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10 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 1st December, 2009/Agrahayana 10, 1931 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 161.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 162.

*161. * [The questioner(s) Shri Amar Singh and Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa were absent.
For answer *vide* page 37 *infra*.]

Production of crude oil

*162. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to increase the production of crude oil and natural gas, Government is planning for auction of the oil and gas exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new exploration blocks include Assam and North East;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the awarding of such blocks to companies would have any effect on ecology of the area; and

(f) if so, the action plan for the maintenance of the ecological balance at these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In order to increase the exploration and production of oil and gas in the country, eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) was launched on 9.4.2009. 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered under NELP-VIII. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks.

(c) and (d) Following 4 exploration blocks were offered in the North-East region for bidding:

Block Name	Area (in sq. kms.)	State
AA-ONN-2009/1	2217	Manipur
AA-ONN-2009/2	1740	Manipur
AA-ONN-2009/3	84	Assam
AA-ONN-2009/4	84	Assam

(e) and (f) Production Sharing Contract (PSC) has the provisions for protection of environment and ecology in the area of operations. Article 14 of PSC relating to protection of environment provides for necessary safeguards for maintaining the ecology of the area while conducting operations is prevent any ecological/environmental damage. It also provides that Contractor shall conduct its petroleum operations with due regard to concerns with respect to protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it has been said that the eighth bid round of the NELP has been completed. I would like to know what has been the result, because it is understood that the eighth bid round of the NELP has not met the expectations of the Ministry. On the other hand, it has been said that ONGC has found Uranium in the oil fields of Barholla, Amguri and Geleki and, therefore, private companies are very much interested in occupying those fields. I would like to have a specific reply on this issue from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Sir, as far as the eighth bid round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy is concerned, we went in for this bidding process at a time when there was a downturn and there was recession. There was contemplation within the Ministry whether to go in for this round or not. But we took the decision to go ahead and we came out with results that were much better than our expectations. Out of the 70 blocks that were on offer for bidding, there was a bid for 36 blocks. And out of the ten coal bed Methane blocks, eight blocks were on bid. So, we got a result of about 51 per cent in terms of the bids that came in for this round. In terms of monetary figures, the amount that has been estimated for the eighth round is 1.3 billion, as compared to the seventh round when it was about only 1.2 billion. In fact, this round of bidding has been successful in terms of the market conditions. No matter that compared to the seventh round, the number has slightly declined, but that is because of the market conditions.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the Ministry is trying to withdraw from O.N.G.C. the Assam's assets and urban basin and handed it over to the private companies. It is a setback to the interests of the North East region as a whole. On 27th November, thousands of people sat on a dharna in front of the ONGC headquarters at Nazira on protest of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Again, this Ministry is trying to shift ONGC and OIL office from Assam to Kolkata. I would like to protest such a move. It is against the interests of the people of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, be careful with the words you are using.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I would like to have a specific reply in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I seek protection on behalf of the people of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, I don't know from where the hon. Member has got this information. There is no question and no reason to shift the OIL or ONGC office from Assam to Kolkata or anywhere else. There is no such proposal.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, my specific question...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all. Your two supplementary questions are over.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, my specific question was that Assam's assets and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you had asked your specific question earlier, this time could have been saved. What is the specific question?

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, Assam's assets and Assam urban basin are on the verge of being shifted out of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already replied to that. Shri Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, exploration of any minerals from these blocks is a continuous process and it leads to the development of the country. The hon. Minister said that out of these 70 blocks 49 blocks have not been given the bid by people. When do you want another bid for them? Why are private people not interested in these blocks? I just want to know about the blocks. This is a continuous process and unless you go in for a bigger way, we will continue with the shortage of petroleum in the country. So, I would like to know your policy about exploration in the country.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the bidding for the blocks is concerned, out of 70 blocks 36 blocks were bid for, and it is not, as the hon. Member said, that 49 weren't bid for. Only around 34 were not bid for. ..(*Interruptions*).. So, more than 50 per cent were bid for. It is a world-wide phenomena that 100 per cent of the blocks are never bid for, especially when there were down-turn and recession in the market during the previous year across the world. I can give you figures of different countries that went in for bidding of blocks. When they went in for bidding, Algeria got 26 per cent bidding only, Uruguay got 18 per cent, Brazil got 41 per cent, Indonesia got 31 per cent, Norway got 52 per cent and Iceland got 40 per cent. That way we are far ahead of other countries and got better response. It is the endeavour of this Government to ensure oil security and we are trying to ensure that best technologies and best people come to India. We are framing simplified laws giving them incentives so that they can get tax benefits. If the procedure is simpler, people can come, bid, explore the depths of

Indian sedimentary basin and find out oil here so that we become oil sufficient and our country can strengthen itself as far as oil security is concerned.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, in the reply two expressions have been used — “New Exploration Licensing Policy 2009” and “production sharing contract”. My question is: (a) Who owns the petroleum products of the country? (b) Does the Government have any standard production sharing contract? ..(*Interruptions*).. (c) Is the contractor entitled only to contract price or also a share in the ownership of the product? Please clarify it.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Sir, as far as the New Exploration Licensing Policy which was started in 1999 is concerned, bidding of oil blocks and gas blocks under this policy from then onwards is subject to a profit-sharing contract. In that profit-sharing contract, a contractor is given the mandate to explore and find out whether there is any commercial viability with regard to oil or gas. Whatever expenses are incurred in finding out or searching oil, they are reimbursed. That is how there is a share of the Government and of the contractor with regard to the profit that comes which is known as the profit petroleum. That only comes when oil or gas is commercially viable.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, our State, Tripura, is floating over gas and there is a high potential to explore gas from here and there. But the thing is that ONGC is minimising its period of exploration so the seasonal workers who depend on this work get less than six months’ work in a year. So, my request is to give more time for exploration. As there is potential it will to serve the seasonal workers in the right earnest.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, I am very happy to inform the hon. Member that as per the request of the Government of Tripura, the ONGC has cleared power plant there. Though the cost of power transmission was very high, but in order to help the small State of Tripura, the ONGC has agreed to put up a small power plant which will be able to use their gas.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I would only like to thank the hon. Minister for this.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: You intervened; that is why, it happened.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: No; no intervention...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sarkar, your question is over. Question No. 163.

पंजाब में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना का कार्यान्वयन

***163. श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी:** क्या ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (नरेगा) के अंतर्गत पंजाब को अब तक आवंटित की गई धन-राशि का वर्ष-वार और जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना के अंतर्गत राज्य में सृजित रोजगार के अवसरों की जिला-वार संख्या कितनी है;

(ग) राज्य में इस योजना में व्याप्त अनियमितताओं के संबंध में अब तक प्राप्त हुई शिकायतों का जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में अब तक लंबित शिकायतों का जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री सी.पी. जोशी): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) निधियों के केंद्रीय हिस्से की रिलीज का वर्षवार एवं जिलावार ब्यौरा विवरण-I में दिया गया है। (नीचे देखिए) राज्य में जिन परिवारों को रोजगार दिया गया, उनकी कुल संख्या विवरण-II में दी गई है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ग) और (घ) पंजाब में नरेगा के कार्यान्वयन में अनियमितताओं संबंधी आठ शिकायतें इस मंत्रालय में प्राप्त हुई हैं। इन शिकायतों को उपयुक्त कार्रवाई हेतु राज्य सरकार को भेजा गया था। दो शिकायतों के संबंध में कार्रवाई पूरी हो गई है। शेष 6 शिकायतें राज्य सरकार में लम्बित हैं। जिलावार ब्यौरा विवरण-III में दिया गया है।

विवरण-I

जारी की गई निधियों का वर्षवार और जिलावार ब्यौरा

(लाख रु में)

क्र. सं.	जिले	2006-07				2007-08				2008-09				2009-10 (अक्टूबर, 09 तक)			
		केन्द्रीय रिलीज	कुल उपलब्ध निधि	कुल व्यय	अंतशेष	केन्द्रीय रिलीज	कुल उपलब्ध निधि	कुल व्यय	अंतशेष	केन्द्रीय रिलीज	कुल उपलब्ध निधि	कुल व्यय	अंतशेष	केन्द्रीय रिलीज (आदिनांक)	कुल उपलब्ध निधि	कुल व्यय	अंतशेष
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	होशियारपुर	2755.75	3839.21	2500.21	1339.00	380.15	2183.59	1676.93	506.66	1862.53	2567.72	2061.22	506.50	1738.60	2245.10	1411.65	833.45
2.	अमृतसर					1096.28	1466.93	1086.84	380.09	721.92	1256.29	1132.64	123.65	600.00	814.95	514.02	300.93
3.	जालंधर					504.59	918.53	102.80	815.73	0.00	815.73	193.71	622.02	0.00	622.02	204.55	417.47
4.	नवांशहर					49.30	456.31	137.72	318.59	0.00	318.59	252.27	66.32	212.47	278.79	250.57	28.22
5.	बरनाला									279.24	395.68	279.17	116.51	0.00	116.51	113.90	2.61
6.	भटिंडा									491.53	705.05	465.25	239.80	737.40	1143.20	533.68	609.52
7.	फरीदकोट									116.66	141.62	46.18	95.44	73.23	192.08	91.54	100.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8.	फतेहगढ़ साहेब									89.58	211.01	142.90	68.11	67.05	136.31	86.97	49.34
9.	फिरोजपुर									205.75	313.95	133.47	180.48	150.00	330.48	325.12	5.36
10.	गुरदासपुर									309.02	540.12	385.73	154.39	413.10	607.64	502.92	104.72
11.	कपूरथला									95.89	104.71	69.24	35.47	60.00	95.47	69.88	25.59
12.	लुधियाना									170.83	402.07	100.79	301.28	71.70	372.98	240.81	132.17
13.	मानसा									403.93	445.73	196.58	249.15	312.93	562.17	284.18	277.99
14.	मोगा									92.95	104.19	93.86	10.33	20.97	32.00	29.18	2.82
15.	मुक्तसर									233.98	400.44	240.89	159.55	311.72	471.27	459.24	12.03
16.	पटियाला									480.48	639.02	284.84	354.18	316.54	670.72	260.56	410.16
17.	रूपनगर									242.52	434.57	124.12	310.45	22.00	332.45	277.84	54.61
18.	संगरूर									689.20	1091.99	707.56	384.43	239.65	624.08	377.68	246.40
19.	एसएस नगर									154.95	251.38	230.79	20.59	0.00	41.18	20.59	20.59
20.	तरनतारन									134.36	150.82	94.60	56.22	50.00	106.22	56.11	50.11
	कुल	2755.75*	3839.21	2500.21	1339.00	2030.32	5025.36	3004.29	2021.07	6775.32	11290.68	7235.81	4054.87	5397.36	9795.62	6110.99	3684.63

*इसके अलावा, चरण II में कवर किए गए अमृतसर, जालंधर तथा नवांशहर को प्रारंभिक गतिविधियों के लिए क्रमशः 130 लाख रु., 230 लाख रु तथा 330 लाख रु. जारी किए गए। इस प्रकार 2006-07 में पंजाब को कुल रिलीज 3445.75 लाख रु. थी।

अभ्युक्ति : कुल उपलब्ध निधियों में वर्ष के दौरान केन्द्रीय रिलीज, राज्य रिलीज, विविध प्राप्तियां, पिछले वर्ष जारी परंतु इस वर्ष में प्राप्त निधियां शामिल हैं।

विवरण-॥

रोजगार पाने वाले परिवारों का ब्यौरा

क्र. सं.	जिला	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (अक्तू., 09 तक)
		परिवारों की संख्या जिन्हें रोजगार दिया गया	परिवारों की संख्या जिन्हें रोजगार दिया गया	परिवारों की संख्या जिन्हें रोजगार दिया गया	परिवारों की संख्या जिन्हें रोजगार दिया गया
चरण-1 (2.2.06 से)					
1.	होशियारपुर	31648	26297	35512	25096
चरण-2 (1.4.07 से)					
2.	अमृतसर	15555	14913	5774	15555
3.	जालंधर	3111	4234	3288	3111
4.	नवांशहर	4727	4154	5165	4727
चरण-3 (1.4.08 से)					
5.	बरनाला			1268	1127
6.	भटिंडा			17036	8986
7.	फरीदकोट			5319	1850
8.	फतेहगढ़ साहेब			1955	1581
9.	फिरोजपुर			9943	8617
10.	गुरदासपुर			7036	12804
11.	कपूरथला			2566	1139
12.	लुधियाना			996	5023
13.	मानसा			7241	3681
14.	मोगा			1703	932
15.	मुक्तसर			11259	10635
16.	पटियाला			4398	5756
17.	रूपनगर			1046	2778
18.	संगरूर			11652	28780
19.	एसएस नगर			5763	515
20.	तरनतारन			1908	1521
	कुल	31648	49690	149902	135048

विवरण-III

पंजाब में नरेगा के अंतर्गत शिकायतों की स्थिति

क्र. सं.	जिला	शिकायतकर्ता का नाम	लगाए गए आरोप	मंत्रालय द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई	की गई कार्रवाई के बारे में राज्य सरकार की रिपोर्ट
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	अमृतसर तथा जालंधर	दिनांक 6.11.2009 की समाचार पत्र कतरन किसका शीर्षक था “केंद्र रोजगार की गारंटी देता है, परंतु पंजाब रोजगार नहीं देता”	विशेष रूप से अमृतसर तथा जालंधर जिलों में बीडीओ, पंचायत सचिवों एवं सरपंचों के खराब कार्य-निष्पादन के कारण नरेगा निधियों का कम उपयोग	मामले को 21.11.2007 को राज्य सरकार को भेजा गया था	राज्य ने सूचित किया है कि अमृतसर तथा जालंधर को 2007-08 में कवर किया गया है। प्रारंभिक तथा अन्य महत्वपूर्ण गतिविधियों के कारण चरण-II जिले में क्षेत्र में कार्य नवम्बर, 2007 में शुरू किया गया था। अब कार्य तेजी से हो रहा है और पिछले तीन महीनों में इसमें बहुत सुधार हुआ है। फरवरी, 2008 तक कुल 5081.58 लाख रु. की उपलब्ध निधियों में से 2371.86 लाख रु. (47%) की राशि उपयोग कर ली गई है और 15.12 लाख रु. श्रम दिवस सृजित किए गए हैं।
2.	फिरोजपुर तथा तरनतारन	श्री जय सिंह, अध्यक्ष, दलित दासता विरोधी आंदोलन, जालंधर	फिरोजपुर तथा तरनतारन जिले में जीरा घल खुर्द तथा पट्टी ब्लॉक में पंजीकरण हेतु आवेदन स्वीकार करने और पात्र परिवारों को जॉब कार्ड जारी करने से इंकार करना	मामले को 16.6.08 को राज्य सरकार को भेजा गया था। एनएलएम की नियुक्ति की गई थी। जिसने आरोपों को सही नहीं पाया है।	राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के अनुसार शिकायत को आधारहीन पाया गया है।
3.	होशियारपुर	श्री रोशन लाल तथा अन्य,	• गाँव कार्डों में जाली प्रविष्टि	राज्य सरकार से 5.5.2009	एडीसी (विकास), होशियारपुर ने बताया है

1	2	3	4	5	6
		गम्बोवाल, तहसील - दसुहा, जिला-होशियारपुर	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • सरपंच द्वारा जॉब कार्ड अपने पास रखना • लोगों को काम न दिया जाना। 	को जांच हेतु अनुरोध किया गया था।	कि एसडीएम, दसुहा को जांच की जिम्मेवारी दी गई थी। एसडीएम, दसुहा ने सूचित किया है कि एनआरईजीएस के अंतर्गत ग्राम पंचायत को 4.90 लाख रु. दिए गए थे। सभी 53 जॉब कार्डधारियों को रोजगार दिया गया। ग्राम पंचायत द्वारा बाहर से कोई मजदूर नहीं लिया गया था। सभी 14 शिकायतकर्ताओं को मांग पर रोजगार दिया गया। एडीसी (विकास) ने यह भी बताया है कि शिकायत दोनों पक्षों के बीच आंतरिक लड़ाई के कारण होती गई थी। उन्होंने यह भी सिफारिश की है कि शिकायत को फाईल कर दिया जाए।
4.	जालंधर	श्री रंजीत सिंह सुपुत्र श्री केवल सिंह, ग्राम पंचायत, कोट खुर्द, तहसील, जिला जालंधर (पूर्व), पंजाब	सरपंच, श्री प्रवीन कुमार द्वारा 2 लाख रु. की निधि का दुरुपयोग।	राज्य सरकार से 23.6-.2009 को जांच हेतु अनुरोध किया गया था।	जांच एडीसी (विकास), जालंधर को सौंपी गई थी जिन्होंने अपने दिनांक 25.11.09 के पत्र द्वारा सूचित किया है कि एनआरईजीएस के तहत ग्राम पंचायत कोट खुर्द द्वारा कार्यान्वित कार्य की अधिशासी अभियंता, पंचायती राज, जालंधर द्वारा जांच की गई थी और इसे सही पाया गया था। कार्य की सामाजिक लेखा परीक्षा भी की जा चुकी है। इस प्रकार, शिकायत बेबुनियाद है और इसे फाईल कर दिया जाए।
5.	जालंधर	श्री रंजीत सिंह सुपुत्र श्री केवल सिंह, ग्राम पंचायत, कोट खुर्द, ब्लॉक पूर्व, जिला जालंधर।	श्री प्रवीन कुमार, ग्राम पंचायत, कोट खुर्द के स्थान पर अन्य गांव कुमर पिंड में सड़क के निर्माण की अनुमति देकर निधियों का दुरुपयोग करना।	राज्य सरकार से 6.7-.2009 को जांच हेतु अनुरोध किया गया था।	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	संगरूर	श्री विजय इन्दर सिंगला, संसद सदस्य (लोक सभा)	निधियों का उपयुक्त वितरण न करना, जिला संगरूर, पंजाब में नरेगा योजना के अंतर्गत कोई कार्य उपलब्ध नहीं कराया गया है तथा आंकड़ों की प्रविष्टि का कोई रिकार्ड उपलब्ध नहीं है।	राज्य सरकार से 07.11.2009 जांच हेतु अनुरोध किया गया।	एडीसी (विकास), संगरूर ने सूचित किया है कि जिला वार्षिक आधार पर पंचायत-वार श्रम बजट तैयार करता है और भारत सरकार से निधियां प्राप्त होने पर उन्हें ग्राम पंचायत अधिकारियों (नरेगा) को वितरित किया जाता है। संगरूर जिले में 549 परिवारों को रोजगार दिया गया है और 71893 रोजगार श्रमदिवस सृजित किए गए हैं।
7.	जालंधर	श्री जय सिंह, अध्यक्ष, नरेगा वर्कर्स यूनियन, बी-1/665, रंजीतगढ़ गुरुद्वारा रोड, फिल्लौर, जिला जालंधर द्वारा श्रीमती चरणजीत कौर, तथा नरेगा वर्कर्स यूनियन की शिकायतें भेजी गई हैं।	गांव सारावान बोदला, ब्लॉक मलौत, जिला मुक्तसर, पंजाब में मजदूरी के भुगतान में विलम्बा नरेगा, 2005 का उल्लंघन तथा जिला तरनतारन के पट्टी ब्लॉक में सुभ्रा गांव में जॉब कार्ड जारी न किया जाना।	राज्य सरकार से 22.10.2009 को जांच हेतु अनुरोध किया गया था।	शिकायत को एडीसी (विकास), जालंधर को भेजा गया था जिन्होंने सूचित किया है कि यह मामला जिला मुक्तसर से संबंधित है। अब इस मामले को एडीसी (विकास), मुक्तसर को जांच के लिए भेज दिया गया है।
8.	फिरोजपुर	श्री साहिब राम कदवासरा, पूर्व सरपंच, ग्राम पंचायत-रामसरा, तहसील-अबोहर, जिला-फिरोजपुर	जाली जॉब कार्डों के बारे में।	राज्य सरकार से 20.8.2009 को जांच हेतु अनुरोध किया गया था।	उत्तर प्रतीक्षित है।

