMR	Western countries	IMR	MMR
Afghanistan	165	1800	Ireland	4	1
Nepal	43	330	Germany	4	4
Bangladesh	47	570	United kingdom	5	8
Bhutan	56	440	France	4	8
Pakistan	73	320	United State of America	7	11
Sri Lanka	17	58	Russian Federation	13	28

Source — State of the World's Children 2009

New cholera vaccine

3106. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a new oral cholera vaccine has been developed by

Vietnamese firm VaBiotech and International Vaccine Institute and the technology for production has been transferred to a firm in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the invention and how the new vaccine helps in curbing cholera which is still an endemic disease in some States of the country; and

(c) what steps the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases is taking to procure this vaccine for use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes. The vaccine has been used in Vietnam's public health sector in high risk cholera areas and more than 9 million doses have been administered. However, an analysis of the Vietnamese vaccine showed that to comply with WHO guidelines, the vaccine needs to be reformulated and its production technology modified. The International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, Korea worked with the Vietnamese producer, VABIOTECH, to develop an oral, killed Bivalent whole cell based cholera vaccine that meets quality standards and transferred the production technology to Shantha Biotechnics Ltd. of India. In India, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) has conducted trial with modified vaccine in 2006. The vaccine shows protective efficacy of 67% and no decline for further 2 years.

(c) The NICED, Kolkata is not procuring the vaccine in the country. Shantha Biotechnics Ltd. Hyderabad, has been given the license in February, 2009 by Drugs Controller General (India) to produce the vaccine.

Deaths due to vaccination to children

3107. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after administration of measles vaccine, four children died in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether such kind of incidents have also reported from other States;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the vaccine is manufactured by a unit owned by the National Dairy Development Board;

(d) whether the unit has got the expertise and technological know-how to manufacture such an important vaccine;

(e) whether any complaint received from the other dozes which are to the extent of 45 lakh, supplied to other parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes. Four deaths of infants were reported following administration of measles vaccine in Tamil Nadu on 23rd April, 2008.

(b) Yes. Four cases each from Maharashtra and Assam were also reported during 2008.

(c) Yes. The Measles vaccines administered in Tamil Nadu and Assam, which resulted death cases, were manufactured by Human Biologicals Institute, Hyderabad which is a Division of Indian Immunologicals Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board.

(d) The unit has imported working seed lot (Edmonston-Zagreb strain) from Institute of Immunology, Zagreb, Croatia for the manufacturing of live attenuated measles vaccine.

(e) and (f) No.

Pregnancy related deaths

3108. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that an estimated 141,000 women die every year during pregnancy or child birth in the country;

(b) whether Government is also aware that poverty and poor nutrition resulting in high levels of anaemia in pregnant women is one of the reasons for these deaths;

(c) if so, what has been done to provide nutrition and safe environment and hygiene to the women in the healthcare centres particularly in rural region; and

(d) what has been done under NRHM in this regard particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) For estimates on maternal mortality, this Ministry relies on the survey reports released by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI). As per the latest estimates of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from the (RGI) – Sample Registration System (SRS), the MMR of India is 254 per 100,000 live births (2004-06). However, **absolute number of maternal deaths per year is not available from RGI**. The latest MMR translates into an approximate number of 67,000 maternal deaths per year.

The causes of maternal deaths as per RGI-SRS (2001-03) are Haemorrhage (38%), Puerperal Sepsis (11%), Obstructed Labour (5%), Abortions (8%), Toxaemia of Pregnancy (5%) and Others (34%). Causes listed as “Others” include Anaemia.

As per the National Family Health Survey 3 (NFHS-III, 2005-06), the prevalence of anaemia is higher in rural areas, among illiterate women, those from low income families and from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Details of NFHS-III findings are given in the Statement (See below).

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) with the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II (RCH-II) under its umbrella, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, aims to improve access for rural people, especially poor women and children to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care, with a special focus on 18 States, which includes Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of population with the ultimate objective of reducing Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Total Fertility Rates. NRHM also addresses the issue of health in a sector-wide manner addressing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water at health facilities.

The key strategies and interventions being implemented by the Government under NRHM for reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio including prevention and treatment of anaemia are:—

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;
- Operationalizing round the clock facilities for delivery services in the public sector, at 24 x 7 PHCs and First Referral Units (FRUs) including District Hospitals, Sub-district Hospitals, Community Health Centres and other institutions
- Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anaesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section
- Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services including prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation.
- Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) at Anganwadi Centres which also includes health and nutrition-education to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Providing Supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers at Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women.
- Systems strengthening of health facilities through flexi funds at Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).

Statement

Distribution of anaemia among women by types (NFHS-III) 2005-06

Background	% of women with any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia
AGE-WISE				
15-19 years	55.8	39.1	14.9	1.7
20-29 years	56.1	38.5	16.0	1.7
30-39 years	54.2	38.1	14.4	1.8
40-49 years	55.0	38.9	14.1	2.0
RESIDENCE				
Urban Resident	50.9	35.8	13.6	1.5
Rural Resident	57.4	39.8	15.7	1.9
EDUCATION				
Illiterate	60.1	40.8	17.2	2.1
High School and above	44.6	33.9	9.9	0.9
CASTE/TRIBE				
Scheduled Caste	58.3	39.3	16.8	2.2
Scheduled Tribe	68.5	44.8	21.3	2.4
Other Backward Class	54.4	38.2	14.5	1.7
Other	51.3	37.0	12.9	1.4
MATERNITY STATUS				
Pregnant	58.7	25.8	30.6	2.2
Breastfeeding	63.2	44.9	16.6	1.7
Non pregnant/non- breastfeeding	53.2	37.9	13.5	1.7
RELIGION				
Hindu	55.9	39.1	15.0	1.8
Muslim	54.7	38.3	15.1	1.3
Christians	50.3	32.0	16.2	2.2
Sikh	39.2	27.6	10.3	1.3
Jain	38.8	29.9	8.0	0.9
Buddhists/Neo-Buddhist	52.5	35.4	15.2	1.9
Others	71.7	49.5	19.9	2.3

Maternal mortality

3109. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 78,000 women die every year in the country from causes related to pregnancy and child birth;

(b) whether the poor hygienic conditions in improvised hospitals also contribute to high rate of death; and

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken in the last few years to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) For estimates on maternal mortality, this Ministry relies on the survey reports released by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI). As per the latest estimates of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from RGI — Sample Registration System (SRS), the MMR of India is 254 per 100,000 live births (2004-06). However, absolute number of maternal deaths per year is not available from RGI. The latest MMR translates into an approximate number of 67,000 maternal deaths per year.

The causes of maternal deaths as per RGI-SRS (2001-03) are Haemorrhage (38%), Puerperal Sepsis (11%), Obstructed Labour (5%), Abortions (8%), Toxaemia of Pregnancy (5%) and Others (34%).

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), with the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II (RCH-II) under its umbrella, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, aims to improve access for rural people, especially poor women and children to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care, with a special focus on 18 States which have weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of population with the ultimate objective of reducing Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Total Fertility Rate.

NRHM also addresses the issue of health in a sector-wide manner addressing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water at health facilities.

The key strategies and interventions being implemented under NRHM for reduction of Maternal Mortality are:—

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women.
- Operationalizing round the clock facilities for delivery services in the public sector, at 24 x 7 PHCs and First Referral Units (FRUs) including District Hospitals, Sub-district Hospitals, Community Health Centres and other institutions.

- Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anaesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section
- Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services including prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation.
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women.
- Systems strengthening of health facilities through flexi funds at Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).

New legislation to curb population growth

3110. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

- whether to curb the population growth in the country Government proposes to bring any new legislation;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the National Population Policy, 2000 has completely failed to curb population growth;
- if so, whether Government has recently stated that late marriages, regular power supply in rural areas and watching late night TVs can contribute a lot in curbing population growth; and
- if so, to what extent these measures can ensure curb in rising population?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

- Does not arise.

(c) to (e) India adopted a comprehensive and holistic National Population Policy (NPP), 2000, with clearly articulated objectives, strategic themes and operational strategies. The National Population Policy, 2000 is based upon the need to simultaneously address issues of child survival, maternal health and contraception while increasing outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services with Government, industry and the voluntary Non-Government sector, working in partnership. TFR which was 3.2 in 2000 — at the time of adoption of NPP, has declined to 2.7 in 2007 (as per Sample Registration Survey-SRS).

Efforts on Population stabilization very much required strengthening of the primary health care system as there is a very strong correlation between health indicators like Maternal Mortality rate and Infant Mortality Rate to the population stabilization. As such in line with the National Population Policy, 2000 the Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April, 2005 throughout the country to address the strengthening of primary health care system. The approach to population stabilization under NRHM is providing through quality health services in remote rural areas along with a wide range of contraceptive choices to meet the unmet demands for these services which includes delivery, safe abortions, treatment of reproductive tract infections and Family Planning Services while ensuring full reproductive choices to women. The strategy also is to promote male participation in Family Planning.

The new initiative of NRHM of Community Health Workers (ASHAs) in every village has positively contributed towards household seeking health and family planning services and also has strengthened the public awareness campaign for family planning services.

Excessive control of MCI on medical education

3111. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical education in India is in the hands of a small but powerful group of doctors and officials headed by MCI president; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to wean away the excessive control from the group?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) This Ministry has proposed to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

Closed vaccine PSUs

3112. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether it is true that some Public Sector Units manufacturing vaccines have been closed down in the last 5 years and if so, why was such a step taken and how has it impacted availability and cost of vaccines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): No. Public Sector Units manufacturing vaccines have not been closed down. However, the manufacturing licenses of three Vaccine Institutes *i.e.* the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu and BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, which are under the administrative control of the Ministry, were suspended by the Drug Controller General of India in January, 2008 since they were not found in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945.

For some months in 2008, there were shortages of Diptheria-Pertussis-Tetanus (DPT), Tetanus Toxoid (TT) and Diptheria Tetanus (DT) in some States due to non-fulfillment of supply commitments by manufacturers. These were overcome by October, 2008. Since then there has been no shortage.

There was an increase in the costs of the vaccines, namely, BCG, DPT, DT and TT procured by the Ministry, after the suspension of licenses of these three Vaccine Manufacturing Units.

Clinical trials

3113. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to bring the human clinical trial industry under a regulatory mechanism the Government has mandated all such trials being conducted in the country be registered with the ICMR;

(b) whether Government is in the process to bring in a separate provision for clinical trials in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to deal with offenders of un-ethical clinical trials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Prior to 17th November, 2008, registration of clinical trial was voluntary. For all clinical trials, permission of which were granted between 17th November, 2008 to 14th June, 2009, applicants were advised to get the trials registered at ICMR registry at www.ctri.in. However from 15th June, 2009, it has been made mandatory to register all clinical trials permitted to or after the said date at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) registry at their said web site before enrolling first patient in the study.

(b) and (c) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill 2007 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 21.8.2007 contains separate regulatory provisions for clinical trial.

G-8 assistance for agriculture

†3114. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the group of 8 large countries of the world has decided 20 billion dollars for agriculture related assistance to poor countries of the world;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether those poor countries of the world have been identified whom this assistance is to be provided; and
- (d) if so, the names of those countries and the form in which this assistance will be provided?

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

(a) and (b) The countries represented at G-8 Outreach Session on Food Security in L'Aquila, Italy on 10th July, 2009 made commitments towards a goal of mobilizing US \$ 20 billion over three years through coordinated, comprehensive strategy focused on sustainable agricultural development while keeping a strong commitment to ensure adequate emergency food aid assistance.

(c) and (d) Specific countries have not been identified to whom this assistance is to be provided. The participating countries have committed to provide resources — whether financial, in kind or technical assistance—in support of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and other similar regional and national plans in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

Trans fat levels in vanaspati brands available in the country

3115. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a recent study by the Centre for Science and Environment, almost all vanaspati brands available in the country have 5 to 12 times higher trans fat levels than the world standard set in Denmark which is only 2 per cent;
- (b) if so, whether total fatty acid profile comprising 37 components and trans fats was analysed;
- (c) if so, whether fat levels found to be 5 to 12 times higher than world standards of 2 per cent; and
- (d) if so, the concrete measures Government propose to take to meet the situation and the other main points suggested by the study?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) According to a study report published by Centre for Science and Environment, in January,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2009, the trans fats in vanaspati, (based on analysis of 7 samples), were reported in the range of 9.4-23.7%. The study shows analysis of total fatty acids comprising 37 components and trans fats. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, however, does not prescribe any limit of Trans Fatty Acid in edible oils and fats. Presently no world standard has been prescribed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the international standards setting body.

(d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *vide* its notification GSR 664(E) dated 19.09.2008 (effective 19.03.2009) has made it compulsory:—

- to declare that the products containing Hydrogenated vegetable fat or bakery shortening shall declare on the label that it contains trans fatty acid.
- That in case it is claimed on the label of the product that it is free from Trans Fatty Acids then the amount of Trans Fatty Acids shall not be more than 0.2g per serving.

Lax service delivery of Government hospitals

†3116. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that health services in the Government hospitals are very lax due to which patients have to move towards private hospitals;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that life saving machines of Government hospitals does not remain in working conditions;

(c) if so, whether Government is making any concrete plan to save the lives of patients in Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) In so far as Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals are concerned, there is no laxity in providing health care services to the patients. In these hospitals, life saving machines are mostly in working condition. All the costly and life-saving equipments are either under guarantee/warranty period or covered under Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC). Timely measures and steps are taken to repair the equipment which is reported non-functional.

CGHS in Maharashtra

3117. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the implementation of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) in Maharashtra, during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of new CGHS dispensaries which are going to be opened in Maharashtra, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) CGHS is presently functioning in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur in Maharashtra. The details of expenditure incurred during the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 in these three cities to provide treatment to CGHS beneficiaries is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Mumbai	Nagpur	Pune
2006-07	37.64	16.12	20.43
2007-08	39.53	18.65	21.12
2008-09	46.90	23.18	27.77

(b) Due to resource constraints, it is not possible for the CGHS to be extended to newer areas.

Notification of PNDT Act, 1997 not notified by some States

3118. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that courts in some States are acquitting doctors who are engaged in unlawful sex determination activities during pregnancy as the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1997 has not been notified by these Governments, so far; and

(b) if so, whether it has not given free hands to medical practitioners who are running their ultrasound and genetic clinics without any mandatory registration as provided in PNDT Act, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 is a Central Act; It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which has notified the Jammu and Kashmir Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal, Sex Selection/Determination (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2002* (Act No. XXXI of 2002) on 23rd April, 2002. Therefore States are not required to notify the PC and PNDT Act, 1994.

(b) Does not arise.

Malaria control

†3119. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval to the proposed long-term scheme of Madhya Pradesh Government for six districts of Bundelkhand region will soon be given and funds provided;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government is promoting the use of mosquito nets to control malaria;
- (c) whether Government should provide more mosquito nets on the basis of number of families in districts; and
- (d) the reasons for not allocating mosquito nets to the State during the years 2006, 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the information from the State, no such long term scheme has been proposed. However, the regular malaria control activities are being carried out in these districts under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) For focused interventions Government of India provides mosquito bed nets to identified population in high malaria endemic areas which requires vector control intervention.
- (d) For providing focused interventions in the most endemic areas in the country, mosquito bed nets are provided only under special projects assisted by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) and the World Bank. These projects were not in operation in Madhya Pradesh and in some other States during 2006, 2007 and 2008. In these States, other vector control interventions such as Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) etc. were resorted to.

Funds released to the States for tackling sickle-cell-anaemia

3120. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has evolved any scheme for funding State Governments for sickle-cell-anaemia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and amount disbursed to such State Governments in the year 2008-09; and
- (c) status of utilization by each State of the amount disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bio-medical waste management

3121. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the hospitals in the capital are not dealing with their waste according to the set guidelines and substantial part of articles like used syringes are back into the market without treatment;

(b) whether it is a fact that 4.25 lakhs syringes are discarded by the city hospitals in the capital daily and only 30-40 per cent are incinerated or destroyed and the rest come back to circulation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government against those hospitals that are not following the rules of bio-medical waste management?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. The State Pollution Control Board in respect of States and Pollution Control Committee in respect of UTs are the prescribed authorities to implement and enforce Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and amendments thereof.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College and Shrimati S.K. Hospital, New Delhi are concerned, the Bio Medical Waste including syringes are disposed as per the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

Post-graduate courses in medical colleges

3122. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is very difficult to join post-graduate courses such as MS/MD after MBBS;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken including opening/starting of more postgraduate courses in medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, at present approximately 23000 students pass out in various medical colleges across the country for whom approximately 11600 (*i.e.* more than 50%) seats are available in different PG courses. Further, the National Board of Examination has already provided educational facilities in various DNB courses of which nearly 5000 are available annually as per the information provided by the National Board. Thus, postgraduate facilities are available for nearly 70% of student passing out as MBBS through out the country.

(c) Medical Council of India regulations are being amended to rationalise, student-teacher ratio, to increase the number of doctors. This Ministry has proposed to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been

constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

Shortage of doctors

3123. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is short by six lakh doctors, 10 lakh nurses and 2 lakh dental surgeons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such shortages; and

(d) the steps initiated to recruit the staff according to the country's requirement especially in Andhra Pradesh by giving them sops in rural and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 7,33,617. Currently, there are 299 medical colleges in the country for teaching modern system of medicine with annual intake of 35, 152 who add up to the existing medical manpower. Further, there are 24,893 dental surgeons in India. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to poor and the vulnerable section of the population. Medical Council of India regulations are being amended to rationalise land requirement, student-teacher ratio, allowing public-private partnership which will facilitate setting up of more medical colleges and increase the number of doctors. This Ministry has proposed to, set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

As per the Bajaj Committee recommendations of nursing staffing norms for Hospital and community/services, 10.43 lakhs nurses would be required by 2012. With the existing training capacity 6.84 lakhs nurses are expected to be trained by 2012.

Free medical services

3124. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred by poor population to meet their medical needs amount to about 42 per cent of GDP;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to give free medical services at every hospital in urban and rural areas in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a)
No,

- (b) Does not arise
- (c) “Health” is a state subject and it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to ensure adequate and accessible health care to its citizens. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Government through funding under Central and Centrally sponsored Schemes. With a view to provide accessible, affordable and accountable health care facilities to all sections of the people, the Union Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005. The Mission is under implementation throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh.

NRHM makes adequate provision for all health facilities to achieve the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) as per facility specific requirement viz, Sub Centre (SC), Primary Health Centre (PHC), Community Health Centre (CHC) and District Hospital (DH) which includes generic drugs/medicines, diagnostic care, referral transport etc.

Funds are released for health facilities in the State, as per their requirement reflected in the Annual state Programme Implementation Plan, which is appraised and approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee under NRHM.

In the context of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government, apart from routine programmes, have also introduced the following schemes to cater to health needs of poor people:—

- (i) **Aarogyasri:** The scheme provides to each family financial protection upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs in a year for medical treatment. All Below Poverty Line ration card holders (white cards) are eligible for benefit. The Aarogyasri scheme enables poor patients in Andhra Pradesh to avail State assistance for catastrophic health expenditure and for treatment in cashless manner both in private and Government sector. Coupled with existing health care services in Government sector, this scheme is able to meet total health needs of the poor people of the State.
- (ii) **Emergency Health Transportation Scheme (108):** To improve access of rural poor to hospital services in times of emergence, particularly in respect of maternal, neonatal and infant emergencies, a Rural Emergency Health Transport Service has been launched. The scheme is operated through a toll free line 108 which can be accessed by any one in need of help from any location throughout the State.

- (iii) **Fixed Day Health Services (104 mobile):** The scheme aims to provide the last mile health care to the rural population that are located beyond 3 kms/of existing Primary Health Centers for reducing maternal and child mortality and treatment of chronic ailments.

Specialist doctors visiting CGHS dispensaries in outlying areas

3125. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that specialist doctors visiting CGHS dispensaries in outlying areas don't devote full duty hours there, thereby putting the patients to inconveniences;

(b) what are their duty hours during their visits to dispensaries and what check is exercised to ensure that they devote full hours of duty and do not restrict to examine only 20-25 patients on a day, for which the dispensaries are required to maintain rosters which are un-necessary; and

(c) whether instructions would be issued to examine all patients of the concerned dispensary who report upto 11.00 a.m. as is done in the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Reports have been received about CGHS wellness centre (earlier known as dispensary) at NOIDA regarding inadequate consultations with specialists.

2. Medical specialists appointed against posts in CGHS, Delhi, are posted in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The working hours in these hospitals are 0900 hours to 1600 hours. These specialists visit CGHS Wellness Centres on rotation basis, to attend to patients between 0900 hours and 1330 hours. After finishing their engagements in the wellness centres, these specialists return to the hospitals in which they are posted.

3. As the time of visit by the specialists is fixed, prior appointments are fixed on the appointed day for consultations. As specialists are required to devote adequate time to each patient to diagnose the illness and to suggest the further course of treatment to be taken by the patient, it will be difficult for the specialists to see unlimited number of patients in a day. However, if, after consultations with all the patients fixed for the day is completed and there is still time, specialists do see patients who could not get appointment for consultation.

4. The arrangement of specialists visiting the Wellness Centres is in addition to the consultation being done at Government hospitals in Delhi.

5. CGHS cities outside Delhi do not have the facility of Central Government hospitals. Polyclinics are being run by the CGHS in many cities from where specialists function and their hours of functioning are 0730 hours to 1330 hours.

6. Further the CGHS beneficiaries registered with Wellness Centres located in outlying areas of NOIDA, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon also have option to have specialist's consultation, with permission of the concerned CMO in-charge, in any of the empanelled Private Hospitals.

White paper on NRHM

3126. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would bring out 'white paper' on the achievements of National Rural Health Mission in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government would examine the possibility of supplying free medicines and related medical facilities to the people of the rural areas belonging to BPL category; and
- (c) whether Government will equip rural health centres with all required facilities to give necessary medical services to the people in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) There is no need to bring a white paper on the achievements of NRHM, since sufficient mechanisms are available from bottom to top to monitor/evaluate the progress made under NRHM viz:—

1. There are Village Health Sanitation Committees at the village level under local Panchayats to monitor the utilization of funds.
2. The Hospital Management Committees (Rogi Kalyan Samities) at various levels have been set up as registered societies with representation from Panchayati Raj Institutions for planning, implementation, utilization of funds and to monitor the Mission activities.
3. Community Monitoring has been undertaken and committees have been formed at various levels, with participation of PRI representatives, user groups and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGO representatives to facilitate inputs in planning and monitoring process.
4. Common Review Mission (CRM) of NRHM having members from States, Union Government, Bilateral partners, NGOs, Experts assesses the progress of the NRHM every year.
5. The Ministry also has a Health Management Information System (HMIS) portal for all Public Health related information on a web based system.
6. The office of the Comptroller and Auditor General has also carried out a performance Audit in 33 States/UTs.
7. Periodically the Mission Steering Group (MSG) and the Empowered Programme

Committee (EPC) of NRHM with members from the Central and the State also monitor the progress of NRHM.

8. In addition, to the existing mechanism, Ministry has also initiated the process for undertaking concurrent evaluation of the National Rural Health Mission through independent agencies.

Funding support is provided under NRHM, as per specific proposals from the States/UTs in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) for addressing the requirement which *inter-alia* includes support for medicine, equipments, infrastructures and manpower.

CGHS facility in Punjab

3127. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by Central Government employees in Patiala (Punjab) for want of quality medical facilities;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up a modern CGHS health unit in Patiala to issue CGHS cards to Central Government employees posted there;
- (c) if so, by when the steps in this regard would be taken; and
- (d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Due to resource constraints it is not possible for the CGHS to be extended to newer areas including Patiala. However, serving Central Government employees in Patiala are entitled to avail health facilities under Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

Central Government pensioners staying in an area not covered by the CGHS can get their pensioner CGHS cards made in a CGHS city nearer to their residence for IPD treatment and also get Fixed Medical Allowance for their OPD needs.

Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme

3128. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to give atleast 70 per cent funds for implementation of the Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (c) by when 70 per cent funds will be released to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial support for Aarogyasri Scheme,

under National Rural Health Mission during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 amounting to Rs. 50 Crores, Rs. 10 Crores and Rs. 10 Crores respectively. In view of the nature of the Aarogyasri Scheme with prime focus on high end diseases/tertiary care, full support for this scheme under NRHM was not possible. However National Programme Coordination Committee [NPCC] approved a token support of Rs. 10 Crores each in 2007-08 and 2008-09 under NRHM for this Scheme, as an innovative measure, considering that NRHM is focused on Primary Health Care.

Easily available, cheap and effective system of healthcare

3129. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) while several systems are available for healthcare like Allopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy, Unani, which of it is preferable in terms of easy availability, cheapness, faster and permanent cure;

(b) what are the efforts employed to make it reachable and acceptable to the public;

(c) why enough efforts are not taken to promote and popularize certain systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy and Unani; and

(d) what is the amount of allocation in the Budget for Health and how much out of it is set apart for each category of healthcare?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) All systems of treatment are unique in their own right. The preference of treatment, therefore, lies exclusively with the patients.

(b) and (c) Steps have already been taken to open AYUSH Dispensaries under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hospitals and Dispensaries has been subsumed under NRHM and is being utilized for co-location and upgradation of AYUSH healthcare facilities at the Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals.

While the Department of Health and Family Welfare provides support to the State Governments under NRHM for appointment of AYUSH doctors alongwith supporting paramedical staff, the Department of AYUSH provides for upgradation of infrastructure, such as building repair, alteration, equipments, medicines etc. Funds are also being given by the Department of AYUSH for supply of essential drugs to ISM and H Dispensaries. In addition to this, Central Government Health Scheme is providing to the Central Government employees and pensioners services under the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy through dispensaries/units in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.

(d) The allocation in the Budget for Health 2009-10 is given in the Statement.

Statement

Budget Provision of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during 2009-10

(In crores of Rupees)

Sl. No.	Department	Plan	Non Plan
1.	Department of Health and Family Welfare	18380.00	2733.33
2.	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy	734.00	188.00
	(a) Ayurveda	86.05	115.58
	(b) Homoeopathy	48.03	21.61
	(c) Unani	38.85	40.00
	(d) Yoga and Naturopathy	20.35	5.55
	(e) Siddha	13.00	0.00
	(f) Other Programmes (includes all systems of ISM&H)	527.72	5.26
3.	Department of Health Research	420.00	186.00
TOTAL :		19534.00	3107.33

Female foeticide

†3130. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has got success in stopping female foeticide and if so, the details of the incidents relating to pre-natal abortion, State-wise; and

(b) whether deliberations are afoot to make the existing laws more stringent?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Child Sex Ratio (CSR) for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 had decreased to 927 girls per thousand boys as against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. As per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), total of 86, 125 and 96 cases were reported in the country during 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively, State/UTs wise details of cases reported are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) Amendment to the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to make it more comprehensive has been carried out in 2003. Further amendments were discussed in the meeting of Central Supervisory Board (CSB) held on 12th December, 2007.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted, Cases Convicted, Cases Conviction Ratio (CVR) Persons Arrested (PAR),
Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under foeticide during 2005-07*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2005							2006							2007						
		CR	CS	CV	CVR	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	CVR	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	CVR	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	0	0	—	1	0	0	5	5	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1	1	1	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	1	1	1	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	33.3	0	0	0	0	1	0	—	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	21	8	1	—	8	8	0	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	10	4	2	40	8	7	3
6.	Goa	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4	1	0	—	1	0	0	6	2	0	—	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
8.	Haryana	8	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	2	0	0	9	9	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	—	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	15	13	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
12.	Karnataka	7	0	0	—	0	0	0	13	0	0	—	0	0	0	7	0	0	—	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	1	0	0	—	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	3	2	33.3	7	7	3	14	4	2	25	6	6	1	10	7	0	0	11	11	0
15.	Maharashtra	4	3	1	50	3	9	1	10	5	0	0	11	11	0	1	0	0	—	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
20	Orissa	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	5	4	0	—	8	8	0
21	Punjab	12	3	0	0	14	7	0	22	2	0	0	7	2	0	35	8	0	0	9	8	0
22	Rajasthan	10	1	0	0	3	3	0	25	3	1	33.3	8	8	1	16	0	0	—	0	0	0
23	Sikkim	1	1	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
25	Tripura	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	2	2	1	100	5	5	2	1	1	1	100	2	2	1
27.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	0	0	0
TOTAL :		83	26	5	26	49	45	5	118	30	5	16	77	73	5	92	26	3	19	40	39	4

29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
30. Chandigarh	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Daman and Diu	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
33. Delhi	3	3	0	—	6	6	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	—	1	1	0
34. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
35. Puducherry	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
TOTAL UTs:	3	3	0	—	6	6	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	0
TOTAL ALL INDIA:	86	29	5	26	55	51	5	125	35	5	15	77	73	5	96	27	3	18	41	40	4

Tobacco induced deaths

‡3131. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest country in regard to consumption of tobacco products and approximately 8 to 9 lakh people die in the country every year due to tobacco related diseases; and

(b) whether the law of prohibition of smoking was introduced in the month of October last year, the State-wise effect it has casted and the number of persons fined for violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, Government of India has notified "The Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places Rules, 2008" vide GSR No. 417(E) dated 30th May, 2008, came into force from 2nd October, 2008 whereby smoking is strictly prohibited in all public places.

Since States are implementing these rules, these details are maintained by the States. The State-wise information available with this Ministry as on 31st March, 2009 is given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of challan in States till 31st March, 2009

Sl. No	Name of the State/UT	No. of people fined	Amount collected (INR)
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	3671	Rs. 385964
2.	Gujarat	393	Rs. 117680
3.	Tamil Nadu	9648	Rs. 1142950
4.	Assam	Nil	Nil
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
6.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
7.	Karnataka	2465	Rs. 1,15,398/-
8.	Rajasthan	9	Nil
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil
10.	Goa	238 challan (January-February)	N.A.
11	Mizoram	1173	Rs. 32245 (till February)

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
12.	Chandigarh	1177 (till December)	N.A.
13.	Andhra Pradesh	N.A	Rs. 1,40,000 (till December)
14.	Maharashtra	N.A	Rs. 5,79,925
15	Kerala	130 (till December)	N.A.

N.A.—Not available

Pending proposals under AYUSH

3132. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals for assistance under various schemes of the Central Government for setting up new institutes and the strengthening of the existing ones under the AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) are pending with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when each one is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Details are provided in the Statement.

Statement

Factual position of 22 number of proposals for strengthening of the existing AYUSH institutes

(1) Government and Government Aided Colleges

Sl.No.	College/Institution	Details
1	2	3
1	A.L. Government Ayurveda Medical College, Warrangal, Andhra Pradesh	The proposal was received on 13.07.2009 for Rs. 360.00 lakhs under UG Component and will be considered in the next Screening Committee.
2	NPA Government Ayurveda Medical College, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	The proposal was incomplete, UCs are pending it was for Rs. 225.00 lakhs under Model Component and will be considered in the next Screening Committee.
3	Government Ayurveda Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	The proposal was received on 3.07.2009 for Rs. 325.00 lakhs under Model Component and will be considered in the next Screening Committee.

1	2	3
4	Seth Chandanmal Mutha Aryangla Vaidyak Mahavidyalaya, Satara, Maharashtra	The proposal was received on 03.07.2009 for Rs. 90.00 lakhs under UG Component and will be considered in the next Screening Committee.
5	Gurukul Kangri Rajkiya Ayurved College, Haridwar, Uttarakhand	The proposal was received on 03.07.2009 for Rs 138.00 lakhs under UG Component and will be considered in the next Screening Committee.
6	Rishikul Government Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Haridwar	The proposal was received on 30.06.2009 for Rs. 300.00 lakhs under Add on (Nursing College) Component and will be considered in the next Screening Committee.
(2) Private Colleges		
1	White Memorial Medical College, Attoor, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu	The assistance to private institution can be provided through scheduled banks. The proposal are pending for the appraisal by the scheduled banks.
2	Maharashtra Homoeopathic Foundation Homoeopathic Mahavidyalaya, Sangamner, Maharashtra	-do-
3	Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya Rugnalaya, Pusad, Yeotmal, Maharashtra	-do-
4	Ayurved Medical College and Hospital, Dhule Road, Jalgaon, Maharashtra	-do-
5	Desh Bhagat Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Gobindgarh, Punjab	-do-
6	D.M.M. Ayurved College, Yeotmal, Maharashtra	-do-
7	Y.M.T. Ayurveda Medical College, Mumbai, Maharashtra	-do-
8	Vasant Dada Patil Ayurved Medical College, Sangli, Maharashtra	-do-
9	Fr. Mullar Homoeopathic Medical College, Mangalore, Karnataka	-do-

1	2	3
10	Shivang Homoeo Medical College, Bhopal	The assistance to private institution can be provided through scheduled banks. The proposal are pending for the appraisal by the scheduled banks.
11	SGM Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Saheri, Ghazipur	-do-
12	Shri Mahavir Medical College of Yogic Sciences and Research, Paras Nagar, Durg	-do-
13	SGM Unani medical College and Hospital, Saheri, Ghazipur	-do-
14	Ayurveda Seva Samitee, Yeotmal	-do-
15	Dr. V.V. Patil Foundation Ahamadnagar, Ayurveda College and Shri Eknath Rugnalaya, Ahmednagar	-do-
16	Ashtang Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Pune	-do-

From records, it appears that no proposal for assistance to new institution is pending in the Department.

Female foeticide

†3133. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decrease in cases of female foeticide after the formation of stringent rules and law and if so, the State-wise and year-wise data of the last three years in this regard;

(b) the names of the States where maximum number of incidents of female foeticide being reported and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the States where the percentage of females has gone down as compared to males as a result of female foeticide alongwith State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As per the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), total of 86, 125 and 96 cases were reported in the country during 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively; State/UTs wise details of cases reported are given in Statement-I. [Refer to Statement appended to answer to USQ 3130, Part (a)].

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Punjab reported the highest number of 35 cases of foeticide in 2007, followed by Rajasthan (16), Madhya Pradesh (10) and Chhattisgarh (10). State-wise details of male's female's sex ratio in 1991 and 2001 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-II

State/UT wise Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio during 1991 and 2001

India and State/Union territory */District	Sex ratio		Child Sex Ratio	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA	927	933	945	927
Jammu and Kashmir	896	892	NA	941
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896
Punjab	882	876	875	798
Chandigarh *	790	777	899	845
Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi *	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964
Nagaland	886	900	993	964
Manipur	958	978	974	957
Mizoram	921	935	969	964
Tripura	945	948	967	966
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973
Assam	923	935	975	965
West Bengal	917	934	967	960
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965
Orissa	971	972	967	953
Chhattisgarh	985	989	974	975
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932
Gujarat	934	920	928	883

1	2	3	4	5
Daman and Diu *	969	710	958	926
Dadra and Nagar Haveli *	952	812	1013	979
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961
Karnataka	960	965	960	946
Goa	967	961	964	938
Lakshadweep *	943	948	941	959
Kerala	1,036	1,058	958	960
Tamil Nadu	974	987	948	942
Pondicherry *	979	1,001	963	967
Andaman and Nicobar Islands *	818	846	973	957

Source: Census 1991 and 2001, O/O Registrar General of India

*Union Territory

Imported therapeutic food for NRHM

3134. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some international agencies have interfered with established norms of national flagship programmes such as NRHM/RCH by importing and providing a branded 'ready to use therapeutic food' over the last one year;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in respect of the imported food; and

(c) what measure Government has taken to safeguard national flagship programmes from such interference by vested commercial interests in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 'Ready To Use Therapeutic Food' (RUTF) was imported by UNICEF India into the country costing approximately Rs. 11.50 crores.

The whole issue was examined in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Government of India has asked UNICEF India to send all stocks of RUTF procured by them out of the country latest by 15.6.2009. UNICEF India, and not the Government of India, has been deemed responsible for all legal liabilities and financial implications arising out of procurement and distribution of RUTF and UNICEF India shall restore funds of equivalent value of the stocks of RUTF sent back from India to the UNICEF — Government of Country Programme latest by the end of July, 2009. In respect of multi -micronutrient sprinkles, that have not been

delivered to India so far, funds of equivalent value of the procurement order cancelled shall be restored by the UNICEF to the UNICEF — Government of India Country Programme.

UNICEF has been asked not to enter into correspondence with any State/UT directly relating to supplies to be made. The concerned International Agency has been asked to ensure that the State/U.T. specific Annual Work Plan are in accordance with UNICEF Annual Work Plan approved by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Disbursal of medicines and other health and family welfare related supply should be made under the supervision of the State Health and Family Welfare authorities with the knowledge/concurrence of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Quality of baby oils/lotions

3135. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any test has been done to confirm that the products labelled and marked as baby oil/baby lotion by several companies including the multinationals like M/s. Johnson and Johnson meet the standards under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act;

(b) whether permissible ingredients are used within the parameters laid down;

(c) whether the products are mislabelled and misprinted and sold to innocent, gullible public;

(d) whether the sale of such products through unlicensed/unapproved dealers, agencies or persons is permissible;

(e) whether any action had been initiated in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Cosmetic products including baby oil/baby lotions are manufactured under and in accordance to the licences granted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by the State Licensing Authorities appointed by the State Governments. The said authorities ensure that these products conform to the standards laid down under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules before these are permitted to be manufactured for sale.

(b) Yes.

(c) The cosmetic products marketed in the country are required to conform to the labeling requirements prescribed under the said rules.

(d) There is no restriction under the rules for sale of Cosmetics from general outlets.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Funds for Orissa under NRHM

3136. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund allocated to Orissa for the National Rural Health Mission for the years, 2007, 2008 and 2009 and percentage of fund utilized; and

(b) whether it is a fact that huge amounts of National Rural Health Mission fund released for Orissa is lying unutilized?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The total fund allocated to Orissa for the National Rural Health Mission for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is Rs. 284.68 crore, Rs. 345.20 crore and Rs. 338.10 crore respectively. The percentage of fund utilized for the year 2006-07 is 87%, 2007-08 is 77% and 2008-09 is 92%.

(b) In view of the above, it is incorrect to say that huge funds released to Orissa are lying unutilised.

CGHS facility in Kerala

3137. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries available to the MPs and Central Government Employees in Kerala, dispensary-wise;

(b) whether all major cities/towns have CGHS facility in Kerala;

(c) if not, the alternative arrangement made for the beneficiaries there; and

(d) the details of centres authorized for providing ayurvedic treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries in Kerala, centre-wise and the details of treatment available under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Five CGHS dispensaries are functioning in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

(b) No.

(c) Serving central Government employees outside Thiruvananthapuram are covered by Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944. Central Government pensioners staying in an area not covered by the CGHS can get their pensioner CGHS cards made in a CGHS city nearest to their residence for IPD treatment and also get Fixed Medical Allowance for their OPD needs.

(d) CGHS dispensary at Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram provides treatment under ayurvedic system of medicines.

Review of the impact of economic slow down on SSIs

3138. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the situation prevailing in the small scale industries especially to ascertain the impact of consistent slow down of our economy conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of 'major promotional package' for SSI sector, promised by Government in May, 2004 in its National Common Minimum Programme, indicating the number of SSI units availed of the package *vis-a-vis* nature of impact thereof witnessed; and

(e) the details of number of SSI units operating in 2003-04, volume of their outstanding debts with Banks/FIs indicating the situation prevailed on March 31, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been reviewing the situation prevailing in the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector in the wake of global/domestic economic slowdown. The major problems faced by MSEs relate to slackening of demand for their products/services, especially reduction in export-related orders, and delayed payments of dues by large units, leading to liquidity crunch. Keeping this in view, the Government, the RBI and the Public Sector Banks have taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSEs.

(d) In line with the announcement made in the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government in May, 2004, a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' was announced by the Government in August, 2005 with the objective of doubling the credit flow to the sector within a period of five years. This has helped in enhancing the credit flow to the MSE sector significantly. As per the data furnished by the RBI in respect of public sector banks, the number of MSE accounts increased from 13.95 lakh in March, 2005 to 43.02 lakh in March, 2009 while the outstanding loans to them increased from Rs. 68,000 crore to Rs. 1,90,968 crore during the same period. Subsequently, a comprehensive Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises was announced in February, 2007 for providing requisite support in areas of credit, cluster development, technology and quality upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial and managerial development, etc., comprising of specific schemes which are being implemented for the promotion and development of MSEs and enhancing their competitiveness.

(e) The estimated number of MSEs during 2003-04 was 113.95 lakh. As per the information furnished by the RBI, the outstanding against the MSEs that availed loans from the public sector banks was Rs. 58,311 crore in March, 2004 and has increased to Rs. 1,90,968 crore (provisional) in March, 2009.

Schemes implemented by Ministry in Goa

3139. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the schemes being implemented by the Ministry;
- (b) the essential features of each of the schemes;
- (c) the names of the schemes under which the Government of Goa/entrepreneurs in Goa have taken benefits; and
- (d) the financial allocation given to the State and others under each of the schemes, since inception of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is encouraging the development and promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through various schemes/programmes implemented across the country including the State of Goa. Some of the major schemes are:—

1. **Credit Guarantee Scheme:** The scheme provides guarantee cover upto 75% of the credit facility up to Rs. 50 lakh with an incremental guarantee of 50% of the credit facility above Rs. 50 lakh and up to Rs. 100 lakh (85% for loans up to Rs. 5 lakh provided to micro enterprises, 80% for MSEs owned/operated by women and all loans to NER) of the collateral free credit facility (term loan and or working capital) extended by eligible lending institutions to new and existing micro and small enterprises up to Rs. 100 lakh per borrowing unit. The scheme is administered by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
2. **Augmentation of Portfolio Risk Fund under Micro Finance Programme:** The scheme has been tied up with the existing programme of SIDBI by way of contributing towards security deposits required from the MFIs/NGOs to get loan from SIDBI. The Government of India provides funds for Micro-Finance Programme to SIDBI, which is called 'Portfolio Risk Fund' (PRF). At present SIDBI takes fixed deposit equal to 10% of the loan amount. The share of MFIs/NGOs is 2.5% of the loan amount (*i.e.* 25% of security deposit) and balance 7.5% (*i.e.* 75% of security deposit) is adjusted from the funds provided by the Government of India.
3. **ISO 9000/14001 Reimbursement:** Cost of obtaining ISO 9000 certification and/or Environment Management System (EMS) ISO 14001 certification by the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) is reimbursed to the extent of 75% of the fees, subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000. The objective of the scheme is to enhance the competitive strength of the MSEs.

4. **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme:** The Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) aims at facilitating technology upgradation of the MSE sector. The scheme provides for 15% capital subsidy on institutional finance availed by MSEs for induction of well established and improved technology in approved sub-sectors/products. The admissible capital subsidy under the scheme is calculated with reference to purchase price of plant and machinery and maximum limit of eligible loan for calculation of subsidy is Rs. 100 lakh.
5. **Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme:** These Programmes are conducted with a view to enable the unemployed youth to acquire requisite skills so that they may be self-employed. No fee is charged from SC/ST candidates in all the training programmes. Fee @ 50% is charged from Women/Physical Handicapped candidates in all the training programmes. Further, 20% of the total Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs)/Entrepreneurial Skill Development Programme (ESDPs) are conducted for weaker sections (SC/ST/Women/Physically Handicapped) in which no fee is charged from the candidates and also a stipend @ Rs. 500/- per month is provided to each candidate.
6. **Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme:** The Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) envisages measures for capacity building, skill development, technology upgradation of the enterprises, improved credit delivery, marketing support, setting up of common facility centres, etc., based on diagnostic studies carried out in consultation with cluster units and their collectives and management of cluster-wide facilities by the cluster collectives. Under the scheme, contribution of the Government is up to 80% of the project cost (90% for clusters developed exclusively for MSEs operated/owned by women), subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 crore per project, including Rs. 10 lakh for soft activities, i.e., capacity building activities in the cluster where no fixed assets is acquired or formed.
7. **Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme:** The Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) scheme provides infrastructural facilities like power distribution network, water, telecommunication, drainage and pollution control facilities, roads, banks, raw materials, storage and marketing outlets, common service facilities and technological back up services, etc., for MSEs. The scheme also provides for upgradation/strengthening of the infrastructural facilities in the existing industrial estates. The estimated cost (excluding cost of land) to set up an IID Centre is Rs. 5 crore. Central Government provides 40 per cent in case of general States and upto 80% for North East Region (including Sikkim), Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, as grant and remaining amount could be loan from SIDBI/Banks/Financial Institutions or the State Funds.

8. **Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana (RGUMY):** Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to selected lead agencies for providing handholding support to first generation entrepreneurs for establishment of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
9. **Performance and Credit Rating Scheme:** National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Under Ministry of MSME is implementing the scheme on behalf of M/o MSME. The scheme aims to create awareness amongst small enterprises about the strengths and weakness of their existing operations and to provide them an opportunity to enhance their organizational strengths and credit worthiness. The rating under the scheme serves as a trusted third party opinion on the capabilities and creditworthiness of the small enterprises. An independent rating by an accredited rating agency has a good acceptance from the Banks/Financial Institutions, Customers/Buyers and Vendors.
10. **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):** Under this programme, financial assistance is provided for setting up of micro enterprises costing upto Rs. 10 lakh in service/business sector and Rs. 25 lakh in manufacturing sector. The assistance is provided in the form of subsidy upto 25 per cent (35 per cent for weaker sections) of the project cost in rural areas while it is 15 per cent (25 per cent for weaker sections) for urban areas.

In addition to the above, there are few more schemes for the development of Khadi and Coir sectors which are implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Coir Board.

(d) Allocation of funds is made scheme-wise (not state-wise) depending on demand and the funds are utilised for various projects and other activities under the schemes. However, in case of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), the margin money is allocated to States against targets fixed. State-wise targets for the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement

State/Union Territory (UT) – wise details of targets fixed and provisional achievements made under the PMEGP during 2008-09

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Target			Achievement (Provisional)		
		Number of Projects	Margin Money (Rs. lakh)	Employment	Number of Projects	Margin Money (Rs. lakh)	Employment (estimated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Chandigarh	50	59.94	500	31	8.09	310
2.	Delhi	237	285.51	2370	5	4.15	50
3.	Haryana	1193	1431.16	11927	821	1437.76	8210

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Himachal Pradesh	377	452.14	3763	340	452.11	3400
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	1083	1300.00	10830	1821	1452.17	18210
6.	Punjab	1500	1800.00	15000	887	1407.93	8870
7.	Rajasthan	2327	2793.42	23270	703	1461.95	7030
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	38	46.25	380	8	2.36	80
9.	Bihar	4293	5152.18	42930	6741	4524.59	67410
10.	Jharkhand	1972	2366.52	19716	940	1128.00	9400
11.	Orissa	2455	2946.68	24554	1976	3004.88	19760
12.	West Bengal	5416	6500.00	54160	5667	6465.81	56670
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	171	205.72	1710	130	95.00	1300
14.	Assam	1709	2050.54	17083	728	525.16	7280
15.	Manipur	392	470.64	3920	3	1.8	30
16.	Meghalaya	403	483.96	4030	3	3.00	30
17.	Mizoram	198	238.28	1980	23	71.23	230
18.	Nagaland	358	430.68	3580	31	61.08	310
19.	Tripura	393	472.12	3930	5	4.3	50
20.	Sikkim	104	125.80	1040	4	6.70	40
21.	Andhra Pradesh	4433	5319.86	44337	903	2605.60	9030
22.	Karnataka	2976	3571.24	29764	2423	3246.82	24230
23.	Kerala	1770	2123.80	17695	389	610.79	3890
24.	Lakshadweep	5	6.66	52	4	5.33	40
25.	Puducherry	50	59.94	500	42	15.96	420
26.	Tamil Nadu	3517	4220.23	35165	1473	2926.56	14730
27.	Goa	72	86.59	719	7	12.95	70
28.	Gujarat	2907	3487.62	29073	307	445.22	3070
29.	Maharashtra	5526	6628.91	55242	3374	4194.90	33740
30.	Chhattisgarh	1447	1736.78	14473	1078	1942.19	10780
31.	Madhya Pradesh	3080	3695.85	30800	628	1351.48	6280
32.	Uttarakhand	968	1162.25	9680	378	466.77	3780
33.	Uttar Pradesh	9807	11768.96	98072	4414	10660.40	44140
GRAND TOTAL :		61227	73480.23	612245	36287	50603.04	362870

Statement-II*State/UT wise targets under PMEGP – 2009-10*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Projects	Margin Money (Rs. in lakhs)	Employment (Nos)
1	2	3	4	5
North Zone				
1.	U.T. Chandigarh	50	59.94	500
2.	Delhi	750	899.10	7497
3.	Haryana	1193	1431.16	11927
4.	Himachal Pradesh	377	452.14	3763
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	623	748.14	6238
6.	Punjab	1340	1608.02	13398
7.	Rajasthan.	3343	4011.54	33428
TOTAL :		7676	9210.04	76751
East Zone				
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17	19.98	167
9.	Bihar	5367	6440.22	53665
10.	Jharkhand	1972	2366.52	19716
11.	Orissa	2455	2946.68	24554
12.	West Bengal	4595	5513.74	45947
TOTAL :		14406	17287.14	144049
South Zone				
13.	Andhra Pradesh	4433	5319.86	44337
14.	Karnataka	2976	3571.24	29764
15.	Kerala	1770	2123.80	17695
16.	Lakshadweep	5	6.66	52
17.	Pondicherry	50	59.94	500
18.	Tamil Nadu	3517	4220.23	35165
TOTAL :		12751	15301.73	127513

1	2	3	4	5
West Zone				
19.	Goa	72	86.59	719
20.	Gujarat	2885	3460.98	28845
21.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11	13.32	114
22.	Daman and Diu	11	13.32	114
23.	Maharashtra	5526	6628.91	55242
TOTAL :		8505	10203.12	85034
Central Zone				
24.	Chhattisgarh	1447	1736.78	14473
25.	Madhya Pradesh	3850	4619.82	38501
26.	Uttaranchal	534	641.59	5343
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9807	11768.96	98072
TOTAL :		15638	18767.15	156389
North East Zone				
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	86	102.86	861
29.	Assam	1709	2050.54	17083
30.	Manipur	195	235.32	1958
31.	Meghalaya	202	241.98	2021
32.	Mizoram	100	119.14	993
33.	Nagaland	179	215.34	1792
34.	Tripura	197	236.06	1965
35.	Sikkim	53	62.90	528
TOTAL :		2721	3264.14	27201
GRAND TOTAL :		61697	74033.32	616937

Promotion of SSIs

3140. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched any special programme to promote small scale industries (SSI) in the country particularly in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds released to various States for the promotion of small scale industries during the last two years; and
- (d) the extent to which the target of growth of small scale industries in the country has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructure development, quality improvement, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc. These schemes are implemented across the country including rural areas.

(c) Allocation of budgetary funds is made scheme-wise (not state-wise) and utilised for various projects and other activities under the schemes. The Ministry of MSME utilised an amount of Rs. 1420.19 crore during the financial year 2007-08 and Rs. 1661.63 crore (Provisional) during the financial year 2008-09 for various schemes/programmes.

(d) Based on the Third All India Census of SSIs with reference year 2001-02 percentage growth rate achieved in SSI sector for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available) is 10.88, 12.32 and 12.60 respectively.

Development of agro-based rural industries

3141. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to launch new schemes for the development of agro-based rural industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received proposals from the States including Rajasthan for development of agro-based industries there; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has approved a new Central sector credit-linked subsidy scheme, called the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) during 2008-09 (August, 2008) for promotion and development of micro enterprises including Village Industries. PMEGP is implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

in both rural as well as urban areas throughout the country. Under PMEGP, entrepreneurs can establish micro enterprises as defined in the “Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006”, *i.e.*, the enterprises engaged in (i) the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the first schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, where the investment in plant and machinery does not exceed twenty five lakh rupees; (ii) those providing or rendering of services, where the investment in equipment does not exceed ten lakh rupees, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank.

PMEGP is implemented through KVIC as the single nodal agency at the national level. At the State/Union Territories level, the scheme is being implemented through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) with involvement of banks. The permissible margin money subsidy provided under PMEGP is as under:—

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Applications for setting up ‘micro enterprises’ including agro-based rural industries under PMEGP are not received directly by the Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Under the PMEGP, an eligible entrepreneur can establish a ‘micro enterprise’ by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank. For this purpose, proposals are invited from potential first generation beneficiaries at district level through press, advertisements and other media by KVIC, KVIBs and DICs at periodic intervals depending on the target allocated under PMEGP. The project proposals so received are scrutinized by the District Task Force Committees constituted for the purpose and based on the experience, technical qualifications, skill of the applicant, viability of the project, etc., the applications/project proposals are short-listed and the applicants are called for interview to assess their knowledge about the proposed project, skill and entrepreneurship abilities to make the proposed project a success. Approval of the project depends on technical and financial appraisal by the respective banks.

(d) Does not arise.

MSME units

‡3142. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of micro, small and medium enterprises units in the country, sector-wise;
- (b) the total workers employed in these industries;
- (c) the labour laws being implemented in this sector; and
- (d) the plan of Government to make goods produced by these industries of international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The estimated number of micro and small enterprises and employment in the micro and small enterprise (MSEs) sector during 2006-07 (latest available) is given in the Table below:—

Sector	No. of MSEs (lakh numbers)	Employment (lakh persons)
1. Micro enterprises	72.08	202.15
2. Small enterprises	56.35	110.37
TOTAL:	128.43	312.52

Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October, 2006, information in respect of number and employment in medium enterprise is not available.

(c) No specific labour laws have been devised for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The general labour laws applicable to industries are also applicable to MSMEs.

(d) To facilitate the promotion and development of MSEs and enhance their competitiveness in domestic and global market, the Government announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' on 10th August, 2005 which envisages public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector. The Government has also announced in February, 2007 a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure etc. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government is also implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/skill development, etc., for assisting the MSE sector in meeting the challenges. Some of the major schemes/programmes being implemented are Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

Share of small and cottage industries in GDP

†3143. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of share of small and cottage industries in Gross Domestic Product of the country; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to promote small and cottage industries in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The contribution of micro, small and cottage enterprises in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country during 2006-07 (latest available) was estimated to be 6.97 per cent.

(b) To facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector (incorporating the erstwhile small and cottage industries), the Government has announced in February, 2007 a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure etc. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 for the promotion and development of the MSMEs and to enhance their competitiveness.

The Government is also implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/skill development, etc., for assisting the MSE sector. Some of the major schemes/programmes being implemented are Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) targets promotion of cottage industries by providing margin money assistance through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank. In addition,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government is implementing specific schemes to promote the handicraft sector, which include Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Marketing Support and Services Scheme, Design and Technological Upgradation, Research and Development and Human Resource Development.

Growth and promotion of service industries

3144. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the effect after inclusion of service industries under Small and Medium Enterprises;

(b) whether this policy was welcomed by the banks and the credit sanctioning authorities on the one side and the service industries on the other; and

(c) whether the growth and promotion of service industries have become better after coming into the SME fold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The service enterprises has been defined in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 for the first time thus providing a statutory platform to these enterprises for taking benefits of promotional measures announced by the Government. It has also provided a basis for classification of service enterprises based on the cost of equipments used by them. So far 95474 service enterprise during the year 2007-08 and 101448 No. of service enterprises during the year 2008-09 have filed entrepreneurs' memorandum, which is an essential requirement for availing of benefits under Government Schemes. The loans outstanding against the service enterprises from public sector banks have increased from Rs. 32,094.22 crore at the end of March, 2008 to Rs. 54306.53 crore (Provisional) at the end of March, 2009. Thus the incorporation of service sector into MSME fold has improved its access to Government programmes and credit.

Ongoing projects in Railways

3145. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current details of the ongoing works and projects in different zones of the Railways; and

(b) what are the plans for the remaining period of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The details of ongoing projects zonewise under Planheads, New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling are available in the Railway Budget Documents 2009-10.

(b) During 2009-10, 250 km. of new line, 1300 km of gauge conversion and 700 km. of doubling is targeted for completion.

Patent of Anti Collision Device

3146. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Anti Collision Device (ACD) developed by Railways has got patent in China, Russia, South Africa and Singapore;
- (b) after getting patent for ACD, how Indian Railways is planning to export the technology to other countries to generate revenue for other projects;
- (c) whether Indian Railways is making any efforts for worldwide patent for ACD; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Railway lines included in survey for gauge conversion

†3147. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of proposals of lines that included in this budget by the Railway Ministry for survey works of gauge conversion;
- (b) the details of the time limit set therefor; and
- (c) the norms which would be adopted to accord sanction to gauge conversion work after completion of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Three survey works for gauge conversion have been included in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

- (b) The surveys are proposed to be completed in a period of about one year.
- (c) The norms for taking up gauge conversion projects are as under:—
 - (i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative BG routes obviating the need for Doubling of existing BG lines on these routes.
 - (ii) To establish new BG links between existing BG lines on these routes.
 - (iii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.
 - (iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.
 - (v) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

Gauge conversion works are also taken up on socio-economic consideration for accelerated development of backward areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Joint venture to manufacture ICF design fabricated coaches

3148. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a proposal to set up a joint venture company with Steel Industries Kerala Ltd., Alleppey, a public sector undertaking of the Government of Kerala, to manufacture ICF design fabricated bogies for passenger coaches was under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details and present status of the project proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action is being taken to form a Joint Venture Company under companies' Act 1956, between Ministry of Railways (MoR) and Government of Kerala (GoK) for manufacture of Railway coach and wagon components by utilizing the assets of Steel Industries Kerala Limited (SILK) and its subsidiary, M/s Autokast.

Survey of Nanjancode to Nilambur rail route

3149. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for the construction of Nanjancode of Karnataka to Nilambur of Kerala railway route *via* Sultan Bathery in Wayanad at Gudalloor Road of Tamil Nadu is in progress; and

(b) if so, when the survey was started, by when it is proposed to be completed, and the budgetary allocation made in the budgets since the survey was started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) An updating survey for Nanjangud-Nilambur *via* Sultan Bathery and Gudallur was taken up and completed during 2007-08 and its report further updated in February, 2009. An outlay of Rs. 12.7 lakh has been provided for this survey so far.

Rail connectivity to ports

3150. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified nine ports in the country under the National Maritime Development Programme for the development of coastal shipping and whether Azhikkal and Vizhingham ports in Kerala are included in these nine ports; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to provide rail connectivity to these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Peninsular railway zone for Kerala

3151. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has been demanding a peninsular railway zone for Kerala considering the needs and geographical sprawl of Kerala being quite different from the neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some States including Kerala have requested for separate zone. As of now, no decision to form a new zone has been taken.

Electricity consumption by Railways

3152. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the annual electricity consumption for last five years;

(b) what has been the annual electricity bill of the railways during that period;

(c) at what rate the Railways have been purchasing the electricity for operations and non-operational purposes;

(d) what are the sources of power supply of Railways; and

(e) whether the Railways purchase power at uniform price from all the suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Annual electricity consumption of Indian Railways for operational (Traction) and non operational (Non traction) purpose for the last five years are as under:—

(Electricity consumption in million Kwh)

Type	Year				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Operational purpose (Traction)	9477	10132	10398	11035	11685
Non Operational purpose (Non Traction)	2221	2274	2307	2322	2411
TOTAL :	11698	12406	12705	13357	14096

(b) The annual electricity bill of the Railways for the last five years are as under:—

(Electricity bill paid in million Rs.)

Type	Year				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Operational purpose (Traction)	40529	42668	43919	47182	50108
Non Operational purpose (Non Traction)	9205	9937	9786	9893	10448
TOTAL :	49734	52605	53705	57075	60556

(c) Average cost of energy in paisa per unit for Operational (Traction) and Non operational (Non-Traction) purpose for the year 2007-08 are as under:—

(paisa per unit)

Type	Year	Average cost
Operational purpose (Traction)	2007-08	429
Non operational purpose (Non traction)	2007-08	433

(d) Power is purchased from different distribution companies (DISCOMs) in States and three power companies viz. Tata electric, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and NTPC.

(e) No, Sir. However, it varied from 369 paisa per unit (in Kerala) to 518 paisa per unit (in Gujarat) during 2007-08.

Captive power plants for operational usage

3153. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways propose to build captive power plants for its operational usage;
- (b) if so, the details of the capacity and locations of such plants;
- (c) whether Railways propose joint venture to set up these power plants;
- (d) whether the option to form joint venture limited to PSUs only or the private players to can join;
- (e) whether the fuel supply linkages have been firmed up; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway has formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company to set up joint venture captive power plant with NTPC. The 1000 MW power plant will be established at Nabinagar in Bihar. In addition, as per announcement in Railway budget 2009-10, Indian Railways propose to set up another 1000 MW power plant at Adra to avail traction supply at economical tariff.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The fuel linkage will be finalized at an appropriate time.

Joint venture with NTPC for setting up power plants

3154. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose a joint venture with NTPC for setting up the power plants for its operational usage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways would be able to meet its present and prospective demand of electricity through such captive facilities;

(d) whether Railways also plan to trade the surplus power; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has already formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited — Joint Venture with NTPC for setting up of Joint Venture Captive Power Plant of 1000 MW Capacity at Nabinagar Bihar to meet a part of its power requirement. This plant will feed 164 traction sub-stations located in Eastern and Western region of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

3155. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to Government of India for making adequate budgetary provision for conversion/upgradation of broad gauge in respect of certain lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary provision for each line approved for conversion/upgradation; and

(d) by when the work relating to conversion/upgradation would likely be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Minister of Revenue, Disaster Management, Road and Building, Capital Project, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat has sent a letter in February, 2008 requesting to provide adequate fund to ongoing projects including gauge conversion.

(c) The detail of funds allocated for various ongoing projects is available in the Railway Budget Documents 2009-10.

(d) Time frame for completion of the ongoing projects will depend on availability of resources.

Rail link between Jowai and Silchar

3156. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail link between Jowai in Meghalaya and Silchar in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for new line from Panchratna (Jogighopa) to Badarpur has been completed recently. The alignment of this surveyed new line passes close to Jowai. The cost of this 437 Km. long new line has been assessed as Rs. 15894.04 crore.

Rail link between Shillong and Byrnihat

3157. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail link between Shillong and Byrnihat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The survey for construction of new line from Byrnihat to Shillong has been completed in December, 2008. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 108.40 Km. long line has been assessed as Rs. 4083.02 crore. The report is to be examined in the Ministry for further action.

Appointment to Grade 'D' posts in Railways

3158. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of appointment to grade 'D' posts in the Railways on regular and daily wage basis;

(b) whether any discretionary quota is available to the Railway Minister for appointment of persons to these grades;

(c) if so, the total number of persons appointed to the Grade 'D' post regular and daily wages during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of persons so appointed to these grades from Bihar particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Various modes of appointment to Group 'D' posts on the railways are direct recruitment from open market, Scouts and Guides quota, Sports quota, Compassionate Ground appointment and engagement as Substitutes, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

3159. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few projects of laying new railway lines, doubling the tracks and widening of existing lines in Maharashtra are pending;

(b) whether Government is aware of the request made by the leaders of political parties and the State Government of Maharashtra for providing adequate funds for ongoing railway projects in the State; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for providing funds for the railway projects in Maharashtra as requested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. However the projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The funds for projects have improved considerably over last few years due to certain steps taken for getting additional funds through public private partnership, State sharing, funds for National Projects from Central Government exchequer, Defence funded and other projects under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. State Government of Maharashtra has also agreed to share 50% cost of some of the projects.