Implementation of NREGS in Punjab

†*163. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated, till date, to Punjab under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the total number of jobs created in the State under NREGS, district-wise;

(c) the details of complaints received so far regarding irregularities in the Scheme, in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the details of complaints which are still pending, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) NREGS is demand driven and not an allocation based programme. Year-wise and district-wise release of Central share of funds is given at Statement-I (*See below*). The total number of households provided employment in the State is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Eight complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of NREGS in Punjab have so far been received in this Ministry. These complaints were forwarded to the State Government for appropriate action. Action has been completed in respect of six complaints. The remaining two complaints are pending in the State Government. District-wise details are given in Statement-III (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Year-wise and District-wise details of funds released

(In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Districts	2006-07				2007-08				2008-09				2009-10 (upto Oct., 09)			
		Central Release	Total Available Funds	Total Expen- diture	Closing Balance	Central Release	Total Available Funds	Total Expen- diture	Closing Balance	Central Release	Total Available Funds	Total Expen- diture	Closing Balance	Central Release	Total Available Funds	Total Expen- diture	Closing Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Hoshiarpur	2755.75	3839.21	2500.21	1339.00	380.15	2183.59	1676.93	506.66	1862.53	2567.72	2061.22	506.50	1738.60	2245.10	1411.65	833.45
2.	Amritsar					1096.28	1466.93	1086.84	380.09	721.92	1256.29	1132.64	123.65	600.00	814.95	514.02	300.93
3.	Jalandhar					504.59	918.53	102.80	815.73	0.00	815.73	193.71	622.02	0.00	622.02	204.55	417.47
4.	Nawanshahar					49.30	456.31	137.72	318.59	0.00	318.59	252.27	66.32	212.47	278.79	250.57	28.22
5.	Barnala									279.24	395.68	279.17	116.51	0.00	116.51	113.90	2.61
6.	Bathinda									491.53	705.05	465.25	239.80	737.40	1143.20	533.68	609.52
7.	Faridkot									116.66	141.62	46.18	95.44	73.23	192.08	91.54	100.54
8.	Fatehgarh Sahib									89.58	211.01	142.90	68.11	67.05	136.31	86.97	49.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9.	Firozepur									205.75	313.95	133.47	180.48	150.00	330.48	325.12	5.36
10.	Gurdaspur									309.02	540.12	385.73	154.39	413.10	607.64	502.92	104.72
11.	Kapurthala									95.89	104.71	69.24	35.47	60.00	95.47	69.88	25.59
12.	Ludhiana									170.83	402.07	100.79	301.28	71.70	372.98	240.81	132.17
13.	Mansa									403.93	445.73	196.58	249.15	312.93	562.17	284.18	277.99
14.	Moga									92.95	104.19	93.86	10.33	20.97	32.00	29.18	2.82
15.	Muktsar									233.98	400.44	240.89	159.55	311.72	471.27	459.24	12.03
16.	Patiala									480.48	639.02	284.84	354.18	316.54	670.72	260.56	410.16
17.	Rupnagar									242.52	434.57	124.12	310.45	22.00	332.45	277.84	54.61
18.	Sangrur									689.20	1091.99	707.56	384.43	239.65	624.08	377.68	246.40
19.	SAS Nagar									154.95	251.38	230.79	20.59	0.00	41.18	20.59	20.59
20.	Tarantaran									134.36	150.82	94.60	56.22	50.00	106.22	56.11	50.11
TOTAL		2755.75*	3839.21	2500.21	1339.00	2030.32	5025.36	3004.29	2021.07	6775.32	11290.68	7235.81	4054.87	5397.36	9795.62	6110.99	3684.63

*In addition Rs.130 lakh were released to Amritsar, Rs.230 lakh to Jalandhar Rs.330 lakh to Nawashahar covered in phase-II for preparatory activities. Total release to Punjab in 06-07 was thus Rs. 3445.75 lakh

Remarks: Total available funds include central releases, State releases, miscellaneous receipts during the year, funds released in the previous year put received during the year and carry over balance.

Statement-II

Details of the families provided employment

Sl. No.	District	2006-07 No. of households provided employment	2007-08 No. of households provided employment	2008-09 No. of households provided employment	2009-10 upto Oct, 09 No. of households provided employment
Phase-I with effect from 2.2.06					
1.	Hoshiarpur	31648	26297	35512	25096
Phase-II with effect from 1.4.07					
2.	Amritsar		15555	14913	5774
3.	Jalandhar		3111	4234	3288
4.	Nawanshahr		4727	4154	5165
Phase-III with effect from 1.4.08					
5.	Barnala			1268	1127
6.	Bathinda			17036	8986
7.	Faridkot			5319	1850
8.	Fatehgarh Sahib			1955	1581
9.	Firozpur			9943	8617
10.	Gurdaspur			7036	12804
11.	Kapurthala			2566	1139
12.	Ludhiana			996	5023
13.	Mansa			7241	3681
14.	Moga			1703	932
15.	Muktsar			11259	10635
16.	Patiala			4398	5756
17.	Rupnagar			1046	2778
18.	Sangrur			11652	28780
19.	SAS Nagar			5763	515
20.	Tarantaran			1908	1521
TOTAL		31648	49690	149902	135048

Statement-III

Status of complaints under NREGS in Punjab

Sl. No.	District	Name of the complainant	Allegations made	Action taken by Ministry	Action reported by State Government
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Amritsar and Jalandhar	Newspaper clipping dated 06.11.07 titled "Centre guarantees jobs, but Punjab doesn't give any"	Poor utilization of NREGA funds due to dismal performance of the BDOs, Panchayat Secretaries and Sarpanches, particularly in Amritsar and Jalandhar districts	Forwarded to the State Government on 21.11.07.	The State has reported that Jalandhar and Amritsar have been covered during 2007-08. The work in phase-II district was started in field during November, 2007 due to preparatory and other critical activities. The progress has since picked up and improved in the last three months. Upto February, 2008 out of total available funds of Rs. 5081.58 lakh, an amount of Rs. 2371.86 lakh (47%) have been utilized and 15.12 lakh Mandays have been generated.
2.	Ferozepur and Taran Taran	Sh. Jai Singh, President Dalit Dasta Virodhi Andolan, Jalandhar	Refusal to accept application registration and to provide job cards to eligible household in Zeera, Ghal Khurd and Patti block in district Ferozepur and Taran Taran.	Forwarded to the State Government on 16.6.08. NLM was deputed who has reported that the allegation are not proved.	As per report received from State Government the complaint is found baseless.
3.	Hoshiarpur	Shri Roshan Lal and others, Village Gambowal, Tehsil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fake entry in job cards. • Keeping job cards in the custody by Sarpanch. 	Requested State Government for investigation on	ADC (dev.), Hoshiarpur has reported that enquiry was entrusted to SDM, Dasuha. The SDM Dasuha has reported that an

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Dasuha, District Hoshiarpur	• People not getting work.	05.05.2009.	amount of Rs. 4.90 lakh was given to Gram Panchayat under NREGS. All the 53 job cards holders were given employment. No labour from outside was engaged by the Gram Panchayat. All the 14 complainants were provided employment on their demand. The ADC (dev.) has also reported that the complaint was made due to internal dispute among both the parties. ADC (Dev.) has also recommended that complaint may be filed.
4.	Jalandhar	Shri Ranjit Singh S/o Kawal Singh, Kot Khurd, Gram Panchayat, tehsil, District Jalandhar (East), Punjab	Misappropriation of fund of Rs. 2 lakh by Sarpanch, Praveen Kumar	Forwarded to State Government for investigation on 23.06.2009.	The enquiry was entrusted to ADC (Dev.) Jalandhar who has reported <i>vide</i> his letter dated 25.11.09 that the work executed by Gram Panchayat, Kot Khurd under NREGS were got checked by Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, Jalandhar and was found proper, Even the social audit of the work has been done. Hence the complaint is without merit and deserves to be filed.
5.	Jalandhar	Shri Ranjit Singh, Gram Panchayat Kot Khurd, Block East, District Jalandhar	Misuse of funds by sarpanch Shri Praveen Kumar, GP Kot Khurd by allowing construction of road in other village Kukar Pind and not in Kot Khurd village	Forwarded to State Government for investigation on 06.07.2009	
6.	Sangrur	Shri Vijay Inder Singla, Member of Parliament	Improper distribution of funds, no work has been provided and	Forwarded to State Government for	ADC (Dev.) Sangrur has reported that the District prepares Panchayat-wise Labour

1	2	3	4	5	6
		(Lok Sabha)	no record of data entry under NREGA Scheme in district Sangrur, Punjab	investigation on 7.11.2009	<p>Budget and work Projection annually and when the funds are received from GOI, these are disbursed to Gram Panchayats Officers (NREGA)</p> <p>In Sangrur District, 549 households have been provided employment and 71893 persondays have been generated.</p> <p>Record of data of Sangrur has been entered on the MIS which may be seen on the NREGA <i>i.e.</i> www.nrega.nic.in</p>
7.	Jalandhar	Shri Jai Singh, President, NREGA workers Union, B-1/665, Ranjitgarh Gurudwara Road, Phillaur, District Jalandhar has forward complaints of Mrs. Charanjith Kaur and NREGA Workers Union	<p>Delay in payment of wages in village Sarawan Bodla, Block Mlout, District Mukatsar, Punjab</p> <p>Violation of NREGA, 2005 and non-issuance of job cards in Village, Subhra in Patti Block of District Taran Taran.</p>	Forwarded to State Government for investigation on 22.10.2009	<p>This complaint was sent to ADC (Dev.) Jalandhar who has reported that this matter pertain to District Mukatsar. Now this matter is being forwarded to ADC (Dev.), Mukatsar for making enquiry in this regard.</p>
8.	Ferozepur	Shri Sahib Ram Kadasara, former Sarpanch Gram Panchayat—Ramsra, Tehsil- Abohar, Firozpur District	Issue of bogus job cards	Forwarded to State Government for investigation on 20.08.2009	Reply is awaited

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसकी स्टेटमेंट में लिखा है कि 2006-07 में 3839.21 लाख funds की availability थी, 2500 करोड़ का एक्सपेंडिचर हुआ और 1339 लाख unused रहा। इसी तरह 2007-08 में और 2008-09 में भी जो availability of funds है, उसमें इसका एक्सपेंडिचर भी 2000 लाख के करीब हुआ। महोदय, पंजाब में बेरोज़गारों की संख्या में कोई कमी नहीं है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका एक्सपेंडिचर क्यों नहीं हो रहा है और प्लान properly execute क्यों नहीं हो रहा है?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, NREGA demand-driven scheme है। लोग काम मांगते हैं, तब उनको काम देते हैं। As per the Act, दिसंबर महीने में लेबर बजट बनाकर भारत सरकार को भेजना पड़ता है। वहां से भारत सरकार द्वारा लेबर बजट पाने के बाद जितनी डिमांड होती है, उतना पैसा वहां पर खर्च होता है। इसी आधार पर वहां की सरकार ने उस डिस्ट्रिक्ट में जितने proposal भेजे, उस हिसाब से पैसा रिलीज किया। वहां पर काम नहीं हो पाया, इसलिए इसका पैसा बचा हुआ है। इसमें बजट एलोकेशन का कॉन्सेप्ट नहीं है।

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Sir, the reply is not satisfactory. As per facts available, हमारे पंजाब में टोटल 20 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं। होशियारपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में 35,512 households को employment दिया गया है। Hoshiarpur is one leading district, लेकिन पंजाब में ही लुधियाना डिस्ट्रिक्ट है, जिसने केवल 996 households को employment दिया है। तो जो गैप है, वह डिस्ट्रिक्ट एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की lacking की वजह से है। वह स्कीम को sincerity से लागू न करने के कारण है। अभी भी इस साल की जो स्कीम है, उसमें भी जो मोगा डिस्ट्रिक्ट है, उसमें भी सिर्फ 932 परिवारों को employment दिया है, जबकि मोगा गरीबी के लिहाज से शायद पंजाब में सबसे आगे होगा। क्या वहां के लोग रोजगार नहीं चाहते हैं? लोग रोजगार चाहते हैं, लेकिन सरकार की मशीनरी में कुछ कमियां हैं। इसलिए महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मिनिस्टर साहब से आश्वासन चाहूंगा कि जिन डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में, जैसे होशियारपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट economically forward डिस्ट्रिक्ट है और वहां 35,512 households को employment मिला है....

श्री सभापति : सवाल पूछिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : मेरा सवाल यह है कि जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट इस स्कीम को लागू नहीं कर रहे हैं, क्या आदरणीय मंत्री जी यह एश्योरेंस देंगे कि उन डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में भी होशियारपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट की तरह आगे बढ़कर वे इस स्कीम को लागू कराएंगे?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : महोदय, यदि वहां काम करने वाले व्यक्ति available हैं और सरकार उनको काम नहीं दे रही है, तब तो हम इसमें intervene कर सकते हैं, लेकिन लगता है कि वहां काम मांगने वालों की संख्या कम है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि आपके पास यदि कोई स्पेसिफिक जानकारी हो कि जो कार्ड बने हुए हैं, उनको सरकार काम नहीं दे रही है, तो वह आप मुझे दें। तभी भारत सरकार राज्य सरकार से उस संबंध में कुछ बात करेगी।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : Information provide करवा देंगे।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : चेयरमैन सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वैसे तो यह पंजाब का सवाल है, लेकिन ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना में अनियमितताएं बहुत आ रही हैं। हमारा वास्ता देहात से बहुत ज्यादा है और मंत्री जी ने अभी बताया कि देहात के अंदर काम ज्यादा है और काम करने वाले कम हैं।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह (क्रमागत) : मैं इनसे यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सरकार के विचाराधीन है कि जिस गांव में राँ मैटीरियल मिलता है, वहां पर ट्रेनिंग देकर रोजगार गारंटी योजना उन्हीं को दी जाए, विशेषकर उसी इलाके के लोगों को रोजगार दिया जाए।

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : महोदय, मैं समझता हूँ कि हम सबको मिलकर लोगों को जानकारी देने की आवश्यकता है कि यह वह स्कीम है, जिसमें पैसे की कमी नहीं है। जितने लोग काम करना चाहते हैं, उनको काम मिलेगा। यदि जागरूकता नहीं है तो हम सभी पॉलिटिकल पार्टियों के वर्कर्स की ड्यूटी बनती है कि उनमें जागरूकता लाएं और जिन लोगों को जॉब की आवश्यकता है, उनको जॉब मिले। मैं समझता हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य मेरी इस भावना से सहमत होंगे और मेरी जानकारी में अगर वे कुछ और बात लाएंगे तो हम निश्चित तौर पर उस पर और कार्यवाही करेंगे।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : मैंने पूछा कि क्या आप वहां ट्रेनिंग देने जा रहे हैं?

श्री बलबीर पुंज : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच नहीं है कि पंजाब में जो वेजिज़ हैं, जो दिहाड़ी है, वह डेढ़ सौ, पौने दो सौ रुपए तक की है और जो आपकी योजना है, उसमें जो दिहाड़ी दी जाती है, प्रतिदिन मजदूरी दी जाती है, वह सौ रुपए है? इस कारण से - क्योंकि आपकी मजदूरी का रेट कम है और बाजयर में मजदूरी ज्यादा मिलती है - इस योजना में बहुत सारे लोगों को रोजगार उपलब्ध नहीं हो रहा है। क्या यह भी सत्य नहीं है कि पंजाब सरकार ने आपसे निवेदन किया है कि इस योजना का जो प्रारूप है, वह प्रदेशानुसार बदला जाए और पंजाब की जो परिस्थिति है, उसके हिसाब से वहां पर यह योजना लागू की जाए जिससे ये जो आंकड़े, आपको अलग-अलग जिलों में नज़र आ रहे हैं, जिसमें कुल मिलाकर अभी तक मुश्किल से 61 करोड़ रुपए इस योजना पर खर्च हुए हैं, वहां पर भी लोग इस योजना का लाभ उठा सकें।

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, इस योजना को बनाने के पीछे मंशा यह थी कि गांव में रहने वाले गरीब आदमी को हम सौ दिन रोजगार की गारंटी का assurance दें। अब wages से इसका संबंध नहीं है। जो prosperous states हैं, उनके minimum wages ज्यादा हैं। Minimum wages का इसके साथ कोई संबंध नहीं है। जहां-जहां पर भी इन दोनों के बीच में अंतर है, वहां पर लोग प्राइवेट में काम करने जा रहे हैं और इस योजना के अंतर्गत काम करने नहीं आ रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि दोनों चीजों के बीच अंतर समझने की आवश्यकता है। इस प्रकार उन गरीब आदमियों को, जिनको lean period के अंदर काम नहीं मिलता है, उनको काम देने के लिए यह कानून बनाया गया है।

श्री बलबीर पुंज : क्या पंजाब सरकार ने इस बारे में उनको आवेदन किया है? मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग था कि...(व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति : एक समय में एक ही सवाल कीजिए।

श्री बलबीर पुंज : मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग था कि क्या पंजाब सरकार ने आपसे निवेदन किया है कि इस योजना पर पुनः विचार करें?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : यह पंजाब सरकार का सवाल नहीं है। पूरे भारत के अंदर यह योजना लागू है। जिस स्टेट में यह अंतर है, वहां पर इस योजना के अंतर्गत काम कम हो रहा है। जहां पर जॉब की आवश्यकता है, वहां पर हमने ensure किया है कि हम 100 रुपए तक देंगे। जो भी आदमी काम करने आएगा, उसको 100 रुपए का assurance है, बाकी को जहां ज्यादा मिल रहा है, वहां काम करें।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : क्या आपने 100 रुपए minimum wage कर दिया है? ..(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: You ensure hundred rupees. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't intervene. ... (Interruptions)... Please don't intervene. ... (Interruptions)... Don't intervene in the... ... (Interruptions)... Please listen.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, hundred rupees is not... ... (Interruptions)...

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : आप लोग सुनिए तो सही। ... (व्यवधान)... महोदय, कांग्रेस पार्टी ने चुनाव से पहले यह आश्वासन दिया था। ... (व्यवधान)... आप सुन तो लीजिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : यह कांग्रेस पार्टी का सवाल नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. *(Interruptions)* It is a national scheme. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not something...
...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)... It is a national scheme. *(Interruptions)* Please.
(Interruptions) Please.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का सवाल है। यह सारे भारतवर्ष का सवाल है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, the Minister is... ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सभापति महोदय...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. *(Interruptions)* One minute. *(Interruptions)* आप ज़रा एक मिनट मेरी बात सुन लीजिए।...(व्यवधान)... One minute. *(Interruptions)* The question relates to a national scheme of the Government. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : कई ऐसी स्टेट्स हैं जहां कांग्रेस की सरकार नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)... आप थोड़ा संतोष रखिए।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, no further discussion on this. *(Interruptions)* Please.
(Interruptions)

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : आप भारत सरकार के मंत्री हैं।...(व्यवधान)... The Minister must know it.
(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: I am a Minister of the Government of India. I am aware about it.
(Interruptions)

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

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सरकारी पैसे से सबसे ज्यादा पार्टी का काम करते हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to say ..*(Interruptions)*..

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सर, मैं फिर रिपीट कर रहा हूं। कांग्रेस पार्टी ने चुनाव घोषणा पत्र में यह कहा कि हम सौ रुपए देंगे। आज सरकार में आने के बाद मैं यह घोषणा करना चाहता हूं कि ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम सौ रुपए देंगे। जो भी सरकार की घोषणा थी, उसको लागू किया।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : ये कांग्रेस के मंत्री नहीं हैं।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप ज़रा बैठ जाइए। देखिए, ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please ..*(Interruptions)*.. Please ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: I am aware of this. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I am aware of this.
..*(Interruptions)*.. Don't worry about this. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to say ..*(Interruptions)*.. I am sorry ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: I am a Minister of Government of India. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I am a responsible man. ..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Leader of the Opposition is saying something. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Please ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I have a point of order, Sir. ..*(Interruptions)*..

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

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: I am a responsible man. *..(Interruptions)..* It is my party's commitment, not your party's commitment. *..(Interruptions)..* It is my party's commitment to the people of the country. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please *..(Interruptions)..* The Leader of Opposition. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I have a point of order. Sir, each one of us is expected to maintain a certain quorum or dignity. But we expect certain exemplary conduct from Ministers. After you have almost directly indicated that the Minister must answer on behalf of the Government, he is not standing here as a spokesman of a party; he is standing here as a Minister of the Government, this is still not a sufficient clue to the Minister to discipline himself and he now starts answering as though this is a street meeting that he is addressing on behalf of his party. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Sir, I am very sorry. *..(Interruptions)..* He is a senior leader. *..(Interruptions)..* We have gone to the people of this nation *..(Interruptions)..* What is wrong in it? *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please *..(Interruptions)..* Let us get on with the Question Hour. *..(Interruptions)..* Please *..(Interruptions)..* All right *..(Interruptions)..* Okay *..(Interruptions)..*

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : लोगों को रोजगार मिलना चाहिए। *.. (व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your places. *..(Interruptions)..* Let's get on with the Question Hour. *..(Interruptions)..* Please *..(Interruptions)..* Please *..(Interruptions)..* Just one minute. *..(Interruptions)..*

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, he should apologise. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please *..(Interruptions)..* This is not on record. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Madam, I have said in the House that from first April 2008, we are committed to give one hundred rupees *..(Interruptions)..* We will give it. *..(Interruptions)..*

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

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, my request is, after the hon. Chair has said something, the Minister should not provoke others. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the Question Hour. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I only request the Chair to direct the Minister to withdraw the statement. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please *..(Interruptions)..* Let's get on with the Question Hour. *..(Interruptions)..*

*Not recorded.

श्री एम० वेंकैया नायडु : कांग्रेस कहाँ से आ गई ? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ..*(Interruptions)*.. Mrs. Karat, please ..*(Interruptions)*.. I request you to resume your places. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Dr. Malaisamy, does your supplementary relate to this question? ..*(Interruptions)*.. It relates to Punjab? ..*(Interruptions)*..

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, it directly relates to this question. ..*(Interruptions)*.. I will come to this. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, as far as the scheme is concerned, the CAG has conducted a performance audit some time back. During the audit, the auditor has made an observation that though the scheme is laudable in letter and spirit, it has been badly implemented. I mean, he has illustrated it in several ways. On of the ways that, I am coming to the question, the person who is seeking employment after he is registered. But he has not been given the employment. With the result he has to wait. The law says, the Act says that during the time of non employment after registration, he has to be paid. But he has not been paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What's the question?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: There are several illustrations like this. May I know from the Minister whether these kinds of lapses have been corrected or not?

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Sir, such lapses have been corrected and the few States have paid the dues as per the provisions of the Act. There are examples of few States which have paid it.

We are adhering to the provision given in the Act. If they are not giving jobs, after 15 days, the State Government is paying unemployment allowance. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. *(Interruptions)* No argumentation, please. *(Interruptions)* No arguments. Question No.164.

Rise in prices

*164. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:††

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising prices of food articles and certain manufactured items have pushed up inflation past the one per cent mark to 1.21 per cent in October, 2009;

(b) whether having remained in negative territory for 13 straight weeks during 2009, mainly owing to high base effect, the whole-sale price index based inflation changed its course to move into the positive zone in the month of September;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to control rise of prices to check inflation?

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

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The overall inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base 1993-94=100) for October, 2009 was 1.34 per cent. During the same month the WPI inflation in the three broad categories of Primary Articles; Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants; and Manufacturing Products were as under :

Table : Inflation for broad categories of WPI

Month-year	Weight (%)	WPI based Inflation (%) October, 2009
Primary Articles	22.02	8.71
Of which Food Articles	15.40	13.32
Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.23	-6.55
Manufacturing Products	63.75	1.36
Overall WPI	100.00	1.34

P: Provisional

As per the provisional figures for the WPI released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the WPI inflation was in negative territory for 13 consecutive weeks during June—August, 2009. However, on the basis of final figures made available by DIPP, the WPI inflation was in the negative zone from 6.6.2009 to 15.8.2009 (11 weeks). It is in positive zone, thereafter. The movement of inflation to the positive zone is primarily because of waning of the base effect of last year level and increase in the inflation in primary articles specifically food articles.

The Government has taken several measures to control rise of prices to check inflation which include reducing import duties on wheat, pulses, maize, raw sugar etc.; imposition of stock limits in the case of paddy rice, pulses, sugar; and ban on export of non-basmati rice.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, if I go through the reply of the hon. Minister, he has made it very clear that several steps have been taken to control the price rise, which include reducing import duty on several food items and sugar, and imposition of stock limits.

Sir, it appears the problem is basically coming from hoarders, black-marketeers and speculators of essential commodities. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has given any direction to the State Governments to keep a check on these people, because primarily the State Governments are responsible to have a look on these people, to keep an eye on these people. What are the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of price rise is concerned, it is a matter of concern to everybody because the common people suffer from it. This trend of inflation is not demand-pull inflation; it is mainly because of the shortage of certain essential commodities. For instance, our total production of pulses is 14.80 million tonnes, while our requirement is 18 million tonnes. This is a shortfall of nearly 3.6 million tonnes. That means 36 lakh tonnes. Very few countries, like Myanmar and Turkey, produce pulses. And those who produce it in the sub-continent like Bangladesh and Pakistan, they themselves consume it and there is no exportable surplus. Similarly, this year sugar availability would be about 16 million tonnes and our requirement would be 23 million tonnes. So there is a shortfall and it is pushing up the prices. Our total production of edible oil is 92.98 million tonnes and our demand is 158.64 million tonnes. That is why we have to import it. In fact, to ameliorate the adverse impact of rising prices, particularly on the vulnerable sections of society, the answer lies in strengthening the Public Distribution System. If we can improve the Public Distribution System, it would be possible for us to substantially provide relief to the vulnerable sections of society, particularly those who are in the BPL category.

So far as the question relating to de-hoarding or taking action against hoarders, black-marketeers, and profiteers is concerned, we are in touch with all the State Governments. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and Public Distribution is having discussion with them from time to time, and they are trying their best. But the problem is still there.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Despite the shortfall in grains, is the Minister still hopeful of having economic growth over six per cent?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, inflation has no direct correlation with growth. Of course, it has some correlation with it. But the fact of the matter is that there is an inflationary pressure in the system. But I started my observations in replying to the question that up to now we did not find that there is any demand-pull inflation or the availability of more supply of money is causing the inflationary trend. It is not. The classical theory that too much money chasing too few goods is not applicable here, because there are genuine shortfalls. It is mainly because of imbalance between demand and supply. The figure available for the last second quarter of the GDP growth is 7.9 per cent, which is quite encouraging. I do hope that if this trend continues, we will surely enter into the high-growth trajectory. But I am not just forecasting anything. I am a bit cautious of making any prediction.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I am not asking a question. I am requesting you for something else. Question 170. Can you please club it? Can you check it? It is on the same subject. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to know one thing. In the year 2008, the inflation went beyond 12 per cent, but our UPA Government has successfully succeeded to bring it down to below zero level; because of that, the entire nation is feeling very happy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What is the question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Let me complete. Why are you impatient? Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... You keep on shouting; I don't care. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you don't allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, now, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question? ...*(Interruptions)*... Put the question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The question is, the inflation has now come down to 1.14. Sir, my question is ...*(Interruptions)*... From zero, it is going up; 1.14. There is a poor monsoon; there is a drought; there are floods in the nation. Now, the food article prices are going up. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister what efforts he is going to make to see that the inflation rate will not again grow in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member, in one way, is correct that we got some statistical advantage for about 11 weeks where the negative rate of WPI was there. But those are because of the variations of the base years. Actually, it is not that the prices come down certainly. But for making a comparison on a year-to-year basis, with reference to a particular day, sometimes, it happens. So, he is correct in one sense that for 11 weeks, from 6th June to the end of August, there were negative rates of inflation so far as WPI is concerned.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister has, in his reply, given us data which suggests that the whole sale price index of food articles has gone up. It is now up 13.32 per cent. If you actually take the retail price, which is the consumer price index, it is nearly 20 per cent. The hon. Minister has also given us the reasons for that. Because of shortages, there is a pressure on the prices to rise. And that requires greater infrastructural investments in agriculture. That is a separate issue; I am not going into that. I am happy that he has talked about strengthening the PDS. But that is just not happening. The price-rise is, actually, a very, very serious burden on the livelihood of the vast majority of our people. In this context, the additional factor that is pushing up the prices much beyond what the shortages should warrant is the speculation in trading. Will the hon. Minister give an assurance to this House to ban this speculation in trading? Will the Minister consider banning the futures trading and speculative trading in essential commodities and (b) take measures to ensure that all essential commodities will go through. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One question please.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: One question, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Only one question. Both are part of the same question, Sir! Ban the essential commodities from speculative trading and include all essential commodities in the Public Distribution System.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is three questions in one!

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the strengthening of Public Distribution System is concerned and so far as taking action against hoarders and traders is concerned, this power is vested with the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can coordinate with them; I can advise them, but the actual execution is to be made by the State Governments.

So far as future trading is concerned, we are keeping a watch on it. A number of items have been put; for a number of dals, rice, the future trading has been banned. Therefore, it is not banned for today. It has been banned for quite some time.

And the third element which we are doing is this. I have stated the two points. As I mentioned, that is mainly because of the imbalance between the supply and the demand we have stopped exports of a large number of times, particularly and essentially the food items; which is the primary concern. If you look at the figure, there itself, you will find that for the manufacturing sector, it is 63 per cent of the WPI. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't mix it up. The question relates to WPI, not to CPI. WPI and CPI, there is a variation of the weightage. For instance, here, for food articles, it is only 15 per cent, the weightage in WPI. Food items has a weightage of 15 plus percentage wherein you take any CPI, whether it is industrial worker, whether it is an agricultural worker, whether it is a rural labour, the weightage of food items in that basket varies from 46 per cent to 48 per cent.

It is bound to vary. Therefore, there will be a divergence of views and divergence of approach. The question relates to the WPI. While dealing with the food items, I have myself admitted that it is a matter of concern that the prices of food items are increasing and we are taking all necessary steps that we can take. But simply I can't bridge the gap of 3-4 million tonnes of pulses if they are not available in the international market. I am just giving monthly figure. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: What about sugar? It is Rs.40 a kilogram.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, there is a shortfall of sugar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a wrong practice. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not going to yield. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not permitted here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manohar Joshi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am answering a question. You are nowhere in the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Vijayaraghavan, you can't get up like that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't get up like that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please don't show your temper in the House. Show your temper somewhere else. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't show your temper here. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am not going to yield. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are others who want to put questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are you trampling on their rights? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Vijayaraghavan, please don't shout. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. Shri Manohar Joshi.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, what I was going to tell the House was that I was answering and completing my answer. There is no need of interruption. If the hon. Members feel something more needs to be clarified, he or she is fully entitled to ask me. But please allow me to complete the answer because I am replying to a question put by somebody else.

My point is that we have taken steps, whatever is possible. But in the case of sugar there is a shortage. As I have mentioned, if there is a shortage of sugar, we are asking that raw sugar should be imported and duty-free import is permitted. But if the international price is high, how could you explain that you would buy it at a higher price in the international market? That is why even private traders are not coming. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: He knows that better than me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vijayaraghavan, will you please resume your place? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: He knows that better than anybody else....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manohar Joshi. ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please resume your places? Just one minute. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that only one person can speak at a time. This practice which has developed of interjecting at any point of time is simply not only rude but also a waste of the precious time of the House during the Question Hour. Shri Manohar Joshi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, what the Government is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. You can come and tell me your views a little later, but not now.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government has taken several measures to control the rise in prices. My question is very specific. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to consider the plight of poor people and whether the Government is going to organise something by which subsidy can be provided to such people who can't afford this rise in prices. Sir, I am putting this question because I experimented this as Chief Minister in the State of Maharashtra. The prices were controlled for five years. I would like to know whether the Government is going to do that.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, we are practically providing subsidy. The hon. Member is fully aware of it. For BPL families, through the Public Distribution System, we are providing rice at Rs.5.60 per kilogram. We are providing, through the Andhyodaya Anna Yojana, rice at Rs.3 per kilogram and wheat at Rs.2 per kilogram. We are providing for these social welfare programmes about 34 lakh tonnes of foodgrains per year. But there must be a vehicle to reach the poor and the vulnerable sections and it is only the Public Distribution System which we have at our command.

Except that, there is no other instrumentality through which we can reach them. I do agree that the rising prices hit the unorganised poor people the most. The organised sector can link it up with some sort of DA formula and other salaried classes can also have some sort of compensation mechanism, but the poor unorganised sector is the worst hit. Therefore, to provide amelioration, food subsidy of nearly Rs. 1,00,000 crore goes towards that so that, at least, the weaker sections of the society are insulated, to some extent, from the adverse impact of the rising prices.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is a very important question. Is the Government ready to approach this entire issue in a three-pronged manner? One, better targeting of subsidies to the vulnerable sections; two, monitoring regularly exports and imports because first we export and then we start importing and say that there is no stock available. Three, it is about long-term policy of increasing production. The Minister was, time and again, stressing on the fact that the production has gone down, not only here but also nearby. Keeping that in mind, is the Government, from long-term perspective and also short-term perspective, prepared for a three-pronged approach? I do not want to join the issue with the senior Minister. Just now the hon. Member quoted from the Congress Manifesto. I am also quoting from the Congress Manifesto. The Congress Manifesto says, "Within 100 days we will try to bring down the prices." The prices are skyrocketing now. What is the specific assurance the hon. Minister wants to give in this regard? The lower middle-class which is not covered by PDS is also one of the worst casualties. Is there any plan with the Government to take care of those vulnerable sections where the sugar is being sold at Rs. 40 per kilogram, rice at Rs. 35 per kilogram, and both the dals, arhar and tur, at Rs. 105 and Rs. 95 per kilogram? Is the Minister aware of this alarming situation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, prices of some essential commodities are available with me which I can share with the House. For instance, in the Delhi market, the price of rice per kilogram -- I am giving variations — between April and November, was Rs. 20 to Rs. 23; wheat price was Rs. 13 to Rs. 15; atta price was Rs. 15 to Rs. 17; gram dal price was Rs. 34 to Rs. 40; tur dal price was Rs. 59 to Rs. 91; sugar price was Rs. 27 to Rs. 38. (*Interruptions*). Sir, if you want I can lay the whole list on the Table of the House. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him conclude his reply.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Some hon. Members wanted these figures earlier, that is why I wanted to give these figures. So far as Shri Venkaiah Naidu's question about long-term and medium-term arrangement is concerned, in the past, in fact, we are trying it even from the mid 1980s. A mission mode approach was taken. But unfortunately we could not make a breakthrough. Even our efforts in the production of pulses failed to make a breakthrough. Again we are talking to the agriculture scientists as to how we can do it. Here you shall always have to keep in view that the farmers have an option. They can make a calculation that which particular crop will give him more profit.

Sometimes, as a result of this — sugar is a classical case — you will find that in one particular year, there is glut of sugar and in another year there is shortage of sugar. When there is glut of sugar, sugarcane growers do not get the price. So they do not go for the sugarcane production next year. These types of cyclical disorders have also taken place. But the ultimate answer lies in having more production and for that massive investment in agriculture is needed. We are doing so. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan, massive step up has been given and it is our programme also to step up agriculture investment both in the public and the private sectors so that, at least, agricultural growth continues at the annual average of four per cent. But sometimes, we are hovering between two and two-and-a-half per cent. This year it may be even less because of the adverse monsoon and because of flood and drought. These are the measures which we are taking.

Interest rate on the PSU deposits with banks

*165. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any guidelines to the nationalized banks regarding the interest on the deposits from the Public Sector Units (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether nationalized banks have been accepting such deposits at benchmark rates or less;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

(d) whether PSUs have claimed to be incurring loss on the deposits with the nationalized banks; and

(e) if so, what steps Government proposes to discount the loss to PSUs?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) In order to avoid undesirable competition amongst banks leading to arbitrary hikes in deposits rates, which have consequences for the economy, and considering the need to moderate the cost of credit, Government directed the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to discontinue the practice of inviting competitive bids for bulk deposits. Further, all the public sector banks (PSBs) were advised to publish their card rates for bulk deposits of Rs. 1 crore and above and, in order to bring about a level-playing field, to consider uniform card rates for bulk deposits for different maturities across PSBs.

(c) to (e) In view of huge liquidity in the system, to contain overall cost of funds and shrinking net interest margin of PSBs, presently the PSBs are offering lower interest rates for bulk deposits *vis-a-vis* retail deposits. Though this may lead to decrease in interest earning of some CPSEs, the move is aimed at benefiting the economy at large including the borrowing CPSEs, due to overall reduction in cost of funds.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply, "In view of huge liquidity in the system and to contain overall cost of funds, the PSBs are offering lower interest rates for bulk deposits." Now, when there is cartelisation by the banks, like the real demand and supply, which he has been mentioning about other commodities, in the money market also, it is the question of demand and supply. I cannot understand as to why the PSUs should be asked to subsidise the banks, because the whole percentage is just a minuscule percentage of deposits in the banks against the total deposits in the country. If that is so, it is not going to really affect the economy. It only affects the PSUs which are, otherwise, in trouble. Then, we question in Parliament. So, why should there not be maximum interest rates, whatever they can get in the market, either from the private banks or from the PSUs?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is not that simple because when there is competition, you go for competitive bidding, and it will, ultimately, distort the entire interest rate structure. And, what do we gain by it? The Public Sector Enterprises are expected to make profits by upgradation of scale, application of better technology and reducing the cost of production, and not by depositing their money over a period of time and earning their interest. Therefore, this distortion was going on. I do agree with the hon. Member; he is correct that the total investment is not very high. The total public sector deposits with the banks is Rs.25 lakh crores, and the percentage of the CPSEs is just 6.4 per cent. But it was creating distortion in the overall structure, and that cannot be permitted.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Investments in mutual funds by CPSUs have been banned till January, 2010. Does the Government plan to open it to the wisdom of the CPSUs, that they can invest in mutual funds after 2010? If that is so, then, planning for it has to be done now by the CPSUs, as we are nearing January, 2010.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this is not related to the main question.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the banks form the central net system of modern economy today. If that is so, our banks need to be streamlined. Now, the answer is very clear about bulk deposits and retail deposits. The bulk deposits and the corporate houses, which have the Instrument of Certificate of Deposits, are getting 10 to 12 per cent interest rate now, whereas on savings accounts, their interest rate now, I am told, is 3.5 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any strategy to encourage ordinary people to go in for net savings. If that is so, is the Government thinking of increasing the interest rate on savings accounts from 3.5 per cent to, at least, 5 per cent, which was there earlier?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Surely, I am not going to discuss the interest policy or the monetary policy in the House. It is a major policy matter, and this is being done by the Reserve Bank of India. Determining the interest rate is not in the domain of the Government of India. The senior Members would know it. It is in the domain of the Reserve Bank, which they do so, from time to time, keeping in view the overall requirements. We always encourage people for thrift, and various schemes are being introduced. But there must be a balance between the interest at which the banks will pay to the depositors and the interest which they will charge from the lender. Keeping that in view this balance is to be struck. Let us not enter into that area; let us leave it to the experts. The Reserve Bank is the competent body to deal with it. Let them do it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I asked...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, that question is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: One second, Sir. The answer says, 'the public sector banks were advised.' If that is so, why can't the Government advise the public sector banks? That is the simple question I asked.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The public sector banks are advised by us and also by the RBI. ...*(Interruptions)*...