Dilapidated condition of boggies in Kerala bound trains

3160. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala bound trains have very old and damaged compartments;

(b) if not, the details of date of manufacture of each compartment used currently in Kerala Express, Trivandrum Rajdhani, Mangala Express, Millennium Express, Kochuveli

Sampark Kranti Express, Swarna Jayanthi Express, Parasuram Express and Jayanthi Janatha Express, train-wise;

(c) whether the toilets, floor and A.C. system in all these trains are very poor in maintenance; and

(d) the steps taken to remove all the old compartments from these trains and to improve the passenger amenities in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Coaches with a prescribed codal life of 25 years are used in Passenger services on IR.

The approximate age profile of coaches running in these train services is as under:—

Age	Percentage
0-5 years	15
6-10 years	29
11-15 years	31
16-20 years	16
21-25 years	9

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The acquisition of new coaches for replacement of over-aged stock is a continuous activity for Indian Railways.

Maintenance and upkeep of passenger amenities in coaches is a continuing requirement and this is carried out periodically during laid down maintenance schedules in open line as well as periodic overhauls in the Railway Workshops. Besides, the coaches are also given 'Mid-life' rehabilitation after 12-15 years of usage.

Construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link

3161. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work relating to preparation of plan, estimates, etc. regarding construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link in Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the construction work would likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The alignment survey has been completed and detailed estimate sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 237.12 crore. The work of land acquisition and major bridges has been taken up.

Jobs to families of employees who die in harness

3162. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees who lost their lives during service in Railways but still their families are unable to get the jobs and other defined facilities, zone-wise;

(b) whether Government would provide jobs to their families on humanitarian ground on priority basis without further delay; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) As per the figures available with the Ministry of Railways, number of compassionate ground appointments owing to death of employees and medical decategorisation, during the period 01-04-2007 to 30-11-2008, is as below:—

Zonal Railway	Number of people appointed on compassionate ground	Number of cases pending for appointment on compassionate ground (as on 30.11.2008)
Central	1711	282
Eastern	1119	161
East Central	1582	192
East Coast	599	303
Northern	2471	151
North Central	891	68
North Eastern	625	127
Northeast Frontier	1266	194
North Western	921	84
Southern	981	174
South Central	1910	590
South Eastern	1325	151
South East Central	628	80
South Western	433	56
Western	1439	81
West Central	638	40
GRAND TOTAL :	18539	2734

(b) and (c) Each and every case of compassionate appointment is finalised expeditiously. All other dues and facilities, as per rules, are also arranged on a priority basis.

Ongoing projects in Orissa

3163. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of ongoing projects and survey completed projects in the State of Orissa;
- (b) whether there is time limit for completing these ongoing projects in the State;
- (c) if so, the reason for delay in completion of the ongoing projects; and
- (d) whether Government would provide the funds to the long pending survey completed projects of the State to start them immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) 5 new lines, 2 gauge conversion, 12 doubling projects are in progress in the State of Orissa. 5 Nos. of surveys were completed during the last three years in Orissa. Timely completion of projects depends upon availability of resources and other factors. In some projects, delay is on account of land acquisition, adverse law and order conditions, local resistance where land has been acquired for want of adequate compensation and slow progress by the contractors. The projects are being progressed as per the available resources. However, 7 projects are likely to be completed during 2009-10.

- (d) Funds are being provided to those projects which are taken up after completion of survey.

Manned/unmanned railway crossings

3164. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway crossing in the country; manned/unmanned, category-wise;
- (b) the total number of accidents at railway crossings, during last three years, category-wise;
- (c) the passengers and others, killed/injured; category-wise;
- (d) the compensation paid thereof; and
- (e) the roadmap for converting unmanned to manned crossings to minimize accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Number of manned/unmanned level crossings in the country as on 01.04.2009 are as under:—

Zones	Number of manned level crossings	Number of unmanned level crossings
Central	906	335
Eastern	915	375
Northern	2533	1825
North Eastern	1030	1674
Northeast Frontier	701	1098
Southern	1729	1235
South Central	1234	1213
South Eastern	424	1023
Western	1810	2731
East Central	1005	835
East Coast	484	757
North Central	1033	537
North Western	1456	1398
South East Central	472	743
South Western	665	879
West Central	847	318
TOTAL:	17244	16976

(b) Number of accidents in last three years at manned/unmanned level crossings is as under:—

Year	Manned	Unmanned
2006-07	07	72
2007-08	12	65
2008-09	07	62

(c) Passengers and others killed/injured last three years at manned/unmanned level crossings are as under:—

Year	Passengers killed	Passengers injured	Others/killed	Others/injured
1	2	3	4	5
2006-07				
Manned	—	—	11	08
Unmanned	01	16	144	138

1	2	3	4	5
2007-08				
Manned	101	04	25	39
Unmanned	02	49	146	93
2008-09				
Manned	01	—	18	54
Unmanned	—	41	127	85

(d) Compensation paid on accidents at manned/unmanned level crossings during the last three years in case of death and injury of road users is as under:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Years	Manned level crossing		Unmanned level crossing		Total
	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	
2006-07	18.91	05.68	06.78	01.48	32.85
2007-08	04.00	07.48	15.29	06.28	33.05
2008-09	49.24	01.75	07.68	02.33	61.00
TOTAL:	72.15	14.91	29.75	10.09	126.90

(e) Manning of Unmanned level crossings qualifying for manning as per the laid down criteria is an on-going activity of Indian Railways.

Achievement of doubling and conversion target

3165. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a small portion of the doubling and conversion target for the year 2008-09 has been achieved but most of the budget for this activity has been spent; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The main reason for not being able to achieve the targets set for gauge conversion and doubling has been slow progress during 2008-09 due to abnormal increase in prices of steel witnessed in the later part of 2007-08 resulting into slowing down of works due to failure of the contractors. The expenditure has been incurred on various activities on the ongoing projects. The expenditure under doubling was lesser than the allocation.

Advance train tickets for general compartments

3166. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that passengers who intend to travel in general compartments are required to purchase tickets just a few hours before departure of trains;
- (b) whether this new system causes lot of hardship to passengers who are required to stand in serpentine queues;
- (c) if so, the reasons for this change in system; and
- (d) whether Government would consider advance train tickets for general compartment passengers and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) As per recent instructions, unreserved tickets involving journey upto 200 Kilometers are issued through Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on the same day and those involving journey of more than 200 Kilometers are issued upto three days in advance excluding the day of journey.

This change has been made after seeing the trend of booking as well as to avoid misuse of short distance unreserved tickets booked much in advance. This change is not expected to cause any hardship to the passengers. As such, there is no proposal under consideration to revise the extant instructions.

Earning of railways during last ten days

†3167. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have earned Rupees 2280 crores during the period 11th to 20th June, 2009;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Railways hardly paid attention to train facilities and passenger security in recent past;
- (c) if so, until when Government proposes to provide security and facilities to passengers as per the norms while charging the same fare from them; and
- (d) if so, how and if not, the details of reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Efforts are made to ensure comfort and security of the passengers. Ministry of Railways have decided to upgrade the security of passengers at Stations by adopting an Integrated Security System (ISS) which comprises of CCTV surveillance system, access control, personal and baggage screening system and bomb detection and disposal system. Approval has been accorded for implementation of this scheme at 195 sensitive stations of the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 344.31 crores.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Boundary walls around railway property

3168. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to construct boundary walls around railway property in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata to prevent their encroachment and misuse; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to construct boundary walls around railway property to prevent their encroachments and misuse. The length of boundary walls proposed to be constructed during the year 2009-10 around railway property in the four metropolis is as given below:—

Mumbai (21.5 Kilometre), Delhi (4.6 Kilometre), Chennai (0.9 Kilometre) and Kolkata (6.8 Kilometre).

Modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Station

†3169. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the task of carrying out survey to make Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai entirely a state-of-art station, while retaining its status as a heritage site, has been assigned to some French company AREP, a subsidiary of French Railway (SNCF) at the cost of Rupees 90 crores;
- (b) if so, when and the time by when survey is likely to be completed;
- (c) the time when the task of modernization would commence;
- (d) whether the Railways have also commenced the survey for making 26 more railway stations at par with international standards; and
- (e) if so, by when and the names of those 26 stations alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) For preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility report for developing Carnac Bunder (CST Mumbai) as world class station, M/s AREP VILLE, France has been appointed as Architect and Technical Consultant at a cost of Rs. 11.45 crores. A part of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus site is a heritage structure that will be preserved during formulation of the proposal for development of the station. Preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility report is targeted to be accomplished by March, 2010.

(c) Award of the concession takes about one and a half year after approval of the Master Plan and Feasibility Report by the local agencies. Work at site shall commence after financial close is achieved by the concessionaire.

(d) and (e) As per the Budget Announcement 2009-10, it is now proposed to develop about 50 stations as world class stations. Master Plan and Feasibility Report of New Delhi has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been prepared and that of Patna and Carnac Bunder (CST Mumbai) has been taken up. For other stations Railway were advised to take up preliminary activities.

Katara-Banihal rail link segment

3170. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for completing the rail alignment between Katara and Banihal, including constructing the mega-arch bridge over the river Chenab;

(b) whether there has been escalation in cost for this rail link segment over the original estimated cost; and

(c) if so, whether it is attributable only to inflation and rise in cost of material, or there are other significant factors like changes in the original planning from time-to-time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Railway alignment between Katra-Banihal, including the alignment over river Chenab has been reviewed by the Expert Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Ministry. Time schedule and cost of the project can be ascertained after final decision is taken by the Ministry on the report of the Committee.

Train operation

†3171. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the situation of train operation is worse at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has prescribed any policy to improve the situation of train operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Improvement of train operation is an ongoing process depending upon modernization of technology, development of infrastructure facilities, improvement in factors beyond railways control such as weather, law and order, agitations etc.

Running of non-stop trains on existing tracks

3172. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing rail tracks are capable of running non-stop trains, as proposed in the rail budget;

(b) if not, whether there are any decision for changing or upgradation of the existing rail tracks;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, when the decision was taken and what is the time schedule for each of the projects; and

(d) the details of the fund allotted for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Feasibility of double-decker trains

3173. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the feasibility of running double-decker trains; and

(b) whether Government has consulted the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Non-airconditioned double decker coaches are already running on Indian Railways.

In the Railway Budget 2009-10, introduction of high capacity airconditioned double decker coaches having superior riding quality and comfort for intercity travel has been announced. The design of such coaches has been taken up by the Indian Railways and expert opinion/assistance shall be obtained, if considered necessary at any stage.

Development of Surat-Hazira railway line

3174. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the planning of Ministry of Railways/RVNL to develop Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) what is the status regarding financial contribution among different stakeholders/companies for this project;

(c) whether Government contemplates to allocate more funds to RVNL; and

(d) as it is technically feasible to integrate this section as a part of dedicated freight corridor between Mumbai-Delhi, what is the planning of Ministry of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Surat-Hazira new line is a port connectivity project which was handed over to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a PSU under Ministry of Railways, for further development. On being approached by RVNL, Government of Gujarat *vide* resolution No. GID-102007-1213-G dated 10.06.2009 has finalised the alignment of Surat-Hazira rail line project. To review the progress of the implementation of this project and to facilitate fast implementation, Government of Gujarat has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat. RVNL is working out the cost of the finalised alignment and its bankability and will process the case for sanctioning of the project.

(b) Financial contribution among different stakeholders/companies will be decided on completion of the project development and establishment of its bankability. Presently

Government of Gujarat, Essar Steel Ltd. and Hazira Port Pvt. Ltd. has shown interest in equity participation.

(c) At present an amount of Rs. 1420.00 crore has been provided for RVNL in Railway Budget 2009-10 for various projects of RVNL.

(d) Surat-Hazira railway line has been identified as a feeder route to the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).

Laying of new rail lines and extension of existing lines

3175. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Railways to lay new rail lines or to extend the present ones in the near future;

(b) if so, whether survey for the same have been carried out or are proposed to be done; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time by when work would be completed and new/extended rail lines would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Development of railways including construction of new lines or extension of the existing lines is a continuous process. A large number of new railway line projects have been taken up across the country which on completion would add about 10,900 km to the rail network. These projects have been taken up after conducting required surveys. Time of completion of the projects depends on availability of resources and other factors.

Laying of new rail lines in North Eastern Railway

†3176. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted to lay new rail line between Khalilabad and Bansi, Dumariaganj and between Utarola and Balrampur under North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether any action is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for construction of new line between Khalilabad and Balrampur *via* Bansi Dumariaganj and Utarola was completed in 1979-80. The construction of proposed new line was not taken up.

Railway projects in Kerala

3177. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects declared and funds sanctioned for railway projects in Kerala during the last 3 years;

(b) the details of projects completed and projects pending;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the reasons for the pendency; and
- (d) Government's plan for completing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Details of new projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala that were sanctioned during the last three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) and outlay provided to these projects are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Anticipated cost	Outlay provided in the last 3 years as per Budget
1.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Pollachi-Coimbatore Gauge Conversion (224.88 Km)	2006-07	557.24	54.20
2.	Chengannur-Chingavanam Doubling (26.5 Km)	2006-07	132.23	9.06
3.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam Doubling (26.54 Km)	2007-08	99.19	2.82
4.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad Doubling (18.13 Km)	2007-08	48.37	1.19

(b) to (d) The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. Land acquisition for the doubling projects in the State of Kerala is taking longer time due to resistance by the local people. Regular meetings are being held with State Government Authorities to expedite land acquisition and to sort out other issues.

Development of high speed southern rail corridor

3178. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Railways for the development of high speed southern rail corridor between Chennai and Mumbai *via* Bangalore and Hubli; and
- (b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka had requested for undertaking pre-feasibility study of Chennai-Bangalore-Hubli-Mumbai corridor. Ministry of Railways have, however, agreed for undertaking pre-feasibility study on Chennai-Bangalore corridor on a 50:50 cost sharing basis. Government of Karnataka have been advised that for Bangalore — Hubli-Mumbai corridor, State Government may indicate its willingness to bear 80% of the cost of the pre-feasibility study. The response of Government of Karnataka is still awaited.

Attachment of Nanded division to Central Railway

3179. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for attachment of Nanded railway division to Central Railway is long pending before the Central Government;

(b) whether Maharashtra Government has been requesting again and again to the Central Government for attachment of Nanded division with Central Railway as it would be more beneficial for the citizens of Nanded region and also convenient for better administration; and

(c) what is the present status of the proposal and what would be the likely decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decision to place a particular division under a particular zone is taken based on the operational/administrative requirements without any regional considerations. The proposal, when seen in the light of the above criterion has not been found feasible.

Security of keys of EMU units

3180. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) why the motorman of EMU units in Chennai are asked to carry and keep the keys with them even while they are off the duty against rule 4-19 which stipulates that they should carry the keys while on duty only; and

(b) whether the Ministry would take steps to secure the keys while the motormen are off duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Motormen in Chennai division of Southern Railway have been issued special four keys for operation of EMUs as per the stipulation of AC Traction Manual 1994, Vol-III-Para 30701 as motormen's personal effects. While off duty, motormen have to keep the keys in their briefcases which are kept secured in crew lobby. While resuming duty, these briefcases are taken back by the motorman. A few lockers are also provided for motormen to keep their briefcases, during off duty hours. This system is being followed in Western and Central Railway.

Target of daily income fixed for Pench Valley fast passenger train

†3181. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether income targets are fixed for trains from commercial point of view and if so, the target of daily income fixed for 285 Pench Valley fast passenger train;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the income target fixed for 285 Pench Valley fast passenger train is being achieved and the details of the income earned during the last three months; and

(c) whether the target of income fixed is being achieved by the train or whether it is earning much more than the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Train-wise targets are not fixed and also the train-wise data of income is not separately maintained.

Pench Valley fast passenger train

†3182. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total passenger capacity of 285 Pench Valley fast passenger train from Chhindwara with the details of reserved and unreserved capacity in all classes separately;

(b) the number of tickets sold from Chhindwara every day during last one month for 285 Pench Valley fast passenger along with the details of reserved and unreserved classes separately; and

(c) whether it is a fact that number of passengers travelling in this train is higher than specified capacity and the reasons for not adding more coaches despite the demand for increasing the number of coaches having been made by individuals and public representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Train number of Pench Valley fast passenger leaving Chhindwara is 286. The total passenger capacity of 286 Pench Valley Passenger train is 1110. Capacity of First Class and Sleeper Class in reserved category is 22 berths and 288 berths respectively. Capacity of unreserved second class is 800 seats.

(b) The daily average number of tickets sold at Chhindwara during the period from 21st June, 2009 to 20th July, 2009 in 286 Pench Valley Passenger Train is 491 for reserved classes and 2096 for unreserved class.

(c) Augmentation of train by additional coaches is a continuous process and along with train composition, it is dependent on pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Superfast trains in North Frontier Railway

3183. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of superfast trains in the North Frontier Railway sector; and

(b) the speed of a superfast train and distance maintained between the stations where the superfast train used to stop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The details regarding the 11 (eleven) pairs of superfast trains plying on North East Frontier Railway are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Train details		Maximum speed of train on sections of North East Frontier Railway (in Kilometre per hour)	Distance between two stopping station (in Kms.)
Train No.	Train Name		
1	2	3	4
1. 2343/2344	Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Darjeeling Mail	MaldaTown-New Jalpaiguri: 100	Kishanganj-New Jalpaiguri = 88
2. 2345/2346	Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express	MaldaTown-New Jalpaiguri-New Coochbehar- New Bongaigaon-Goalpara Town- Kamakhya: 100 Kamakhya-Guwahati: 75	Kishanganj-New Jalpaiguri = 88 New Jalpaiguri-New Coochbehar = 127 New Coochbehar-New Alipurduar = 19 New Alipurduar-New Bongaigaon = 107 New Bongaigaon-Guwahati = 183
3. 2363/2364	Kolkata-Haldibari Intercity Express	MaldaTown-New Jalpaiguri-Raninagar Jalpaiguri: 100 Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Haldibari: 75	New Jalpaiguri-Jalpaiguri = 36 Jalpaiguri-Haldibari = 22
4. 2501/2502	Guwahati-New Delhi Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express	Guwahati-Kamakhya: 75 Kamakhya-Goalpara Town-Alipurduar Jn.-Siliguri Jn.: 100 SiliguriJn.-NewJalpaiguri: 50 New Jalpaiguri-Katihar: 100	Guwahati-Goalpara Town = 131 Goalpara Town-New Bongaigaon = 52 New Bongaigaon- New Jalpaiguri = 278 New Jalpaiguri-Katihar = 201
5. 2505/2506	Guwahati-New Delhi North East Express	Guwahati-Changsari: 75 Changsari-NewBongaigaon-New Coochbehar- New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj-Barsoi-Katihar: 100	Guwahati-Kamakhya = 7 Kamakhya-Rangiya = 41 Rangiya-New Bongaigaon = 110 New Bongaigaon-Kokrajhar = 28 Kokrajhar-New Alipurduar = 79

			New Alipurduar-New Coochbehar = 19 New Coochbehar-Jalpaiguri Road = 93 Jalpaiguri Road-New Jalpaiguri = 34 New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj = 88 Kishanganj-Barsoi = 58 Barsoi-Katihar = 39
6.	2508/2507	Guwahati-Errakulam Express	Guwahati-Changsari : 75 Changsari-New Bongaigaon-New Coochbehar - New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj-Barsoi - Malda Town : 100
			Guwahati-Kamakhya = 7 Kamakhya-Rangiya = 41 Rangiya-Barpeta Road = 65 Barpeta Road-New Bongaigaon = 45 New Bongaigaon-New Alipurduar = 107 New Alipurduar-New Coochbehar = 19 New Coochbehar-Dhupguri = 61 Dhupguri-New Jalpaiguri = 66 New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj = 88
7.	2510/2509	Guwahati-Bangalore Express	Guwahati-Changsari : 75 Changsari-New Bongaigaon-New Coochbehar - New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj-Barsoi-Katihar : 100
			Guwahati-Kamakhya = 7 Kamakhya-Rangiya = 41 Rangiya-Barpeta Road = 65 Barpeta Road-New Bongaigaon = 45 New Bongaigaon-New Alipurduar = 107 New Alipurduar-New Coochbehar = 19 New Coochbehar-Dhupguri = 61 Dhupguri-New Jalpaiguri = 66 New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj = 88 Kishanganj-Barsoi = 58

1	2	3	4
8. 2514/2513	Guwahati-Secunderabad Express	Guwahati-Changsari : 75 Changsari-New Bongaigaon-New Coochbehar - New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj-Barsoi - MaldaTown : 100	Guwahati-Kamakhya = 7 Kamakhya-Rangiya = 41 Rangiya-New Bongaigaon = 110 New Bongaigaon-New Alipurduar = 107 New Alipurduar-New Coochbehar = 19 New Coochbehar-New Jalpaiguri = 61 New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj = 88 Kishanganj-Barsoi = 58
9. 2516/2515	Guwahati-Trivandrum Express	Guwahati-Changsari : 75 Changsari-New Bongaigaon-New Coochbehar - New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj-Barsoi - Malda Town : 100	Guwahati-Kamakhya = 7 Kamakhya-Rangiya = 41 Rangiya-Barpeta Road = 65 Barpeta Road-New Bongaigaon = 45 New Bongaigaon-New Alipurduar = 107 New Alipurduar-New Coochbehar = 19 New Coochbehar-Dhupguri = 61 Dhupguri-New Jalpaiguri = 66 New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj = 88
10. 2518/2517	Guwahati-Kolkata Garib Rath Express	Guwahati-Kamakhya : 75 Kamakhya-Goalpara Town-New Bongaigaon - New Coochbehar-New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj - MaldaTown : 100	Guwahati-Goalpara Town = 131 Goalpara Town-New Bongaigaon = 52 New Bongaigaon-New Alipurduar = 107 New Alipurduar-New Jalpaiguri = 145 New Jalpaiguri-Kishanganj = 88
11. 2488/2487	Delhi- Jogbani Seemanchal Express	Katihar-Purnea-Jogbani : 100	Katihar-Purnea = 28 Purnea-Arariya Court = 38 Arariya Court-Forbesganj = 30 Forbesganj-Jogbani = 31

Extra charges levied on passengers

3184. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would reconsider levy of unfair hidden railway charges aimed at propping up its revenue like levy of superfast surcharges on trains running at average of less than 55 kms. per hour;

(b) whether more than 360 designated superfast trains fetch Rs. 520 crore extra without adding anything to the running cost;

(c) whether there is any rationale in levying return journey surcharge; and

(d) the Tatkal scheme in which 30 per cent of berths are kept aside and sold at Rs. 150 extra for sleeper and Rs. 300 for AC classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Surcharge is levied on trains designated as superfast trains having higher average speed.

(b) During year 2008-09, superfast trains fetched a revenue of around Rs. 243 crores. The running cost including fuel cost of superfast trains are more than the ordinary trains.

(c) To recover the additional expenditure involved in maintenance and continuous upgradation of a network system, enhanced reservation fee for the tickets booked for journeys originating from other than the ticket booking station was levied.

(d) The extent of accommodation varies with the demand in various classes and trains subject to a ceiling of 30%. Unutilized Tatkal accommodation gets released to general RAC/Waiting list passengers at the time of preparation of charts.

The Tatkal charges have been levied with a view to make cornering of tickets unremunerative for touts/unscrupulous elements. Action has also been initiated to reduce these charges as per announcements made in the Rail Budget 2009-10.

Gauge conversion of rail line in North Eastern States

3185. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about half of the railway lines in the North-Eastern States comprise of metre gauge lines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the main purpose of carrying essential commodities and construction material cannot be served for want of broad gauge lines;

(c) the problems of gauge conversion in the Lumding-Badarpur sector and the extent of sufferings caused to the people; and

(d) how Government propose to get over the problems and expedite conversion works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The main problems being faced in execution of the work of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar include adverse law and order conditions in North Cachar hills, dearth of resourceful contractors willing to work in the region, short working season, bad conditions of roads etc. The needs of the people are being served by the existing metre gauge services.

(d) Steps have been taken for deployment of dedicated security forces at work sites through proper liaisoning with State Government. The matter has also been taken up for improvement of conditions of road in the area.

Measure to scale down export of raw material for steel

3186. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity for production of steel proposed by various investors in steel, capacity created during the last three years and the capacity likely to come up in the next five years;

(b) considering the substantial capacity addition, has the Ministry proposed for stopping export of iron ore, manganese etc. or scaling down such exports; and

(c) if so, the progress of such efforts and if not, the reasons for not protecting the Indian Steel Industry from a future shortage of raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Proposed steel capacity addition by major steel producers in the country is given in the Statement (*See below*). Crude steel capacity in the country for the last 3 years period from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is tabulated below:—

(Crude Steel Capacity in million tonnes)

Year	Total capacity as on 31st March	Capacity addition
2006-07	56.84	5.67
2007-08	59.84	3.00
2008-09*	65.36	5.52

Source JPC, * = Provisional.

Based on the steel investment scenario in the country, it has been estimated that, India's steel production is likely to be 124 million tonnes by the year 2011-12.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Steel is in favour of providing domestic value addition of iron ore as an important criteria for consideration of allocation of iron ore mines. Government has approved National Mineral Policy, 2008, which *inter-alia* provides for preference to value adders in the allocation of captive mines of iron ore. Further, the Group of Ministers had decided that conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, however, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse

to appropriate fiscal measures. Accordingly, export duty at different rates was imposed on iron ore from time to time. At present, the rates of duty on iron ore export is following:—

- | | | |
|------|---|------------------------|
| (i) | Iron ore fines (all sorts) | — NIL |
| (ii) | Iron ore other than fines (including lumps and pellets) | — 5% <i>ad-valorem</i> |

Statement

Proposed steel capacity addition in the country for the last three years

(Crude steel capacity in million tonnes)

Investor	Existing capacity	Brownfield expansion 2011-12	Greenfield 2011-12	Total capacity likely by 2011-12	Total capacity proposed by 2019-20
SAIL	12.84	12.00	—	24.84	60.00
RINL	2.90	3.40	—	6.30	10.00
TATA Steel	6.80	3.20	3.00	13.00	33.50
Essar Steel	4.60	3.90	6.00	14.50	20.50
JSW Steel	6.90	4.10	—	11.00	31.00
JSPL	2.40	4.80	3.25	10.45	26.50
Ispat Industries	3.00	2.0	—	5.00	17.00
POSCO India Ltd.	—	—	—	—	12.00
Arcelor Mittal India Ltd.	—	—	—	—	24.00
NMDC	—	—	—	—	3.00
Bhushan Power and Steel	1.20	—	2.80	4.00	7.00
Bhushan Steel Ltd.	0.80	—	5.20	6.00	9.00
Other + Secondary Steel	23.00	—	5.97	28.97	42.43
TOTAL :	64.44	33.40	26.22	124.06	295.93

Tackling of economic recession by PSUs

3187. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is keen to bolster wherewithal of its smaller behemoths to withstand ongoing economic downturn and the Ministry is banking on its bigger units to shoulder the responsibility;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has already asked NMDC to acquire stake in ailing Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) and has constituted a four member Committee to suggest ways for similar moves in other PSUs;

(c) if so, whether Ministry has received report of the Committee; and

(d) if so, what are the main recommendation made and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) A Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Steel in May, 2009 to study the structure and functioning of MSTC, FSNL, KIOCL and HSCL and to suggest measures to achieve sustainable profits, enhanced business presence, diversification as well as re-organization or merger with other companies with a view to optimizing efficiency and profitability. The Committee has not submitted its recommendations so far.

Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant

3188. SHRI O.T. LEPPCHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to enhance the capacity of Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the capacity of the plant after the expansion and how much time would be taken to complete the expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) As a part of the modernization and expansion plan of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the hot metal production at the Bhilai Steel Plant is proposed to be enhanced to 7.5 million tonne per annum (MTPA) from the current capacity of 4.08 million tonne per annum (MTPA). The project shall be completed in three years after placement of major orders.

Performances of Bhilai Steel Plant

†3189. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by Bhilai Steel Plant in the last year;

(b) the amount out of the earned profit, spent or being spent for its own development;

(c) whether Government of Chhattisgarh has sought to give the status of an independent unit to Bhilai Steel Plant by separating it from Steel Authority of India Ltd.; and

(d) the details and financial status of other plants started with Bhilai Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) earned a profit before tax (PBT) of Rs. 4965 crore during the financial year 2008-09.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) BSP is one of the Integrated Steel Plants of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). The surplus generated in the Steel Plants of SAIL is being utilized for the modernization/expansion of all plants. An expenditure of Rs. 17266 crores has been planned for the modernization and expansion of BSP.

(c) The Ministry is not aware of any such proposal by the Government of Chhattisgarh.

(d) The Rourkela Steel Plant and the Durgapur Steel Plant were started alongwith the Bhilai Steel Plant. Profit before tax (PBT) earned by these plants during 2008-09 is as under:—

Plant	Amount (Rs. crore)
Rourkela Steel Plant	1011.00
Durgapur Steel Plant	754.00

Disinvestment in steel PSUs

3190. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to disinvest certain steel Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) No decision has yet been taken for divestment of Government's shareholding in Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Steel. At present a proposal for listing of shares of Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL) through sale of 10% equity of Government of India to the public through 'Offer for Sale' has been sent to the Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

1. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(1) G.S.R. 528 (E), dated the 16th July, 2009, amending G.S.R. 766 (E)/

Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 22nd December, 2006; G.S.R. 404(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 30th May, 2007; G.S.R. 758(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 6th December, 2007; G.S.R. 95(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 19th February, 2008 and G.S.R. 165(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 5th March, 2008 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

(2) G.S.R. 529 (E), dated the 16th July, 2009, amending G.S.R. 129 (E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane dated the 26th February, 2009 and G.S.R. 241 (E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane dated the 6th April, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

(3) G.S.R. 530 (E), dated the 16th July, 2009, amending G.S.R. 759 (E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane dated the 6th December, 2007; G.S.R. 117(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 29th February, 2008; G.S.R. 278(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 10th April, 2008 and G.S.R. 601(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 19th August, 2008 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

(4) G.S.R. 531 (E), dated the 16th July, 2009, regarding imposition of stock-holding and turnover limits on sugar as well as khandsari sugar for a further period of six months.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 646/15/09]

2. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification G.S.R. 508 (E), dated the 7th July, 2009, publishing the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 539/15/09]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

II. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the CGTMSE, Mumbai and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Notification S.O. 988 (E), dated the 21st April, 2009, amending Notification Number S.O. 306 (E), dated the 1st March, 2007 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under Section 28 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 543/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro

and Small Industries (CGTMSE), Mumbai, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 542/15/09]

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

- I. **Report on the Progress made in the intake of SCs and STs against vacancies reserved for them in the Railways for the year ending March, 2008.**
- II. **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and various companies.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Report on the Progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion Categories in the Railways for the year ending 31st March, 2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 482/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the IRCON International Limited for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 480/15/09]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the RITES Limited for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 481/15/09]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 479/15/09]

- I. **Notification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- II. **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of RIPANS, Aizawal and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) Notification G.S.R. 431 (E), dated the 19th June, 2009, publishing the

Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (2) of Section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 568/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences (RIPANS), Aizawal, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 569/15/09]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

II. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of various medicine institutes and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) Notification G.S.R. 157 (E), dated the 9th March, 2009, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2009, under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, together with delay statement.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 573/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Siddha (NIS), Chennai, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 571/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Kolkata, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 570/15/09]

(iii) (a) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV), 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 Vidyapeeth.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 572/15/09]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that a letter has been received from Shri Swapan Sadhan Bose stating that he is unable to attend the House due to ill health. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 13th to 31st July, 2009 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from 13th to 31st July, 2009?

(No Hon. Member dissented.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth and Thirty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I make statements regarding:—

- (i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture; and
- (ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture.

MOTIONS FOR ELECTION

The General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I move the following Motion:—

That in pursuance of the provisions contained in clauses (ii) and (iv) of Rule 4 read with clause (3) of Rule 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad,

this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Sir, I move the following Motion:—

That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted for the purposes set out in the Motion adopted by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 2009 and communicated to this House, and resolves that this House do join in the said Joint Committee and proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, five Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Joint Committee.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 3rd August, 2009 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (One Hundred and Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2009.
3. Consideration and passing of the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Import of raw and white/refined sugar

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, the production of sugar in the current 2008-09 sugar season is provisionally estimated in the range of 150-155 lakh tones as

compared to about 263 lakh tonnes of sugar produced in 2007-08 sugar season. The lower production of sugar in the current sugar season has put pressure on sugar prices. The Central Government had taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of sugar and moderate sugar prices. The Government has again reviewed the position.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, the copy of the statement is not there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Distribute the copy of the statement.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It will be distributed after the statement is made, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It should be distributed simultaneously.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We are supposed to discuss it on Tuesday.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It is not like that. It was listed at 5 O'clock before the House rises. But the hon. Minister has requested that it should be taken up early. So, he is making a statement. Copies will be circulated. But, clarifications on this will be taken up on Tuesday. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, we have a convention of distributing the copies of the Statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is reading. Copies are coming to all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, clarifications will be taken up on Tuesday. ...*(Interruptions)*... No Zero Hour today please.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government had, in January 2009, decided to allow duty free import of raw sugar by sugar factories up to 30.09.2009 under the Advance Authorisation Scheme. Thereafter, in April 2009, it had opened up duty free import of raw sugar by sugar factories under OGL up to 01.08.09. The Government has now decided to extend the terminal date for import of duty free raw sugar under Open General Licence (OGL) by sugar factories from 01.08.09 to 31.03.10.

The import of raw sugar has also been opened up to the private trade up to 31.03.10 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis.

Like in earlier case of duty free raw sugar imports under AAS and OGL by sugar factories allowed up to 30.09.09 and 01.08.09 respectively, the imports of raw sugar under OGL up to the extended date of 31.03.10 by sugar factories and private trade have been kept free of levy obligations. Further, accelerated release of processed sugar made from raw sugar would be allowed but if the concerned importer does not sell the processed sugar within the prescribed period, it shall be converted into levy sugar.

The Government had, in April 2009, also decided to allow duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL up to 10 lakh tonnes by designated agencies, namely, STC/MMTC/PEC/NAFED till 01.08.09. This has now been extended up to 30.11.09. Furthermore, the duty free

import of white/refined sugar under OGL has been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies.

Like in the case of existing duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL by designated agencies up to 01.08.09, import of white/refined sugar by such agencies up to the extended date of 30.11.09 as well as similar imports by other Central/State Government agencies and private trade up to that date have been kept free of regulated release mechanism as well as levy obligation.

It is expected that with these decisions, domestic availability of sugar would get further augmented and sugar prices in the country would remain at reasonable levels.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take up further discussion on the working of the Ministry of External Affairs. As announced yesterday, there are two hon. Members left who will participate in the discussion. One is the Leader of Opposition and the other is Shri Sitaram Yechury. As they were not there yesterday, they had requested to be accommodated today. Afterwards there will be a reply by the hon. Minister. I would like to just remind that by 1 o'clock the reply and the intervention should be completed.

**DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—**

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir. I will keep the time constraint in mind. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity today. Sir, a very fruitful discussion took place yesterday and a very serious concern has been expressed by the hon. Members cutting across the entire political spectrum in this House about which way the Indian foreign policy is going. This is a serious concern for us because we think that progressively we are moving into a situation where we are moving away from our independent foreign policy and are ending up being a subordinate ally of the USA and US imperialism. There are a series of statements that have come from this Government since it assumed office and that are a cause of concern.

The hon. Minister for External Affairs had informed this House, "We (meaning India and the USA) have also agreed on a bilateral dialogue architecture within which we will continue discussions between our two countries on a wide range of issues." These wide range of issues are connected not only with the fact that the assurance, given by the Prime Minister on the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal saying that we will get full civil nuclear cooperation, has now been negated. But it does not confine itself only to that area, it moves across all the major issues that are important in the world today, including climate change, the Doha Round of talks as far as the WTO is concerned, and the non-proliferation architecture to which we are being subjected to a lot of pressures.

Just on the eve of the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, at least, four spokesmen of the Obama Administration in the USA have stated very clearly what they expect and, post-visit, they have expressed their satisfaction at the visit. I would quote one of them. It says, "The deal would be a tangible accomplishment of Hillary Clinton's first trip to India as U.S. Secretary of State and it could prove a boon to US companies such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing." This deal is the signing of End-Use Monitoring Agreement. And this End-Use Monitoring Agreement will open up now a huge level of defence cooperation and sale of defence equipment to India from the USA. And what we had suspected at the time of the 123 Agreement that the real target was not 123 but it was 126 — 126 military planes that India is going to buy. That was the real target that the USA wanted and that has been achieved.

You have a deepening military cooperation with the USA. For 50 years, more than half a century, we know that Pakistan has been a very steadfast ally of the USA. By allowing them to come and survey where all these equipments bought from the USA are going to be installed, you are creating a new security threat for India. Both in the context of India-Pakistan and in the global context, this is something which is seriously jeopardising our sovereignty. Now this is something, Sir, which we cannot and should not accept.

In fact, on the eve of Hillary Clinton's visit *The New York Times* editorial has pointed out the US agenda. And what does it begin with, Sir? It says, "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his party have a strong mandate.....that means it has no excuses not to do more." In other words, what it means is that they no longer have to rely on our support to continue in the Government. So, they have no excuses not to do more. So what should we do? What should India do, Sir? I quote, "India wants to be seen as a major world power. For that to happen, it will have to drop its pretensions to Non-Alignment and stake out strong and constructive positions." That is: give up your independent foreign policy; give up your commitment to Non-Alignment; ally with the USA; and conduct your foreign policy accordingly.

Then it says, "During the negotiations on the Indo-US Nuclear deal, the Bush administration managed to persuade New Delhi (please, note, Sir, managed to persuade New Delhi) to grudgingly support United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iran's nuclear programmes. India now needs to do more."

The expectation that is coming...(Interruptions)... It is *The New York Times* editorial of 18th July. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Whatever they say, it is a Bible for you. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: It is based on the statement of the US spokesmen. ...(Interruptions)... Don't dismiss it as media report. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kurien, please. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is a Bible to you. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: It has become a Bible to you. That is my problem. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, yesterday...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't worry, the Minister will reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Keshava Rao, he is raising some issues. It is a discussion. The hon. Minister will have to reply and he will reply. Why is this intervention? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, my fear is that they are increasingly progressing towards becoming a subordinate ally to the USA. Why are you so impatient? You just hear and at least reply to our concerns.

Sir, regarding support on the question of Iran, the U.S. spokesman of the Obama Administration says, "Yes, India has come so far on the question of Iran. It has to do more." Now, that is the expectation the U.S. is having and that is the sort of agreements that you are entering into. They are now talking about the global non-proliferation architecture. And, what is that? It means, till India signs the NPT, the CTBT and the FMCT, there will be no transfer of technologies, which are called the ENR technologies, by the U.S. We want an assurance from this Government that till this full cooperation is done and the transfer of technology is made available to us without signing the NPT, the CTBT and the FMCT, we should not purchase any U.S. nuclear reactors for our country. Until that is done, no nuclear commerce with the U.S. should be permitted. That has to be stated.

Further, Sir, on the question of global climate change and on the question of Doha, I don't want to repeat anything. I know there is a time constraint. But, the stated position of India is — particularly since the hon. Minister for Agriculture is also here — we cannot compromise on both issues of agricultural safeguards and non-agricultural market access, which is called NAMA. On climate change, we cannot accept universal standards for reduction of greenhouse emissions. That is always in advantage of the industrial countries, who, in the first place, are the reason for this climate change to take place. We cannot accept any standards that are universal between them and us. India today has one-tenth of the per capita gas emissions that the U.S. has, and for us to accept those norms as equal and universally is something not acceptable. That will affect growth progress and alleviation of poverty in our country. So, that is something on which we want an assurance from the Government.

Sir, much of this discussion has been contained on the recent joint statement by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan. We have had two statements given by the Indian Prime Minister — one to both Houses and one in the other House. But, there is a glaring contradiction that is emerging from this. And, Sir, our apprehension is, these contradictions are emerging precisely because of the U.S. pressures. What are these contradictions? On the 17th of July, the hon. Prime Minister in this House says, "The starting point of any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan is

fulfilment of their commitment in letter and spirit not to allow their territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities against India.” Please underline the words ‘starting point of any meaningful dialogue’. This was on the 17th of July. On 29th of July, speaking in the other House, the Prime Minister says, “It is impossible for any Government in India to work towards full normalisation of relations with Pakistan.....” The same sentence follows. From ‘starting point for meaningful dialogue’ to ‘full normalisation of relations’. Why is this change in 12 days? You cannot have full normalisation without a dialogue. How can you have normalisation of relations without a dialogue? Earlier, you said that there can be no dialogue unless Pakistan commits to this. And, here you say, it will be full normalisation of relations. There is not only a contradiction between the statements of 17th and 29th but there is also a contradiction in the statement of 29th itself — page 1 of it says, ‘towards full normalisation’ and page 4 says, “I wish to reiterate that we can have a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan only if they fulfil their commitment in letter and spirit and not allow their territories.....” Again, it is said that dialogue can happen only if they fulfil their commitment in letter and spirit. Earlier, you said that full normalisation of relations can happen only if they fulfil their commitment in letter and spirit. The process is, unless you have dialogue, you can’t have full normalisation. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... Sorry, I am just concluding. So, what is the commitment you are seeking today? Is it a commitment to start the dialogue? Is it a commitment saying that we will start the dialogue, but, we will not normalise till you do that? Why is this confusion? At a later stage, the Prime Minister himself says something with which I fully agree. He says, “India seeks cooperative relations with Pakistan and engagement is the only way forward to realise the vision of a stable and prosperous South Asia.” I fully agree. Yes, dialogue process has to be there. But, on what terms? On what terms are you going to have this dialogue? And on the question of terms, you have a lot of confusion that has been expressed and I do not agree with the view expressed that there is a problem in drafting because people who have drafted this have been drafting for the last 30 years. They are on the eve of their retirement from service. And they have served India very well and very admirably. Don’t make them the scapegoats by saying that it is bad drafting. It is not a question of bad drafting. It is a muddled mind because of which these contradictions are happening. The muddling is happening because of U.S. pressures on our foreign policy. And that is what is of deep concern. So, Sir, I want to also bring in the reference to Balochistan. That cannot be because of bad drafting! They say, “We have nothing to hide.” Very good. We have nothing to hide. We, indeed, have nothing to hide. If we have nothing to hide, why is there a reference? Again, U.S. pressure! Why? It is because — I will quote one of these spokespersons—one of the spokespersons of Obama Administration says: “India has to allay Pakistan’s fears.” In order to allay Pakistan’s fears, you bring in Balochistan! Now, you create a new problem, a new bone of contention between us! So, all these matters that have come in, Sir, are a reflection of a

Government that is increasingly succumbing to U.S. and U.S. pressures on our foreign policy. That is something that cannot be allowed.

Finally, Sir, so far, we have had a consensus on foreign policy. We have had, by and large, a broad consensus, in the country, all these six decades, and that is something which, we find, the Government itself is breaking today, which is not acceptable. So, we want the Government to reassure, not only reassure the House but also to walk back, trace the steps backward on the way in which they are proceeding forward in becoming a subordinate ally of the United States of America. And that is something that should not be allowed, Sir. Thank you.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, undoubtedly, the Government of India, on the 16th of July, has committed a monumental lapse at Sharm-el-Sheikh. They have sought to reverse what was a consistent foreign policy of India in dealing with Pakistan, and delinked the desire for dialogue from action against terror. Having made this monumental mistake, what we now see, in the last 14-15 days, is an exercise to contain the damage and, therefore, arguments are now being invented in order to contain the damage. One argument which has been addressed to the whole country, now, is, “Yes, of course, we have a foreign policy consensus, and what we are, now, doing is to continue, *vis-a-vis*, with Pakistan, the line which was propounded by my leader, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. Sir, it gives us a great pleasure that for the first time, in over five years, we heard, from any representative of the U.P.A., a praise for what Mr. Vajpayee had done. Not only a praise, but ‘Vajpayee’ is, now, sought to be used as a shield to cover up for their own monumental lapse. But was this “the Vajpayee line” which was pursued between 1998 and 2004? Or, was it, exactly, the opposite of what Atalji had propounded and done? At the time when he took the initiative of going in a bus to Lahore, at the time of Kargil, and on all other occasions, we only found critical references coming from the Congress party. But, today, we find that they see virtue in each one of the initiatives that he had taken! Just compare the language of what Mr. Vajpayee had agreed to and what the present Prime Minister has agreed to.

“On 6th January, 2004, Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Musharraf met at Islamabad.”

The operative sentence is—I quote—

“Prime Minister Vajpayee said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured the Prime Minister, Mr. Vajpayee, that he will not permit any territory, under Pakistan’s control, to be used to support terrorism in any manner.”

Both things were categorical. “In order to sustain and continue a dialogue, terrorism must be prevented.” And Pakistan says, “We will not allow our territory to be used.” So, “the Vajpayee line”, clearly, was: “I prefer a dialogue, but a dialogue will be without terror. I will negotiate with you from a point of strength.” And what do we find, now, in the 16th June operative paragraph, from Sharm-el-Sheikh? “Both Prime Ministers recognised that dialogue is the only way forward. Action on terrorism should not be linked to a Composite Dialogue Process and these should not be bracketed”. The 6th January, 2004 statement was very clear, “dialogue without terror”; the 16th July, 2009 statement is equally clear, “dialogue is important; dialogue irrespective of terror”. After having agreed to the shameful draft, the whole country is now being told, well, this is the Vajpayee line that we are pursuing. The two can’t be more diametrically opposite.

What is the purport of the 16th July statement? As my friend, Mr. Sitaram Yechury, has just now pointed out, it has two operative paragraphs. The first is on Balochistan. The Prime Minister Gilani mentioned that Pakistan had some information on threats in Balochistan and other areas. We are now being told that it was a unilateral reference by them for their own satisfaction. We all know how Joint Texts are prepared. Joint Texts never contain an irrelevant statement. Joint Texts never contain a unilateral statement. They contain only agreed texts. If an agreed text is not possible and if there is a difference, there will be the Pakistani view and the alternative Indian view which is equally expressed. What happens here? You make a reference to the threats in Balochistan because the Pakistani strategy — of course, India is not doing anything in Balochistan; the whole country is one behind the Government when the Prime Minister says that — is to give primacy to Balochistan so that the cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan takes a backseat. Besides Balochistan, there are other areas. Therefore, we allow a unilateral reference to Baluchistan to be carried, as far as this text is concerned. Then, we are going to take up a position, well, they wanted a reference; it is their internal affairs that they wanted it. We didn’t make a reference to the Maoist activities in India in the draft. There was no occasion to do that. Pakistan would have said, “How does that concern us?”. You don’t make references and the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Within two days, Prime Minister Gilani gets up and says, “I have convinced India that there is interference as far as Balochistan is concerned and, therefore, for the first time, we have introduced a reference to Baluchistan in the draft”.

Sir, what is the net effect of this? We went really for a composite dialogue to pursue what was the 6th January 2004 line. Then, we turn around and say, “Dialogue is the only way forward”. There is a reasonable manner of interpreting the English language. The first sentence is, “Dialogue is the only way forward”. It emphasises the primacy of dialogue and then says, “Action on terror should not be linked to the dialogue”. When these sentences are taken together — one need not be scholar on diplomacy to understand it — and when these words “primacy of the dialogue” and “delinking” and “de-bracketed” — even both those words are

used between “terror” and “dialogue” — are seen together, it leads to only one possible meaning. The world has understood it in that way; Pakistan has understood in that way; the India media from day one, but for some management being done by the Government, has, by and large, understood in one way. Now, we want to do violence to the English language and say, let us give a patriotic interpretation. But a patriotic interpretation must be a reasonable interpretation which we can convince the rest of the world that this is what we meant. Today, what is the situation that we are faced with? This statement comes in the backdrop of 26/11 at Mumbai. After 26/11, with voluminous evidence and Pakistan is on its knees, with global pressure on it, as to why its territory has been used for terror against India despite assurances. We went with this complaint, with this grievance, and we came back with this albatross of Balochistan hanging on our neck. My friend, Dr. Singhvi, is here. There is a phrase they use in the Urdu language in courts. When you go with a complaint and come back with a counter complaint, they always say, “मुद्दई बन कर गए और मुद्दालेह बन कर लौटे।” My friend, Shri Satish Misra, is from UP, therefore, he understands it better. We went with a complaint on terror and came back with a stigma of Baluchistan on our forehead. This is what Sharm el-Sheikh has produced. Now we start a damage containment exercise. I think when you start a damage containment exercise, you end up making a mess because every explanation, as Shri Sitaram Yechury, very rightly pointed out, invents a new argument. How are these new arguments being invented? It was signed on 16th and on 17th itself, the Prime Minister made a statement in this House. What did the Prime Minister say in this House? I am repeating and just elaborating what Shri Sitaram Yechury has said. I am quoting from his statement. The real intention is dialogue irrespective of terror. The Prime Minister says on 17th in this House, “It has been and it remains our consistent position that the ‘starting point’ of any meaningful dialogue is a fulfilment of their commitment in letter and spirit not to allow their territory to be used for terrorism.” On 17th, the Prime Minister was clear, “what I have said is — the language may be ambiguous — the starting point of the dialogue is terror must stop.” The fair explanation or truthful explanation can be one, but when you are inventing explanations, they will always vary. On the 29th his statement to the whole country is, “I have said, time and again, and I repeat right now again, it is impossible for any Government in India to work towards full normalisation of relations with Pakistan unless the Government of Pakistan fulfils in letter and spirit its commitment not to allow its territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities in India.” So the starting point pre-condition was, the condition for a dialogue was, the starting point on 17th was that the terror must stop; Pakistani territory must not be used. On the 29th, this is now a condition not for starting a dialogue but for completing a dialogue for full normalisation of relations. So the word starting point of any negotiations on the 17th has now been replaced with full normalisation of relations with Pakistan.

Sir, a lot of my friends have spoken from the other side. Some very distinguished leaders and the President of the Congress Party also have addressed the Members of Parliament and a statement has been released to the whole country. There is no dispute with that statement. The moment a friend from the Congress Party or its President gets up and says, "Dialogue should not take place till terrorism stops", who is disagreeing with that? But do they have the courage of conviction to say that this is what the Joint Text says and this is what we are supporting? You can support a general statement 'no dialogue till terrorism stops.' But then that is not what the Joint Text says. So what the Congress Party and its leadership is saying is, we will keep quite on this Baluchistan lapse. So there is a stunning silence on the Baluchistan lapse. Instead of saying we support the Joint Statement, the entire exercise is we support what is now the explanation. But that explanation has a head on collusion with the Joint Statement. The two don't tally. That is unfortunately the condition. Sir, we have said it repeatedly that international relations are governed by joint texts. These are diplomatic documents. These are not legal documents, as Sashi says, which can be enforced in a court. But, next time round, when you sit at any level, the starting point is, let us lay down the rules of the game, with what have agreed in the past. When we start with what we have agreed in the past, that is the commencement of any negotiation. International relations are governed by joint texts and not by unilateral explanations which are given in your own country. Today, the unilateral explanation is: "How are we concerned with the reference to Balochistan? They could mention anything. The language may say something. But I mean what I wanted to mean." Sir, this is the second time we are hearing this phrase, "I mean what I wanted to mean." The first time, it was used by Humpty Dumpty to Alice in "Through the Looking Glass". So, the Government of India and the Prime Minister's stand now is, "I mean what I wanted to mean, and not what the language really says." When Alice asked Humpty, Dumpty, "How can clear words mean differently?", Humpty, Dumpty said, "It depends on who is the master, the word or me." So, today, we, actually, have a serious debate being reduced to a situation; you agree to a Joint Text, and now, you are going by something else.

Sir, this is my final submission. When the whole country is angered by this kind of a lapse, you now try to alarm the country. You try and alarm the country with a new argument that there are only two options available; it is either a dialogue or a war. I remember, President Bush saying, "Either, you are with us, or, you are against us." There was, obviously, a third space also available. But he didn't want the countries, the world, to have a third space. Today, you have a situation that either, it is a dialogue, or, it is a war. Sir, in Agra, the dialogue failed because we refused to accept Pakistan's interpretation and their documentation. We stuck to our position, and there was a stalemate. We have a meaningful engagement; we have High Commissions in both the countries. We have talks which take place at various levels. But then,

the moment, the Prime Minister limits his options to dialogue or war, he brings India to a position of weakness because the other alternative is war. You must now have a dialogue, or, otherwise, there will be war between two countries which are also nuclear-owning States; therefore, come down to a position of weakness and start negotiations. And, when you come down to a position of weakness and start negotiating, it is dialogue irrespective of terror. And, that is the line, which the present Government, effectively in the Joint Statement, has agreed to. Since the world is being told that this is the Vajpayee legacy that we have continued, I think, it is my responsibility to end by saying that when Vajpayeeji took this line of 'dialogue but without terror', India was in a position of strength. When the Prime Minister takes this line that the only other option is war, and, therefore, have a dialogue, it is a dialogue irrespective of terror, and he brings India to a position of weakness. And that, I think, has a lot which the present Government has to answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister to reply...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, just one sentence...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have already decided. Then, so many other clarifications will follow.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank all the Members, who have participated in this important discussion on the Foreign Policy and the Working of the Ministry of External Affairs. I would apologise to some of the Members, that when they spoke, I could not be present in the House for the simple reason that I had to be present in the other House to reply to the debate. Perhaps, I have missed myself to get more educated about foreign policy issues. I refer particularly to the two speeches made yesterday. My esteemed friend, Mr. Arun Shourie, made one of the most incisive speeches. I may not agree with all that Mr. Arun Shourie said, but I certainly would compliment him on representing the other point of view possibly. There was also the speech of my esteemed friend, Mr. N.K. Singh, who brought in the debate, I think, a more pointed reference to the reorganisation of the Foreign Affairs Ministry itself. Having worked with the Government, his suggestions need the most careful consideration by the Government. And, this morning, we have heard two speeches, one from my esteemed friend, Shri Sitaram Yechury. But Mr. Yechury has pursued the line in which he very sincerely believes. Well, let me hasten to add that I do not share your perception of the world as you see it; we have our perception of the world as we see it. And this has been going on for quite some time. The divide is there. And I have no hesitation in accepting that. There was also a very forceful speech by the Leader of the Opposition. Whenever the Leader of the Opposition speaks, he speaks with force; he speaks with emphasis. Well, he has made certain points which we have heard before. I would like to meet some of these points in the course of my reply to the debate

Sir, let me start by conveying to this august House that the dynamics of India's foreign policy flow directly from the aspirations of our people. Inspired by the vision of our founding

fathers, our foreign policy is distinguished by a tradition of continuity and consensus. At the core of this continuity is autonomy of decision-making and independence of thought and action and upholding of the values of pluralism, democracy and secularism. From this bedrock of values came our prominent role in the Non-Aligned Movement which was recently reaffirmed during our attendance and participation in the 15th Non-Aligned Summit in Egypt from 15th-16th of July. This same bedrock remains today, as we see, to creatively respond to new challenges and opportunities. The other key elements of this continuity are our belief in friendly relations with all countries, resolution of conflicts by peaceful means and an approach marked by maturity and balance in the conduct of international relations. We have never abdicated our international responsibilities. In the new century, against the backdrop of new challenges that dot the international landscape, these core principles, in particular the autonomy of our decision-making, have enabled India to successfully pursue a multi-dimensional foreign policy of seeking strategic engagement, partnership and dialogue with all major global players. We have been able to do so without creating any contradiction or hyphenation between one set of relations and another. We are more connected with the world today than ever before in the past. India's steady ascendance as an economic power has expanded her circle of interaction and engagement with the rest of the world. One of the main challenges of our foreign policy lies in creating and maintaining a regional and international environment which would enable us to sustain a high rate of economic growth, create more opportunities for Indian entrepreneurship and enable India to realise her vast latent potential. The pursuit of enhanced trade, investment inflows, technology transfers, energy security and other economic imperatives has become an overarching imperative of our foreign policy. At the same time, India's own established capabilities, particularly in the field of some of the frontier technologies, like space, information technology, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, and her frontline role in the global knowledge economy have imparted a new confidence and strength to our Foreign Policy initiatives. To achieve and accelerate India's developmental transformation through enhanced interaction with the global economy, a neighbourhood policy that ensures a peaceful periphery and to continuously seek a supportive international environment, therefore, remain the fundamental objective of India's foreign policy. With this objective in mind, a major focus of Indian foreign policy over the years has been the establishment and consolidation of good neighbourly relations with the countries in South Asia. In this context, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Orissa): *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Punj, this is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Punj, you cannot say how the Minister should reply to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. Don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

*Not recorded.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: In this context, India has worked for...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This has been the tradition. Sometimes, people read from the text, they quote also. But, you cannot say that you are in a conference...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Punj, how did you come to the conclusion that he did not address the issues raised in the debate? He has still not concluded. Don't come to the conclusion and disturb the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are all senior Members. We should respect each other. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that I came to Parliament in 1968. So, I have seen very many eminent Parliamentarians and eminent Ministers speaking on the floor of the House. So, you will have to pardon that much of margin to me also.

In this context, India has worked for the evolution of SAARC into an effective organisation that will promote meaningful regional integration. At the bilateral level, India has significant economic assistance programmes to assist the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal, in their developmental efforts. We have provided full support to the peace process in Nepal. We are also fully engaged with Nepal through a regular exchange of high-level visits and regular meetings of institutional mechanisms of various levels with Nepal.

Despite the terrorist attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul in July, 2008 and continued security threats to the personnel of our Embassy and Consulates in Afghanistan, and to those implementing development projects there, the Government of India is committed to provide assistance to the Government and people of Afghanistan in their reconstruction effort. Our developmental and reconstruction assistance programmes are widely appreciated by the Government and people of Afghanistan.

Sir, the Sri Lankan issue was raised by Dr. K. Malaisamy and Shrimati Jayanathi Natarajan. In Sri Lanka, we have seen a new phase in internal developments. We are prepared to assist the Government of Sri Lanka in the recovery of war ravaged areas in the north and East of the country and to help alleviate the humanitarian problems of the large numbers of the local population in the IDP camps, so that they are able to live normal lives once again. We are contributing substantially to this humanitarian effort, including setting up of a field hospital at Vavuniya, supply of shelter material, despatch of de-mining teams and supply of more than 1.75 lakh family packs of food and relief supplies. Our Prime Minister has announced Rs. 500 crores assistance, and, if need be, he has also promised to increase the aid quantum.

Sir, no discussion on our neighbourhood policy would be complete without reference to our relations with Pakistan. The people of our two countries must be allowed to prosper in an

*Not recorded.

1.00 P.M.

atmosphere of peace. At the same time, we cannot and will not be oblivious to the continued threat of terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Progress is not possible in our dialogue with Pakistan in an atmosphere vitiated by violence or the threat to use of violence. The Joint Statement of July 17, 2009 encapsulates this view and standpoint that any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan can only follow the concrete fulfilment of their commitment not to allow their territory to be used for terrorist activities against India.

My esteemed friend, Shri Arun Shourie, referred to Pakistan in some detail in the course of his speech. He is now advocating a policy towards Pakistan that his own Government did not follow. He accuses us of having removed the pressure on Pakistan to act against terrorism and of having lowered 'our expectations'. I simply do not see how this is so. Let me assure him that as the Prime Minister has said, he and I have left the Pakistani leadership in no doubt whatsoever that we expect action against the perpetrators of Mumbai and other terrorist attacks against India, the dismantling of the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan and the prevention of such future attacks. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Mr. Minister, will you say something about the Joint Statement? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has referred to the Joint Statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: I welcome the fact that we debate in a democratic manner our policy towards Pakistan. But to make a point or oppose the Government, let us not give more credence to what other say over what Prime Minister and our own Government have formally stated. We are not here to question each others' motives. We are united against terrorism period. But equally, we will continue the consistent policy towards Pakistan which includes dialogue in the steps we will take, provided Pakistan takes the necessary steps that have been spelt out to them in unequivocal terms by the Prime Minister in his meeting with Mr. Geelani, and subsequently, the hon. Prime Minister has made to both Houses of Parliament. Shri Biswajit Daimary and Shri S.S. Ahluwalia raised the issue of development of North East and its role in our foreign policy. North East has been an important focus area for the Ministry. Apart from the Kaladan multi-model transit transport project to connect ports in India's Eastern seaboard to the North Eastern States via Myanmar and the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo (TKK) road, connecting Manipur to Myanmar. India is also taking several steps to enhance engagement of North Eastern States with Myanmar. We are opening up trade at border points with Myanmar. In our discussions with Bangladesh, we have accorded the highest priority to enhance connectivity between Bangladesh and North Eastern States. My friend, Shri Tariq Anwar mentioned our 'Look East' policy. We have taken various initiatives in the ASEAN East Asia Summit, which

includes India, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China and South Korea. BIMSTEC, they have Bengal initiative for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation which should include India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam have great potential in rejuvenating our historical and our civilisational links with our neighbours in the East. With the rapidly changing economic circumstances in the world, we see great opportunities in advancing the process of our economic integration with the ASEAN and other countries in the region. In this activity, we have been coordinating closely with our Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. With China, India has a strategic and cooperative partnership. We have an established architecture for dialogue through which all issues of common interest and concern are discussed. Bilateral trade has grown significantly and a target of 60 billion US dollars by 2010 has been jointly set for such trade. The shared vision for the 21st century signed by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with his Chinese counterpart, in January, 2008 has added a regional and multi-dimensional aspect to our bilateral ties. Mr. Deputy Chairman, certainly there are outstanding issues between India and China. The special representatives are discussing the boundary question and both countries have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement to this issue. The matter of course, is complex and requires time and lots of patience. Meanwhile, our endeavour is to ensure that peace and tranquillity are maintained in the border areas. An hon. Member raised the issue of constructing a dam by China...