गैस सिलेंडरों का अवैध व्यापार

†*166. श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में गैस में सिलेंडरों में कम गैस भर कर आपूर्ति करने तथा छोटे सिलेंडरों में गैस भरने का अवैध व्यापार चल रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार द्वारा इस पर रोक लगाने के लिए कोई प्रभावी कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री मुरली देवरा): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) हालांकि अंशतः इस्तेमाल शुदा सिलिंडरों/कम वजनी सिलिंडरों/एलपीजी सिलिंडरों से उत्पाद चोरी करके आपूर्ति करने की घटनाएं होती रही हैं, किन्तु सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसीज) के एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों द्वारा छोटे सिलिंडरों में गैस भरने की कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारियों द्वारा आकस्मिक सांख्यिकीय गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण जांच की जाती हैं जिनमें डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के गोदाम तथा सुपुर्दगी वाहन में उपलब्ध भरे हुए सिलिंडरों के वजन की जांच करना शामिल है ताकि चोरी/कम वजनी सिलिंडरों की उपस्थिति रोकी जा सके। डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों को यह भी अनुदेश दिए गए हैं कि वे सिलिंडरों को तोल कर ग्राहकों को सही वजन के संबंध में संतुष्ट करें तथा सीलों की जांच कराएं और सुपुर्दगी के समय ग्राहकों को दिखाएं। यदि ग्राहक द्वारा कम वजन का कोई सिलिंडर प्राप्त किया जाता है तो ओएमसीज द्वारा ऐसे सिलिंडर निःशुल्क बदले जाते हैं।

उद्योग एक ऐसे यंत्र पर काम कर रहा है जो एलपीजी सिलिंडर में लगाया जाएगा ताकि सिलिंडर से एलपीजी की चोरी रोकी जा सके। उद्योग ने नवंबर, 2009 में चोरी रोधी यंत्र विकसित करने के लिए रूचि की वैश्विक अभिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित की हैं।

जब कभी ओएमसीज को शिकायतें प्राप्त होती हैं, इनकी जांच की जाती है और यदि शिकायत की पुष्टि हो जाती है तो एमडीजी प्रावधानों के अनुसार एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर/डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के खिलाफ उपयुक्त कार्रवाई की जाती है। एमडीजी में डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने के लिए निम्नलिखित प्रावधान हैं-

- पहले अपराध पर 20,000 रुपये का जुर्माना तथा वाणिज्यिक दर पर विपथित एलपीजी का मूल्य।
- दूसरे अपराध पर 50,000 रुपये का जुर्माना तथा वाणिज्यिक दर पर विपथित एलपीजी का मूल्य।
- तीसरे अपराध पर डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप समाप्त करना।

ओएमसीज ने रिपोर्ट दी है कि एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों द्वारा कम वजनी सिलिंडरों की आपूर्ति/उत्पाद की चोरी की शिकायतें प्रमाणित होने के आधार पर 163 मामलों में कार्रवाई की गई है जिनमें विपणन अनुशासन दिशा-निर्देश (एमडीजी)/डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप करार के प्रावधानों के अनुसार विगत तीन वर्षों और अप्रैल-सितंबर, 2009 के दौरान, देश में चार एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों की समाप्ति किया जाना शामिल है।

ओएमसीज द्वारा की जाने वाली कार्रवाई के अतिरिक्त, राज्य सरकारें आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 के तहत प्रख्यापित एलपीजी (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण का विनियमन) आदेश, 2000 के तहत घरेलू एलपीजी की कालाबाजारी के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करने के लिए शक्ति प्रदत्त हैं। इसी प्रकार राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के माप-तौल विभाग कम वजनी एलपीजी सिलिंडरों की आपूर्ति करने वाले एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्रवाई शुरू करते हैं।

Illegal trade of gas cylinders

† *166. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the illegal trade of supplying underfilled gas cylinders and the filling of gas in small cylinders is being run in the country;

(b) if so, whether any effective steps are being taken by Government to check it; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) While there have been instances of supply of partially used cylinders/under-weight cylinders/pilfering product from LPG cylinders, no case of filling gas in small cylinders by the LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has been reported.

Surprise Quality Control Checks which includes weighment of cylinders are carried out at the distributors godown as well as enroute weight checking of filled cylinders available in delivery vehicle is being done by the field officers to check pilferage/presence of any underweight cylinders. The distributors have also been instructed to satisfy the customers about correct weight of cylinder by weighing them, to ensure that the seals are verified and shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

Industry is working on a device which will be fitted to an LPG cylinder to prevent pilferage of LPG from the cylinder. Industry has invited Global Expression of Interest for development of Anti Pilferage Device in November, 2009.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor:-

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

OMCs have reported that based on the established complaints of supply of underweight cylinders/pilfering product by LPG distributors, action as been taken in 163 cases including termination of four LPG distributors in the country during the last three years and April – September 2009 as per provisions of MDG/Distributorship Agreement.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against black-marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying underweight LPG cylinders.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है उसका पहला पैराग्राफ है- “हालांकि अंशतः इस्तेमाल” और आखिर में “किन्तु” सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कम्पनियों (ओएमसीज) के एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों द्वारा छोटे सिलिंडरों में गैस भरने की कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।”

सभापति महोदय, सरकार को निर्देश दे दीजिए कि ये लोग “इफ” एंड “बट” में नहीं बोला करें, क्योंकि यह जवाब देने का तरीका ठीक नहीं है, यह मेरा एतराज है। केवल ओएनजीसी को बचाने के लिए यह जवाब बनाया गया है। क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि ओएनजीसी में इस तरह के कितने केसेज में कार्यवाही की है? हमने इनके जवाब में अंकित उस लाइन को भी पढ़ा है जिसमें लिखा है कि- “ओएमसीज ने रिपोर्ट दी है कि एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों द्वारा कम वजन की सिलिंडरों की आपूर्ति/उत्पाद की चोरी की शिकायतें प्रमाणित होने के आधार पर 163 मामलों में कार्रवाई की गई है।” सर, देश बहुत बड़ा है, गड़बड़ी के 163 मामले तो हम जानते हैं जो अकेले इलाहाबाद जिले में होंगे। इसलिए ऐसा असत्य जवाब दिया जाए, यह ठीक नहीं है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी हम लोगों पर रहम करें और इस सदन पर भी रहम करें।

श्री मुरली देवरा : सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य का बहुत-बहुत आभारी हूँ कि आज आपने यह सवाल उठाया और इसमें आपको कुछ बताने की नौबत नहीं रही। तीन पब्लिक सैक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स तेल के काम में हैं, आईओसी, एचपीसीएल और बीपीसीएल। ये तीन कम्पनियां प्रति माह 11 करोड़ सिलेंडर डिस्ट्रीब्यूट करती हैं और वापिस लेती हैं। इसके अलावा हम 2015 में नया टारगेट बना रहे हैं, जिसमें कि 16 करोड़ सिलेंडर लेंगे और बांटेंगे। यह बहुत बड़ा काम ये लोग कर रहे हैं। यह बात सही है कि कहीं-कहीं चोरी होती है और तौलने में कमी होती है। इसके लिए काफी नए उपाय भी किए गए हैं। आपने सही कहा है कि 163 केसेज ऐसे आए जिनको पकड़ा गया है। इस संबंध में एक नया प्रोग्राम किया है -Marketing discipline guidelines इसके अन्तर्गत यदि पहली बार गलती की तो Rs.20,000 plus price of the LPG diverted, उसके ऊपर लगते हैं, दूसरी बार गलती की तो पचास हजार रुपए फाइन हो जाएगा और अगर तीसरी बार की तो termination of the distributorship on the third offence. हम बहुत प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। अगर आपके पास कुछ खास सुझाव हों तो मेहरबानी करके दीजिए, हम उनको लाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : मैं इनकी काबलियत की तारीफ करूंगा, क्योंकि हमने एक दिन अखबार में पढ़ा है और मेरा ख्याल है कि मंत्री जी और मंत्रालय के लोगों ने भी पढ़ा होगा कि शास्त्री भवन की छत पर जो पेट्रोलियम गैस खाली थी, उसमें घट तौली, कम तौल करके गैस भरी जा रही थी। शास्त्री भवन में पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री चलती है। जब लोकल पुलिस को मालूम पड़ा तो उसने जाकर के छापा मारा और उन लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया। तो यह कितनी काबलियत है, यह तो मुझे मालूम है।

श्री मुरली देवरा : सर, मैं तो अभी आया हूँ, आप खुद थे उधर। आपको मालूम होगा कि कहां छापा मारा और क्या किया।

श्री नतुजी हालाजी ठाकोर : महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा यह सवाल है कि गुजरात सरकार को आप जो रॉयल्टी दे रहे हैं, वह wellhead price के आधार पर दे रहे हैं। अप्रैल, 2008 से दिसम्बर, 2008 तक गुजरात सरकार को आपने जो रॉयल्टी दी है, उसमें गुजरात सरकार को 1500 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ है, तो इस पैसे की भरपाई ओ.एन.जी.सी. कब कर रही है और इसके नहीं देने के क्या कारण हैं?

श्री मुरली देवरा : सर, इस प्रश्न का original question से कोई संबंध नहीं है।

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान : चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार आम आदमी की जो बात करती है, क्या यह सही है कि जो सप्लाई कंज्यूमर को दी जाती है, उसमें रिफिलिंग के लिए 20 दिनों का जो वक्फा रखा गया है, उससे देश के अंदर जिन घरों में बड़ी फैमिली है, उनको दुश्वारी होती है। मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर यह सही है तो आपने जो चेक कंट्रोल रखा है, क्या उससे रिफिलिंग के लिए यह जो 20 दिनों की समय-सीमा है, उसको कम करके सप्लाई को रेगुलर कराने की कोशिश करेंगे?

† [جناب محمد علی خان: چیئرمین صاحب، میں آپ کے ذریعے منتری جی سے یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ سرکار عام آدمی کی جو بات کرتی ہے، کیا یہ صحیح ہے کہ جو سپلائی کنزیومر کو دی جاتی ہے، اس میں ریفلنگ کے لئے 20 دنوں کا جو وقفہ رکھا گیا ہے، اس سے دیش کے اندر جن گھروں میں بڑی فیملی ہے، ان کو دشواری ہوتی ہے۔ میں آپ سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر یہ صحیح ہے تو آپ نے جو چیک کنٹرول رکھا ہے، کیا اس سے ریفلنگ کے لئے یہ جو 20 دنوں کی سمے-سیما ہے، اس کو کم کر کے سپلائی کو ریگولر کرانے کی کوشش کریں گے؟]

श्री जितिन प्रसाद : जहाँ तक माननीय सांसद जी का प्रश्न है कि जो एलपीजी कनैक्शंस हैं, पहली बार जो एलपीजी कनैक्शन के लिए आवेदन करता है, उसे हम 60 दिनों के अंदर एलपीजी कनैक्शन उपलब्ध कराते हैं। एक बार जब उसको एलपीजी कनैक्शन मिल जाता है तो उसे 21 दिनों का समय दिया जाता है कि वह 21 दिनों में एक सिलेंडर का इस्तेमाल करेगा, उसके बाद ही उसे दूसरा सिलेंडर मिल पायेगा। यह प्रति हाउसहोल्ड पर लागू है। जहाँ एक रसोई घर है, वह एक हाउसहोल्ड माना जाएगा। अगर किसी घर में चार-चार परिवार हैं और वहाँ चार-चार किचेन हैं तो उन्हें चार सिलेंडर उपलब्ध करा दिये जाएँगे। यह मानक इसलिए बनाया गया है कि हम लोगों ने और मार्केटिंग कंपनीज़ ने यह देखा है कि अगर सिलेंडर किसी को दिया गया और उससे रोज़ खाना बनेगा तो वह कम से कम 21 दिन चलेगा। अगर वह 21 दिनों से पहले खत्म हो रहा है तो या तो वह किसी और चीज़ के लिए इस्तेमाल हो रहा है और आम तौर पर उसका इस्तेमाल खाना बनाने के लिए नहीं हो रहा है।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : चेयरमैन सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार का ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के अंदर गैस एजेंसीज़ खोलने का विचार है? जो बड़े गांव हैं, अगर उनके अंदर ये खोले जाएंगे तो इसके लिए सरकार क्या criteria fix करने जा रही है?

श्री जितिन प्रसाद : जहाँ तक ग्रामीण क्षेत्र का सवाल है, मैं माननीय सांसद जी को और इस सदन को यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार ने एक नयी योजना “राजीव गांधी ग्रामीण एलपीजी वितरक योजना” के नाम से शुरू की है। इसमें प्राथमिकता पर वे प्रदेश लिये गए हैं, जहाँ 50 प्रतिशत से भी कम एलपीजी कनैक्शंस हैं और इसका उद्देश्य सिर्फ ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में, देश के गांव-गांव तक एलपीजी कनैक्शन पहुंचाने का है, क्योंकि अभी तक इस देश का ग्रामीण क्षेत्र उस सुविधा से वंचित था और वहाँ के लोग खाना पकाने के लिए मिट्टी का तेल, गोबर से तैयार के गये कंडों और फायरवुड का इस्तेमाल करते थे। इसीलिए सरकार की यही मंशा है कि गांव-गांव तक लोग इसे अफोर्ड कर सकते हैं, उनके पास पैसा है, मगर इसकी सुविधा नहीं दी गई है। इसी के तहत यह ग्रामीण योजना लायी गयी है जिसमें प्रत्येक गांव में मिनिमम 600 कनैक्शंस पर एक एजेंसी नियुक्त की जायेगी और उस एजेंसी के लिए जो मानक हमने तैयार किये हैं, उनमें भी हमने रिलैक्स किया है कि गोदाम छोटा होगा, initial investment कम होगा। इसमें गैस की जो डिलीवरी होगी, वह घर तक नहीं होगी, बल्कि वह केश एंड केरी के आधार पर होगी, जिसमें गांव वाले अपने एजेंसी में आकर उसे खुद उठा कर ले जा सकते हैं, क्योंकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में दूर-दूर तक यह बिल्कुल भी प्रैक्टिकल नहीं होगा कि इसे घर-घर तक पहुंचाया जाये। इसके साथ ही, मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि यह योजना लांच हो गयी है और अब जल्द ही आपके प्रदेश, आपके गांव और आपके हलके में एलपीजी सिलेंडर पहुंचेगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

† [Transliteration in Urdu Script.]

*167. [The questioners (Shrimati Maya Singh) was absent. For answer *vide* page 38 *infra*.]

Optimal use of Panchayati Raj System

*168. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:††

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has pointed out for optimal use of the Panchayati Raj set up in the country and called for reforms to delegate more power from States to the Panchayati Raj System;

(b) if so, whether he has pointed out that even today in many States the functions, funds and functionaries have not been delegated effectively to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(c) whether he has also urged the States to monitor hurdles against Panchayati Raj Institutions and asked the State Governments to work towards strengthening them; and

(d) if so, action so far taken by States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (c) Yes, Sir. On 2.10.2009, Prime Minister while addressing the National Convention to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Panchayati Raj, stated that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) need to play a pivotal role in the nation's development. He further stated that the 73rd amendment of the Constitution provides that the Stated legislatures should empower Panchayati Raj Institutions as the institutions of Local Self Government and strengthen them so that they can evolve schemes for social justice and economic development. Even today in many States, the functions, the funds and functionaries have not been delegated effectively to the PRIs. He added that although there may be initial hurdles while delegating new responsibilities to the PRIs, the outcome will be fruitful and in the interest of the country.

(d) According to the provisions of Articles 243G of the Constitution, the State legislatures may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self Government. State legislatures are to consider 29 matters of the Eleventh Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister mentioned that the hon. Prime Minister on 2.10.2009 has clearly mentioned that a number of States are failing to give funds and that the functionaries have not been delegated to the

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

Panchayati-raj institutions. So, I would like to know the names of States; if the Minister has the names readily with him, I would request him to communicate those to us. What action is the Minister taking when the Prime Minister himself has mentioned that so many States are failing and that are not taking the effective steps in the Panchayati-raj system? When are they going to be successful to effectively implement those?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Salary revision of public sector bank employees

*161. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that revision of pay scales of employees of public sector banks has become overdue;
- (b) if so, since when;
- (c) what are the specific reasons for delay in the revision of their salaries;
- (d) whether Government is aware that a clerk in the Government of India draws higher salary in comparison to the salary drawn by an officer of a public sector bank;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) by when the salaries of the public sector bank employees are proposed to be revised; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In terms of the 8th Bipartite Settlement, the revision of pay scales of employees of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) has become due with effect from 01.11.2007.

(c) The wage settlement of officers and employees is negotiated by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) representing the managements of such banks, which have mandated it to negotiate on their behalf, with the major workmen Unions/Associations representing the employees and officers. The wage revision exercise includes revision of pay and allowances, basic service conditions, perquisites and retiral benefits etc. The Unions/ Associations present their Charter of Demands to IBN and thereafter negotiations are held by IBN with the Unions/ Associations to arrive at a settlement. It is a time consuming process to resolve the issues. The wage settlement has been signed on 27.11.2009.

(d) and (e) It is not a matter of fact that a clerk in the Central Government draws higher salary than that of an officer in the bank. The salary of a clerk on induction computes to Rs. 11,909/- after revision, while the salary of an officer in the Bank on the pre-revised scale computes to Rs. 17,550/-. Further, the terms and conditions of service of Central Government employees and Bank employees are entirely different and are regulated in terms of the respective

service conditions. In case of Central Government employees, the pay, allowances and other service conditions are revised after every ten years, on the basis of the recommendations of Pay Commission, While in the case of bank employees, their pay, allowances and other basic service conditions are revised every five years by way of a Bi-partite Settlement (BPS). Further, the pay structures of the Central Government employees and the employees of the Banks are not comparable. Also the Dearness Allowance of Central Government employees is based on Consumer Price Index while Dearness Allowance of the Bank employees is regulated in terms of Industrial Dearness Allowance.

(f) and (g) The agreement for the wage revision has been signed on 27.11.2009.

Maternal deaths

†*167. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pregnant women in India who died during delivery due to anaemia in the last three years;
- (b) the number of deaths per hour of pregnant women in the country;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measure to check the death of pregnant women and to what extent the number of deaths has decreased due to this measure; and
- (d) the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) data released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for the country has come down from 301 per 100,000 live births in the years 2001-03 to 254 per 100,000 live births in the years 2004-06. This translates to approximately 67,000 maternal deaths per year. The state-wise estimates of MMR are given in Statement (See below).

The Report of RGI titled “Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends, causes and risk factors”, gives estimates for major causes like Haemorrhage (38%), Sepsis (11%), Hypertensive Disorders (5%), Obstructed Labour (5%), Abortion (8%) and Other Conditions (34%) leading to maternal death. According to this Report, specific estimates on proportion of maternal deaths due to anemia are not available. However, deaths due to anemia are clubbed along with other causes under “Other Conditions”.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, key measures which have been taken to improve the quality of maternal care and accelerate the pace of reduction of maternal mortality are:

1. 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, which has brought about significant increases in institutional delivery.

2. Operationalizing Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centres (24x7) for round the clock maternal care services and provision of quality Ante-natal, Intra-natal, Post-natal care.
3. 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.
4. 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. Pregnant women who are found to be clinically anaemic are given an additional 100 tablets. IFA tablets are distributed to pregnant and lactating woman through the Sub-Centre ANMs and through outreach activities at village health and Nutrition Day (VHNDs).
5. Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women.

Statement

State-wise estimates of Maternal Mortality Ratio

Major State	MMR (2001-03)	MMR (2004-06)
India Total*	301	254
Assam	490	480
Bihar/ Jharkhand	371	312
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	379	335
Orissa	358	303
Rajasthan	445	388
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	517	440
Andhra Pradesh	195	154
Karnataka	228	213
Kerala	110	95
Tamil Nadu	134	111
Gujarat	172	160
Haryana	162	186
Maharashtra	149	130
Punjab	178	192
West Bengal	194	141
Others	235	206

*: Includes Others

Source: RGI, (SRS): 2001-03, 2004-06)

Cut in Non-Plan expenditure

*169. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of severe drought conditions and economic downturn, the Central Government has directed all the Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to make a 10 per cent cut in Non-Plan expenditure and also avoid wasteful expenditure during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, to what extent the various Ministries/Departments/PSUs have made a cut in their Non-Plan expenditure;

(c) whether the Central Government had information that several PSUs and some Ministries/Departments have not adhered to these orders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In September, 2009, Ministry of Finance have advised all Ministries/ Departments to effect a mandatory 10% cut in non-plan expenditure on Domestic and Foreign Travel expenses, Publications, professional services, Advertising and Publicity, Office Expenses, POL (except for security related requirement) and other administrative expenses and a 5% cut on the remaining portion (excluding interest payments, repayment of debt, Defence capital, salaries, pension and the Finance Commission grants to the States). Subsequently in October, 2009, Deptt. of Public Enterprises, have issued instructions for effecting 10% cut, mutatis mutandis, on the expenditure of all Central Public Sector Enterprises,

(b) to (d) The responsibility for adhering to these instructions rests with the respective Ministries/Departments and PSUs. Details in this regard are not maintained centrally.