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, यह क्या उत्तर आ रहा है?... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: बिल्कुल नहीं।

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा: मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इधर-उधर की बात न करके यह बताइए कि यह कारवां लूटा क्यों?... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है। मंत्री जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): हमें नहीं पता था कि इस स्तर पर भी... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: पाणि जी, आप कृपया शांत रहिए।

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: An hon. Member raised an issue of construction of a dam by China on the Brahmaputra. We have instituted a mechanism of expert level talks and water resources between India and China to focus on issues such as, exchange of feeder control data and emergency response management in Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers. The Gulf region is our neighbour across the Arabian Sea and has a special place in India's external relations framework. India has had close civilisational contacts, trade and exchanges with this region, spanning several centuries. The Gulf region has left an indelible imprint on our history, on our

culture and on our civilisation. India's relations with GCC countries have evolved and have been strengthened over the years. India's 'look West Policy' directed at the GCC is reflective of our desire to deepen our relations with the countries of the Gulf and we are fashioning a structure of multi faceted cooperation covering all sectors. The Gulf region is an area of special focus in our Foreign Policy. It forms part of India's strategic neighbourhood, is an important source of energy, home to over four and a half million Indians and a major trading partner. India enjoys excellent relations with these countries and bilateral engagement during this period has witnessed further growth and diversification. There has been intensification of high-level interactions in the recent past. Some hon. Members have raised the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. India has a consistent and unwavering record of support for the Palestinian cause since the days of our freedom struggle. Our policy is in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Quartet on the Middle East is the US, Russia, EU and the United Nations.

Sir, I now come to the roadmap and the Arab Peace Initiative. India supports a united, independent, viable sovereign State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognised borders side-by-side at peace with Israel. We have expressed concern for the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine territories. The US \$ 10 million grant made in March, 2009, as Budget support for the Palestine National Authority, is but one of many examples of India's long history of assistance for Palestine. During the visit of the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to India, in October, 2008, the foundation-stone of the Palestine Embassy in New Delhi was laid which is now near completion. The Embassy building is a gift of the Government and the people of India to Palestine. We also assist Palestine in developing its human resource through ITEC programme.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, आप एक बहुत सीनियर लीडर हैं...(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, why is he disturbing all the time?...*(Interruptions)*... This is not fair ...*(Interruptions)*... Why is he disturbing when the Minister is giving reply?

श्री उपसभापति: पाणि जी, आप बैठिए, यह बहुत गलत है।...(व्यवधान)... I think, you are not bringing credit to this House. The debate is on the working of the Ministry of External Affairs. The discussion is on the entire Ministry. You can expect answer only what you want. The Minister is covering the Ministry, not a particular subject in which you are interested.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Several hon. Members have raised the issue of relations with the USA...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a House of Elders. We have to be different.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: I would like to underline here that our relations with the USA are not at the cost of our relations with any other country. India-US relations have been transformed in recent years and the bilateral engagement extends across a wide spectrum which include, science and technology, energy, counter terrorism, Defence, security, trade and commerce, education, space among other issues. A major development was the signing of the India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement in October, 2008. This landmark Agreement has been followed by similar agreements with other countries for civil nuclear co-operation. A clearly defined architecture for dialogue was announced during the recent visit of US Secretary of State to India this month. The firm foundation provided by this robust bilateral engagement has enabled the India-US strategic partnership to strengthen itself in areas of global engagement. The two countries interact closely on global issues of common concern, such as energy security, disarmament and non-proliferation, international peace and security, multilateral trade organisations and the G-20 process.

Sir, some hon. Members have asked about the end-use monitoring arrangements that we have agreed with the USA. Sir, all Governments have arrangement to ensure that Defence-related weapons and equipments that are transferred do not fall into the wrong hands and are only for legitimate use. We too do so for our exports of such materials. Successive Governments of India have entered into these arrangements with supplier-States, including the United States for several years. With the US, which has its own legal requirements, we have entered into *ad hoc* arrangements for individual supplies in the past. What we have now done is to agree on the end-use monitoring arrangements that would henceforth be referred to in letters of acceptance of Indian procurement of US defence technology and equipment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Do you have such agreements with France and Russia also?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Well, I will come back to you on that. ...*(Interruptions)*... These provide for joint consultations and modalities, and, in no way, ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, स्टेटमेंट ले कर दीजिए। ..*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: मिस्टर पाणि, इतना बोलने के बाद भी you are defying the Chair. Please maintain some decorum. आप हर बात में इंटरप्ट मत करिए। It will neither bring credit to you nor to the House. Let me be very frank.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: These provide for joint consultations and modalities and, in no way, compromise our sovereignty, our limit, our sovereign choice of whether, where and what weapons we, choose to buy, from other countries, for our own national defence. The arrangements that we have agreed, are fully in consonance with our sovereignty and dignity. In the last two decades, we have expanded the scope and depth of economic and strategic interaction with different countries, groups and regions, including, China, Russia, United States, Japan, European Union, South-East Asia, Central Asia, IBSA, BRIC, the G-5 and the G-8. This

enhanced interaction with the global community reflects India's growing stature on the international States. Against the background of the global financial and economic crisis, India's participation in global grouping, like the G-20, the G-8, the G-5 Outreach Group and the BRIC has been highly valued. At the recent G-8 and the G-5 Outreach Meeting in L'Aquila, our assessment and views were heard with attention and were deeply appreciated. Our view, as articulated by our Prime Minister, was on the strength of domestic stimulus packages which aim to make the poor and the youth bankable; that the old pattern of economic growth, driven by consumption in the USA, is no longer sustainable; and, that the first and overriding priority of Developing Countries, like, India, is economic and social development and poverty eradication. Another example of our increased global engagement is India's membership of the BRIC countries — Brazil, Russia, India and China. The first stand-alone formal summit meeting of the four BRIC countries was held in June, 2009 at Yekaterinburg in Russia. The main issues for discussion amongst the leaders were the implications of the current global, financial and economic crisis and the potential for cooperation among the four BRIC countries. These processes also give us greater opportunities to shape the new global balance of power. The ongoing economic crisis has highlighted the need for redistributing power within international financial institutions, like, the World Bank, the IMF. Such redistribution needs to be extended to political organs of global governance, such as, the UN Security Council.

Some hon. Members expressed appreciation of India's active participation in the IBSA grouping, that is, the grouping of India, Brazil and South Africa and the BRIC. India has been alive to the changing global realities of today, and has been quite quick to grasp their import. Our recent experience with groupings, such as these, has been that the emerging economies have considerable potential for not only developing synergies between themselves, but also for making an impact on the shaping the outcomes of the international debate on critical issues of concern to all of us. This has implications for the future shape of the world order, which is already in a flux for variety of reasons. With such an active diplomatic interaction, we feel quite confident that India and other countries will be able to protect our interest in the World Trade Organization negotiations, about which some apprehensions were expressed.

With regard to the specific issue of a reported ban on transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technology, the recent G-8 statement at the L'Aquila Summit, which is a political statement, and not a legally binding document, refers to discussions at the NSG, which are ongoing. No decision has been taken by the NSG. The Government has been in regular touch with the NSG, Troika, past, current and future chairman and with the key NSG countries. As a part of this dialogue, there was an India-NSG-Troika meeting on 11th May, 2009. During this meeting, the NSG delegation was made aware of our position and of our concerns. The NSG delegation said that they would convey these to the group. It is India's expectation that our international partners in the civil-nuclear cooperation will implement the bilateral agreements that we have entered into.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, India continues to strengthen its partnership with other Developing Countries in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia and the South-East Asia. India's long-standing historical relationship with Africa acquired further substance and even deeper relevance with a first-ever India-Africa Forum Summit, held at New Delhi in April, 2008. At the Summit, India renewed its deep commitment to contribute and work with our African partners for the development of Africa. India also is making efforts to cultivate stronger bonds with the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, and to explore the enormous opportunities that exist for trade and economic interaction with the region. Under the ITEC and the SCAAP programmes, India has been assisting the countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eurasia. In the field of capacity building and around 5000 professionals from 158 Developing Countries have attended various training and educational courses in India in areas of interest and advantage to them.

Hon. Members have expressed concern about the attack on Indian students in Australia. The issue has been taken up at the highest levels of the Australian Government. The Government of Australia has conveyed to us their firm commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. Some specific steps have been taken by the Australian Government, including, launch of a police operation, specifically to investigate the incidents of attacks on students; provision of twenty-four hour hotline, both in Hindi and English, by a Community Reference Group to provide support, information and advice to Indian students, who are victims of crime; and, setting up of police community reference group to improve communication between the police and the student community. More importantly, the Australian Government have also stated that they are considering the possibility of amending the existing law to enlarge the definition of 'offence' to include race, religion, ethnicity and nationality-related violence against people or individuals. The proposed amendment would strengthen the police response to the attacks against Indian students.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, performing Haj is one of the holiest and the most cherished dreams of our Muslim brothers and sisters. For my Ministry and, indeed the Government of India, facilitating the Haj Pilgrimage year after year is among the most elaborate year-long exercise and an important task undertaken by us both, in India and abroad. We have been striving to bring about improvements in Haj Pilgrimage management to make it more comfortable and affordable. An hon. Member, Shri Shreegopal Vyas, referred to the size of the Haj Goodwill Delegation. The Haj Goodwill Delegation comprises of eminent personalities sent to assess the Haj arrangements. It is not possible to lay down strict criteria for selecting leading eminent community members. Some leading members of the delegation also attend the dinner traditionally hosted by The Majesty, the King of Saudi Arabia. As regard the family members of the delegation members, the Government of India does not make any arrangement nor does it pay for their travel or stay. As regards rationalising the size of the Goodwill Delegation, the matter is under consideration. An hon. Member, Shri Malihabadi raised the issue of waiver of

service tax being levied on private operators arranging Haj visits. Since the services are rendered abroad, we too have received representation from the private operators and the matter will be referred to the Ministry of Finance for their consideration. As regards setting up of a Haj Corporation, wide-ranging reforms in the area of Haj management are also being examined. My Ministry has launched the Passport Seva Project in August 2007, which when completed will substantially improve the level of services and the quality of services offered to citizens for passport-related matters. This is one of the largest e-Governance initiatives that the Government of India has undertaken. The project envisages creation of 77 Passport Seva Kendras across the country, the creation of Call Centres opening 24 x 7 in 17 languages and a centralised nation-wide computerised system for issuance of passports. The launch of pilot site is expected in October 2009 at Bangalore covering the whole of Karnataka and Chandigarh, covering parts of States of Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The project is scheduled to be rolled out throughout the country in three waves, and expected to be completed by June 2010. Some Members, particularly, Shri Arun Shourie, Shri N.K. Singh and Shri Naresh Gujral raised administrative issues related to my Ministry. I fully endorse the very valid points made by the hon. Members on the continuing need for the Ministry of External Affairs to respond with the spirit of creativity and innovation to the requirements and challenges imposed by a rapidly changing world situation. We remain ever sensitive to the need for constantly reviewing enhancing the human resource strength of the Ministry, providing the requisite Budgetary enhancement and giving importance to the initial training and mid-career training of our diplomats and officials. Mid career training has now been made mandatory for an officer to be promoted to Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary levels. We have undertaken a major overhaul of our promotion policies. We are also augmenting our manpower through selective and need-based induction of specialist officers from other Ministries and Departments into the Ministry of External Affairs. Approval of the Union Cabinet has also been secured for a forward-looking expansion of the Officer cadre of the Ministry. The needs of our commercial diplomacy and the projection of India's soft power and civilizational values are receiving particular attention in this scenario.

The need for constantly infusing the working of foreign policy with new ideas and concepts is also fully recognized. The Indian Council for World Affairs is a research institution that works closely with the Ministry in this regard by providing an effective forum for exchange of ideas and identifying areas for further study and research that involve discussion and debate with scholars outside the Government.

Our Missions abroad also interact on a systematic basis with foreign universities and India Study Programme so that India's viewpoint is effectively articulated in order to bridge information and awareness gaps.

I welcome the constructive suggestions that we have heard from several Members. Shri Arun Shourie said that we should quadruple the size of our Foreign Service and our Foreign Aid Budget. Shri N.K. Singh spoke of doubling the IFS. The Cabinet decided last year on a Five Year Programme to double the size of our diplomatic cadre. We will certainly also look at boosting the financial resources available to our diplomacy as the tasks and demands on us grow.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad noted the need for training in neighbouring-country languages. The Ministry is training more IFS officers in neighbouring-country languages. Our officers possess considerable language skills that are put to constant use in the conduct of our diplomacy.

Sardar Tarlochan Singh raised the Sikh Turban issue in France. The Government of India have made a number of derrasches at the highest levels to the French Government conveying the sensitivity of the issue and the need to find a satisfactory solution. Prime Minister, when he was in France, raised this issue in his recent meeting with President Sarkozy of France. The French President assured the Prime Minister that nobody in France will be prevented from wearing the turban. As regards restrictions on the use of turbans by the Sikh community, in State-funded schools as well as while getting photographed for official French documents, an *Aide Memoir* suggesting possible solution has been handed over.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Shreegopal Vyas had raised the matter of the Savarkar Memorial in Marseilles. The matter is being pursued by our Embassy in France and with the offices of the Mayor of Marseilles on a regular basis. It has been conveyed by the concerned French officials that they need to examine some previous records to ascertain the current status of the matter. However, there has been a delay in this due to the displacement of the Office of the Mayor of Marseilles from its original location due to damage caused by catastrophic storms in 1998. We are continuing to pursue the issue with the local authorities in Marseilles. Some hon. Members raised the issue of public and cultural diplomacy. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations already has 21 cultural centres abroad, 15 more new cultural centres are on the anvil with one in Tokyo to be inaugurated shortly this year. The process of identification of land for a centre in Washington is underway.

Hon. Chairperson, I have tried to present a picture of some of the more significant achievements and activities of the Ministry of External Affairs in the last one year. The list has been necessarily selective and has not covered many other areas of India's foreign relations. At the same time, the achievements mentioned will, I trust, convey a clear picture of the positive trends of India's interaction with the world's major powers and our development cooperation with other developing countries. As already stated, there are also several challenges being faced by Indian — foreign policy including the destabilising effects of cross-border terrorism and the world financial crisis which has inevitably affected the domestic economy even though the

negative effects on our economy have been relatively less than in some other countries. It has always been the Ministry of External Affairs' endeavour to follow a dynamic foreign policy that responds effectively to changes in the international environment. It is also sensitive to India's developmental needs.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to seek certain clarifications. *(Interruptions)* Sir, can I seek certain clarifications? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. No clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, please allow us to seek some clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, one clarification, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, why are we not being allowed to seek clarifications? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-two minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Incest Offences Bill, 2009

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA (Nominated): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for punishment for the offences relating to incest and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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The White Asbestos (Ban on Use and Import) Bill, 2009

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a total ban on use and import of white asbestos in the country and to promote the use of safer and cheaper alternative to white asbestos and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to raise my objection and inform the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I object here because for the last forty years white

asbestos has been used in several parts of the country. Now the manufacturing units are also coming in India to have indigenous ...*(Interruptions)*... It is expected to come at any moment. So, I would like to know when for forty years white asbestos ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I tell you. Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*.. At this stage, you can only object on the ground of legislative competence. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Subbarami Reddy, you cannot object on the basis of content whether you agree to it or not. If there is any point of legislative competence...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I will object the ban.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Objection overruled...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen to me. At the time of discussion, you can participate in the discussion and object. At this time, only on the point of legislative competence, you can raise any issue...*(Interruptions)*... Now, the question is that leave be granted to introduce the Bill.

The question was put and motion was adopted.

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Compulsory Medical Preparedness in Schools Bill, 2009

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory medical preparedness in schools to deal with medical emergencies in the event of injury or sickness to a student in schools; compulsory appointment of doctors and nurses in schools; first aid training to teachers and staff and provisions of life saving equipment and medicines in schools and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Shri O.T. Lepcha — not present.

Now, Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence

(Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Desert, Drought Prone and Backward Areas

(Integrated Development) Bill, 2009

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the integrated development of the desert, drought prone and backward areas which are poverty stricken, underdeveloped and lag behind in the economic, social, educational, infrastructural and industrial fields particularly in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, etc. by establishing an autonomous Central Authority with the mandate of assuring speedy development of such areas and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Destitute and Needy Senior Citizens (Care, Protection and

Welfare) Bill, 2009

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for proper care of senior citizens who are destitute, by their kith and kin and the Government and for protection of lonely or old couples by way of appropriate security measures by local police, and for other welfare measures and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Working Women (Protection, Basic Facilities and
Welfare) Bill, 2009**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of women from discrimination, sexual exploitation and for the basic facilities like creches, recreational facilities, maternity benefits, hostel and transport facilities, etc. and for the welfare measures to be taken by the employers and the State for the women employees working in Government establishments, public sector enterprises including banks and ports, educational institutions including universities, colleges and schools, factories, mines, plantations, agricultural fields, orchards and such other places and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008
(To amend articles 85 and 174)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we shall continue with the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to amend articles 85 and 174. We shall continue consideration on the motion moved by Shri Mahendra Mohan. On 3rd July, Shri Mohammad Shafi was speaking but he did not conclude his speech. Is he here? Not present. In that case, Shrimati Najma Heptulla.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान): थैंक यू, सर। मैं अपने आपको Mover of the Bill, जिन्होंने इस पर काफी discussion किया है, उनके sentiments के साथ जोड़ती हूँ। मैं 1980 का ही figure दूँ कि हमारा हाउस इतने कम अरसे के लिए बैठा। We sat for 90 days in the year 1980, for 74 days in 1990, for 85 days in 2000, for 47 days in 2006, for 65 days in 2007, and, for 46 days in 2008. हम लोगों ने Westminster system के अंतर्गत parliamentary democracy अपनाई। But our democracy is slightly different from the democracy which is prevailing in the U.K. or any other country. Ours is a bicameral House, so is the bicameral in the U.K., the Westminster from where we have adopted the system.

The House of which I am a Member and all of you are, is a bicameral House but it is different from the House of Lords. Being a federal country, we represent the States in Rajya Sabha. हमारी जिम्मेदारी सिर्फ लोक सभा के बिल पर फोटो कॉपी की तरह से बोल कर अपने views देने की नहीं है, बल्कि राज्य सभा में हमारी जिम्मेदारी लोक सभा से थोड़ी अलग होनी चाहिए। मगर अफसोस की बात है कि टाइम के बारे में हमारी पार्लियामेंट धीरे-धीरे सिकुड़ती जा रही है। मेरा ऐसा सोचना है कि जो डेमोक्रेसी, जो जनतंत्र हमने अपनाया है, अगर हम उसमें सही मायनों में और पूरी तरह से हिस्सा लेना चाहते हैं, जो डेमोक्रेसी conclusive हो, representative हो और interactive हो, तो सरकार को चाहिए, बल्कि मैं तो यह कहूंगी कि सरकार को चाहिए कि साल भर हमारी पार्लियामेंट चले और उन्हीं दिनों छुट्टियां हों, जब कि हाऊस ऑफ कॉमन में होती है, हाऊस ऑफ लॉर्डस में होती हैं।...(व्यवधान)... We should have our Session going on

continuously. We should also increase the number of Members of Parliament, both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha. I have been discussing this matter with the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shivraj Patilji, not only now since he is a Member of this House, but when I was the Deputy Chairman, we had many discussions on the issue how to make Parliament more effective. हम लोगों ने Westminster system को राज्य सभा में एडॉप्ट किया, इसलिए किया कि हमारी स्टेट्स के बारे में डिस्कस करने की हमारी जिम्मेदारी है। The Members of Parliament of the Lower House are elected, as you all know, by universal adult franchise on this basis of constituencies. A different kind of the role Lok Sabha has got. But Rajya Sabha चूंकि राज्यों की सभा है, it is a Council of States. Apart from what business we do on the legislation, on the Finance Bill, we should also be discussing the States. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I think, the hon. Members should listen to the discussion. Please listen to the discussion. There is so much of noise.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Yes, never mind, Sir. I am quite used to noise. Some noise, if not somebody else's, it would be mine.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Some noise is welcome, but not too much.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Exactly. सर, अक्सर लोक सभा और राज्य सभा में यह बात होती आई है कि Lok Sabha is a superior House and Rajya Sabha is not a so superior House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): We are seniors.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: This is not a question of which one is senior. What the Lok Sabha Members always say and the Speaker also always feel that the Lok Sabha is superior to Rajya Sabha because they are elected on a universal suffrage, as the call it, vote; and Rajya Sabha is an appendix.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): We don't accept that.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: We certainly don't accept this. Ours is a permanent House. आप क्या कह रहे हैं?

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): मैं तो कह रहा हूँ, I accept it.

डा० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए० हेपतुल्ला: जो लोग लोक सभा में थे और हम लोगों को look down करते थे, मैं नाम नहीं लूंगी, उन सब लोगों को यहीं लैंड होना पड़ा। कई मैम्बर हैं, जो राज्य सभा में accomodate हुए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० पी०जे० कुरियन): Finally इधर आना पड़ा।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I do not wish you that. You keep getting elected from your constituency by universal suffrage. You don't have to worry about that because I am sure you are going to get elected to the Lok Sabha. और दोनों सदन मिलकर संसद कहलाते हैं। The President and both the Houses of Parliament combined are called Parliament. But, unfortunately, Sir, many times I have heard that Rajya Sabha do not have any power for the Money Bill. That is why we are not superior. I have no objection if they become superior. That is

the Constitution of India. The problem that they don't understand is that it is not a privilege for Lok Sabha to be collecting the funds, distributing money and making the Budget. It is because the Government is elected to rule from Lok Sabha. And it is their responsibility, not privilege, to levy taxes and collect money.

Suppose this responsibility is given to the Rajya Sabha. What will happen? Since 1980 I have witnessed such situations twice when a party in power had a majority in the Lok Sabha, but it was a minority in the Rajya Sabha. First it happened in 1980, when the Congress Party came back to power with Shrimati Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. The Treasury Benches here were in a minority, because our composition changes every two years. For quite some time, it was the Opposition which had the majority in the Rajya Sabha.

I remember, once the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address went back to the hon. President with an amendment which was passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Another time, which was very crucial time, during Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, in 1985, when Panchayati Raj Bill was brought to the Rajya Sabha, it was defeated here by two votes. And then it was brought back and then it was passed.

Suppose we have the authority to vote on financial matter and some irresponsible Opposition is in majority in the Rajya Sabha. Then Money Bill will be blockaded here. There would be chaos in the country and people would not get their salaries.

But, fortunately or unfortunately, many times we have seen Finance Ministers, who belonged to the Rajya Sabha, who presented the Budget in the Lok Sabha, while they could not vote on it. It happened when Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was Finance Minister. Later Dr. Manmohan Singh became Finance Minister. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha. He presented the Budget in the Lok Sabha. But he could not vote on it. So, the question of superiority or inferiority is not there.

In the entire democratic world, there are, at least, 74 countries which have bicameral legislature like the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The United States of America, Germany, France and many other countries have bicameral legislature. But their roles are quite different. Our being a federal structure, we have a different composition of this House.

I will tell you another incident. Mr. Shivraj Patil is not here. I wish he could hear what I am saying about the changing of role. Three Committees were constituted by the Lok Sabha. They were: Agriculture, Environment, and, I think, Education. They never came into effect. But there was such a proposal. And Members of the Rajya Sabha were not going to be Members of those Committees. Mr. P. Upendra was with me and with rest of the Rajya Sabha Members at that time. We insisted that these Committees should be extended to the Rajya Sabha also and Members of the Rajya Sabha should also become Members of those Committees. It so happened that while the matter was being discussed, the composition of the Lok Sabha changed. Another Government came in between and Mr. P. Upendra became the Minister for

3.00 P.M.

Parliamentary Affairs. I noticed how he changed his loyalties to the House he belonged to, to the new responsibility as the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. He started arguing that Rajya Sabha Members should not be Members of it and it's only for Lok Sabha Members. Anyway, the proposal for those three Committees was aborted. But, when Mr. Shivraj Patil came as the Speaker, he brought in lot of innovation and improvement. These cameras were put during his tenure. Computerisation was done and through his efforts, computers were given to Members of Parliament to make our work easy and the most important of it was, the Standing Committees. When I discussed with him during that time, we were of the opinion that in spite of the fact that at that point of time, we were sitting, at least, for 90 days in a year, still a lot of discussion could not be done in a proper manner because of paucity of time. So, Shivrajji proposed that there should be 17 Committees. Unfortunately, it was decided at that time that those 17 Committees would be Lok Sabha Committees. Originally, they said that no Rajya Sabha Member would be there because there would be matters of financial importance which would be discussed in the Committees. Again, my Rajya Sabha colleagues were on my side. I said to them that we discuss Finance Bill and we discuss Budget. We may not be able to block it, but, at least, the input of the Members of Rajya Sabha should be there in the discussion in the Committees which are in-camera. So, above party line, they can also discuss the issues in the Committee. I told Narayanan Saheb that if we were not Members of the Lok Sabha Standing Committees, on the lines of the Senate of the United States of America, we would have Committees of Rajya Sabha which would be permanent Committees because our House could be dissolved only if we so desired to commit suicide and pass a Bill to abolish Rajya Sabha. I said that our Committees would be more powerful like the Committees of the Senate in the United States of America. I think, they saw the red flag and there was a joint meeting of the leaders of both the Houses presided over by Mr. Narayanan. It was decided that Rajya Sabha Members are going to be there in the proportion of one-third. Then, my next battle was that some Committees should be given to Rajya Sabha so that we also get some chairmanship and we also are able to put our thoughts in a proper manner. So, we landed with two-thirds and one-third Committee system. But, Sir, in spite of the Standing Committees, I don't think we are doing any justice in the real sense to democracy. For the last 30 years, I have been a Member of this House and I had the opportunity or the privilege to be sitting in the Chair and getting the legislations passed. I noticed that many important legislations were just passed in a hurry and not enough deliberations took place on the legislations. I am not undermining the importance of Special Mentions, Calling Attentions, Motions or Zero Hour mentions in the House. They have their own importance. But, the job of a parliamentarian or a legislator is to legislate. On a legislation which affects the entire country, we can have a Special Mention; I can have a Special Mention, which has got a limited scope or, maybe, a bigger scope. But if a legislation is passed, it is going to have a permanent effect till we bring it back for an amendment. I have noticed all these years that there were some

very, very important legislations having been passed even without a discussion. I was very unhappy. Why did we do that? It was because not enough time was there. I can understand, in the morning, during the Question Hour, the difficulty that the Chairman, both with the present Chairman and with the previous Chairman, faces, how to accommodate 20 questions in one hour! I have never seen the whole Question Paper being asked ever in the last 30 years. Last week, my question was 'nine', we reached 'nine', not because eight questions were already asked—and mine was the ninth, Sir...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Because you were lucky!

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Otherwise, it will never happen.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I was lucky and those who were absent were unlucky! Or, the House was unlucky!

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): शेखावत जी के समय में बीस क्वेशंस पूरे हो गए थे।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: 20 क्वेशंस पूरे नहीं हुए थे। 20वें तक आ गया था, बीच में लोग absent हो गए थे।

श्री कलराज मिश्र: Absent तो रहते ही हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: Absent होने की वजह से पिछले हफ्ते मेरा नौवा क्वेशचन और किसी और का दसवां क्वेशचन आ गया था। शायद आपका आया था।

श्री कलराज मिश्र: कहाँ आया था?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: तब तो और भी लोगों को absent होना चाहिए था। Sir, giving one hour to have questions, the other day, I was discussing it with the Chairman. I gave him a suggestion. I said, "Sir, don't call it a Question Hour". Please make an amendment call it a "Question and Answer Hour" because most of the time, the Chairman insists that we should frame the question. It should be a pointed question. Even while sending a question to the Parliament Secretariat, it should be crisp; it should be small. There should be no argumentative matter. There should be no policy discussion kind of questions. In spite of that, the Chairman can impose on the Members a time limit for questioning the Government! But, Ministers, regardless of who is sitting on that side — this side Members were sitting there and that side Members were sitting here; I am speaking above the party lines — whichever Government is there, every Government wants — I have seen that — that a minimum number of questions should be asked and that a maximum time should be given for the answer so that three, four, five, six questions, at the most, could be accommodated. Sir, we put a lot of effort in framing and asking the questions. A lot of effort is put in by the Ministries also in collecting information and coming to the House prepared. But we do not get a chance to ask these questions! The

role of parliamentarians in a democracy is to have an oversight, to observe; the legislator has to observe how the Government is functioning. It can only be done by questioning the Government, whichever device you may use, whether a Calling Attention or any other instrument. I am happy that Mahendra Mohanji brought this very important Bill. I don't think, we are, really, doing justice to democracy that we are so proud of. I do not understand why. We do not sit for an entire year. Why can't we sit, at least, for six months in a year? Why can't the Members of Parliament get more time? At least, on a Private Members' day, you don't have to ring the Time Bell; there is no time limit; you can keep discussing the matter. Sir, I have seen one Private Member's Bill going on for almost one year. Sir, for one-and-a-half years, the same Bill was discussed in the House.

I am not going into the merit of that Bill. I give a lot of credence to this Bill.
...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): In the case of this Bill also, now we have exceeded the allotted time. So, this Bill will also be like that Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, there is no allotted time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The allotted time is two hours.
...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: This two hour means that it can spill over to the next day. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill is not going to die. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, it has already spilled over.
...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: It gets the support of every party. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, everybody is supporting.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Everybody is supporting it. I am very happy. But the problem is that we don't get enough time in spite of the fact that the Rajya Sabha has got one-third Members compared to the Lok Sabha. We still don't get time. I can understand the problem of the Chair and the problem of the Whips of various political parties. Take, for example, my party. I see every day Members fighting to be put in the list of the people who will participate. It is very happy. It is a very heartening situation that Members of Parliament are ready to discuss various issues which come before the Parliament. So, I would like the Government and the Law Minister, who himself is a very eminent lawyer and a very senior politician, to allocate more time to both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

Sir, the Rajya Sabha is different, as I said, in many ways. There are, at least, two legislations which the Rajya Sabha can only pass. Only Rajya Sabha can pass a legislation on delimitation of our States. There are certain conditions of services which only Rajya Sabha can

discuss. In case the Lok Sabha is dissolved and if there is an emergency, the Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, can take over whatever responsibilities that the Lok Sabha has got. I propose that, to fulfil our full responsibility as Members of various States, representing various States, as we discuss the working of certain Ministries like External Affairs, Human Resource Development, Communication, etc., which we have discussed in this House, we should also discuss the problems of the States. I will give you an example. The other day we passed an important legislation, as far as education is concerned, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill. We passed the legislation. I think, the Lok Sabha has done it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): It is going on.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: They will pass it. They will pass on, and we have also passed on, the responsibility to the State. The State should get the money to provide neighbourhood schools and educational facilities. It is a fundamental right of every child to get education. We passed the Bill. We also pass on the responsibility to them. The State Legislature, it being a concurrent subject, will have to look into it. Members from different States are sitting here. Many a time, during Question Hour, Members get up and say, "I want to put questions relating to my State. I have this problem regarding railways. I have this problem relating to water". Where can we discuss it over and above the party line? I propose that enough time should be allotted, and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, through the procedure that they adopt in the Business Advisory Committee for selecting the Ministries for discussion, should also select for discussion the issues of the States like what the problems of Tamil Nadu are, etc. I am not saying that we should discuss the internal problems of the State. But we have to discuss the Centre-State problems. We should represent the State *vis-a-vis* the Central Government. The other day, I met the Chairman, Commission on Centre-State Relations and discussed it with him. He also agreed with me. Why should Rajya Sabha always be a photocopy of Lok Sabha? Why should we not discuss State issues? Why should we not discuss problems of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala or any other State of the country? I assure you, Sir, as we are talking above party lines in this discussion, which we are having today, the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches, will also agree that we should have more time, the Parliament should sit much longer and the Parliament should be in session for many more days. Similarly, if we discuss State issues in a positive manner, I am sure, the Members of Parliament will rise above party consideration and discuss the issues relating to States which are pending with the Central Government.

I have a lot of suggestions to make which I think are important. I would also like to have the opinion of my other colleagues who will be speaking after me on this proposal that we should have more time for discussing State matters.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): How much time will you take?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: One minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Only one minute?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: If you want to kill the time of mine like the Government is killing the time of the House by not having more sessions, it is fine. सर, मैं समय पर ही बोल रही हूँ और आप समय नहीं दे रहे हैं। यह तो हमारा समय है। यही समय का झगड़ा है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I did not control it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: मुझे मालूम है, मैंने 17 साल यही काम किया है, मेरी खाहिश होती थी कि मैं लोगों को ज्यादा बोलने का मौका दूँ, मगर मेरी और आपकी मजबूरी है कि हम घंटी बजाकर टाइम कम करते हैं। इसीलिए मैं महेन्द्र मोहन जी के बिल से सहमत हूँ कि हमें ज्यादा टाइम देना चाहिए और खासतौर पर जो दूसरे लोगों ने बात कही है, उस पर मेरा यह सुझाव है कि हमें अपनी स्टेट के इश्यु भी, ऐसे इश्यु नहीं जिन पर हम एक दूसरे पर टिप्पणी करते हैं, लेकिन ऐसे इश्यु, जब फूड सिक्योरिटी का इश्यु आएगा, तो कौन जिम्मेदार होगा? All the resources they will need for providing food to everybody. Now we have passed a Bill on education. Who will allocate funds? How much money would be required? How many States would be able to implement it? If we pass a legislation and it is not implemented by the States that we represent in the House, then what is the responsibility of Parliament? What is the use of making such legislations? From the very first day, we know that all our efforts are going to be abolished by the State Assemblies and the State Governments. Sir, I know you are in a hurry to see that other people can also speak. But I want this legislation to go to the next session also so that many other Members can participate in the discussion.

I have another point about which I have been talking on behalf of Rajya Sabha. We have passed the Panchayati Raj Bill. Sir, 33 per cent of the women are getting empowered. Almost a million women are going to be empowered. I have heard that the Government is contemplating to bring another legislation by which they are going to reserve 50 per cent seats in Panchayats for women.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Our Bill is pending in Lok Sabha. It is pending before Committees. Now, if Lok Sabha is going to have 33 per cent more women, why shouldn't Rajya Sabha have such legislation? Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, you are a Member of Rajya Sabha. Sir, you are committed to the Rajya Sabha. I think you should also join in the discussions. The Chairman can sit in the Chair, and you should give your input because it is very necessary...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will intervene from the Chair.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Then, you should vote for this Bill so that this legislation is passed. It has been brought with a lot of emotions and with a lot of hope that the Government will see to it that we get more time to discuss. Until and unless we have proper representation, our democracy can neither be interactive, nor, be participatory, nor, be

inclusive. Paucity of time is the issue. I am not going to interfere into the matters pertaining to State Assemblies because that is beyond my jurisdiction. But I also feel, as this legislation mentions, the State Assemblies should get more time. I associate myself fully with the Mover of the Bill. I hope the Minister would kindly listen to me. मंत्री जी तो बात कर रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, the hon. Member is seeking your attention.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): I was only discussing the point which she mentioned...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : क्या आपने सुना, मैंने क्या कहा है?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I was saying, "We will not let them commit suicide, even if they ever decide." There will be a Constitutional Amendment. And, we will not agree with that.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I am very happy that even though you are a Member of the other House, yet, you have loyalty towards our House. I would request the hon. Minister that this Private Member's Bill should be adopted. It is not only that our constituents are interested to see that we participate in the proceedings of Parliament, but also that this legislation, which has been brought about by a Private Member, would enable us to sit for more time, to get more time to speak, and we would get more time to represent the States that we belong to.

Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Viplove Thakur. Not present. Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I support the initiative taken by the hon. Member. At the same time, we have to find out whether the available time, when we are summoned, is properly utilized. And what are the other duties which the Members of Parliament are entrusted with? If a Member takes his job very sincerely, he/she will have a lot of work to do as Member of Parliament. Apart from House related work, he/she has Membership in Parliamentary Standing Committees, Advisory Committees and various House Committees. After listening to Madam Najma Heptulla, we can easily find out how the Committee system has come about, with her co-operation and with the effort of Shri Shivraj Patil. With the coming into existence of the Standing Committees, we come to know how much an individual Member is coming up with more ideas and vision, when he discusses in these Committees. In the presence of Secretaries, the Members come forward with a lot of new ideas. And they do not have any time constraints. If they have got something to say, they are allowed to speak in a way which is better for them to communicate. And everything is reported verbatim. They can go through it, and come out with more points when the Committee sits again on the same subject. They get a chance to visit places and discuss with the State-level officers or other public sector undertakings.

They can have first-hand knowledge about how the system works. I could say from my experience as Lok Sabha MP for five years and Rajya Sabha MP for five years that we could understand many things when we worked in the Committees, when we interacted with officials who were managing different departments of the Government. If we do not have that system, sitting here, reading newspapers, speaking at this forum, may not help that much to understand the whole working of the bureaucracy and may not help that much in trying to improve the working of the bureaucracy and making it more dynamic. Coming to the number of days on which we work in a year, the media says we worked only for 45 days in the year 2008. But, actually speaking, we worked for more than 45 days. Our Committees meet for more than 60-70 days in a year. In some years we have worked for more than 100 days' also. That should also be considered as Member of Parliaments' contribution to the governance of the country. When it comes to Consultative Committees and the House Committees, there too, a lot of preparatory work goes on. A Member wanting to make his contribution in the functioning of that Committee has to study the issues, prepare and, then, compare the data, put the matter in proper perspective and so on. Other than this, because he, in a way represents a whole State in the Rajya Sabha, on many occasions he takes up various issues concerning the whole State which need attention and urgent action. When Shri S.M. Krishna was the Chief Minister of Karnataka, we were told that he used to regularly interact with Members of Parliament cutting across party lines before Sessions of Parliament. He used to give facilities to Members like cars, secretarial services, etc. so that they could work better to understand their constituency, problems relating to the State pending before the Central Government which had to be given priority and so on. Thus, the Members of Parliament became very useful for their own State when they participated in a debate in Parliament. We need to bring in that type of thinking so that the functioning of the States and the nation, as a whole, becomes better and better. Members of Parliament, who normally represent more than 20 lakh people each in the highest forum of India, the Parliament, should be well-equipped with up-to-date information, which should be utilised for governance at the State level. Similarly, now we also work in Vigilance Committees, sometimes as Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen of the Vigilance Committees. There too, if all the meetings are properly attended, there is a lot of work to be done. We try to look into the implementation of the anti-poverty programmes of Government and see how officials work, what problems they face, how these problems could be solved at the national level and how these matters could be brought before the Parliament. These are things we get to know when we attend these meetings. Similarly, Members of Parliament also attend bankers' meetings where they get to know how the financial sector works and try to see if poor people are being given proper financial help, what problems they are facing, and in some cases, how branch managers do not function keeping the national goals in mind. These are things we get to know. Also, many State Governments invite

Members of Parliament for consultations and meetings; even the Central Government agencies do that. Thus, we are needed to work all these days. I am particularly talking of MPs who work sincerely throughout the year. I am not talking about Members who attend Parliament for some time and then go away. If all this is taken into consideration, in my opinion, we are functioning in a better way and working for about 100-150 days, as proposed here.

Even within those 120 days, we need to work out the number of days that we work in other fora. And then, we need to analyse how we are utilising our time during such sessions. We work in Committees also and various Bills are considered there. So, we can call this a plenary session as the Bills are already considered by the Committees. If all the recommendations made by the Committees are looked into properly and the Government accepts some of these recommendations, then the work is lesser. If the Government is not ready to accept the recommendations of the Committees, then the work of the Members of the Committees is increased. This is because they need to hold more meetings and carry out amendments as suggested by the Government. Normally, the Government is not ready to take up the amendments which are forwarded by individual Members because they feel that since everything has already been decided in various meetings at their level, they can come out with the Bill. If there is any problem in the implementation of a provision, they come up with amendments after a period of six months, one year or two years. Thus, I feel, the system of working of the Indian Parliament is much healthier. Sir, I had the opportunity to gather some first-hand information about the working of the British parliamentary system. There, Committees meet everyday in the forenoon. They start work everyday at 9.30 or 10 o'clock in the morning and sit till 1 o'clock. Then, from 2 o'clock till midnight they sit in a plenary session in the Parliament. Thus, they are pre-occupied the whole day. Their Committee System is much stronger than the Indian Committee System. The bureaucracy is fully accountable to the Committees and to the Parliament. They deal even with day-to-day affairs and seek clarifications. Therefore, when they come for the afternoon session, they focus on a particular subject where they can participate in a much greater way. So, we have to think about all these matters in a broader perspective. I would even suggest, if all Members could accept it, that we can have an official sitting exclusively for this where every Member can come out with suggestions.

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Mahendra Mohan, has mooted the idea for a constitutional amendment. But, in the Constitution there is no mention of fixed days for sittings of Parliament. It hasn't been mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the reason why this Bill has been introduced. It has been introduced because there is a lacuna in the Constitution.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: But, Sir, I feel, that strengthens our hands to bring forward a separate, full-fledged law for including the Standing Committees and other

Committees. We are formulating it. We can then tell as to what is happening actually. As a Member of Parliament, as a new-comer, we could not understand what actually the Committee System and other systems were. If we make a law on these procedural things, it will be helpful. I say this because our Committee System — Standing Committees and other Committees — works on the basis of an Executive Order of the hon. Chairman and the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Sir, instead of that, we can have a procedural law in which we can put the number of days, number of working hours, the issues that can be raised, the duties of particular Members there, so on and so forth. We can do such a thing for Committees. If we make such a law, it will be better and people will also understand how much we are working. The Chair informs the House in every Session about the number of hours the House sat, the number of Bills dealt with, the number of questions dealt with, but not about how many hours we have been working in Committees and so on, which people should also know. The people should really know that Members of Parliament do work and that they are accountable to the public. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there are six more Members yet to participate in this discussion. If each one of you takes just five-six minutes, we can have the reply from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Is the Government giving any assurance or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us see. How can I say whether the Government is giving any assurance or not? ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why I am saying we can conclude discussion on this Bill today, if you cooperate.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I hope, the Government gives us an assurance that they are going to accept our demands. Otherwise, it will linger on.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, only when you give a chance to the Government to speak, they will say what they want to say.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: At least, they should spell their mind.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are a number of Bills; it is not just one Bill only. We cannot take 2-3 Sessions for just one Bill.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: This is an important Bill, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not reducing its importance by requesting to be brief.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the future and prospects of other Bills lie with this Bill. If the Government gives more time, increase the number of sittings...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will solve all the problems. Is it not? Now, Shri Kalraj Misra.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: उपसभापति जी, यह जो गैर सरकारी विधेयक आदरणीय श्री महेन्द्र मोहन जी ने प्रस्तुत किया है, यह बड़ा ही महत्वपूर्ण है। अगर मैं यह कहूँ, चाहे डा. बी.आर. अम्बेडकर के शब्दों में, चाहे भूतपूर्व प्रधानमंत्री पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी के शब्दों में या और भी कई हमारे संसदीय ज्ञान के बड़े विद्वान रहे हैं, ऐसे लोगों के शब्दों में, तो मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि यह संसद सही माने में संसदीय लोक प्रणाली एवं लोकतंत्र के पारदर्शी स्वरूप को प्रस्तुत करती है। लोकतंत्र की गरिमा, लोकतंत्र की महत्ता, संसद और विधायिका के माध्यम से लोगों के मन-मस्तिष्क के अंदर अपनी एक विशिष्ट छवि बनाने में सफल होती है। यहां भाग लेने वाले लोगों के विचार, लोगों की बहस, लोगों का चिंतन और लोगों के सोचने की गहराई, बहस के माध्यम से जितनी ही प्रकट होती है, यह गरिमा उतनी ही बढ़ती है। आम लोगों को महसूस होता है कि सही माने में हमारी समस्याओं का सही तौर पर आकलन हो रहा है और जो सर्वप्रमुख स्थान है, जिसके माध्यम से कानून को स्वरूप प्रदान किया जाता है, हमारा प्रतिनिधि वहां हमारी इन समस्याओं को प्रस्तुत कर रहा है। इस तरह यहां की एक विशिष्ट छवि का निर्माण होता है और इसीलिए यह संसद और विधायिका अपना एक विशेष स्थान रखते हैं। समय-समय पर लोगों ने इसको अभिव्यक्त भी किया है। जब हम यहां बैठते हैं तो स्वाभाविक रूप से हमें यह महसूस होता है।

भारत का यह संसदीय लोकतंत्र विश्व का सबसे बड़ा लोकतंत्र है। हम बहुत बड़े देश के रूप में हैं। हमारी आबादी बहुत है। सुदूर गांवों में बैठे हुए लोग हमारे प्रति बड़ी अपेक्षा की दृष्टि से देखते हैं। वे सोचते हैं कि संसद चल रही है, तो जरूर हमारी समस्या वहां से उठेगी। इस तरह इसकी एक विशेष प्रकार की विश्वसनीयता बनी हुई है। अनेक प्रकार के अवमूल्यन होने के बावजूद भी, अनेक प्रकार का क्षरण होने के बावजूद भी, आज चाहे विधायिका हो, चाहे संसद हो, इसके प्रति ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में रहने वाले, पिछड़े क्षेत्र में रहने वाले आम आदमी के अन्दर एक विश्वास बना हुआ है कि अगर वहां इस प्रकार की बात बोली गई है, तो सही बोली गई है। इसलिए इसकी अपनी एक विशेष महत्ता है। इसके माध्यम से आम आदमी एक छवि बनाता है और जब आम आदमी अपने को इससे जोड़ कर चलता है, यही इस लोकतंत्र की महत्ता है। इसी महत्ता को हम लोग उजागर करते हैं। जब हम इस संदर्भ में विचार करते हैं, तो लगता है कि यह महत्ता लगातार लोगों के मन-मस्तिष्क में बरकरार रहे, विद्यमान रहे। अधिकाधिक लोग हमारी तरफ देख कर महसूस कर सकें कि हमारी समस्याओं को यहां के माध्यम से समुचित तौर पर उजागर किया जा रहा है और उनका निराकरण हो रहा है।

वह विधायिका के माध्यम से हो रहा है और संसद के माध्यम से हो रहा है। इसलिए एक समय सुनिश्चित किया गया था। उस सुनिश्चित समय के अंतर्गत संसद बैठती थी, विधायिका बैठती थी। उसमें प्रयत्न होता था कि अधिकाधिक कानून बनाए जाएँ और अधिकाधिक समस्याओं को विभिन्न नियमों के अंतर्गत रखते हुए लोगों के मन के अन्दर एक विश्वास पैदा करने का प्रयत्न किया जाए कि सचमुच यह हमारा जन-प्रतिनिधि है। उसको किया जा रहा था। लेकिन, जैसा इस विधेयक के उद्देश्य में कहा गया है, इसमें क्रमशः कमी आई। हमारे महेन्द्र मोहन जी ने जैसा अपने उद्देश्य के अन्तर्गत बताया कि तीन दशकों से बैठकें निरन्तर कम होने लगीं, वह चाहे विधायिका की हो या संसद की हो। इनकी कम बैठकों के कारण जिस तरीके से विचार होना चाहिए, उस तरीके से विचार होना भी शुरू नहीं हुआ है। इसमें हालत ऐसी पैदा हो गई कि विधायिका के अन्तर्गत सत्ता में बने हुए लोगों को धीरे-धीरे यह लगने लगा कि इसकी ज्यादा सिटिंग की जरूरत नहीं है, ज्यादा बैठने की जरूरत नहीं है। अगर आर्टिकल 85 के आधार पर संसद के दो सत्रों के बीच का अन्तर 6 महीने का होना चाहिए, तो छः महीने में दो-तीन दिन रख लिया जाए, इससे उसकी औपचारिकता पूरी हो जाएगी। इस प्रकार औपचारिकता पूरी करने के लिए बैठते हैं और उसके कारण एक प्रकार की तानाशाही मनोवृत्ति का निर्माण होता है। संसद में यह चीज़ नहीं हो रही थी। संसद की सिटिंग होती रहती है, लेकिन अगर सिटिंग कम हुई तो इस प्रकार की प्रवृत्ति के निर्माण होने की आशंका सर्वाधिक विद्यमान हो जाती है। इसलिए इसके ऊपर गम्भीरता से विचार होना चाहिए। मैं तो यह भी कहना चाहूँगा कि विधायिका और संसद में संसदीय कार्य के

माध्यम से कार्यपालिका पर भी नियंत्रण होता है। अगर यह चलती है, तो काम करने वाले चाहे वे अफसरशाह हों या कोई भी हों, उनको लगता है कि अरे, संसद चल रही है, कहीं हमारी तरफ से गड़बड़ नहीं होनी चाहिए। जब विधान सभा चलती है, तब वहाँ के भी अधिकारियों को लगता है कि कहीं किसी प्रकार की गड़बड़ नहीं होनी चाहिए, अगर गड़बड़ हो गई और यह विधान सभा में उठ गया, तो हमारी स्थिति खराब हो जाएगी। इस प्रकार इससे कार्यपालिका पर भी जबरदस्त नियंत्रण स्थापित होता है। इसीलिए संसद चलाने का या विधायिका की सिटिंग होने का जितना उचित समय है, उतना निश्चित समय जरूर लगना चाहिए। अगर उसमें कमी हुई तो अधिकारियों के अन्दर भी तानाशाही मनोवृत्ति बढ़ेगी और सत्ता में बने हुए लोगों के अन्दर भी तानाशाही मनोवृत्ति बढ़ेगी।

मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक जिस तरीके से बैठकें हुई हैं, उससे सम्बन्धित आंकड़े हमारे पास हैं। उनके अनुसार राज्य सभा की औसत बैठकें 1952 से लेकर 1961 तक 90.5 हुईं, 1962 से 1971 तक 98.5 बैठकें हुईं और 2002-03 में 78 बैठकें हुईं। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि इसमें क्रमशः गिरावट आई है। इसमें अपेक्षा तो यह थी कि कम-से-कम 130 दिनों तक बैठकें होनी चाहिए, लेकिन इस प्रकार की स्थिति निर्मित हुई है।

अभी एक चर्चा चल रही थी। उसमें डा. नाच्चीयप्पन साहब ने भी कहा और नजमा जी ने भी कहा। यहाँ संसदीय क्रियाकलापों के बारे में वर्णन किया गया है। संसदीय समितियों के बारे में भी वर्णन किया गया है, स्थायी समितियों के बारे में भी किया गया है। स्थायी समितियाँ निश्चित रूप से लोकतंत्र के सही और स्पष्ट स्वरूप को उजागर कर सकने में बड़ी ही सक्षम हैं। इसका वर्णन करते हुए डा. नाच्चीयप्पन साहब ने कहा कि हम तो लगातार काम कर रहे हैं। अरे, हमारा तो यह पूर्णकालिक काम ही है! हम संसद में हैं, तो हमारा अपना व्यक्तिगत और निजी जीवन तो कुछ भी नहीं है। हमें तो आम जन के साथ अपने को जोड़ कर, उनकी समस्याओं को सामने रखते हुए देखना है कि किस तरीके से उसका समाधान होना चाहिए, हमें एक ऐसा अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है कि संसद और विधायिका के माध्यम से कानून बनाकर, स्थायी तौर पर, देश की या प्रदेश की जो भी दुर्दांत स्थिति निर्मित हुई है, उसका हम कैसे समाधान करें तथा गरीबी के निचले स्तर की जिन्दगी बिताने वालों की तादाद में जो लगातार बढ़ोतरी हुई है, उनके जीवन के अन्दर हम उन्नयन कैसे लाएँ। यह हमें एक अवसर उपलब्ध हुआ और इस के लिए संसद की बैठकों के माध्यम से विधायिका की बैठकों के माध्यम से और साथ-ही-साथ स्थायी समितियों के माध्यम से हम विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के कार्यकलापों पर चर्चा करते हैं। हम विचार करते हैं कि उन के क्या-क्या कार्यकलाप होने चाहिए और फिर कानून भी बनवाने का प्रयत्न करते हैं, लेकिन उन समितियों का काम अलग है। उसे इस के साथ जोड़ना उचित नहीं होगा। इस के लिए हमें निश्चित रूप से संसद की बैठकें करते हुए, विधायिका की प्रत्यक्ष रूप से बैठकें करते हुए, यह प्रयास करना चाहिए कि हमारी जन-मानस के अंदर जो छवि निर्मित होनी चाहिए, वह छवि निर्मित करने में हम सफल होते जा रहे हैं।

मान्यवर, दुर्भाग्य इस बात का है कि आज जो विधान सभाएं हैं, उन की स्थिति बड़ी विचित्र है। कई ऐसे प्रदेश हैं जिन की बैठकें होती ही नहीं हैं या होती हैं तो दो, तीन, चार, पांच दिन की हो गयीं और सब को मिला दिया तो 25-27 दिन की हो गयीं। मान्यवर, हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश की यही हालत है और कई प्रदेशों की भी यही स्थिति है। यह दुर्भाग्यजनक स्थिति है। मान्यवर, इतनी कम बैठकें इस बात को प्रकट करती हैं कि किसी-न-किसी रूप से शक्ति को अपने हाथ में केन्द्रित करने की मानसिकता बड़ी तेजी के साथ बढ़ती जा रही है। जन-मानस की समस्याओं को विभिन्न माध्यमों से सब के बीच में उठाकर विचार करने की जो प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ानी चाहिए, उस की लगातार कमी होती जा रही है। यह बड़ा खतरनाक स्वरूप है। इस के लिए समय-समय पर सम्मेलन भी हुए हैं। मान्यवर, संसद चलाने में हमारे चैयरमेन साहब और इस पीठ का बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है, लेकिन आप भी देखते हैं, इस सदन में यह हुआ है और विधान सभाओं में हुआ है कि कभी-कभी यहां बड़ा

शोरगुल होता है। उस शोरगुल में एक दिन में सारे बिल पास हो जाते हैं, बिना बहस के पास हो जाते हैं। मान्यवर, अगर समय रहता तो यह स्थिति निर्मित नहीं होती। यह बहाना बनता है कि साहब शोरगुल हो गया। क्या करें इन्होंने हल्ला मचा दिया! मान्यवर, आखिर हम शोरगुल क्यों करते हैं? हम कुंए में क्यों कूदते हैं? इसलिए कि अवसर नहीं मिलता है। हालांकि मैं उस का पक्षधर नहीं हूँ, लेकिन लोग जाते हैं, मजबूरी में जाते हैं। मान्यवर, अभी कल की ही घटना है। असम के हमारे सदस्य श्री कुमार दीपक दास व श्री वीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य जी ने वहां का बहुत ही ज्वलंत और योग्य विषय उठाना चाहा। उस विषय को लेकर उन्होंने कहा कि यहां हमें हमारी बात उठाने का मौका क्यों नहीं दिया गया? मान्यवर, सी.बी.आई. के द्वारा गड़बड़ी की जाती है और माननीय सदस्य उसे उजागर करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें अवसर नहीं मिला क्योंकि समय नहीं है। वह जीरो अवर है और उस में समय बहुत कम है।

श्री उपसभापति: उन्होंने नोटिस में कुछ नहीं लिखा था। यहां पर कल जो कुछ बताया गया कि उन को समय नहीं दिया गया, मैं यह clarify इसलिए कर रहा हूँ क्योंकि कल जो ऑनरेबल मॅबर ने नोटिस दिया था, उस में उन्होंने इस विषय का कोई जिक्र नहीं किया था, न सी.बी.आई. का किया था और न जज के बारे में बताया था। उन का जो नोटिस था, वह simple लॉ एंड ऑर्डर का था, इसलिए वह नहीं हो पाया। बाद में जब वे मिले तो वे convince हो गए कि हम से गलती हो गयी।

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मान्यवर, आप बिजनेस एडवायजरी कमेटी की बैठक में बैठते हैं। आप को जानकारी है और सभी को पता है कि बहुत सारी समस्याएं आती हैं और कहा गया कि Short Duration Discussion के अंदर यह विषय लिया जाएगा, लेकिन समय की कमी है, यह विषय Calling Attention Motion के अंतर्गत लिया जाएगा, लेकिन समय की कमी है, Half An Hour Discussion किया जाएगा, लेकिन समय की कमी है। हम समस्याओं को ज्वलंतताओं के साथ प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उन्हें रख रहे हैं, लेकिन समय की कमी है। मान्यवर, यह पीठ के लिए भी परेशानी पैदा करता है और जब यह पीठ के लिए परेशानी पैदा करता है तो पीठ का भी बड़ा दायित्व बनता है। इसलिए हमें समस्याओं को प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, सारे विषयों पर समुचित तौर पर विचार करने के लिए समय सुनिश्चित करना पड़ेगा और अगर उसके आधार पर हम काम करेंगे तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah की अध्यक्षता में National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution का गठन हुआ था। उन्होंने कहा था कि जिन राज्यों में 70 से कम सदस्य हैं, वहाँ 50 बैठकें होनी चाहिए और जहाँ इससे अधिक सदस्य हैं, वहाँ 90 बैठकें होनी चाहिए।

मान्यवर, सदन के सदस्यों की गिरती उपस्थिति भी चिन्ता का विषय है। हमने प्रारंभ में ही यह बताया कि Article 85 के अंदर छः महीने के gap के आधार पर लोग औपचारिकता बरतने के लिए काम करते हैं। अभी नज़मा जी हाउस ऑफ कॉमन्स और बाकी के देशों का उदाहरण दे रही थीं। हाउस ऑफ कॉमन्स में तो सामान्य तौर पर इतनी बात तय है और जैसे कनाडा के पार्लियामेंट का है, उन्होंने पूरे साल भर के लिए यह तय कर लिया है कि इतने-इतने समय में बैठकें होंगी। उन्होंने 2009 के लिए 155 days की बैठकें तय की हैं। जनवरी में कितनी होंगी? जनवरी के लिए यह बताया गया है कि तारीख 25, 26, 27, 28 और 29 को बैठकें होंगी। इसी तरह से फरवरी और मार्च में कितनी-कितनी बैठकें होंगी, इसके बारे में भी उन्होंने पूरे साल भर का कैलेंडर प्रस्तुत किया है। इसी तरीके से, न्यूजीलैंड में भी पूरे साल भर के लिए 91 days का कैलेंडर प्रस्तुत किया है। कब कितनी बैठकें होंगी, इन सब के बारे में पूरे साल भर का उनका कैलेंडर है। उन्होंने जैसा बताया है कि सबसे सुस्त संसद जहाँ की है, यानी जहाँ कम बैठकें होती हैं, उसके बारे में भी उन्होंने बताया है। Australia and world's laziest Parliament is in New South Wales का एक उदाहरण उन्होंने दिया है। According to news.com.australia, "The Parliament in this Australian State sits less than Parliaments in India and in some war-torn African countries. New South Wales will sit for 48

days in 2008, while Piccolo claimed Victoria sat for 66 days a year, South Australia for 58, Western Australia 57, Tasmania 53 and Queensland 50...” इसके बाद इन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि “...The UK’s Parliament sits 146 days of the year, South Africa 104, Kenya 88, Canada 135, US Congress 150 and India 81.” यह इंडिया 81, इन्होंने गिनाया है। समय-समय पर Presiding Officers के जो conferences हुए, जैसा 1996 में नयी दिल्ली में हुआ था, उनके बारे में भी उन्होंने बताया कि “On the question of duration of sittings of the Legislative Bodies in India, the Conference of Presiding Officers in its meeting held on 10-11 October, 1996, adopted a Resolution in New Delhi, which, *inter alia*, stated, “It is also a matter of serious concern that the periodicity, as well as duration of sittings of several Legislatures are grossly inadequate. There should be more frequent and longer sittings, lest the Members get frustrated in that they are not able to transact business on the problems of their constituencies. In this context, Legislatures should establish conventions, rules and practices of enhancing the minimum number of sittings and stipulating the minimum duration of each of the sittings, largely following the model of the Parliament.” यह उन्होंने दिया है।

मान्यवर, 1997 में जो conference शिमला में हुई थी, उसमें उन्होंने साफ तौर पर कहा है कि “Considering that the surest way to ensure greater accountability of the Executive to the Legislature is to have meaningful scrutiny of the functioning of the Government, the State Legislative Bodies may have sittings for not less than sixty days in the case of smaller States and hundred days in the case of larger States in a year, Sessions not being a mere formality of fulfilment of obligation under article 174(1) of the Constitution.” यह उन्होंने उस समय कहा और इसी तरीके से 2001 में भी जो Presiding Officers की मीटिंग हुई, उसमें भी उन्होंने कहा कि 60 दिन बैठना चाहिए, 100 दिन बैठना चाहिए।

मान्यवर, इतना ही नहीं, It may be quite relevant here to quote what the Vice-President of India, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, had said in his address before the Fourteenth All India Whips’ Conference, which was held in Mumbai. सिटिंग्स के बारे में उन्होंने भी कहा है। मैं इसलिए पढ़ रहा हूँ कि समय-समय पर हुई conferences में सबने इस पर जोर दिया है। He said, “The deliberative role of the Parliament must be restored by increasing the number of sittings, per annum, to about 130 days. The comparative figures for the British and the Canadian Parliaments are in excess of 140. The US Congress is in session on an average for over 150 days in a year”. Though, it may also be pertinent here to quote what the National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution which functioned under the Chairmanship of Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, but यह मैंने पहले ही उदाहरण के तौर पर प्रस्तुत किया है, Justice Venkatachaliah ने इसके बारे में कहा। तो जितनी भी conferences हुई, चाहे व्हिप्स की हुई हों, चाहे प्रिजाइडिंग आफिसर्स की हुई हों, सबमें इस बात पर जोर दिया गया है कि सिटिंग्स ज्यादा होना चाहिए। चाहे पार्लियामेंट की हों, चाहे विधान सभाओं की हो, सिटिंग्स ज्यादा होने के कारण ही हम लोकतंत्र के पारदर्शी स्वरूप को लोगों के सामने प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

इसलिए, आदरणीय श्री महेन्द्र मोहन जी जो विधेयक लेकर आए हैं, यह गैर सरकारी विधेयक जरूर है, मोइली साहब चले गए, बंसल साहब हैं, मैं जरूर आग्रह करूंगा कि इसको बड़ी गंभीरता के साथ लेना चाहिए

और इसको प्रतिष्ठा का सवाल नहीं बनाना चाहिए कि यह तो समाजवादी पार्टी के एक सम्मानित सांसद के माध्यम से आया है। यहां किसी प्रकार का डिस्क्रिमिनेशन नहीं है। इसको इस प्रकार से जस्टिफाई नहीं करना चाहिए, जैसा डा. नाच्चीयप्पन साहब ने कहा कि स्टैंडिंग कमिटी है तो इस सबकी क्या जरूरत है, यद्यपि उन्होंने सपोर्ट भी किया, लेकिन यह कहा कि स्टैंडिंग कमिटी में तो बराबर बैठते ही हैं। स्टैंडिंग कमिटी का अलग फंक्शन है, इस बैठक का अलग फंक्शन है, दोनों के क्रियाकलाप में जमीन-आसमान का फर्क है, यद्यपि हम उसको छोटी संसद जरूर कहते हैं।

इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि इसके ऊपर बड़ी गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करना चाहिए। हमारे विधि और न्याय मंत्री, श्री वीरप्पा मोइली साहब बड़े योग्य और बड़े ही सुलझे हुए व्यक्तियों में से हैं, वे शायद चले गए, बंसल जी तो हैं। तो इस पर सब लोग विचार करें और प्रतिष्ठा का सवाल न बनाते हुए और यह अनुभव करते हुए कि सिटिंग्स ज्यादा होनी चाहिए, इस पर विचार करें। जब दुनिया के छोटे-छोटे संसदीय लोकतंत्र को चलाने वाले देश हमसे ज्यादा सिटिंग्स कर रहे हैं, हम तो बड़े लोकतांत्रिक देश के रूप में हैं, तो इसमें किसी प्रकार की कटौती नहीं होनी चाहिए। हम तो आदर्श लोकतंत्र वाले हैं और दुनिया के लिए हम एक मॉडल प्रस्तुत करना चाहते हैं, हम ऐसे देश के हैं। तो इस प्रकार की सिटिंग्स में, बैठकों में कमी न करते हुए, आम जनमानस के अंदर फिर से अपनी वही छवि स्थापित करने की कोशिश करें और जो भी आचार संहिताएं हमारे सांसदों के लिए हैं, जो भी विभिन्न प्रकार के मापदंड सुनिश्चित किए जा रहे हैं, उनका समुचित पालन कराते हुए हम संसद की गरिमा को, विधायिका की गरिमा को, उसकी महत्ता को अपने आचरण और व्यवहार के माध्यम से स्थापित करने का प्रयत्न यदि करेंगे तो सही मायने में दुनिया के अंदर स्वाभाविक रूप से लोग कहते हुए चलेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान का लोकतंत्र एक आदर्श लोकतंत्र है, बाकी सब इससे सब दूर दिखाई पड़ रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि इसको स्वीकार करें और भले ही यह एक प्राइवेट मैम्बर बिल हो, इसको पास कराकर इसे कानून का स्वरूप प्रदान करें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to make a point. I would like to tell the Government that many new Parliaments have got a law to ratify all the treaties that their Governments sign. Their Parliaments have to endorse all the international agreements, treaties, etc.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I would be happy if the Government takes note of it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a wider question.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : उपसभापति जी, हम लोग इच्छा तो कर सकते हैं, मांग तो कर सकते हैं कि जो International Agreement सरकार sign करती है, उनको ratify करने का हमें भी अख्तियार होना चाहिए। The Parliament should have a right to ratify them.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my esteemed colleague Shri Mahendra Mohan to further amend the Constitution to ensure that both the Houses of Parliament should sit at least for 120 days a year and the Assemblies of the States should sit for at least 60 days in a year. Sir, the discussion has been going on since the last week and, I think, this may continue. Sir, it is a very important move that he has made and it is high time we should consider on this. Our country is not only vast, it is also ancient in culture, and the respect it holds among the countries of the world is that it is the tallest democratic country. Sir, for democracy, the basics we have stipulated, as it has been in practice, are the

4.00 P.M.

Legislature, the Executive, the Judiciary, the Fourth Estate, the Press and all. What we legislate, the Judiciary interprets; what we legislate the Executive executes. The people of this country exercise their franchise and elect their representatives. They are not just MLAs or MPs; they are representatives of various sections of the people across the country. The people repose their extreme confidence on the elected Members and hope that their issues will be discussed on these fora. Solutions in the form of legislations will be enacted here and those legislations when come into effect, their future will be blossomed or bright; it is their expectation. Sir I think I do not need to elaborate much. It is very clear. There are statistics which the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is having, my friend, Shri Mahendra Mohan is having and even Shri Kalraj Mishra quoted some. Sir, in the year 1956, the Parliament sat for 150 days; in 1996, the Parliament worked for only 59 days and in 2008, we sat only for 48 days. I could not understand the irony. When the population was less, when the issues were not that much, Parliament debated quite at length, sitting for long, very sincerely, but now the population has increased manifold, issues have increased whereas the number of working days in Parliament has declined. The irony is, they used to say, once when the prices of cars were less, the number of cars which were plying on the roads were also less, but now, that the prices of cars have increased, the number of vehicles plying on the roads is also very high. They have also increased. How? We may say that it is the purchasing power of the people which has increased. Likewise, when the issues have increased, when the population has doubled or tripled than what it was in the 60's or 50's, why is it that the number of working days in Parliament and the number of working days in the Assemblies has gone down? Sir, it is a very, very serious issue which all of us have to think about. I think, any debate which is conducted in this House should not be just the deliberations of the Members to register in the records of proceedings of the House. There should be an outcome. We discuss many things, many issues of various sections of the people. From various parts of the country, we are here, Sir. Madam Najma Heptulla briefly talked about the bicameral system and advocated for the rights and privileges of this House. There are some who criticize us. You are not the elected people. You have come indirectly. You have come through the backdoor. I do not think like that, Sir.