Composition of commodities and services in price indices

*170. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the weight-wise composition of basket of goods and services included in the price indices;

(b) how often the weight attached to respective groups of commodities and services is modified; and

(c) whether Government has set up any study to bring about convergence in the patterns of different price indices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The weight-wise composition of basket of goods and services included in the price indices is as follows:

Table : Weight diagram of Price Indices

Comparative weights of major groups for various price indices

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)		Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers		Consumer Price Index for Agricultural/ Rural Labourers			Consumer Price Index for Urban Non Manual employees	
Base: 1993-94=100		Base: 2001-100		Base: 1986-87=100			Base: 1984-85=100	
Item/Group	Weight	Item/Group	Weight	Item/Group	Weight		Item/Group	Weight
					AL	RL		
Food articles+ food products	26.94	Food	46.20	Food	69.15	66.77	Food, beverages and tobacco	47.13
Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.22	Fuel and Light	6.43	Fuel and Light	8.35	7.90	Fuel and Light	5.48
Beverages, Tobacco and Tobacco Products	1.34	Pan, supari, Tobacco and intoxicants	2.27	Pan, supari, Tobacco and intoxicants	3.79	3.70	Pan, supari etc. included in food group	
Textiles	9.80	Clothing, bedding and footwear	6.57	Clothing, bedding and footwear	6.98	9.76	Clothing, bedding and footwear	7.03
Leather and Leather Product	1.02	Miscellaneous	23.26	Miscellaneous	11.73	11.87	Miscellaneous	23.95
Other	46.68	Housing	15.27	Housing	—	—	Housing	16.41
TOTAL	100.00	TOTAL	100.00	TOTAL	100.00	100.00	TOTAL	100.00

The current series of WPI has the base year of 1993-94 = 100 which was introduced in April 2000. Earlier, it had base of 1981-82 introduced in July 1989. The current series of consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with base year 2001=100 had been released with effect from January, 2006. Earlier it had base of 1982 introduced in October 1988. The current series of CPIs for Agricultural and Rural Labour (CPI-AL/RL) have the base year of 1986-87=100 which was introduced in November, 1995. Earlier CPI for Agricultural Labourers had base of 1960-61 introduced since September, 1964. The CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME) of base year of 1984-85 was discontinued with effect from April 2008. However, CSO is releasing linked All-India CPI for urban non manual employees from April, 2008.

The present series of CPIs do not encompass all the segments of the population in the country and as such they do not reflect the true picture of the price behaviour in the country. The Central Statistical Organisation has, therefore, taken an initiative for compilation of new series of CPI for Urban, Rural and combined at State/UT/All India covering the entire population.

Loan agreement with IBRD

***171. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed a \$2 billion Banking Sector Support loan agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian banks are facing problems of capital inadequacy as of now; and

(d) if not, what necessitated signing of this loan agreement?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) To enable the public sector banks (PSBs) to meet the credit requirements of the economy while maintaining a healthy and comfortable level of regulatory Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR), the Government has entered into an agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (The World Bank) for a Banking Sector Support Loan of USD 2 billion for providing capital funds to the public sector banks.

(c) and (d) The recent global financial crisis has proved that a resilient banking system is the underlying requirement for regaining and sustaining economic growth momentum. The Indian PSBs are adequately capitalized for current level of business. However, in the backdrop of the recent global financial crisis, there is an added emphasis on maintaining a higher level of CRAR by the banks than the regulatory threshold, to be able to expand their business operations, meet any additional provisioning requirement arising out of slippages and to continue to extend credit to the productive sectors of the economy to sustain and accelerate the economic growth momentum of the country.

Gap between WPI and CPI

*172. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly trends of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the last twelve months;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a widening gap between the WPI and CPI;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the index which is the basis of calculating the inflation in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The monthly trends of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) for the last twelve months are as below:

Table 1 : Index and inflation trends of the WPI and CPI-IW

Month-year	WPI 1993-94=100	WPI based Inflation (%)	CPI (IW) 2001=100	CPI (IW) based Inflation (%)
Nov-08	234.2	8.48	148	10.45
Dec-08	229.8	6.19	147	9.70
Jan-09	228.9	4.90	148	10.45
Feb-09	227.6	3.50	148	9.63
Mar-09	228.2	1.20	148	8.03
Apr-09	231.5	1.31	150	8.70
May-09	234.3	1.38	151	8.63
Jun-09	235.0	-1.01	153	9.29
Jul-09	238.4	-0.67	160	11.89
Aug-09	240.8	-0.17	162	11.72
Sep-09	242.7(P)	0.50(P)	163	11.64
Oct-09	242.2(P)	1.34(P)	NA	NA

P: Provisional

NA: Not Available

There is a gap between the inflation measured in terms of WPI and CPI-IW. This is due to the fact that whereas the WPI defines the price changes of wholesale transactions of a basket of commodities representing the entire economy, the CPI-IW measures the changes in (retail) prices of goods and services. Thus, in case of WPI, the basis of inclusion in the commodity

basket is the importance of the commodity produced or transacted in the economy whereas in the case of CPI-IW only those goods and services are included which form part of the budget of the family of the identified groups. The basket of CPI-IW, therefore, includes only a segment of the items covered in the WPI basket. The capital goods, intermediate goods and other non-consumption goods of the economy, which are included in the WPI basket, do not find place in the basket of CPI-IW. The weights of items in WPI, broadly, have been assigned in proportion to their share in the total value of transaction in the economy. In case of CPI-IW, the weights are in proportion to their share in the total consumption expenditure of the family of industrial workers in the selected centres. For example, the weight of food items in CPI-IW is 46.20 per cent as against 25.43 per cent in the case of WPI.

Inflation can be calculated on the basis of different price indices. However, WPI, having economy wide coverage, is the most commonly used index for calculating inflation in India.

Losses suffered by IA and AI

*173. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to extricate Indian Air Carriers, the Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) from the morass of huge losses, Government has decided to allow 49 per cent equity in these Air Carriers;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by each of the Public Sector Air Carriers during 2007-08, 2008-09 and the current year so far;

(c) whether Private sector air carriers have opposed the move; and

(d) if so, on what grounds?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Air India had incurred a loss of Rs.2226.16 crores during year 2007-08. It has expected to incur a loss of Rs. 5,000 crores approximately (Prov.) during the year 2008-09.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Medical reimbursement for CGHS beneficiaries in VIP category

*174. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries in the VIP category which include former Governors, retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts and former MPs etc. who received cashless treatment from empanelled and other hospitals in Delhi and NCR towns, the cost of which is later reimbursed to the hospitals etc., during 2008 and 2009 (so far), year-wise; and

(b) the total reimbursement made by Government on such treatments, year-wise with the actual highest reimbursement made in a case in each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As on 31st March, 2009, there were 231982 Central Government pensioners, 2845 ex-MPs, 12563 freedom fighters who have been issued pensioner CGHS cards. Central Government pensioners, freedom fighters, ex-MPs, ex-Governors etc. are entitled to cashless treatment facility in empanelled hospitals, if the beneficiary is duly referred to a private empanelled hospitals for treatment by the CGHS. No sub-category-wise break up especially as a VIP beneficiary is maintained by CGHS. The CGHS has spent following amounts on the treatment of pensioner beneficiaries:-

2007-08	Rs. 438.45 crores
2008-09	Rs. 498.87 crores
2009-10 (April-August, 2009)	Rs. 166.61 crores

The maximum reimbursement amount on a single VIP, in Delhi, during 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given below:-

2008-09	Rs. 10,44,109/-
2009-10	Rs. 65.95,896/-

Rules Governing CA firms

*175. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in the light of the Report of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that inquired into the stock market scam in 2001, had barred certain domestic and multinational Chartered Accountancy (CA) firms from being appointed as auditors by Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has, in the recent past, lifted the said ban from some of the delinquent CA firms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extant rules for governing services of multi-national CA firms who are eligible to provide in India, indicating revision therein, if any, carried out in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had debarred two CA firms viz. M/s Lovelock and Lewes (L and L), the statutory auditors of erstwhile Global Trust Bank Ltd. during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 and M/s Price Waterhouse and Co. (PWC), the statutory auditors of erstwhile Global Trust Bank Ltd. during the year 2002-03.

(c) and (d) Based on the representations received in August, 2007 from both PWC and L and L, RBI advised the banks that they may consider giving audit assignments to these firms

from April 1, 2008. However, after reporting of alleged irregularities on the part of auditors of M/s Satyam Computers, RBI have not approved appointment of PWC as statutory auditors in the scheduled commercial banks from the financial year 2009-10.

(e) The provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Regulations/Rules framed thereunder are applicable to members and firms of chartered accountants registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The Act, *ibid*, does not provided for framing of rules or regulation for governing the services of multi-national accounting firms. Therefore, the multinational accounting firms are outside the purview of the ethical and regulatory framework of the ICAI.

Expansion of air services during the Eleventh Plan

*176. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion of air services during the Eleventh Plan is going on according to any road map or there are some hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether priorities have been fixed in the Plan by expanding it to the entire nation;

(d) if so, the details of these priorities for the rest of the Plan period;

(e) whether services of all airlines have been included depending on their capacity;

(f) whether there is any high powered Committee to decide about it; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) In so far as expansion of air services, the Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve a better regulation of Air Transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

(c) to (g): Does not arise.

Vacant posts in CHCs

*177. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of percentage of sanctioned posts of specialists lying vacant in various Community Health Centres (CHCs) throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of large shortfall of male health workers, the family welfare and health programmes at CHCs are affected; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government proposes to take in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, As per the Rural Health Statistics Bulletin of March 2008, overall, about 48.57% (4068 vacant out of 8376 sanctioned posts) of sanctioned posts of specialists at CHCs are vacant. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), states are compensating the gaps by positioning specialists on contract and as on date, 2344 specialists have been positioned in this manner.

There is indeed a large shortfall in number of male health workers available in the public health system. Many states have not sanctioned sufficient posts of the MPW (M) and many of the sanctioned posts continue to be vacant for long periods since no fresh recruitment is undertaken by the respective state. Various programmes of health and family welfare get affected by this shortage.

The Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission since April, 2005, to undertake comprehensive rejuvenation of the health delivery system in all the states. The critical role of MPW(M) has received focussed attention under the NRHM. A precondition has been imposed under NRHM that only those Sub Centres shall be allowed to position the second contractual ANM funded under NRHM where the MPW (M) is in position. Further, the NRHM is supporting the rejuvenation of the MPW(M) training schools in the states. In some of the districts with high malaria incidence in high focus states, MPW(W) have been recruited under the NRHM budget also.

Mortality rate

*178. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the highest under-five mortality rate in the world;

(b) if so, the details of child deaths reported in the country, for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether his Ministry has made assessment of the reasons for the high mortality rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under Five Mortality rate is 72 per 1000 live births in India. As per the State of the World's Children UNICEF Report, 2009, India ranks as 49th out of 191 countries in the descending order of the Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR).

(b) The sample registration System (SRS) of the Registrar General of India does not capture the Under Five Mortality Rate annually. The under Five Mortality rate for the country is captured through periodic National Family Health Surveys. The Under Five Mortality Rate for the last three surveys conducted so far (NFHS I, II and III) are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per the Report on Causes of Deaths in India for the period 2001-2003 furnished by the Office of Registrar General, India, the major causes of child deaths in the age group of 0 to 4 yrs. in the country are:-

1. Peri-natal conditions (33%)
2. Respiratory infections (22%)
3. Diarrhoeal diseases (14%)
4. Other infectious and parasitic diseases (11%)
5. Symptoms, Signs and Ill defined conditions (3.4%)

(d) Under the umbrella of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012) the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, 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. This includes creation of new health facilities and upgradation of the existing ones, hiring of skilled manpower and mobile medical units.

The Reproductive and Child Health programme (RCH) II under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health and addresses factors contributing to morbidity and mortality.

(i) The key components of child health care which help reduce child morbidity and mortality are as follows:

- Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI).
- Facility Based Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI).
- Early detection and appropriate management of Diarrhoea disease
- Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections and other infections
- Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK), a programme of Basic newborn care and resuscitation
- Infant and young child feeding
- Immunization
- Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation

Statement

Under Five Mortality Rate

NFHS	YEAR	U 5MR (number of deaths per 1000 live births)
NFHS I	1992-93	109
NFHS II	1997-98	95
NFHS III	2005-06	74

Revival of HCL

*179. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) is not able to carry out its operations due to lack of working capital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of many requests the Ministry of Communications is not providing any orders to HCL;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the reasons for non-payment of salaries and statutory dues to the employees of HCL; and

(e) the measures Ministry is contemplating to revive HCL?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) to (e) Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) Kolkata is a Central Public Sector Enterprise and has been making losses since 1996. It has units at Rupnarianpur (West Bengal), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Naini (Uttar Pradesh). The production operations in all the units are suspended for the last six years due mainly to higher cost of production and steep fall in demand because of which the Company is facing severe financial crunch. Consequently, HCL is not able to carry out its operations and pay salary to its employees and has been dependent on budgetary support from Government for the same. Government has approved release of funds to HCL for payment of salary and statutory dues to its employees upto June, 2009. Inability of HCL to carry out its operations cannot therefore be attributed to lack of working capital only.

It is however, a fact that HCL is not getting orders from the PSEs of Department of Telecommunications. In response to a request made in September, 2004 by the Department of Heavy Industry to the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) for placing orders on HCL, DoT expressed its inability stating that HCL had an outstanding order of 18.4 lakh conductor kilometer cable which it has not been able to deliver despite having received an advance of Rs. 239.78 crore from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). It had become difficult for HCL to manufacture the main line product namely Polythene Insulated Jelly Filled Cable (PIJF Cable) and optical

Fibre cables, as even the variable cost of production (cost of raw materials, power and freight) was higher than the price of cable offered by BSNL.

HCL commissioned a techno-economic study through IIT Kharagpur which submitted its report in November, 2004. The study proposed diversification in unrelated and alternate products with an additional capital investment of Rs. 194 crore in two phases over a period of 5-7 years for modernization and up-gradation of equipment according to the diversification plan, over and above Draft Revival Scheme (DRS) of Rs. 1448 crore submitted by M/s SBI Caps the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR. IIT Kharagpur, in its report, had mentioned the names of the alternative products like power cables. The IIT study Report was discussed in the meeting of Board for Revival of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in September, 2006 and it was observed that in the absence of any detailed Feasibility Study about the demand of the product, the competition in the market place, the production capacities required for break-even level and the capacity of HCL to compete, a decision on the proposed strategy could not be taken.

On the recommendations of the BRPSE a fresh detailed techno-economic feasibility study of HCL was conducted by IIT, Kharagpur. The Report submitted in July, 2007 envisaged investment of Rs. 600 crore, cost of closure of Rs. 2860.61 crore and cost of revival as Rs. 2628.75 crore. The BRPSE considered this report on 9.1.2008 and resolved that the proposal, for all practical purposes, was a scheme for a new project and not a proposal for revival, hence it should be posed to an appropriate public sector or private sector party with a view to exploring the possibility of enlisting an interested party as a joint partner. It further recommended that if this process did not with meet any success, the administrative Ministry Should carry on with the only other option available, namely, complete disinvestment after cleaning up the Company's balance sheet. In pursuance of the recommendations of the BRPSE, it was decided to call for Expression of Interest (EoI) from Public Sector Enterprises for joint venture with HCL as a whole or with individual units. An advertisement calling for EoI was issued in July and August, 2008. Response was received from 6 CPSEs and HCL made the following short listing for JV formation:

- (i) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)-wire rod mill and rolling mill for TLT in Hyderabad unit.
- (ii) MMTC-world class state-of-the-art logistic park in Hyderabad unit.
- (iii) Railtel-optic fibre cable in FOP, Naini.

Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Railways, the administrative ministries of MMTC and Railtel, have since conveyed that the proposed JV would not be feasible for various reasons. So far as JV with RINL is concerned, the proposal is in an advanced stage of consideration.

Passenger load factor on Delhi- Ahmedabad route

*180. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that passenger load factor on Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi route is more than the available capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether inspite of more demand of seats on this lucrative sector, the Air India is using smaller ATR aircrafts;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken to deploy Airbus or Boeing Aircrafts in view of heavy load factor on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (e) No, Sir. However, airlines are free to operate on any route depending on their commercial judgement, as long as they fulfill the criteria laid down in the route dispersal guidelines.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Chennai Airport

1212. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present status of modernisation of the Chennai Airport;
- (b) by when the modernisation work is likely to be completed;
- (c) whether Government proposes to expand and modernise the Madurai and Trichy Airports as well in Tamil Nadu to increase air traffic there; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) The following developmental works are in progress at Chennai International Airport with schedule date of completion January, 2011:

(i) Development of Kamraj Domestic Terminal, (ii) Expansion of Anna International Terminal, (iii) Face lifting of existing terminal, (iv) Expansion of secondary runway, (v) parallel taxi track; and (vi) Construction of parking bays. (10 nos.)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Various works have already been completed at Madurai airport namely, installation/commissioning of Instrument Landing System (ILS), strengthening of runway upto 7500 ft. and other associated works. Further, construction of new integrated terminal building complex at Madurai has also been taken up with expected date of completion by December, 2009. At Trichy airport, various development works like new integrated terminal building complex, strengthening of runway upto 8018 ft. and other allied works have been completed. In addition, further extension of runway have been planned for both the airports.

Rented aircrafts

1213. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India had rented two aircrafts that did not prove to be safe to fly and lost over 29 million dollars while terminating the lease agreement prematurely;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked Air India to stop using these aircrafts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir. The aircraft were on pre release checks before their return upon termination of lease.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Strike by pilots of Air India

1214. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots of Air India (AI) were on strike recently;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by AI due to their strike;

(c) the demands of pilots;

(d) whether AI employs foreign pilots too;

(e) if so, the difference between salaries paid to a foreign pilot *vis-a-vis* Indian pilot; and

(f) whether this difference is justifiable?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Consequent to the decision of the Management of the Company to reduce the PLI and flying related allowances in respect of Executives of all streams and officers of NACIL, the executive pilots of erstwhile Indian Airlines started reporting sick and absented themselves in a concerted manner from 26.9.2009 and that of erstwhile Air India from 28.9.2009. NACIL incurred a loss of approximately Rs. 65.00 crores due to the pilot strike in September, 2009.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. There is no difference on overall wage package to foreign pilots versus Indian Pilots.

Payment to Indian/foreign pilots

†1215. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is paying 25 per cent more to foreign pilots in comparison to Indian pilots;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this type of attitude would impact negatively the psyche and professional approach of Indian pilots;
- (d) whether foreign pilots are appointed by Air India while neglecting Indian pilots; and
- (e) the details of the number of pilots working at present in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
 (a) and (b) There is no difference in the overall wage package of foreign pilots versus Indian Pilots.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) At present, 151 foreign pilots are working in Air India.

Guidelines for private operators on acquisition of airports

1216. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noted the transaction by owners of Mumbai airport buying into Bangalore Airport;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any policy or guidelines with regard to private airport operators acquiring control of more than two major airports in the country;
- (c) the view of Government on the increased monopolistic tendencies in the airport sector; and
- (d) the details of steps proposed by Government to ensure that there is competition in airport management sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
 (a) Neither M/s Bangalore International Airport Ltd. nor M/s. Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. have reported any such transaction having taken place.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Black marketing due to pilots leave

1217. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that when pilots of Jet Airlines went on mass leave leading to cancellation of many flights in September, 2009, other airlines raised their fares at their whims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) why Government remained a mute spectator to this black mailing adding woes of troubled passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It came to the notice of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that scheduled domestic airlines had increased their tariff on certain sectors when the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave.

(c) In pursuance of sub - rule (4) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued directions to all the scheduled domestic airlines to charge tariff prevalent just before the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave, which were complied with by all scheduled domestic airlines.

Night landing facilities at Airports in Himachal Pradesh

1218. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide night landing facilities for Bhuntar airport at Kullu, Gaggal airport at Kangra and Shimla airport in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned to meet the purpose; and

(c) the current status of the proposal alongwith the time by when night landing facilities are likely to be provided at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already provided aeronautical ground lighting facilities at Kullu, Kangra and Shimla airports in Himachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 3.55 crore and have been put into operation in October, 2009. However, night operations cannot take place at these airports since flights operate to these airports under visual Flight Rules (VFR). Initiation of upgradation of these airports for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and related works for night operations is subject to demand by airlines in this regard.

Operational airports in Uttar Pradesh

†1219. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational airports in Uttar Pradesh at present and the locations/ thereof;

(b) whether any proposal for setting up new airport of International standards is under consideration of Government to provide the facility of aerial movement to the people of Uttar Pradesh and to promote tourism as well; and

© if so, by when the construction work of these airports would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) There are seven operational airports in the State of Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Agra, Kanpur (Chakeri), Allahabad and Gorakhpur.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has considered the proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for 'in-principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield International Airport at Greater Noida and referred it to Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers has desired a revised Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR). The State Government has been asked to prepare a supplementary TEFR. In addition, the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has also forwarded a proposal for setting up to new greenfield airport at Kushinagar.

Greenfield airports in Andhra Pradesh

1220. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of regional Greenfield airports identified in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether any technical team of Airports Authority of India (AAI) has visited Andhra Pradesh to finalise the location and alignment for these airports;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations of the technical team of AAI; and
- (d) the progress of construction of these airports so far?

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

(a) to (d) On the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), Airports Authority of India (AAI) has carried out the feasibility study of the proposed 8 sites for the development of Regional Airports by GoAP. AAI has recommended that the sites at Nellore (Nellore District), Ongole (Prakasam District), Ovakul Mandal (Kurnool District) and Jakrampalli Mandal (Nizamabad District) have been found feasible for establishment of new greenfield airports and other sites have not been found feasible. Report has been submitted to GoAP for taking further necessary action.

Defective parts used in aircrafts

1221. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that private airlines are releasing aircrafts for operations even when a non-vital part is not serviceable on the condition that the same would be replaced within the next ten days;
- (b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that to buy more time beyond ten days, such airlines take such a defective part from the one of their other plane after five to six days, thereby getting another ten days period from that point of time; and
- (c) how many such or similar cases have come to the notice of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) till October 2009?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Airlines are permitted to release the aircraft with non-vital parts being un-serviceable listed in the Minimum Equipment List (MEL), approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), since such parts do not affect the operational capability of the aircraft.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Only one case of M/s. Paramount Airways has come to the notice of DGCA in September, 2009.

Loss making routes of IA/AI

1222. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers has recently directed Air India and Indian Airlines combine to drastically prune all loss making routes;

(b) if so, the details of loss making route identified by AI/IA combine and estimate losses suffered during the last three years;

(c) whether the factors responsible for AI/IA combine on loss making routes have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the strategies formulated by Government to make IA/AI combine profitable one?

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

(a) to (d) The Group of Ministers have taken note of the proposal for restructuring of Air India. Government will arrive at a decision upon those proposals.

Violation of guidelines by airline companies

1223. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently found that some airlines in the country are not following the guidelines of Government and show-cause notices have been issued to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the airlines which were found flouting the norms of Government and to whom show-cause notices were issued have replied to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further action Government has taken in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) In view of certain violations of regulations and operating procedures observed during surveillance inspections, show cause notices had been issued to Paramount Airways, MDLR Airlines and JetLite in September, 2009. In addition, show causes notice has been issued to National Aviation Company of India Limited (I) (NACIL(I)), Kingfisher Airlines, Go Air, Jet Airways and JetLite in November, 2009 for violating the operating instruction with regard to precautions to be observed while landing at Mumbai airport during wet conditions.

(c) and (d) Paramount Airways and JetLite have furnished their reply to the show cause notice, which is under examination. Reply of NACIL (I), Kingfisher Airlines, Go Air, Jet Airways and JetLite is awaited. MDLR Airlines have suspended their operations since October, 2009.

User charges dues of private airlines

1224. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of dues as user charges in respect of services of Airports Authority of India (AAI) from the private airlines;

(b) what are the area of services for which the user charges are being charged; and

(c) whether they are revised as per the increase of airfare by the private airlines?

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

(a) Total dues payable by major domestic airlines as on 31st October, 2009 are Rs. 277.55 crores.

(b) Major aeronautical services provided to airlines by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for which users are charged include Route Navigation Facilities (RNFC), Terminal Navigation Landing Facilities (TNLC), Landing and Housing and Parking of the aircraft, besides rent for space occupied.

(c) No, Sir.

Losses incurred by Air India

†1225. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the loss being incurred by Air India at present and the reasons therefor;

(b) the amount of funds sought by Air India from Government to overcome the Financial crisis;

(c) whether a committee had been constituted under the Chairmanship of cabinet secretary for providing suggestions to reduce the expenses of Air India;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations thereof;

(e) since when the Air India is incurring losses and what measures have been taken by it to overcome the deficit; and

(f) the amount of assistance which has been already given to Air India by Government?

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

(a) Air India had incurred a loss of Rs.2226.16 crores during year 2007-08. It has expected to incur a loss of Rs.5,000 crores approximately (prov.) during the year 2008-09. The reasons for losses are mainly due to the prevalent economic recession and low yields and load factors.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The Committee of Secretaries have taken note of the proposals for restructuring of Air India. Government will arrive at a decision upon those proposals.

(e) Erstwhile Air India is incurring losses since 2004-05. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement.

(f) No financial assistance has been given to Air India by the Government.

Air services in Kerala

1226. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for changing for the operation of existing Indian Airlines flights to Air India flights from Calicut International Airport to various Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of luggage the passengers are being permitted to carry in Air India flights and in Indian Airlines flights during the Gulf journey;

(d) whether there is any facility for cancellation and refund of the ticket fare in Air India Express; and

(e) whether there would be any change in the present practice of the Indian Airlines ferrying bodies of persons who die in the Gulf countries free of cost of the State?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve profitability and offer a service/fare level that best suits the market requirements, the IC coded services and those of AI Express on Calicut-Gulf routes have been restructured.

(c) The baggage Permitted to carry on NACIL flights during the Gulf journey is 20 kg. (Economy class) and 30 kg. (Business class) when tickets are issued in India. When tickets issued in Gulf, the baggage permitted is 40 kg. (Economy class) and 50 kg. (Business class) for Gulf-Calicut and 20 kg. (Economy class) and 30 kg. (Business class) for Calicut-Gulf.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Plane crashes in the country

1227. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many senior leaders of the country have died in the plane crash;

(b) if so, the number of plane crashes in the country during the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to provide good aircrafts as well as their proper maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) Some senior leaders of the country have died in plane crashes in the past. However, in the last three years out of the 16 accidents to Indian Civil Registered aircraft only one accident involved fatal injury to a senior leader.

(c) Guidelines exist in form of Aircraft Rules, Civil Aviation Requirements and Circulars for maintenance and operations to have safe aircraft operations, which are reviewed and modified from time to time as per requirement. Adherence to the guidelines is ensured during safety audits/surveillance inspection by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Assessment of losses of Air India

1228. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Carrier Air India has been making losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has made any assessment as to what are the causes for the continuous losses by the airlines; and
- (d) the details of steps being taken to plug the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. NACIL has incurred losses since 2007-08. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company and focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement. These losses have been due to low yields and load factors caused by the prevalent economic recession.

Recruitment of security personnel for airports

†1229. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India in collaboration with a private company has recruited employees for the security of aeroplanes and airports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these employees are being provided the same facilities which are being extended to the staff of Air India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some employees have been sacked for their protest over not making same facilities available to them; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) No employee in NACIL has been recruited for the security of aeroplanes and airports.
(b) to (f) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Quarrel between pilots and cabin crew

†1230. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a quarrel broke out on any matter among pilots and cabin crew of the plane number IC 884 enroute to Delhi from Sharjah on 3 October, 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the places of such quarrel and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether fighting took place among them which could have caused a major accident; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent such incidents alongwith the action taken against the guilty in this case?

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

(a) to (d) Appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against the concerned crew.

Warning signal equipment in Bell 430 helicopter

1231. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that warning signal equipment installed in Bell 430 helicopter carrying Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh and other failed after its crash;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Choppers are used by elite personalities and VIPs;

(c) if so, the number of Bell 430 helicopters in operation in India;

(d) whether the effectiveness and proficiency of equipment installed therein have been verified after this accident; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The accident is under investigation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Three Bell 430 helicopters are in operation in India.

(d) and (e) The accident is under investigation.

Losses of Air India and Indian Airlines

1232. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines are incurring losses for a long time; and

(b) the measures that have been undertaken to correct the ailment?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement.

User charges on air passengers

1233. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) have levied on passengers development fee on both domestic and international routes;

(b) if so, the reasons for charging this fee from the passengers for services that are not available;

(c) whether Government would intervene and withdraw charging the passengers by DIAL and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether DIAL have increased parking fee at the domestic and international terminals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what are the reasons for charging exorbitant parking charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) DIAL has prepared a Master Plan for modernisation of the airport to world class standards, well in time for commonwealth Games 2010. The Master Plan is under implementation at the presently estimated cost of Rs.8975 crores. Keeping in view the paramount importance of completing the project in time for the Commonwealth Games, the Government have, approved, purely on an *ad-hoc* basis, the levy of Development fee @ Rs.1300/- per departing international passenger and @Rs.200/- per departing domestic passenger with effect from 01.03.2009, for a period of 36 months, to bridge the funding gap.

(d) to (f) M/s DIAL have informed that they have introduced a slab in parking rates *w.e.f.* 01.08.2008 instead of flat rates applicable earlier. The parking rates have been revised to encourage maximum vehicles to go out within the first 30 minutes to avoid traffic congestion in the car parking areas during peak hours.

Air lines operating from Sanganer Airport, Jaipur

†1234. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 585 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th November, 2006 and state:

(a) the names of the airlines operating international flights and destinations thereof from the Sanganer Airport at Jaipur;

(b) whether the city of Jaipur showed its presence on international aviation map merely on the basis of two-three flights;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the responsibility of full maintenance of these international flights lies with Sanganer Airport;

(d) the place where the overhauling and the maintenance of Delhi bound international flights is undertaken; and

(e) whether it would be contemplated to make general maintenance and overhauling arrangement at Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) The airlines operating international flights and destinations thereof from Sanganer Airport, Jaipur are Air India (Dubai via Delhi), Air India Express (Dubai), Oman Air (Muscat) and Air Arabia (Sharjah). Additionally, non-scheduled international charter flights also do occasionally operate to Jaipur airport.

(c) and (d) No major maintenance is approved for airlines at Sanganer Airport, Jaipur. Airlines are approved to carry out major maintenance at their respective maintenance bases in Delhi or outside Delhi.

(e) No, Sir.

Presence of Trolley on the runway of Mumbai Airport

1235. SHRI RRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about serious lapses on the part of staff and Officers at Mumbai Airport during second week of November, 2009;

(b) who was responsible for keeping trolley on the run-way at Mumbai Airport when Air India Flight was to land on night of 11 November, 2009; and

(c) what action has been taken against erring official?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (b) M/s. Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. has informed that there was no trolley on the runway at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai when Air India Flight was to land the night of 11th November, 2009.

(c) Does not arise.

Merger of State Bank of Indore with SBI

1236. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bank employees have planned to go on a one-day strike protesting against the proposed merger of State Bank of Indore with State Bank of India (SBI); and

(b) if so, at what stage is the proposal and what is the reaction of Government to the stand of the employees on the issue?

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

(a) State Bank of Indore has reported that a strike notice has been jointly submitted by All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) and All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) informing their intention to go on strike on 16.12.2009, protesting closing down of State Bank of Indore and other Associate Banks.

(b) Government has granted sanction to State Bank of India (SBI), under Section 35(1) of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, *vide* Department of Financial Services' letter dated 08.10.2009 for proceeding with the negotiation with State Bank of Indore for acquiring its business. Consequently, the scheme of acquisition of State Bank of Indore by the State Bank of India have been approved by Board of both the Banks. The Government keeps in view the interest of all the stakeholders including employees of the merging banks.

Use of WPI for calculation of inflation

1237. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per International Monetary Fund (IMF) there are more than 150 countries using Consumer Price Index (CPI) for calculation of inflation, while only 24 countries including India are using Wholesale Price Index (WPI) which doesn't present correct picture of inflation in the country;

(b) whether there are different indicators for certain categories of people in India and CPI is being used for certain category of people;

(c) if so, whether Government would use common indices particularly CPI for all category of people; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) As per the Economic survey, 2008-09, "The International Monetary Fund (IMF) statistics reveals that 24 countries use WPI as the official measure to track inflation, compared to 157 countries which use CPI." India does not have an aggregate Consumer Price Index (CPI) for measuring inflation but has four sectional consumer price indices *i.e.* Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW, Base 2001), Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL, Base 1986-87), Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL, Base 1986-87) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME, Base 1984-85). The present series of CPIs do not encompass all the segments of the population in the country and as such they do not reflect the true picture of the price behaviour in the country. The Central Statistical Organisation has, therefore, taken an initiative for compilation of new series of CPI for Urban, Rural and combined at State/UT/All India covering the entire population.

Curtailing inflation

1238. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for inflationary trend in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what monetary and other measures are being proposed by the Government to curtail inflation?

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

(a) and (b) Government carries out regular analysis of prices of essential commodities based on available information. However, no specific study to find out the reasons for inflationary trend in prices of essential commodities has been conducted. The main reasons for inflationary trend in prices of essential commodities are increase in demand for these commodities due to increase in population and income, hardening in international prices, changes in consumption pattern and hike in minimum support price of various agricultural commodities. Delayed monsoon and floods in some parts of the country have also triggered expectations of lower production of food grains contributing to increase in price level of food articles.

(c) Initiation of monetary measures which impact on the demand side in the economy is under the domain of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The monetary policy stance of the RBI has been indicated as to maintain a monetary and interest rate regime consistent with price stability and financial stability and supportive of the growth process. On the supply side, Government has taken several measures which include reducing import duties on wheat, pulses, maize, raw sugar etc.; imposition of stock limits in the case of paddy rice, pulses, sugar; and ban on export of non-basmati rice.

Revival scheme for Rural Co-operative Credit Structure

1239. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Kerala has expressed its opinion that the revival scheme for Rural Co-operative Credit Structure based on the Task Force headed by Prof. Vaidyanathan need to be modified taking into account the specific requirements of the State and the amendment proposed to the Banking Regulation Act 1949 as part of the legal and Institutional reforms may be dropped by the Central Government; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major issues on which the Government of Kerala has not agreed with the provisions of the Government of India Revival Package for the Rural Co-operative Credit Structure are as under:

- Removal of State intervention in all financial and administrative matters of Cooperative Credit Structure (CCS).
- Ban on acceptance of deposits from non-members by cooperatives other than banks.
- Restrictions on Cooperatives other than Cooperatives Banks using the word 'bank', 'banking', 'banker'.
- All regulatory interventions of RBI.
- Fit and proper criteria by RBI for cooperative banks.

The Revival Package is to be implemented in a uniform manner in all States/UTs. Accepting the revival package, twenty-five State Governments have signed the MoU with Government of India and NABARD. This covers more than 96% of the Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) units in the country.

PMRY in Uttarakhand

1240. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed by the banks under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in Uttarakhand since 2008-09 till date, bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities have been found in disbursement of loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the defaulters?

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

(a) to (d) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) has been merged with Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) with effect from 1st April, 2008 by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and a new scheme, namely, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has been formulated.

PMEGP is monitored by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, (KVIC), Ministry of MSME.

As reported by Reserve Bank of India, bank-wise details of the loan disbursed in Uttarakhand is not available. However, details of loans disbursed by implementing banks under PMRY for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the State of Uttarakhand are as under:

(Amount Rs. In lakh)

Programme Year	Loans Disbursed	
	Number	Amount
2005-06	7584	5349.67
2006-07	7205	5201.36
2007-08	7737	6939.33

New SBI branch at Jangla, Shimla

1241. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is only one branch of UCO Bank at Jangla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is also aware that around 20 thousand people reside in nearby areas and they face a lot of difficulties as there is only one bank to cater to their needs;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to open a new branch of State Bank of India (SBI) in view of the needs of local businessmen and pensioners; and

(d) if so, the time by which the aforesaid branch is likely to be opened at Jangla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh?

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. UCO Bank has reported that it has only one branch in Jangla centre, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh. As per the 2001 census, Jangla has a population of 1093. Reserve Bank of India has reported that at present 165 branches of commercial banks function in Shimla district.

(c) and (d) Opening of new bank branches is governed by the provisions of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks are required to submit their Branch Expansion Plans for opening of branches etc., on an annual basis in line with their medium term corporate strategy. RBI while granting approvals ensures that the approvals include centers in rural/under banked districts also and gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in under banked areas. A list of underbanked districts has been forwarded to banks to enable them to identify centers for opening branches in such districts.

State Bank of India has reported that it is conducting a survey in the area and if found feasible, the bank will submit a proposal to RBI in this regard.

Use of fund obtained by disinvestment

†1242. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the name of the industries for which the targeted disinvestment of Rs. 1120 crore has been proposed for current financial year, in the Finance Minister's Budget speech of 2009-10;
- (b) the manner in which the amount obtained through disinvestment would be used; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this amount would be used to meet the fiscal deficit instead of development of infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Thus far, Initial Public Offerings have been completed in respect of NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited in 2009-10 and Government realized an amount of Rs.4259.90 crore. Each subsequent disinvestment will be considered on a case-by-case basis and submitted for approval by Government.

(b) and (c) The proceeds from disinvestment will be channelised into National Investment Fund and proceeds thus deposited between April 2009 and March 2012 will be available in full for meeting the capital expenditure requirements of selected Social Sector Programmes decided by the Planning Commission/Department of Expenditure.

Sale price of gas

1243. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government would be losing huge revenue if the gas is sold at USD 2.34 to customers; and
- (b) if so, what would be Government's response *vis-a-vis* RIL's share revenue, each year, if gas is sold at USD 2.34 and USD 4.2 respectively, to prospective customers for a period of 17 years?

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

Indirect tax collection

†1244. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of indirect tax collection in October, 2009 as compared to the amount collected in October, 2008;
- (b) whether the said collection has fallen as compared to the previous year; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The provisional indirect tax collection from Customs duties, Central Excise and Service Tax in October 2009 is Rs.22,193 crore as compared to Rs.25,495 crore in October 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reason for decline in collections from these taxes is a reduction in rate of excise duty by 4% on non-petroleum products across the board as announced on 07th December 2008 and further reduction of excise duty rate on non-petroleum products from 10% to 8% and service tax rate from 12% to 10% as announced on 24th Feb.2009. These reductions were made as part of the economic stimulus package to boost the Indian economy affected by global melt down. The reduction in excise duty rates has also affected customs duty collection on account of reduced revenue from additional customs duty, commonly known as Counter Vailing Duty (CVD) on imports.

Internal debt scenario

1245. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total internal debt was pegged at Rs. 3,60,000 crore for 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for such debt, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the estimated debt for the current Five Year Plan?

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

(a) The internal debt of the Government of India is estimated at Rs.23,56,939.58 crore as per Budget Estimates 2009-2010. The total debt (Internal debt, external debt and other liabilities) of the Government of India is estimated at Rs.34,95,152 crore as per Budget Estimates 2009-2010. This does not include the State Governments debt.