Sir, an MLA is a representative of 2 lakh voters. It means he is representing, at least, a population of 5 lakh. For example, I from Tamil Nadu have been elected by 34 MLAs. Indirectly, it means, I am the representative of 68 lakh voters rather 1 crore people. I think only in that way. It does mean that I have to go directly to the people and secure votes. Those people who have voted and elected an MLA, they have elected me, means it is the representative of the people who is also in the Upper House. So, in no way, we are inferior to the other House. We have got equal responsibility. We discuss the issues with much more serious concern and as, Madam,

said even the President's Address has been returned with an amendment; it is a history, that too in this House. It means democracy gives us opportunity to vent our views and to get them implemented. Sir, I would like to emphasise once again that in this age of modern technology, in this world of competition, India has almost become a developed country. From the developing stage, India has become a developed country; we have become a nuclear power. Now, as far as our economy is concerned, India stands in the second place, and, I hope, very optimistically that soon India will be in the first place. Our former President, Dr. Kalam, predicted that in 2020, India will be the major power. But with the speed with which are going, I think, it won't take that much of time. Even in 2015 itself, we may reach that place. So, when everything is bright and optimistic, why should not the days of the working of the Parliament and the Assemblies be mandatory? When the Constitution says, 'the President either summons or prorogues the Parliament.' So also the Governor in the State when he summons or prorogues, it has not been stipulated how many minimum days, the Parliament or the Assemblies should work. Sir, like in schools or in colleges, if a student has to appear for the examinations, he should attend a particular number of classes, at least. So also the schools have got some mandatory days of working. Only then the recognition of the schools will be accepted. So, Sir, this Motion, which my esteemed colleague, Mr. Mahendra Mohan, has moved, is moved with a very sincere concern and in the interest of the nation. Sir, we are not spending our time just like that. We discuss issues. For example, the Question Hour extracts so much from the Ministers. The Ministers work hard for a week or so when they come for the Question Hour. The Members prepare so much. I think, it would be right for me to mention here one instance. When I was in the Lok Sabha, one of my colleagues who was in the Treasury Benches used to say, 'once he met a Minister and made a complaint or gave an issue which has not been solved for quite a long time, the Minister said, 'you kindly write to me.' He said, "I have written to many Ministers and so far I am having 120 letters stating that the matter is being looked into or the matter is on the way.' So, if we write to a Minister, we may get a letter saying that 'the matter is being looked into.' It may go through a process. The reply which is being given may be satisfactory or not. But whereas in the Question Hour when we put a Question, the answer we could extract solves a problem or gives a solution for the issues we have raised. It gives other ways for Supplementary Questions also. So, the Question Hour, the Short Duration Discussions, the Special Mentions, the Zero Hours and all the other things, the way we discuss under the Rules of Procedure, Sir, really find a solution to the problems of the people.

So, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Motion moved by Mr. Mahendra Mohan that the Parliament should work, at least, for 120 days a year and so also the Assemblies for, at least, 60 days a year. My other suggestion is, not only the working days of Parliament and Assemblies be increased, but the Members should also have a mandatory days of attendance and they should attend a particular number of days, at least, to be worthy of being Members of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You move an amendment to this.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, today I consider myself very lucky. Thank you very much!

Sir, I rise to support the Private Members' Bill, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008, moved by my colleague, Shri Mahendra Mohan, MP from that side. It is a very small but very important Bill. In fact, when I came to this House today after recess, I did not know that I would get an opportunity to speak on this Bill. In fact, when Mr. Shiva was talking, he could have collected details. Recently, there was a Conference of Chairmen of all Assemblies under the Chairmanship of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. In that conference they decided that State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha must meet for a minimum of 100 days in a year. I would request my colleague, Shri Mahendra Mohan, to officially collect that record.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was the Presiding Officers' Conference Resolution.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Yes, Sir, it was the Presiding Officers Conference Resolution. So, that would help all of us to move in the right direction in the near future. I would also request the Government of the day to consider bringing this Bill from the Government side, fixing a particular number of days for this House, the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies also. I had an opportunity to attend the International Parliamentary Union last year. That was my second opportunity. When I was a Member in the 13th Lok Sabha, I had attended the IPU as a Lok Sabha MP. The IPU is an annual or bi-annual meeting of all democratic countries all over the world. It was really a fantastic and interesting opportunity. There, I found a booklet published by Greek Parliamentarians where they claimed that the concept of democracy was started by them. 'Demos' is a Greek word meaning people and 'cracy' means the concept of ruling. That is how the word 'democracy' was coined. They claimed that as early as 2300 years ago, they used to meet at a public place to resolve issues concerning the common people; it was direct democracy. One of my senior colleagues from this House, Shri Bal Apte, was with me from this House and the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha was the leader of the IPU delegation; it was a small delegation consisting of six members. It was a very good opportunity.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) in the Chair]

But then, when I read that Greek book — it was a small booklet — claiming that they were the first in the world to have a model of democracy 2300 years ago, I told our Indian delegation that we must publish a book on behalf of the Indian Parliament and inform the world that it was India which was the first democracy. During the days of Lord Buddha, 2600 or 2700 years ago — we celebrated the 2500th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha during Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's time; Lord Buddha was born 2790 years ago — when there were disputes among villages over river water,

Lord Buddha suggested that all people of the villages should meet at the banks of the river and resolve the dispute over water. Even now we have certain States which have disputes over river water, like Kerala and Karnataka, Gujarat and others. Such an issue was decided by meeting on the bank of the river and that is the concept of democracy. Our senior friend Shri Kalraj Mishraji spoke just now. Today, I will utilise his speech only because I am going to speak how the Gujarat Assembly is functioning. I must not be blamed that I am criticising the Gujarat State. ...*(Interruptions)*... State Assembly must also function like the House of the People. If we refer to the Indian Constitution, we have got *pucca* Constitution. Article 166 to 213 are about State Assemblies. The conduct of Government business of State is governed under article 166 to 213. Because this is the Council of States, our Council must have power to decide and discuss how State Assemblies should function. Now, I quote article 178 of the Indian Constitution. It says, "Every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the Assembly shall choose another member to be Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be." I come from Gujarat, so I represent Gujarat. So, I inform this House that in Gujarat there is no Deputy Speaker being elected for the last 12 years irrespective of the party in power. Now, you tell me whether the State is implementing the Constitution of India or violating the provision of the Constitution of India. There is a *pucca* article in the Indian Constitution that a State Assembly must have a Speaker; a State Assembly must have a Deputy Speaker. There is a Speaker for the last 12 years who is elected, but there is no Deputy Speaker. According to convention and according to the practice, the post of Deputy Speaker is always given to the Opposition party. So, who is the loser? Opposition party is the loser and, at present, XYZ is in the opposition in Gujarat. So, that party is the loser. So, I want to draw the attention of this House, which is the Council of States, to take appropriate action against such State Government, advise and guide it that it should act according to the Constitution of India. Our Constitution is not silent, but it has directed that there should not be a gap of more than six months between two Sessions. Before the expiry of the period of six months, the House must meet, whether the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Similar provision is there for Assembly also. How nicely is it utilised or sometimes how tactfully is it utilised? In one of the States, the ex-Chief Minister died. So, the Assembly was called to mourn his death. First day, it was obituary, and then it was adjourned. Next day, they did some business and adjourned. The third day, the Assembly was adjourned *sine die*. The next session was called exactly after five months. So, in a year, the Assembly Session took place only for four or five days. But they say that according to the Constitution they have done their job. That is the mockery of the Constitution. So, here is a Bill which is asking how many days the House should meet. The expectation of the Member is 120 days. It is not too much for Lok Sabha. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the international personality, used to travel all over the world.

But, he had formed one habit. Whenever the Lok Sabha was in session, he would try to always remain in India and attend the House with due respect. He attached great importance to the Indian Parliament in those days.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): अगर पंडित जी वह करते थे, तो वर्तमान प्रधान मंत्री जी जब संसद चल रही थी, तो बीच में क्यों बाहर गए?...**(व्यवधान)...**

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: *

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, this is a very-very bad comment. He cannot comment like this. Sir, it should not go on record. The Prime Minister will not go because of him. We are supposed to be telling the truth to the House. How can he say like this?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर): आप बैठ जाइए!...**(व्यवधान)...**

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, he has to apologise.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर): रिमूव हो गया! It will not go on record...**(व्यवधान)...**

श्री प्रवीण राष्ट्रपाल: ठीक है, बाद में बात करेंगे। The Bill introduced by my colleague requires attention of this House because of one other issue, one other anomaly, which is in the set-up of the Indian Parliament which I want to bring to the kind notice of hon. Member. When first Lok Sabha met, there were 542 Members. The sitting arrangement in Lok Sabha is exactly for 542 Members today. What was the population in 1950? Population was 35 or 36 crore only. Now, what is the population today? In spite of that, we have not increased the number of seats also. Sir, there are many things which are required to be done like meetings of the Parliament during a year. If you see the Parliament in other countries, if you see the Chinese Parliament, thousands of Members are there. Even in England, every Member need not have accommodation. They don't have a place to sit. They come and stand. There is no mike before everybody. There is only one podium. People go there and speak. Here, you have got all the facilities. There are 127 crore people. But, the Members of Lok Sabha are only 542. We are restricted to 259 or something like that. So, that aspect also requires change according to the population of the country and the issues faced by the country today — poverty is increasing every day; no education, no employment, communal riots, other riots, terrorism. Very serious problems are there. Where is the time to discuss? And, whoever sits in the Chair has got the limit of time. We meet only from 11 to 5. Now, in one State Assembly, they have got two meetings in a day. They meet at nine o'clock and close at twelve. That is considered as one day. Then, they meet again at two o'clock and close the session at six o'clock. And, that is considered as another day. They meet for four days, and on record, it is shown that the meeting took place for eight days. Now, all these things must stop. And, this is an opportunity to amend the Indian Constitution and fix

*Not recorded.

that the Indian Lok Sabha will meet for 120 days, or minimum 60 days. For Rajya Sabha also, minimum number of sittings can be fixed. For State Assemblies also, days can be fixed so that not only Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and Members of State Assemblies, but the people of the country will get an opportunity that the House which is known as '*maha panchayat*', हिन्दी में हम लोग लोक सभा को देश की 'महापंचायत' कहते हैं, वह सबसे बड़ी पंचायत है। अभी हमने देखा है कि गांव की छोटी-छोटी पंचायतें कैसे कानून पास करती हैं, उन छोटी पंचायतों का पुलिस भी कुछ नहीं कर सकती है। यहां पर इतनी बड़ी पंचायत है, उसको कानून डिसकस करने का अगर पूरा समय नहीं मिलेगा, तो छोटी पंचायतों का कानून हमारे मुल्क में शुरू हो जाएगा। उन छोटी पंचायतों के कानून को रोकने के लिए, सवालियों को हल करने के लिए, जनता की सेवा करने के लिए, भारतीय संविधान का जो मूल आधार है, भारतीय संविधान की जो अपेक्षा है, फॉर्दर ऑफ द कांस्टीट्यूशन ने हमारे और देश के बारे में जो सोचा है, अगर उसको हमें अच्छी तरह से इम्प्लीमेंट करना है, तो इस बिल को हमें पास करना चाहिए अथवा सरकार की ओर से ऐसा बिल आना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय महेन्द्र मोहन जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि वे यह विधेयक लेकर आए। मैं इसका विरोध करने के लिए नहीं खड़ा हूं, बल्कि इस पर अपने विचार प्रकट करने के लिए खड़ा हूं। सदन की चर्चा सुनकर मुझे ऐसा लगा कि इससे पहले भी सदन में इस पर चर्चा हो चुकी है। मैं शायद उस समय सदन में उपस्थित नहीं था, इसलिए मुझे इसकी जानकारी नहीं है। मैं ऐसा सोचता हूं कि जब हमारे सहयोगी श्री तिरुची शिवा जी इस बिल पर बोल रहे थे, जो तमिलनाडु से हैं, उस समय मुझे भी यह लगा था कि प्रत्येक सदस्य को कितने दिन उपस्थित रहना चाहिए, शायद इस प्रकार का कोई बिल है। मैंने जाने-अनजाने में अपने LoP से कहा कि यह तो ठीक नहीं है, इनकी स्वाधीनता पर इस प्रकार का आघात करना उचित नहीं है। मुझे मालूम नहीं था और जब मैंने इसको फिर से पढ़ा, तो जाना कि यह सदन के बैठने के लिए है। फिर मैं सोचने लगा कि इस पर जरूर विचार किया जाना चाहिए। देश के लिए अधिकाधिक समय लगाना चाहिए। मैं सोचता हूं कि इसके लिए 120 दिन भी कम हैं। हमारा सारा जीवन देश के लिए है। इसमें मर्यादा का कोई प्रश्न भी नहीं उठना चाहिए। समाज के लिए जिसने जो-जो काम स्वीकार किया है, उसको पूरे समय वही काम करना चाहिए, इसलिए इसका समय बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। हम संसद में काम करने के लिए आए हैं। जितना आवश्यक समय है, वह जरूर दिया जाना चाहिए, चाहे उसकी संख्या 120 दिन हो, 150 दिन हो या 366 दिन हो, यही मेरा कहना है। 366 दिन आप और हम तो नहीं कर सकते हैं, परन्तु भाव यही है कि हम इस काम के लिए अधिकाधिक समय लगाएं। मैंने इंजीनियर की पढ़ाई की है और मैंने काम भी इंजीनियर का किया है, इसलिए हम हर चीज को man-hours में निकालते हैं। आप कितने दिन बैठेंगे और कितने यूजफुल घंटे काम करेंगे, इन दोनों में अंतर हो सकता है। मैं दिनभर बैठा रह सकता हूं पर कितने घंटे उपयोगी काम करता हूं, यह परिणाम देगा। How many man-hours effectively I am putting for a cause, is the determinant of the result, not the number of days of your presence. मैं सोचता हूं कि इस पर सोचने की आवश्यकता होगी। यदि एक आदमी सारे जगत से अपना ध्यान हटाकर, अपनी समस्त इंद्रियों, मन और बुद्धि के साथ केवल एक जगह पर ध्यान केन्द्रित करे, तो उसको सफलता प्राप्त होती है। एक आदमी अपना सब चीजों से ध्यान हटाकर भगवान को याद करता है, तो भगवान भी वहां प्रकट होते हैं। यही इस देश की परंपरा है। इस देश की यही परंपरा होने के कारण, राज्य के द्वारा कुछ नियम बनें और हम समाज का कुछ काम करें, यह हमारा स्वभाव नहीं है। जब आप पंचायत के बारे में बोल रहे थे, तो मैंने आपको कहने की हिम्मत नहीं की, क्योंकि अभी संसद में मेरा कार्यकाल तीन साल का ही हुआ है। मैं इससे पहले किसी विधान सभा का सदस्य भी नहीं था। मैं पढ़ता रहता हूं और मैंने पढ़ा है कि पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने इस देश की पंचायत व्यवस्था के लिए जो विचार रखे, उनको उन्होंने इस देश के जीवन की प्रमुख आधारशिला बताया है। आज हम

क्या कोशिश कर रहे हैं? हम जो कुछ यहां व्यवस्थाएं बना रहे हैं, उनको अधिकाधिक पंचायतों तक क्रियान्वित किया जाए, चाहे वह महिलाओं की भागीदारी ही क्यों न हो। अर्थात् इस देश में विकेंद्रित व्यवस्था, मैंने कहीं पढ़ा था, “That Government is the best, which governs the least”. आज यहां हमारे कुछ साथी नहीं हैं, लेकिन हमारे एक साथी जरूर हैं। वामपंथी थ्योरी में withering of the State चलता है। They could not wither the State. They could not function without a State. I know it. हम विदरिंग ऑफ दि स्टेट कहना चाहते हैं, राज्य की सत्ता नहीं चाहिए कहना चाहते हैं, तो जहां पर समाज राज्य का अधिनियम कर सकता है, वह देश भारत है। यहां राज्य समाज का नियामक नहीं है, समाज राज्य का नियामक है। मुझे नहीं मालूम था कि मुझे यहां पर बोलना है, हमारे श्रेष्ठ लोगों ने आदर्श रखे हैं। कल बहुत दिनों बाद मैंने कम्प्यूटर पर हाथ रखा, मुझे बहुत ज्यादा कम्प्यूटर नहीं आता है, जो हमारी कांस्टीट्यूट असेम्बली बनी थी, जिसने यह संविधान रचने की व्यवस्था की थी, उसका कुछ भाग पढ़ रहा था, जवाहर लाल जी ने लिखा है, इस प्राचीन राष्ट्र की सारी आकांक्षाओं को क्रियान्वित करने वगैरह-वगैरह। हम जो दुनिया भर के देशों के उदाहरण दे रहे हैं, इनका जीवन कितना है? आज की परिभाषा में यूरोप का कोई देश, आप ग्रीस वगैरह की सभ्यताओं की बात छोड़ दीजिए, 1200 वर्षों से अधिक का इतिहास नहीं रखता है। आज की परिभाषा के अनुसार ऐसा है। मैं ग्रीक वगैरह की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं, उसके संबंध में तो कह दिया है। उसको बताने की जरूरत है? बहुत पहले जब विद्यार्थी के नाते हम लिच्छवी गणतंत्र पढ़ते थे और पता नहीं क्या-क्या पढ़ते थे, तो पढ़ते थे कि इस देश का नियामक समाज है, राज्य नहीं है। मैं इस पर बहुत कुछ बोल सकता हूं। मुझे दुख है कि अंग्रेजों ने इस पर दो सौ, ढाई सौ वर्ष तक राज्य किया और यही कारण है कि हमारी सोचने की सारी प्रवृत्ति बदल गई यह चर्चा इसलिए चलती है, क्योंकि हम राज्य के मुखापेक्षी हो गए हैं। हम कहते हैं कि हमको क्या लेना-देना है, सरकार करेगी। कानूनों का पालन क्यों नहीं होता है? बहुत सारे कानून बने हैं। बच्चियों का विवाह रोकने के लिए ये कानून बना है, दहेज विरोधी कानून और न जाने क्या-क्या बने हैं। क्योंकि यहां समाज को समाज के हिसाब से चलने की आदत है और इसीलिए शायद मन में कभी-कभी विचार आता है कि कानून काहे के लिए बना है। जो लोग समाज व्यवस्था के अनुसार काम नहीं करते, उनको दंडित करने के लिए इसका उपयोग ज्यादा है, बजाय उनके जीवन को चलाने के लिए। आप इस पर विचार कीजिए। इस देश का सामाजिक जीवन समाज के आदर्शों पर चलता है और हमने उसी को स्वाधीनता के बाद अपने संविधान में रखने की कोशिश की है। यदि यह कानून अंग्रेजों के जाने के साथ-साथ न बना होता तो 1935 का कानून आधार नहीं बना होता, इसका आधार कोई और प्राचीन साहित्य बना होता। मुझे लगता है कि वह बहुत अच्छा होता। परंतु अब अंग्रेजों के जाने के बाद बना है, जिसको हम लोग साधारण भाषा में नकल करना कहते हैं। मैं संविधान निर्माताओं की भावनाओं का बहुत सम्मान करता हूं। मैं संविधान के बारे में पढ़ता हूं। मैं चार बिल भी संविधान संशोधन पर लाया हूं, देखूंगा कब इनका समय आएगा। नाचीयप्पन जी और बाकी बंधुओं ने भी कहा कि संविधान संशोधन की क्या जरूरत है। इस देश में, जिसको हम सभी लोग, अपने जीवन का बहुत अधिक आदर्श मानकर सुबह-शाम हल्ला करते हैं, आप जानते हैं, वह शब्द इस देश में संविधान के प्राक्कथन में आपात्काल में लाया गया था। अधिकांश लोग, जो विरोध करते थे, वे नहीं थे, वे जेलों में बंद कर दिए गए थे। मुझे कहने में कोई संकोच नहीं है, क्योंकि मैं इस पर बिल ला चुका हूं। secular, socialist, ये दो शब्द इस देश के संविधान के प्राक्कथन में आपात्काल में लाए गए हैं। इस पर विचार करने की कोई स्वाधीनता नहीं थी और हम में से अनेक उस समय के साक्षी हैं, The Fundamental Rights were suspended. आपने उस भाग में उन शब्दों को लाकर डाला है। उस पर कभी बहस होगी, तो मैं ज्यादा बोलूंगा। आज मेरा विषय यह है, आप मुझे देख रहे हैं, मैं जल्दी ही समाप्त कर दूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर): अभी कई स्पीकर्स बाकी हैं।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: मुख्य बात यह है कि कितने घंटे काम करते हैं और कितना प्रभावी काम करते हैं, यह महत्व की बात होनी चाहिए। मैं योगायोग में उनमें से हूँ, जिसको और कुछ काम नहीं होने के कारण हर दिन यहां रहता हूँ...। और आप सभी को सुनने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त करता हूँ। परन्तु मैं नाच्चीयप्पन जी की इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि जब हम समाज के लिए एक संसद सदस्य के समय पर विचार करते हैं, अभी नजमा हेपतुल्ला जी ने बहुत सही बात कही है कि ज्यादातर हम कानून बनाने के लिए यहाँ आए हैं, देश हमारी ओर इस दृष्टि से देखता है कि हम कानून बनाएँ, तो इसके लिए अधिक समय मिलना चाहिए, मैं मानता हूँ। परन्तु जिस संविधान के माध्यम से आप इसे लाने जा रहे हैं, स्वयं उसका संशोधन कितनी बार हो चुका है। उन संशोधनों का पालन कहाँ हो रहा है? जो जन-प्रतिनिधि हैं, उनको समाज में अधिक समय देने की भी आवश्यकता है। मुझे याद है, जब अलेक्जेंडर साहब यहाँ से विदा हुए थे, जो महाराष्ट्र के भूतपूर्व गवर्नर रहे, तो उन्होंने इस सदन में कहा था कि मुझे सबसे अधिक समाधान कमेटी मीटिंग्स में हुआ। मैं एक इंजीनियर के नाते अनुभव करता हूँ, क्योंकि यहाँ तो कभी-कभी बोलने का समय मिलता है, आज कृपादृष्टि हुई है, इसलिए मैं थोड़ा-बहुत बोल रहा हूँ, यहाँ तो विचार रखने का अवसर ही नहीं मिलता है। कुछ लोग भाग्यशाली हैं, जिनको रोज अवसर मिलता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं उस भाग्य को नहीं प्राप्त करना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि उसके लिए दल को छोटा करना पड़ेगा। कमेटी मीटिंग्स, डिपार्टमेंटल मीटिंग्स, ये बड़े महत्व की होती हैं, मैं मानता हूँ। वहाँ बहुत ही वस्तु विषयक चर्चा होती है, वे किसी political bias के आधार पर नहीं होती है। इसलिए मैं उसका बहुत महत्व समझता हूँ।

अभी सरकार हम लोगों को एमपीलैड फंड से थोड़ा-बहुत फंड देती है। उसकी जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए, उसका क्रियान्वयन कैसा हो रहा है, वहाँ जाना पड़ता है। उसके लिए कुछ समय भी लगाना पड़ता है। कुछ लोगों के आवेदन आते हैं, उनको भी देखना पड़ता है। मोहन जी, मैं अभी आपको कहना भूल गया और सदन के लिए भी कि क्या यह हमारे लिए उचित है कि हम विधान सभाओं के बारे में यहाँ विचार करें। संविधान में भले ही प्रावधान है, परन्तु हम राज्य विधान मंडलों को विचार करने दें, उनका कुछ recommendation आने दें। आप कर तो सकते हैं, संविधान में आपका अधिकार तो है, परन्तु ज्यादा अच्छा होगा कि विधान मंडल स्वयं अपने काम के बारे में विचार करें। अब संसद सदस्य को लोगों से मिलना होता है, संगठनों से मिलना होता है ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, एक-दो मिनट और दे दीजिए। जिन आम आदमियों के बारे में हम यहाँ चर्चा कर रहे हैं, जो suffering population है, करोड़ों लोग हैं, उनसे मिलना पड़ता है। जो किसी पॉलिटिकल पार्टी में काम करते हैं या किसी independent समूह में काम करते हैं, उन लोगों से मिलना होता है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं बहुत दिनों तक सरकारी नौकरी में रहा हूँ और मैं अनुभव कर रहा हूँ कि मैं वहाँ जितने घंटे काम करता था, यहाँ उससे डेढ़-दो गुना अधिक काम करना पड़ रहा है। मोहन जी, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि मुझे उसका समाधान है, मुझे उसका कोई दुख नहीं है, परन्तु इतना काम करना पड़ता है, तब कहीं जाकर हम उसके साथ न्याय कर सकते हैं। कभी-कभी कुछ लोगों को विदेशों में भी जाना पड़ता है। काम तो बहुत सारे हैं, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि आप समय की मर्यादा आवश्यक समझें, तो रखें, वरना पूरा समय ही इस काम के लिए रख दें। हम जिस गेट से आते हैं, वहाँ श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता का एक बहुत अच्छा वाक्य लिखा है, लिखा तो चारों तरफ है, बहुत सारे पौराणिक चित्र भी लगा रखे हैं, परन्तु इनका नाम लेने में, आपने जो संविधान संशोधन किया है, वह आपके लिए बाधक हो जाता है। इसमें लिखा है, स्वे स्वे कर्मण्येऽभिरतः संसिद्धिम् लभते नरः। अपना-अपना स्वाभाविक कर्म करते हुए मनुष्य संसिद्धि को यानी मोक्ष को प्राप्त होता है। इस भावना से आपने यह बिल लाया है कि हम लोग सब मिल कर अधिक काम करें, मैं इसका समादर करता हूँ और जो भी सबके विचार से निकलेगा, इस भावना को अनुप्राणित करने के लिए, उसके प्रति अपना समर्थन देते हुए मैं अपना वक्तव्य समाप्त करता हूँ। आपने मुझे इतना समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। मैं आपके माध्यम से सबसे पहले तो श्री महेन्द्र मोहन जी को धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस प्राइवेट बिल के जरिए एक ऐसा विषय सदन में लाए हैं, जो हर संसद सदस्य, विधायक और राजनीति से जुड़े व्यक्ति के जहन में आज कौंध रहा है। यह बात सही हो सकती है कि यह प्राइवेट मैम्बर बिल है और अक्सर प्राइवेट मैम्बर बिल आते हैं, सदन में उन पर चर्चा होती है और चूँकि वे ऑफिशियल बिल नहीं होते हैं, इसलिए वे पारित नहीं होते हैं या उनके लिए हम बाध्य नहीं होते हैं। लेकिन आज इस बिल के माध्यम से हम सबको कम से कम आत्मावलोकन करने का मौका जरूर मिल रहा है और हमको सही आइना दिखाने का प्रयास किया गया है। अगर सारे राजनैतिक दल इस बिल की भावना को समझकर निर्णय लें, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जो विकृतियाँ, जो abrasions पार्लियामेंटरी डेमोक्रेसी में आ गई हैं, उन्हें दूर करने में काफी हद तक मदद मिलेगी। आज क्या हाल हो गया है? आज इसके माध्यम से क्या मांग की जा रही है? इसके माध्यम से सिर्फ यह मांग की जा रही है कि आप पूरे साल में केवल चार महीने संसद की बैठक अवश्य करिए और दो महीने विधान सभाओं की बैठक अवश्य करिए। यह तो एक बिल्कुल वाजिब मांग है। आप जनता से जाकर पूछिए। जनता आपको क्या बोलती है — सांसद, जनता आपको क्या बोलती है — विधायक। किसलिए बोलती है? आप विधानसभा के सदस्य है, इसलिए विधायक है, संसद के सदस्य हैं, इसलिए सांसद हैं। यही तमगा तो आपके साथ लगा हुआ है। जनता ने आपको जिता कर यहीं प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए तो भेजा है। जब आप उसी का फर्ज नहीं निभाते हैं, उस सदन में ही नहीं आते हैं या फिर उस सदन की बैठक ही उतने दिन नहीं होती, जितनी की जनता की अपेक्षा है, तो इन सदनों का अर्थ क्या है? भारतीय संसद का अर्थ क्या है? विधानसभाओं का अर्थ क्या है? ये तो डेमोक्रेसी के स्तम्भ हैं, खम्भे हैं और इनकी बैठकें जितनी ज्यादा की जाएं, जितना विचार-विमर्श या मंथन हो, मैं समझता हूँ कि कम है।