(b) The details of the total debt of the Government of India as per Budget Estimates 2009-2010 is as under:

Amount in Rupees crore

1. Internal Debt	
(a) Market Loans	17,66,897.03
(b) Treasury Bills	1,97,882.23
(c) Market Stabilization Scheme	50,000.00
(d) Special Securities converted into Marketable Securities	97,626.70
(e) Securities against small savings	2,09,878.00
(f) Others	34,655.62
TOTAL (a+b+c+d+e+f)	1,37,680.69

2. *External Debt	1,37,680.69
3. Other Liabilities (National Small Savings Fund, State Provident Funds etc.)	10,00,531.73
GRAND TOTAL (TOTAL 1+2+3)	34,95,152.00

*Balance according to Book Value.

(c) Total estimated debt of the 28 States including an amount of Rs.1,26,996 crore pertaining to Andhra Pradesh, is Rs. 14,51,026 crore as on March 31,2009. The loans of the State Governments are primarily to finance the developmental programmes. The break-up of State-wise debt is as follows:-

	Amount in Rupees crore
1. Andhra Pradesh	1,26,996
2. Bihar	53,277
3. Chhattisgarh	16,317
4. Goa	7,118
5. Gujarat	1,03,674
6. Haryana	32,062
7. Jharkhand	26,407
8. Karnataka	64,992
9. Kerala	64,801
10. Madhya Pradesh	61,370
11. Maharashtra	1,76,730
12. Orissa	44,666
13. Punjab	60,081
14. Rajasthan	83,051
15. Tamil Nadu	84,825
16. Uttar Pradesh	1,88,197
17. West Bengal	1,46,563
18. Arunachal Pradesh	3,331
19. Assam	21,532
20. Himachal Pradesh	21,283
21. Jammu and Kashmir	24,800

22. Manipur	4,806
23. Meghalaya	3,278
24. Mizoram	3,634
25. Nagaland	3,836
26. Sikkim	2,036
27. Tripura	5,647
28. Uttarakhand	15,713
TOTAL	14,51,026

(d) The projections of total debt (internal debt, external debt and other liabilities) of Government of India for the year 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 as stated in the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement laid before Parliament as part of the budget documents in July 2009, are given below:

Amount in Rupees	
Year	Amount
2010-2011	39,54,671
2011-2012	42,54,620

Issues discussed at G-20 Summit at Pittsburgh

1246. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the important issues that were taken up during G-20 Pittsburgh summit which concluded, recently;

(b) whether Global Crisis Management was one of the items discussed there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Pittsburgh marked the emergence of G-20 as the premium forum for international Economic Co-operation replacing G-7; and

(e) whether Government is satisfied with the outcome?

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

(a) The G-20 Leaders' Summit in Pittsburgh discussed the following issues:

1. Framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth
2. Progress and priorities on strengthening the International Financial Regulatory Systems
3. Reforms in the International Financial Institutions

4. Food, fuel and Finance for the poor of the world
5. Energy Efficiency and climate change
6. Putting Quality jobs at the heart of the recovery
7. An open Global Economy
8. Future role of the G 20

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The G20 Leaders' summit in Pittsburgh reviewed the progress made in managing global crisis and agreed to maintain steps to support economic activity until recovery is assured. The Leaders' further committed to take additional steps to ensure strong, sustainable, and balanced growth, to build a stronger international financial system, to reduce development imbalances, and to modernise architecture for international economic cooperation.

The G20 countries agreed for a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth and a mutual assessment process to assess whether policies are consistent with the shared objectives. The Leaders tasked the G20 Finance Ministers to launch the framework and mutual assessment process in November 2009.

There was a renewal of the commitment to carry on the strengthening of the International Financial Regulatory System and not return to the scenario of banking as usual. To this end the G20 countries agreed to act together to raise capital standards, implement strong international compensation standards aimed at ending practices that leads to excessive risk taking, improve over the counter (OTC) derivative markets, and to create powerful tools to hold large global firms having systemic significance to account for the risks that they take.

The Leaders also agreed to take new steps to increase access of the world's poor to food, fuel and finance and to rationalise and phase out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption while providing targeted support (for fuel) for the poorest. In addition, the Leaders have agreed to promote energy market transparency and market stability as part of a broad effort to avoid excessive volatility.

The Leaders also committed to implementing recovery plans that support decent work, help preserve employment, and prioritize job growth and to provide income, social protection, and training support for the unemployed and those most at risk of unemployment.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) Yes, Sir

Corporate loans facility for rural people

†1247. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is a provision for taking corporate loans for setting up industry in any part of the country; and

(b) whether the same loan facility is available for the people of rural areas as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the credit related matters have been generally deregulated by the RBI and the commercial banks can sanction loans for setting up industry in any part of the country including in rural areas based on their commercial judgement, Board approved loan policy and extant RBI instructions.

RBI has also issued guidelines on lending to micro, small and medium enterprises to all Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). RRBs, which have substantial presence in rural areas are expected to provide loans to the said sector as per the guidelines.

Waiver of crop loan in Karnataka

1248. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre for the reimbursement of Rs. 1880/- crore on account of the waiver of the crop loans up to Rs. 25,000/- in 2007 by the State Government *vide* its letter CO29CLS 2008 dated 26/9/08 addressed to the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Centre thereon; and

(c) if not, by when action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had requested for reimbursement of an amount of Rs.1880 crore waived by it under the Karnataka State Government Debt Waiver Scheme of 2007. The matter was examined and it was found that the reimbursement requested by the Govt. of Karnataka did not fall within the scope of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme 2008 (ADWDRS) of Government of India.

Loan to students

1249. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of an announcement made by the Human Resource Development Minister that interest free educational loan would be available to students belonging to families whose income is less than Rs. 4.5 lakhs per annum; and

(b) whether this has been communicated to all the banks for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development has proposed to introduce a scheme for full interest subsidy during the period of moratorium on loans taken by students belonging to economically weaker sections from the banks under the Education Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for pursuing any of the approved courses of studies in technical and professional streams, from recognized institutions in India.

The scheme will be circulated to banks for implementation after the modalities of the schemes are finalized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Fall in credit off-take from banks

1250. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a reduction in the interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Public Sector Banks, the credit off-take from banks has gone down;

(b) the extent of reduction in interest rates, the date of its coming into effect and the decrease/increase in loan demand for different types of credit; and

(c) the reasons for decrease in credit growth?

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

(a) According to information available upto 6th November, 2009, credit offtake from banks on year-on-year basis increased by 9.8% as compared to 27.7% during the corresponding period last year.

(b) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the reduction in the range of Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLRs) during October 2008-November, 2009 was 125-275 basis points for Public Sector Banks (PSBs), 100-125 basis points for private sector banks and 125 basis points for foreign banks.

There was a positive growth of credit in most of the sectors of the economy, although at a lower rate compared to last year. Credit flow to agriculture and micro and small enterprises was higher in both absolute and percentage terms compared to last year.

(c) The deceleration in credit growth during the current year was mainly on account of the following factors:-

- Overall credit demand from the manufacturing sector slowed down reflecting a decline in commodity prices and drawdown of inventories.
- Corporates were able to access non-bank domestic sources of funds and external financing at lower costs.
- Unlike in the previous year, oil marketing companies reduced their borrowings from the banking sector as oil prices moderated.

Pension scheme for Gramin Bank employees

1251. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Gramin Banks are following the practice of limited provident fund deduction as a result of which Gramin Bank officers are getting less pension than the Central Government and State Government class IV employees; and

(b) whether Government would introduce a new pension scheme for the Gramin Bank employees and also order for full deduction of provident fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) employees and officers are governed under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952. The superannuation benefits are admissible as per the provisions of this Act. As per this Act, the RRB employees and officers contribute 12% of their Pay and Dearness Allowance to Provident Fund with an equal amount of contribution by the Banks upto a ceiling of Pay and Dearness Allowance of Rs.6500/-. As per the National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) award and the recommendations made by the Equalization Committee, the employees and officers of RRBs are to be governed under the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, until they are exempted from the purview of the Act.

Violation of ECB guidelines

1252. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some firms dealing in power, communication and infrastructure sectors have violated the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of companies, penalties imposed, etc. by RBI;

(c) whether some big industrial groups involved in violation of ECB guidelines have evolved new mechanism/strategy to by-pass the pending liability and has approached RBI for ECB approval by their other group or subsidiary companies; and

(d) if so, what steps Government has taken to ensure that such subsidiary or new companies of single-umbrella group do not circumvent the RBI guidelines unless their pending violations are resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of companies who have violated the ECB guidelines and penalties imposed by RBI thereto are given below.

(1) ***Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. (RIL) (formerly Reliance Energy Ltd.)***

End-use violations have been observed by RBI in the ECBs raised by RIL pertaining to two ECBs for USD 360 million and USD 150 million. The company brought the proceeds raised through the said ECBs to India and kept these invested in debt mutual funds, pending utilization for the declared end-use in gross violation of the extant ECB guidelines.

On an application filed by the company for compounding the end-use violations relating to the ECB of USD 360 million, a compounding order was passed in terms of Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000 and a penalty of Rs.124.68 crore was levied. Since RIL did not pay the penalty in accordance with the Rules and the Provisions of FEMA, the violations were referred to the Directorate of Enforcement (DoE) in November 2008 for adjudication.

(2) ***Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. (RNRL)***

RNRL issued FCCB of USD 300 million in October 2006 for the purpose of 'project' under the automatic route. USD 275 million (Rs 1127 crore) were brought to India in May 2007 and were parked in debt mutual funds pending utilization. Subsequently, in Aug 2008, an amount of Rs. 1160 crore (USD 275 million) was invested in a wholly owned subsidiary in Singapore.

Since the alleged transactions have cross-border angle and since the reserve Bank does not have the privileges of investigation, the issue has been referred to the DoE for undertaking investigation in the matter.

(3) ***Reliance Communications Ltd. (R Com)***

A study of the audited report for the year March 2007 revealed that the unutilized money of Rs.5,142 crore raised through issue of various FCCBs by the company has been deposited interest free with a wholly owned subsidiary which in turn held the same in bank deposits. After ascertaining the facts, R Com was advised in August 2009 to apply for compounding under FEMA 1999. The company in their response has stated that the proceeds of the FCCBs were utilized for permitted end-use (telecommunication capital expenditure) taking into account the business exigencies and denied any contravention of the Regulation/Direction under FEMA. The reply is being examined for taking further action.

(c) Two companies belonging to the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) namely Rose Power Supply Company Ltd. (RPSCCL) and Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd. (VIPL) have approached the Reserve Bank of India under the approval route for raising ECB of USD 550 million each towards Import and local sourcing of capital goods for implementing power projects.

(d) The regulatory framework for ECB is applicable for corporate registered under the Companies Act, 1956. As per RBI master circular No. 07/2009-10 dated July 1, 2009 "corporate which have violated the extant ECB policy and are under investigation by Reserve Bank and/or Directorate of Enforcement, are allowed to avail ECB only under the Approval route".

Reserve Bank has constituted an Empowered Committee, consisting of members from the Reserve Bank as well as from outside for considering applications for ECBs from borrowers under the approval route.

Insertion of section 35 AD in Income Tax Act

1253. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the insertion of section 35 AD in the Income Tax Act, 1961, the operators of gas pipelines were permitted to allow capital expenditure as revenue expenditure;

(b) if so, the number and names of the companies engaged in the operation of gas pipelines, which have been benefited by the insertion of section 35 AD;

(c) the amount of benefit for each of the companies, year-wise;

(d) the total amount of revenue loss to Government by insertion of section 35 AD; and

(e) the manner in which Government proposes to bridge this revenue gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Section 35AD allows an undertaking to claim the entire capital expenditure as deduction in the year in which it is incurred.

(b) and (c) Section 35AD has been inserted in the Income Tax Act with effect from 1.4.2010 for incomes arising in the current financial year. Deductions will be prospectively available to any company which fulfills the necessary conditions.

(d) and (e) Section 35AD allows an undertaking to claim the entire capital expenditure as deduction in the year in which it is incurred. This expenditure would otherwise have been allowable to the entity as depreciation in subsequent years. This would result only in the postponement of tax liability. The amendments through annual Finance Bills also contain provisions to enhance or augment revenue collection besides provisions for tax benefits though there cannot be a direct correlation between the two. The Government has undertaken additional revenue generating steps such as increase in the prescribed rate of Minimum Alternate Tax in the Income Tax Act with effect from 1.4.2010.

Smuggling of imported cars

1254. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had in the recent past seized a large number of imported cars which were smuggled into the country through legal channels by misrepresenting facts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to ensure steps to prevent such incidents and to take stringent action against the importer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of imported cars which were smuggled into the country through legal channels by misrepresenting facts and seized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in the recent past are as below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	No. of seized cars.	Value of seized cars.
2008-09	24	09.00
2009-10 (up to Oct, 09)	37	21.04

(c) and (d) Action under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 has been initiated against the importers. All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been sensitized and alerted to prevent smuggling of imported cars into the country through legal channels by misrepresenting facts.

Credit to agriculture and allied sector

1255. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target of Rs. 3,25,000 crores has been set in 2009-2010 for credit to agricultural and allied sectors, up from Rs. 2,87,000 crores during 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether a random survey of ten PSU banks has shown that Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 crore exist; and

(c) whether any new strategy is being evolved whereby NPAs could be reduced substantially during 2009-10 leaving aside the oft-spoken attitude that banks are striving to contain the level of their gross NPAs within acceptable limits?

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

(a) Yes sir. Government of India has set a target of Rs.3,25,000 crore for 2009-10 as against Rs.2,80,000 crores during the year 2008-09 for credit to the agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) The details of bank-wise outstanding advances and Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as at the end of March, 2009 are at given in statement (See below). Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have put in place a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for recovery of NPAs, which, *inter-alia*, include prudential norms for provisioning and classification of NPAs, guidelines for prevention of slippages, Corporate Debt Restructuring and other restructuring Scheme, One Time Settlement Schemes, the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (DRT) Act, 1993. The PSBs manage their NPAs and effect recoveries in these accounts in accordance with their recovery policies and RBI guidelines.

As a result of the various measures adopted by the PSBs for recovery of their NPAs, the level of NPAs of PSBs has declined substantially. The gross NPAs of the public sector banks, which were as high as 17.8 per cent at end-March 1997, declined significantly to 2.08 per cent as at end-March 2009. The net NPAs of these banks declined from 9.2 per cent to 0.99 per cent during the same period.

Statement

Bank-wise details of Gross Advances and Gross NPAs of PSBs

in Rs. Crore

Bank Name	March 2009	
	Gross Advances	Gross NPAs
1	2	3
Allahabad Bank	58,956	1,077
Andhra Bank	44,428	368
Bank of Baroda	109,977	1,664
Bank of India	115,354	2,190
Bank of Maharashtra	34,817	798
Canara Bank	135,520	2,139
Central Bank of India	86,053	2,317
Corporation Bank	48,927	559
Dena Bank	28,984	621
IDBI Bank Limited	103,914	1,436
Indian Bank	48,861	426
Indian Overseas Bank	68,479	1,810
Oriental Bank of Commerce	69,065	1,058
Punjab and Sind Bank	24,698	161
Punjab National Bank	156,098	2,767
Syndicate Bank	74,164	1,592
UCO Bank	64,020	1,540
Union Bank of India	98,265	1,923
United Bank of India	35,727	1,020
Vijaya Bank	35,875	699

1	2	3
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	30,088	490
State Bank of Hyderabad	43,938	486
State Bank of India	463,006	15,105
State Bank of Indore	21,747	301
State Bank of Mysore	25,870	368
State Bank of Patiala	43,961	574
State Bank of Saurashtra	0	0
State Bank of Travancore	32,972	549
TOTAL	2,103,763	44,039

*Data Sourced from Off Site returns submitted by banks and covers only domestic operations.

Recapitalisation of public sector banks

1256. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently decided to extend USD 4.3 billion loan to India for some projects including recapitalisation of public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of projects in which such investments are to be made;

(c) the terms and conditions under which such loans has been extended by World Bank and the manner in which it will be repaid; and

(d) to what extent the projects in which such an investment will be made are likely to be affected?

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

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

Level of CPI (industrial labour)

†1257. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Consumer Price Index (industrial labour) was 7.68 per cent at the minimum level and 10.45 per cent at the maximum level for the period between March, 2008 to March, 2009;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether the maximum and the minimum percentage during the period between March, 2009 to October, 2009 stayed higher than these percentage;

(d) if so, what have been these percentages; and

(e) the annual growth rate finally assessed for the period April, 2008 to March, 2009 and April, 2009 to September, 2009 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (d) The following table gives the year on year inflation based on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from March, 2008 to September, 2009. The minimum and maximum CPI-IW based inflation during March 2009-October, 2009 were 8.03 per cent and 11.89 per cent, respectively. These were higher than the minimum and maximum CPI-IW based inflation recorded during the period March, 2008 to March, 2009.

Table: Inflation based on CPI-IW (%)

Month-Year	Inflation (%)	Month-Year	Inflation (%)
Mar-08	7.87	Mar-09	8.03
Apr-08	7.81	Apr-09	8.70
May-08	7.75	May-09	8.63
Jun-08	7.69	Jun-09	9.29
Jul-08	8.33	Jul-09	11.89
Aug-08	9.02	Aug-09	11.72
Sep-08	9.77	Sep-09	11.64
Oct-08	10.45		
Nov-08	10.45		
Dec-08	9.70		
Jan-09	10.45		
Feb-09	9.63		
Mar-09	8.03		

(e) As per the revised estimate of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), for the period April, 2008 to March, 2009, the annual growth rate of GDP at factor cost at constant

(1999-2000) Prices was 6.7 per cent. As per the data released by CSO, on November 30, 2009, the GDP growth, between April, 2009 to September, 2009, is placed at 7.0 per cent.

Circulation of fake currency

1258. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the quantum of fake currency in circulation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether 'Economic Terror' which has been generated due to circulation of fake currency has affected adversely even on common man and crippled economy; and
- (d) if so, the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to root out this Economic Terror?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) There are no estimates available for quantum of fake currency in circulation. However, as per the information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the details of quantum of fake currency seized and recovered for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Total (no. of pieces)	Total Value (in rupees)
2006	3,58,002	83,944,769
2007	3,87,525	1,05,418,925
2008	6,56,901	2,56,301,022
2009 (upto 30.9.2009)	2,47,995	90,764,200

(c) Reserve Bank of India Maintains that the volume of fake currency is negligible, at less than 0.001% (8 notes per million pieces) of the total notes in circulation and, therefore, there is no serious threat to the economy on this account.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the bank notes in 2005 to make counterfeiting very difficult. To strengthen the security of bank notes further, incorporation of latest security features is underway. A High Level Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary comprising officials from central agencies and other senior police

officials has been constituted to monitor and draw a comprehensive strategy to combat FICN. Similar bodies have also been set up in the States. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

Review of FDI guidelines

1259. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to thoroughly review its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) guidelines following increasing risk of terror funds being parked in the country and other investments fraught with security implications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) The policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is incorporated in the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000, notified under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. FEMA indicates the countries from where investment is not permitted. As per Section 5(1) of FEMA Regulations, 2000 a person resident outside India or an entity incorporated outside India, other than a citizen or an entity in Pakistan, may purchase shares or convertible debentures of an Indian company under FDI scheme. FDI coming from Bangladesh is required to follow the approval route. Section 13 of the Act provides for imposition of penalty, after adjudication, for contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules/Regulations. Further, any company established in the country has to follow the relevant rules and regulations and is subject to the provisions of relevant Acts, including the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Government has put in place a liberal and investor friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-ministerial consultation process, with a view to rationalizing/simplification of the policy and taking into account stakeholders concerns. All concerns of National security are being constantly addressed to by the Government suitably.

Unclaimed money with commercial banks

1260. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large amount of unclaimed money is lying in commercial banks for the past several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI), instructions to banks to trace customers or the legal heirs of unclaimed accounts have been followed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which such amount is likely to be utilized or refunded to the legal heirs of account holders?