आज संसद तो फिर भी कुछ दिन मिलती है, चाहे 80 दिन मिले या 70 दिन मिले, लेकिन विधान सभाओं का हाल यह है कि मुख्यमंत्री लोग, विपक्ष के डर के मारे तीन दिन के लिए सदन बुलाते हैं। मैं किसी का नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि सभी दलों पर यह बात लागू होती है। बजट सत्र तीन दिन के हो गए हैं। जल्दी-जल्दी काम किया, ध्वनि मत से बजट प्रस्ताव पारित किया और सदन की समाप्ति की घोषणा कर दी। सरकारें सदन को फेस करने में डरने लगी है। कभी वो दिन होते थे! क्या दिन होते थे! क्या बहस होती थी! आप लाइब्रेरी में जाइए और निकाल कर देखिए उस समय की बहसों को। तब संसद और विधान सभाओं की बहसें बड़ी जबरदस्त होती थीं। जिस जमाने में गोविन्द वल्लभ पंत मुख्यमंत्री होते थे, द्वारका प्रसाद जी होते थे, महाराष्ट्र में वाई.बी. चव्हाण होते थे, क्या बहस होती थी तब। आप सब जगह के डिबेट्स निकाल कर देखिए कि किस-किस तरह की बहसें होती थीं। क्या माहौल था! लोहिया जी और नेहरू जी की जो बहस होती थी, अगर उसे आप देख लें तो पढ़-पढ़ कर आपकी तबीयत खुश हो जाए और ऐसा नहीं है कि उनमें कटाक्ष नहीं होते थे। ऐसे कटाक्ष होते थे कि नेहरू जी अपनी अचकन पहनते थे, तब एक बार लोहिया जी ने उनसे कह दिया कि आप क्या यह तबलची के कपड़े पहन कर आ गए, लेकिन नेहरू जी ने बुरा नहीं माना। इस-इस तरह की बातें हो जाती थीं, लेकिन सदन की बैठकें चलती रहती थीं। आप ज्योतिर्मय बसु जी के डिबेट्स को पढ़िए, भूपेश गुप्ता जी को पढ़िए, क्या बहस होती थी! जो भी विरोध करना होता था, फोरम उसका सबसे अच्छा तरीका था, जहां बहस होती थी, संसद सदस्य मिलते थे, सब बात करते थे और सदन चलता था। लेकिन आज क्या हो गया है? हम चाहे जिस दल के भी हों, सदन से जी चुराने लगे हैं, सदन की बैठकों से कतराने लगे हैं और सदन से बाहर जाने का मन होता है। आते भी हैं तो दस्तखत किए और बाहर चले गए। अब एक नया सिस्टम और लागू हो गया है, संसद में आने का मतलब यह है कि आओ, लॉबी में साइन करो और बाहर बाइट दे दो, क्योंकि मीडिया की एक नयी संसद बाहर खुल गई है। बाहर टेलिविजन चैनलों को बाइट दे दी, तो आपकी बात बन गई। अंदर वाले बोल रहे हैं तो बोल रहे हैं, उनका तो कोई कवरेज होता नहीं है। जितने गंभीर विषय पर आप बोलिए, उतना ही दूसरे दिन आपका कवरेज नहीं होगा, लेकिन जितना हुड़दंग, हो-हल्ला,

हल्की-फुल्की, मजाकिया, हंसी-मजाक की चीजें कीजिए, उतना ही आप पहले पृष्ठ पर हैं और उतना ही अपका कवरेज होगा। बाहर बाइट दे करके निकल गए तो आपकी हाजरी दर्ज हो गई, पूरे देश ने ही यह देख लिया कि आप संसद में गए थे, क्योंकि आपने बाइट दे दी। तो जिनकी एक्सपर्टीज इस मामले में हैं, वे लोग सदन में आते हैं और सदन में बैठे नहीं कि दस्तखत किए, बाहर टीवी चैनलों को बाइट दी और निकल गए। संसद की कुल नुमाइंदगी यह हो गई है।

यह एक बेहद गंभीर विषय है। एक तो संसद की बैठक कम से कम 120 दिन हो और स्पीकर्स कॉन्फरेंस में यह बात भी तय हो चुकी है कि छोटे राज्यों की बैठक कम से कम 60 दिन और जहां 100 से ज्यादा एमएलए हैं, ऐसे बड़े राज्यों की बैठक कम से कम 90 दिन की होनी चाहिए, लेकिन उसको अभी तक लागू क्यों नहीं किया जा रहा है? जब स्पीकर्स कॉन्फरेंस की यह रिकमेंडेशन विधान सभाओं के बारे में है, तो उसको सख्ती से लागू किया जाना चाहिए। इसके लिए स्पीकर्स कॉन्फरेंस बुलाई जानी चाहिए और मैं पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर साहब से अनुरोध करूंगा कि इस मामले पर स्पीकर्स कॉन्फरेंस बुलाएं। अगर स्वयं राष्ट्रपति जी भी इसमें दखल दें कि मिनिमम सिटिंग्स का कोई एक क्राइटीरिया बनाया जाए, तो और भी अच्छा होगा। सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि हम सदन की बैठकों को चलाते कैसे हैं? हमारा किरदार क्या है, अगर हम सदन में यहाँ पर आते हैं? आप क्वेश्चन ऑवर में देखिए। जब यहाँ सवाल पूछे जाते हैं, तब सरकार हिल जाती है, हर विभाग हिल जाता है, हर मंत्रालय हिल जाता है। संसद का मतलब एक जवाबदेही होती है, एक accountability होती है। यहाँ पर जो विषय उठाए जाते हैं, उसमें accountability गवर्नमेंट की होती है और अपोजिशन को भी उसकी तैयारी कर के आना पड़ता है। इस प्रकार दोनों तरफ से accountability तय करने का काम यह पार्लियामेंट करती है और विधानसभाएँ करती हैं। अगर हम उसी से बचते रहें, तो हम देश के प्रति, जनता के प्रति, आम नागरिक के प्रति क्या जवाबदेही दे पाते हैं? सदन के अन्दर, मैं यह समझता हूँ कि पिछले कुछ सालों से जो रवैया रहा है, उसमें मैं किसी एक पार्टी को ब्लेम नहीं कर रहा हूँ। हमारे लोगों ने भी वही किया, आप भी वही कर रहे हैं, ये भी वही कर रहे हैं और वे भी वही कर रहे हैं। हर समय कुएँ की तरफ ताकते रहते हैं कि कब वैल में चले जाएँ, कब वैल में चले जाएँ। एक नया फॉर्मूला बना लिया गया है कि जब कुछ करना हो, मीडिया कवरेज लेना हो, तब पहले तो अपनी सीट से चिल्लाते थे, आज से 10-15 साल पहले हंगामा होता था, जिससे शोर-शराबे के बीच सदन स्थगित हो जाता था। आजकल क्या हो गया है कि बात-बात में वैल में चले जाओ। जब आप वैल में जाकर अध्यक्ष के आसन के पास शोर मचाते हैं, तब अध्यक्ष इतना irritated हो जाते हैं, स्वाभाविक है कि उस समय कुछ सुनाई नहीं देता, सदन स्थगित करना पड़ता है। यह सब सिर्फ इसलिए कराया जाता है ताकि मीडिया में कवरेज हो जाए कि इस विषय पर सदन स्थगित हो गया और उसमें शोर-शराबे और हंगामे के बीच सिर्फ मीडिया कवरेज हुआ। अतः मीडिया के भाइयों से भी हमारा यह निवेदन है कि जो कोई सदन स्थगित कराए, जो भी वैल में जाए और जो-जो इस तरह की चीजें करे, उनका कवरेज बंद कर दीजिए, उस चीज को स्पेशल कवरेज मत दीजिए। अगर उसने उस विषय को कवरेज नहीं दिया, तो यह वैल में जाना, सदन में हंगामा करना या सदन की बैठक को स्थगित कराने का धंधा बंद हो जाएगा। यह सिर्फ इसीलिए होता है, ताकि मीडिया का कवरेज मिले।

सर, फिरोज गांधी जी ने मीडिया कवरेज शुरू कराई थी और प्रेस गैलरी बनवाई थी, वरना पहले सदन में प्रेस गैलरी नहीं होती थी। बाद में सिर्फ ब्रीफिंग हो जाती थी। उन्होंने दोनों सदन में प्रेस गैलरी बनवाई थी और उसके बाद प्रेस कवरेज का काम शुरू हुआ था। अब धीरे-धीरे क्या हो गया कि हम एड्रेस अध्यक्ष की बजाय प्रेस गैलरी की तरफ करने लग गए, उन्हीं को सम्बोधित करने लगे और सारा मकसद वही हो गया। इस प्रकार इसमें हमें अपने मीडिया के भाइयों का भी सहयोग चाहिए, इसमें संसद सदस्यों का भी सहयोग चाहिए। इससे जुड़े सारे लोगों का सहयोग चाहिए कि किस तरह से संसद की गम्भीरता कायम की जा सके तथा किस तरह से उसकी बैठकें ज्यादा आयोजित हों। सिर्फ बैठकें आयोजित होने से कुछ नहीं होता, जब तक कि उन बैठकों

में सुबह 11 से लेकर शाम के 5 बजे तक या सुबह 11 बजे से लेकर शाम के 6 बजे तक पूरा काम-काज सुचारु रूप से हो। कोई भी विषय हो, उस पर जबरदस्त बहस हो, सरकार की आप धज्जियाँ उड़ा दीजिए। सरकार के लोग जो अपने वक्ता-विपक्ष की धज्जियाँ उड़ा सकते हैं। एक-दूसरे के दिलों के ऊपर जो आरोप लगाने हैं, लगा सकते हैं। किसी विषय पर बोल सकते हैं, मुद्दे पर बोल सकते हैं। बहस ऐसी हो कि लोग सुन कर चमत्कृत हो जाएँ। हाल के 10 सालों की बहस को तो पढ़ने का मन ही नहीं होता। आप लाइब्रेरी में जाकर 1950s की, 1960s की या 1970s की बहस निकालिए। उस समय क्या बहस होती थी! उनसे कुछ सीखने को मिलता है। ये वॉल्यूम्स उन किताबों के हैं। मुझे नहीं लगता कि लोग जाकर लाइब्रेरी में वे वॉल्यूम्स निकालते भी होंगे और देखते भी होंगे। इस प्रकार हमें इस सदन का महत्व, सदन की गरिमा फिर से स्थापित करनी है, फिर से इनकी बैठकों में इजाफा करना है। उसके साथ-साथ सब को मिल कर सदन के नियमों को बनाना है। एक बार नियम तय हुए थे। सब को मिलकर प्रश्न-प्रहर को स्थगित नहीं कराना है, यह तय हुआ था। कैसे कम-से-कम लोग वेल में जाएँ, यह भी तय हुआ था। यह भी तय हुआ था कि बात-बात पर हम सदन स्थगित नहीं कराएँगे। लेकिन, तय कुछ होता है और बाहर आकर जब सदन में आते हैं, तो इन सब में से किसी चीज को हम नहीं मानते हैं। इसलिए, सभापति जी, मेरा आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि कोई-न-कोई ऐसा सम्मेलन बनाएँ, ऐसा conference बनाएँ, जिसके जरिए यह चीज़ तय हो जाए कि हम किस तरह से इन सदनों को सुचारु रूप से चला सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर कड़े कदम भी उठाने पड़ें, तो उसकी सहमति लेनी चाहिए। Right to Recall भी होना चाहिए। अगर कोई सदस्य यहाँ बहुत ज्यादा हंगामा करता है या सदन की बैठकों में बहुत कम आता है, तो उसका Right to Recall भी होना चाहिए। जनता उसको इसीलिए चुनती है कि वह यहाँ आए। अगर 100 दिन या 120 दिन सदन चलता है और वह दो ही दिन यहाँ आता है तथा सिर्फ दस्तखत कर के चला जाता है, तब तो इसका कोई मतलब नहीं। इसलिए उस पर Right to Recall भी लगना चाहिए। अगर इस तरह से सदन के किसी सदस्य को सब की सहमति से दंडित करते हैं—अध्यक्ष या सभापति, Speaker या Chairman, ...(समय की घंटी)... अगर वह दंडित किया जाता है, तो सिर्फ 500 रुपए जब्त होने से काम नहीं चलता, बल्कि उसकी जो सुविधाएँ हैं, वे सुविधाएँ भी उतने वक्त के लिए जब्त होनी चाहिए। चाहे वह बिजली का बिल हो या मकान का किराया हो, सब उस पर आम आदमी की तरह लगने चाहिए, जैसा कि होता है। सांसद निधि से भी उसी ratio में पैसा काटना चाहिए। महोदय, जब सब तरफ से ऐसा होगा तभी कुछ हो सकता है। अगर इस तरह की सहमति बनती है तो इस तरह के कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए। महोदय, अब वक्त आ गया है कि हम इस दिशा में सोचें और कड़े कदम उठाएं।

मैं एक बार फिर से श्री महेन्द्र मोहन जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस विषय को उठाकर देश को जागरूक करने की चेष्टा की है। धन्यवाद।

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this chance to speak here. I would not like to take much time.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No, no. You have to take much time.

DR. K. KESHA RAO: I will do that.

First of all, the question is: Why are we discussing this issue at all?

I congratulate Shri Mahendra Mohan for bringing this Bill. The focus of this Bill is Parliament, nothing else. What exactly is the Parliament? If you think that it is the window into people's opinion or the voice of the people, we need to know what the people voice are and what constitutes this institution.

Sir, Shrimati Najma Heptulla mentioned the historical background as that of the Westminster system. Shri Natchiappan tried to suggest that there was no need for a Constitutional amendment and it could as well be done through a legal correction. So, there can be a parliamentary enactment which can look after it. Shuklaji was trying to tell us about the TV dominance. Then Shri Siva tried to tell us how it was functioning. Let us look into it in a holistic manner. Shuklaji is looking at the Press Gallery because he knows how to do it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

First and foremost, I want to ask Ahluwaliaji and all of us Parliamentarians — we have a very learned Law Minister here present — Is the Bill necessary at all? What I am trying to tell you is that article 19 (1) gives you freedom of expression. Then in article 105, which fortifies it, it states that whatever you speak in the Parliament can't be challenged outside. The spirit of the founding members was that everything should be spoken by the representative of the sovereign nation. That means none can stop you from speaking. If that is the question, and if all the 524 Members want to speak for 10 minutes or 15 minutes, what is the time required? It has been often raised at the Speakers' Conference, where I was a participant on a couple of occasions. The question today is: Has the Chair got a right to ask you sit down? Let the Law Minister, who is present in the House, take note of this. Although we are, today, trying to tolerate it, — we are trying to compromise with it, let me say that if a particular Member wants to speak on a particular subject, can he be asked to sit down and not given time? Please read this along with Constitutional guarantee given, both under article 19(1) and article 105. What is the spirit of it? The rules that have been made, which Shri Natchiappan championed, would at best regulate the debate. That means the Chair does not have the right to stop a person from speaking. He can regulate the debate. This has been stated by Shri Sanjeeva Reddy when he was the Speaker at the Speakers' Conference. Again, Balram Jhakhariji, when I raised this question — this was at a Speakers' Conference — we came to an understanding that something has to be done to see that everybody gets his voice heard. That is the spirit of the House functioning. I am giving this not because that it can not be raised as a point of order, though it certainly can be. I am not raising on that basis. What I am trying to say is that the spirit of what Shri Mahendra Mohan has brought today is that this House truly is the centre of people's voice. If it becomes truly centre of people's voice, what is stopping you from speaking? Who are these people? They are elected representatives. They represent 2 lakhs or 20 lakhs of people. That is one issue which will have to be looked into.

Secondly, what is that we are discussing? The Parliament is not an instrument of law-making. It is an institution of law-making. What is happening today is that the Government comes with some kind of a Bill or some other business. The moment that business is over, the Parliament work is closed. Sometimes, to pass a Bill or to make a law, not a single debate or discussion takes place. What I am trying to say is, there should be a system, where you can go and discuss, either with experts or with people's representatives, thoroughly, and after they are

satisfied and you are satisfied, then the Bill should come because the Bill and the law are going to stay forever. Since there is no system, that is why this House debate. Now he was talking of giving full details. Mr. Natchiappan gave full details about the Committee System. So far as the Committee System is concerned, often we have been raising a question here. Is the Committee System respected at all? Are the Committees respected at all? When the Committees are not being respected, when the recommendations of the Committees are not being taken care of, when the Ministers have all the courage to come and tell on the floor of this House that they have not looked into the Standing Committee reports; I can understand if after looking into the report of the Standing Committee they reject it and give the reason for it, but if that is not so, then either the Committee System has to be corrected or the work be transferred to the House.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Mr. Rao, will you yield for a minute? Sir, he has made a very good suggestion on the Committee System. While making his speech, he also talked about the drawbacks of the Committee System. In a Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee, there are only 30 Members, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. In Committees, we are working very well. We do not get the opportunity to call the officers here in the Chamber. But certainly they are appearing before the Committee and giving evidences and deposing before these Committees. A lot of information is pouring in. That is compiled into a report. But that report is never discussed here. We should have some system. While discussing these Bills, at the time of making a law, we must discuss these reports. There are 10 Members of this House in each Committee. Rest of the 240 Members are not Members of that Committee. They are not aware of anything. But through the report they come to know what is right and what is wrong. If they discuss that report, something good will come.

DR. K. KESHA RAO: Ahluwaliaji, I was coming to that.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Then the Parliament should sit for 120 days.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: That is why this Bill is here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHA RAO: Sir, with all humility, I would like to submit to the hon. Members, I was talking about three stages of Committees. One is, how the Committees are formed, the interaction we have with officers and then prepare the reports which are not taken care of. That is number one. Even if they are taken into consideration, that is done clandestinely or indirectly. It is not necessary that the entire House should agree to it. It is prepared by 30 Members, plus interaction with officers. I have my own different view as a Member of that Committee. But that is not the total voice of the people. If this is the House of People, if you are trying to reflect through your laws what people are asking or what they need, though these are two entirely different things. I will come to that a little later they must be heard. The second thing is, Shri Ahluwalia has supported the same. Even it has to be discussed. If a report is not discussed and if it has

already been incorporated into the law, then also you should, certainly, allow some time so that the other Members, who were not part of the Committee, have their say and either to oppose it or support it. Thirdly, there is the process of approving the Bills. The Cabinet initiates the Bills. There should be a cause of action. What is the cause of action? It should come from the people. They have to be heard. Against this background, I will come back to what Dr. Najma Heptulla has very rightly said. Whatever we are discussing here, it is not necessary that we are doing this for law-making. It is enabling law-making. We discuss many issues here. When we discuss these issues, we discuss them on behalf of the people and we try to reflect their aspirations in those issues. And the Government of the day takes note of them and responds either in the form of legislation, or, in the form of any rule, or, as policy formulation. That is not allowed now. That again requires time. I am only concentrating on why time is required. Now, the first thing is, time cannot be denied because we have no right to say, "Scuttle any debate." Constitutionally, it cannot be scuttled. It is good that we are allowing you to do that. Otherwise, it cannot be scuttled. Everybody has a right to discuss what he/she wants. And this is part of governing the nation, a nation of over 100 crores of people. Now, it is a multi-national nation, and a multi-dimensional nation has diverse demands and needs. For instance, the tribal's demands are not being heard; we just talk of time limit, and no tribal man is allowed to speak about them. We only acclimatise the entire thing, we only theorise those things. I am very happy that the Law Minister is here. I have been reading his ARC reports. Now, has the ARC books been read? I am just asking them. They have thrown light on all these issues which have been forgotten by the law-making process or the policy formulation process. Now, when that is not there, when that is lacking, the House comes into the picture to seek accountability. When the House comes into the picture, my expression comes into the picture. When my expression comes into the picture, the time comes into the picture. Now, Mr. Shuklaji raised a very important question. We are looking to the media because today, Sir, even though we are the representatives of the people, we are representing them without having even seen all of them. Let me tell you; seven per cent of the people are not reachable. There are no roads to reach them. We have not seen their faces, let alone knowing them. Without seeing them, we come to rule in their name. I am talking of the tribal, remote areas. That being so, what we are trying to do is, we are trying to reach out to the people. Parliament time is not allowing you to do that and even when we have big meetings or rallies outside, it is only five or ten lakhs of people who attend that. That is why we go to the media or the newspapers which are able to take us...*(Time bell rings)*... Now, Sir, when this bell rings,...*(Interruptions)*... Seriously, when this bell rings, — that is the system; I am talking of the system here — because of time constraint, if the Chair or the House wants us to cut our speeches, I might miss mentioning certain important points and, as Shri Rajeev said, I will have to go out and express them because

5.00 P.M.

people should know that I really think of them, that I really speak for them. It is good that Mishra Saheb has brought in, what Shri Venkata Chellappa Report had said. Shri Chellappa had brought it all in a Report, and the Annexures. If you read that Report and the Annexures thereof, you will find that it is necessary that not only the time is given more but, and the system needs to be thoroughly changed, if the voice has to be deeply understood. Shri Ahluwalia has raised one issue. What happens is, although a Member wants to mention something, he does not have the time to express it. Now, we have the Reports and Papers laid on the Table. What Papers are those, none of us know, except what is coming on the Agenda. Again, the Annual Reports are placed on the Table. All these are placed in the House so that we would discuss them. Since the Ministry has its Annual Reports, guillotine is the easiest instrument available to us. We are guillotining every demand. No debate, or a Short Duration Discussion, takes place on the Reports. So, Sir, you should look into all these things. I cannot expand myself and take all the time. But, nonetheless, I am telling you, if this House has to be the instrument of the people's voice, if the House is to reflect people's views, we should have the time to do that. If the rules are there, the rules should be such that we reflect people's aspirations. Here, I would like to mention one point more. I would like to comment — this is not a commentary on the Chair — on the way we are looked at here; everybody thinks that opposition must be given more time. The Congressmen hardly get any time. The Chair always looks to the left. Why I am saying this is that everybody has to voice his views. We also have the Anti Defection Act. These are basic issues which the Law Minister should take into consideration. After the Anti-Defection Act had come, do you think I have the courage to say what I want to say? Hasn't my parliamentary right been taken away? Hasn't the entire 1991...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Thank you.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Thank you very much, Sir. But I want to tell you that the spirit of what he said whether it is the Constitution Amendment or the Parliamentary enactment or the rules...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Thank you.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: My last word, Sir, is that it is not necessary...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Mr. Rao, if you want to continue, you can continue in the next Session.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Hon. Members, it is 5'o clock. The debate on this Bill will continue in the next Session.

We now take up Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need for separate reservation for the most backward castes of reserved category in the country

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि (राजस्थान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारतीय संविधान की धारा 16(4) के अनुसार सरकारी नौकरियों में आरक्षण का प्रावधान देश के उन पिछड़े वर्गों के नागरिकों के लिए है, जिनका राज्य सरकार की राय में प्रशासन में नाममात्र का प्रतिनिधित्व हो। इस दिशा में पंजाब, हरियाणा और आंध्र प्रदेश ने पहल की थी और अपने राज्यों में अनुसूचित जातियों में से शैक्षणिक एवं आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़ी जातियों का वर्गीकरण करके उनकी जनसंख्या के आधार पर उनको आरक्षण का लाभ दिया था। इस वर्गीकरण से उन जातियों को पिछले 10 वर्षों में आरक्षण का पूरा लाभ मिला और ये अन्य जातियों की बराबरी में आ गई थीं, लेकिन कुछ अग्रणी जातियां जो इस आरक्षण का अधिकतम लाभ उठा रही थीं, उन्होंने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में याचिका दायर करके इस लाभ पर रोक लगवा दी। इससे अति पिछड़ी जातियों को अत्यधिक हानि हुई। इस विसंगति को देखते हुए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता में एक सदस्यीय आयोग गठित किया गया था, लेकिन तीन वर्ष बीत जाने के बावजूद अभी तक उसकी रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है। दबे, कुचलों, पिछड़े लोगों को समाज की मुख्य धारा तक पहुंचाने और उनके जीवन स्तर को ऊंचा उठाने के लिए आरक्षण का प्रावधान रखा गया, लेकिन बाद में आरक्षण का फारमूला वोट बैंक का रूप लेता गया। संविधान में किए गए प्रावधान के अनुसार हर दस वर्ष बाद इस आरक्षण की समीक्षा होती है, पर हम आरक्षण के प्रावधान को साठ साल तक उसी रूप में जारी रखे हुए हैं। कुछ जातियों के कुछ परिवारों में तो पूरा कुनबा ही अच्छे-अच्छे पदों पर काबिज है, उनके बच्चे भी इन पदों पर पहुंचते जा रहे हैं और वे ही राजनीतिज्ञों पर दबाव बनाकर आरक्षण की इस परंपरा को यथावत बनाए हुए हैं।

अतः सरकार से मेरा अनुरोध है कि आरक्षित वर्ग में जिन जातियों को आरक्षण का उचित लाभ नहीं मिला है, उनके लिए केन्द्र एवं राज्य, दोनों स्तरों पर उनकी जनसंख्या के आधार पर वर्गीकरण के माध्यम से अलग कोटे की व्यवस्था की जाए, जिससे डा. भीमराव अम्बेडकर का सपना पूरा हो सके और ये अति पिछड़ी जातियां भी समाज की मुख्य धारा में शामिल हो सकें।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: मैं अपने को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा): मैं अपने को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

Need to give special package and set up a Bundelkhand Authority for development in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से मैं सदन का ध्यान उत्तर प्रदेश के बुंदेलखंड प्रभाग में व्याप्त गरीबी, भुखमरी और किसानों की समस्याओं के प्रति दिलाना चाहता हूं। किसी समय यह क्षेत्र तमाम वीरगाथाओं के लिए प्रसिद्ध था। झांसी, महोबा, हमीरपुर, जालौन, ललितपुर और बांदा की धरती वीर प्रसविनी के नाम से मशहूर थी। आज वहां से आए दिन किसानों की आत्महत्या, गांवों से लोगों के पलायन, कुपोषण और भुखमरी की खबरें आती हैं। तमाम गांवों में सिर्फ बुजुर्ग लोग ही बचे हैं, बाकी लोग, महिलाएं, बच्चे और जवान घर छोड़कर जा चुके हैं।

महोदय, इस क्षेत्र में NREGA से लेकर PDS तक सारे ग्रामीण कार्यक्रम भ्रष्टाचार की भेंट चढ़ चुके हैं। इस क्षेत्र में पानी की भयंकर कमी है, जिसका असर कृषि से लेकर पशुपालन पर पड़ रहा है। सूखे ने हालात और नाजुक बना दिए हैं। वहां पर तुरन्त युद्ध स्तर पर सिंचाई और पानी की व्यवस्था के लिए प्रयासों की जरूरत है। इसके साथ ही किसानों और लघु उद्योग के लिए लोगों को पर्याप्त ऋण की आवश्यकता है। अकेले

महोबा में एक साल के अंदर 8,000 से ज्यादा बुनकर बेकार हो चुके हैं तथा पिछले चार-पांच सालों में 2,000 से ज्यादा किसान आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। यहां पर तमाम विभीषिकाओं के मध्य एक और अपमानजनक स्थिति यह है कि पिछली बार किसानों को मुआवजे के रूप में दस रुपए और बीस रुपए के चेक वितरित किए गए।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि तुरन्त केन्द्र में एक बुंदेलखंड सेल स्थापित किया जाए, जो तमाम कार्यक्रमों की निगरानी करे तथा एक बुंदेलखंड प्राधिकरण की स्थापना करके इस क्षेत्र को पैकेज दिया जाए, जो इस प्राधिकरण के माध्यम से लागू हो। धन्यवाद।

Concern over apathy towards traditional Indian sports

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान भारत के खेलकूद की धीमी प्रगति की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ और खेल पुरस्कारों की घोषणा के लिए सरकार का धन्यवाद करता हूँ। सरकार को सभी खेलों को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए, न कि केवल क्रिकेट को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। यूं भी क्रिकेट तो केवल राष्ट्रमंडल देशों में ही खेला जाता है, जब कि फुटबाल विश्व के 250 देशों में खेला जाता है। वर्ष 1952 के प्रथम एशियाड खेलों में भारत ने ईरान को हराकर एवं 1962 में दक्षिण कोरिया को हराकर एशियन चैंपियन बना रहा। वर्ष 1948 के विश्व ओलंपिक में भारतीय फुटबाल का चौथा स्थान था, जब कि आज हम विश्व ओलंपिक के लिए क्वालिफाई भी नहीं कर पाते हैं, यह बहुत दुख की बात है। हमारी पुरानी टीमों जैसे, मोहन बगान, मोहम्मद स्पोर्टिंग, मद्रास रेजीमेंटल, ईस्टर्न रेलवे, ईस्ट बंगाल, हैदराबाद पुलिस, आदि के मिले-जुले खिलाड़ी जब विश्व स्तर पर खेलते थे, तो विश्व देखता था। यही हाल हॉकी एवं अन्य खेलों का है। भारत कभी हॉकी का जादूगर था। वर्तमान खेलमंत्री के नेतृत्व में कुछ सुधार तो हुआ है। मगर कछुए की चाल से चलकर सुपरसोनिक युग के साथ कदम नहीं मिलाए जा सकते हैं। वहीं लॉन टेनिस में सायना, सानिया, लिअंडर पेस एवं महेश भूपति ने हमारी उपस्थिति बरकरार रखी है, परंतु अभी तक रामनाथ कृष्णन के स्थान पर पहुंचना बाकी है।

महोदय, दिल्ली में होने वाले कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स की प्रगति भी अत्यंत असंतोषजनक है। यदि यही क्रिकेट का महापर्व होता, तो दिल्ली दुल्हन की तरह सज गई होती और सड़कों पर चीयर्स गर्ल्स नजर आने लगती। केन्द्र सरकार को खेल प्रोत्साहन में हरियाणा सरकार का अनुकरण करना चाहिए। खेल प्रोत्साहन से देश के युवाओं का समग्र विकास होगा, जो सरकार की प्राथमिकता भी है। मेरा यह भी सुझाव है कि प्राइवेट चैनल्स तो खेलों का प्रसारण टी.आर.पी. एवं विज्ञापन के आधार पर करते हैं, परंतु दूरदर्शन को सभी खेलों को महत्व देना चाहिए तथा सभी खेलों से जुड़े खिलाड़ियों को सम्मान देना चाहिए, इससे भारतीय खेल चमकेंगे। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 3rd August, 2009.

The House, then, adjourned at nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 3rd August, 2009.