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

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the unclaimed deposit of Scheduled Commercial Banks for the last three years is as detailed below:

Sl.No.	Year ended	Amount (Rs.)
1.	31.12.2006	1025, 13, 74, 675 and US\$ 6513
2.	31.12.2007	1095, 46, 84, 927 and US\$ 6513.05
3.	31.12.2008	1188, 07, 83, 411.49

(c) to (e) Banks have reported that they have been following RBI instructions of August, 2008 to trace customers or the legal heirs of unclaimed deposits. In terms of these instructions, branches of a bank are required to make an annual review of accounts in which there are no operations *i.e.* no credit or debit other than crediting of periodic interest or debiting of service charges, for more than one year. The branches are required to approach the customers and inform them in writing that there has been no operation in the account and ascertain the reasons for the same. If the letters sent to account holders are returned undelivered, the branches are put on enquiry to find out the whereabouts of the customer or the legal heir, in case the account holder is deceased. They have also been advised to seek the help of the introducer of the account or the employer of the account holder or any other person whose details are available with them, who could provide information on the whereabouts of the account holder. The unclaimed deposits lie with the respective banks who deploy the same for their general business like any other deposits.

Elimination of fake currency from national economy

1261. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is worried over the fake currency which is hurting the economy;

(b) whether according to RBI estimates, the number of fake notes detected by the banking system in 2007-08 was 1,95,811 against 4,422.5 crore notes in circulation;

- (c) if so, whether the fake currency notes have been largely detected in 2008-09;
- (d) if so, what are the total fake currency that have been detected during 2009 and whether it has been on increase; and
- (e) what concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to eliminate the fake currency notes which are in operation in the country?

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

(a) RBI maintains that the volume of fake currency detected is negligible, at less than 0.001% (8 notes per million pieces) of the total notes in circulation, therefore, there is no serious threat to the economy on this account.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) RBI has informed that the number of counterfeit notes detected in the banking channel in 2008-09 (April-March) was 3,98,111 pieces.

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

Pattern of rural credit

1262. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of pattern of increase in the rural credit in the country for last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that of all rural credit the credit in the non-agriculture segment has increased in recent years as compared to the agriculture credit;
- (c) whether the recent waiver of loans was confined only to the agriculture credit; and
- (d) if not, the details of waived agriculture and non-agriculture loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
 (a) As per information available, year on year growth in total credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for the year 2007, 2008 and 2009 is as under:

Year	Year-on-year growth (Approx.)
2007	21%
2008	18%
2009	14%

Source: RBI

(b) Data for non-agricultural rural credit is not available separately. However, total gross bank credit to agricultural and allied activities increased from Rs.2,30,377 crore in 2007 to 2,75,343 crore in 2008 and to Rs. 3,38,656 crore in 2009.

(c) and (d) The recent waiver of loans was confined to agriculture credit. Commercial Banks, Local Area Banks (LABs) and Urban Co-operative Banks have so far waived loans amounting to Rs. 18,523.33 crore (approximately) under Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 (ADWDRS) while Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks have so far waived Rs. 23,566 crore under the scheme as per preliminary claims submitted by them. The banks still have time to prefer claims for 'debt relief' with RBI/NABARD under the scheme.

Withdrawal of fiscal stimulus package

1263. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has ruled out withdrawing fiscal stimulus packages until economy returns to a firm growth;

(b) if so, whether he has pointed out that he would take a call on withdrawing from stimulus package only after being convinced that the economy had come out of the slowdown;

(c) if so, what are the concrete steps and measures his Ministry is taking to ensure that economy is back to high GDP growth of 8.5 to 9 per cent per annum; and

(d) what are the concrete measures and steps his Ministry has taken to improve position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
 (a) to (d) The fiscal measures announced by the Government and the monetary measures by the Reserve Bank of India, were aimed at mitigating the adverse impact of the global economic downturn. Data published by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) shows that the deceleration observed in the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the third quarter of 2008-09 to 5.8 per cent was arrested in as much as the growth in the fourth quarter remained at 5.8 per cent

and recovered to 6.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2009-10. It has been indicated that at present there is no proposal for withdrawal of stimulus measures in 2009-10.

Monitoring the emerging macroeconomic situation and calibrating policies to restore growth momentum, is a continuous process. The expansionary fiscal stance as at present is a short-term measure to address demand slowdown in the economy and to minimise the adverse impact of global financial crisis. The intention to resume the process of fiscal consolidation has been indicated in the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement 2009-10, which envisages a fiscal deficit of 5.5 per cent of GDP in 2010-11 and 4.0 per cent go GDP in 2011-12.

Continuance of stimulus package

†1264. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has come out of negative efforts of world wide slowdown after the first half of the financial year 2009-10;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to continue the economic stimulus package which was provided during world wide economic slowdown;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government has fixed time frame for taking back the above economic package?

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

(a) and (b) To obviate the negative impact of the global economic events on the Indian economy in 2008-09, a number of steps were taken, which included monetary measures of the RBI and the expansionary fiscal policy of the Government. The stimulus measures announced by the Government in December 2008, January and February 2009 were both sector specific to address the special problems and also macro economy wide in nature aimed at boosting growth. As per the data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth which was 7.7 per cent in the second quarter of 2008-09 decelerated to 5.8 per cent in the third quarter. That the decline in growth was arrested is noted by the posting of 5.8 per cent growth in the fourth quarter of 2008-09, followed by an improvement to 6.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2009-10.

(c) to (e) The Government has already indicated that the fiscal stimulus will not be rolled back in 2009-10. Monitoring the emerging macroeconomic situation and calibrating policies to mitigate the adverse impact and restore growth momentum is a continuous process. The expansionary fiscal stance is a short-term measure to address demand slowdown in the economy and to minimise the adverse impact of global financial crisis. To address medium term

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sustainability concerns, the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement 2009-10 indicates the intention to resume the process of fiscal consolidation with a fiscal deficit of 5.5 per cent of GDP in 2010-11 and 4.0 per cent of GDP in 2011-12.

Climate change issue in G-20 Summit

1265. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether G-20 Finance Ministers meet was held in the recent past;
- (b) if so, whether G-20 has included climate change issue which India and other developing countries has already opposed in United Nations (UN) in the agenda without any consultation with these countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has put their stand in the said G-20 Finance Ministers conference; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes sir. The G20 Finance Ministers met in London (4-5 September 2009) and then in St Andrews (6th-7th November 2009).

(b) Climate Change Financing has been discussed as an agenda of G20 Finance Ministers meeting both in London (4-5 September 2009) and then in St Andrews (6th and 7th November 2009).

(c) The need to address climate change has been mentioned in the G20 Leaders Statements in the Washington Summit (November 2008), London Summit (April 2009) and Pittsburgh Summit (September 2009). In the Pittsburgh Summit the Leaders asked the G20 Finance Ministers to work on a range of possible options for climate change financing to be provided as a resource to be considered in the UNFCCC negotiations at Copenhagen. The G20 Finance Ministers have been deliberating upon the financing options for climate change.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The following stand has been taken by India:

- (1) The primacy of UNFCCC has to be upheld.
- (2) Substantial funds are required for climate change.
- (3) Climate finance should be anchored in the well-established principles of equity and 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities' articulated in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the roadmap set out in the Bali Action Plan.

- (4) Providing finance for addressing the needs of developing countries to address climate change is a commitment of the Annex I Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- (5) Any discussion on climate finance has to recognise the distinction between Annex I and non-Annex I countries and the principles, objectives and provisions of the Convention.
- (6) Private finance would need to be leveraged to augment public resources. However, we must remain cautious about placing our trust fully on the market mechanism. One of India's primary concerns is that the funds available for mitigation and adaptation should be reliable, predictable and sustainable and that carbon trading may therefore not be the 'silver bullet' for addressing climate change.
- (7) Public funds from developed countries have to be the main source of Climate Change Finance and resources have to be essentially grant based.
- (8) Right institutions within the UNFCCC to help deliver on the promise of funding the mitigation and adaptation should be created.

Finally, the G20 FMs agreed to commit to work towards an ambitious outcome in Copenhagen within the objective, provisions and principles of the UNFCCC. The G20 Finance Ministers also agreed to take forward further work on Climate Change Finance, to define financing options and institutional arrangements.

Approval of Kochi Metro Rail Project

1266. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Urban Development has proposed the Kochi Metro Rail Project, a joint venture of the Kerala State and the Centre for the approval of his Ministry for its implementation and sanction of the fund; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) A proposal for the Kochi Metro Rail Project is yet to undergo due appraisal/approval process. No proposal is pending with Ministry of Finance on date.

Setting up of FSDA

1267. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has finalized the roadmap for regulatory convergence;

(b) whether the plan has already been presented to him envisaging to set up a Financial Stability and Development Authority (FSDA) with statutory backing with him as its Chairperson;

(c) whether FSDA would treat to regulators-SEBI, IRDA, PFRDA and RBI as equals; and

(d) if so, by what extent this committee is likely to be in operation and to what extent it has taken certain decision?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken.

Rise in price of food articles

1268. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of food articles have increased tremendously recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether middle and lower class are affected adversely; and

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

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

(a) to (c) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation in the composite group of food items (Weight 25.43 per cent in WPI, composite primary and manufactured food items) was 14.13 per cent in October, 2009. During the same month, the WPI based inflation in food articles (Weight 15.40 per cent) and food products (Weight 10.03 per cent) were 13.32 per cent and 15.72 per cent, respectively. The details of food inflation since April, 2009 are given in table below:

Table : Food Inflation in 2009-10 (%)

WPI Food Composition	Weight (%)	Apr -09	May -09	Jun -09	Jul -09	Aug -09	Sep -09	Oct -09
Food Combined	25.43	9.04	9.56	10.80	12.09	13.32	15.30	14.13
Food articles	15.40	8.59	8.45	10.89	13.31	14.08	15.69	13.32
Food manufactured	10.03	9.88	11.69	10.63	9.77	11.87	14.56	15.72

Such levels of food inflation, affects all sections of society and particularly middle and lower class. The main reasons for inflationary trend in prices of food article are increase in demand for these commodities due to increase in population and income, hardening in international prices, changes in consumption pattern and hike in minimum support price of various agricultural

commodities. Delayed monsoon and floods in some parts of the country have also triggered expectations of lower production of food grains contributing to increase in price level of food articles.

(d) Government has taken several measures to contain the rise in prices of essential commodities/food articles, which include, reducing import duties on wheat, pulses, maize, raw sugar, etc.; imposition of stock limits in the case of paddy rice, pulses, sugar; and ban on export of non-basmati rice.

Measures to control price

†1269. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two fold rise in prices has been witnessed in the country making it difficult for common man to meet his daily needs; and

(b) if so, the details of measures adopted by Government to control prices?

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

(a) and (b) Though the inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is moderate, the inflation in the composite group of food items (Weight 25.43 per cent in WPI, comprising primary and manufactured food items) was 14.13 per cent in October, 2009. During the same month, the WPI based inflation in food articles (Weight 15.40 per cent) and food products (Weight 10.03 per cent) were 13.32 per cent and 15.72 per cent, respectively. The details of food inflation since April, 2009 are given in table below:

Table : Food Inflation in 2009-10 (%)

	Weight (%)	Apr -09	May -09	Jun -09	Jul -09	Aug -09	Sep -09	Oct -09
WPI all commodities	100.00	1.31	1.38	-1.01	-0.67	-0.17	0.50	1.34
Food Combined	25.43	9.04	9.56	10.80	12.09	13.32	15.30	14.13
Food articles	15.40	8.59	8.45	10.89	13.31	14.08	15.69	13.32
Food manufactured	10.03	9.88	11.69	10.63	9.77	11.87	14.56	15.72

Such levels of food inflation, affects the common man. Government has taken several measures to contain the rise in prices of essential commodities, which include, reducing import duties on wheat, pulses, maize, raw sugar etc; imposition of stock limits in the case of paddy rice, pulses, sugar; and ban on export of non-basmati rice.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Section 35AD of Finance Act

1270. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the insertion of section 35 AD in the Finance Act, 2009, Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd. (RGTEL), would benefit to the tune of Rs. 20000 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing such a largesse to a single company;

(c) what would be the total benefit to the industry as a whole with the insertion of section 35AD; and

(d) how does Government proposes to bridge this huge revenue loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Section 35AD has been inserted in the Income Tax Act with effect from 1.4.2010. It is applicable for incomes arising in the current financial year. Deductions will be available prospectively to any company which fulfills the necessary conditions. Any company which fulfills the necessary conditions will be benefitted as per the provisions of the section.

(c) Section 35AD has been inserted in the Income Tax Act with effect from 1.4.2010 and is thus applicable only from the current financial year. This section will promote investment by industry in the following areas:-

(i) Setting up and operating a cold chain facility;

(ii) Setting up and operating a warehousing facility for storage of agricultural produce;

(iii) Laying and operating a cross-country natural gas or crude or petroleum oil pipeline network for distribution, including storage facilities being an integral part of such network.

(d) Section 35AD allows an undertaking to claim the entire capital expenditure as deduction in the year in which it is incurred. This expenditure would otherwise have been allowable to the entity as depreciation in subsequent years. This would result only in the postponement of tax liability. The amendments through annual finance Bills also contain provisions to enhance or augment revenue collection besides provisions for tax benefits though there cannot be a direct correlation between the two. The Government has undertaken additional revenue generating steps such as increase in the prescribed rate of Minimum Alternate Tax in the Income Tax Act with effect from 1.4.2010.

Meeting the target of agriculture credit

1271. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the Public Sector Banks have failed to achieve the mandatory 18 per cent credit to agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and bank-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the non achievement of disbursal of agri-loan by these public sector banks; and
- (d) what remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

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

(a) to (d) The Government of India has taken several steps to ensure the smoother flow of credit to the agriculture sector. As a result the banks have exceeded the targets set. The details of targets fixed and achieved in respect of agricultural credit flow by all banks during the years 2006-07 to 2008-09 are as follows:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Target	Achievement
2006-07	1,75,000	2,29,400
2007-08	2,25,000	2,54,657
2008-09	2,80,000	*2,87,149

*Provisional figures upto March, 2009

Public Sector Bank-wise details indicating the percentage of total agricultural advances to Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) for the year 2007, 2008 and 2009 as per Reserve Bank of India Information is given in the Statement.

The shortfall in lending to agriculture and/or to the priority sector by scheduled commercial banks is contributed through Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to a corpus called the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) operationalized by NABARD in 1995-96 to finance ongoing rural infrastructure projects.

Statement

Public Sector Bank-wise Details of Advances of Public Sector Banks to Agriculture

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Total Agricultural Advances (As on the last reporting Friday of)					
		Mar-07		Mar-08		Mar-09	
		Amount	Per cent to ANBC or credit equivalent of OBE, whichever is higher	Amount	Per cent to ANBC or credit equivalent of OBE, whichever is higher	Amount	Per cent to ANBC or credit equivalent of OBE, whichever is higher
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Public Sector Banks							
1.	Allahabad Bank	7,692.00	18.3	9145.67	20.4	8,989	18.1
2.	Andhra Bank	5,149.78	18.5	6156.42	21.8	6,834	19.8
3.	Bank of Baroda	10,366.39	15.9	13268.93	16.8	16,964	16.9
4.	Bank of India	11,289.00	18.4	13128.00	18.5	16,346	18.2
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	3,884.12	14	4841.01	15.4	4,522	15.2
6.	Canara Bank	15,521.00	15.7	17996.00	17.7	20,144	19.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Central Bank of India	9,251.89	18.8	11104.06	17.6	13,639	16.5
8.	Corporation Bank	2,621.74	9.2	3529.79	10.0	4,330	11.1
9.	Dena Bank	3,344.70	15.2	2764.64	14.7	3,851	15.5
10.	Indian Bank	5,656.08	21	6214.87	22.1	7,618	19.9
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	7,890.22	18.7	8688.90	18.9	10,573	18.5
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	5,732.28	11.1	6592.00	12.3	8,565	13.3
13.	Punjab National Bank	18,571.00	18.9	19946.40	18.9	23,806	19.7
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2,502.12	16	2438.22	17.9	2,969	14.1
15.	Syndicate Bank	8,049.60	17.4	9331.81	19.9	10,796	18.4
16.	Union Bank of India	10,674.76	16.8	11392.87	17.2	13,233	16.0
17.	United Bank of India	2,713.00	12	3172.00	13.2	3,869	13.0
18.	UCO Bank	6,154.00	13.9	7948.00	16.2	11,038	19.0
19.	Vijaya Bank	3,230.63	12.4	3942.16	12.9	4,513	14.0
20.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	1,377.98	2.2	4526.00	6.7	8,311	10.1
State Bank Group							
21.	State Bank of India	41,661.32	14.5	56432.00	18.6	69,279	18.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	3,754.59	18.3	4589.58	22.1	4,828	19.1
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	3,798.65	13.7	5147.71	18.1	6,932	18.8
24.	State Bank of Indore	2,644.56	17.2	3018.47	19.1	3,343	18.2
25.	State Bank of Mysore	2,180.94	13.8	2911.36	18.1	3,571	16.8
26.	State Bank of Patiala	4,491.00	15.8	4573.71	15.7	5,040	13.7
27.	State Bank of Travancore	1,936.61	18.1	2194.76	19.5	2,953	10.3

Source: RBI

Notes: 1. Data are provisional.

2. ANBC - Adjusted net bank credit or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher, effect from April 30, 2007.

3. Indirect agriculture is reckoned up to 4.5 per cent of ANBC for calculation of percentage for Agriculture.

Source: Data furnished by respective banks.

Demand for no-dues certificate from farmers

1272. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is asking for no-dues certificate from the farmers who apply for loans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what steps Government is taking in case of online applications in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh where farmers are facing such problems?

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

(a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through its circular No.RPCD/PLFS.BC.No. 85/05.04.02/2006-07 dated April 30, 2007 advised all banks to dispense with the requirement of 'No Dues Certificate' (NDC) for small loans up to Rs.50,000 to small and marginal farmers, share-croppers and the like and, instead, obtain a self-declaration from the borrower. While lending to landless labourers, share-croppers and oral lessees the banks may accept certificates provided by local administrator/Panchayati Raj Institutions regarding the cultivation of crops.

Parking of surplus funds with banks

1273. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has directed the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to park their surplus funds with only public sector banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many Public Sector Undertakings like ONGC, BSNL, BHEL, NTPC and SAIL have moved his Ministry in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) It was brought to the notice of the Government that there was an emerging practice amongst Central public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of inviting competitive bids for placing bulk deposits with banks. As a consequence, there was undesirable competition amongst banks leading to arbitrary hikes in deposits rates. In order to avoid this undesirable competition, which have consequences for the economy, and considering the need to moderate the cost of credit, the Government of India has advised all Government of India Ministries/Departments/other agencies/entities/bodies of the Government that the practice of inviting competitive bids for bulk deposits should be discontinued forthwith and atleast 60% of their funds be placed with the PSBs with whom they were doing a regular course of business.

Some of the Ministries/CPSEs had represented to the Government to allow them to place their funds through competitive bidding. However, keeping in view all the relevant factors and

that the practice of placing deposits through competitive bidding has consequences for the economy, the Government has decided to continue with the above guidelines. Moreover, it was also felt that though these guidelines may lead to decrease in interest earning for some CPSEs, the move would benefit the economy at large including the borrowing CPSEs, due to overall reduction in the cost of funds.

Austerity measures taken by Government

1274. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas of austerity measures undertaken and being undertaken by the present UPA Government;
- (b) the extent of total expenditure every year by the UPA Government;
- (c) the extent of savings made so far; and
- (d) the share of expenditure for the establishment charges in terms of salaries, other allowances and perquisites every year?

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

(a) Ministry of Finance has *vide* Office Memorandum dated 7th September, 2009, advised all Ministries/Departments, *inter alia*, to effect mandatory cuts in Non-Plan expenditure under various heads and also issued instructions related to domestic and foreign travel, purchase of vehicles, holding of seminars and conferences etc.

(b) The net expenditure by the UPA Government for the year 2004-05 is Rs.4,98,252 crores, 2005-06 is Rs.5,05,738 crores, 2006-07 is Rs.5,83,387 crores, 2007-08 is Rs.7,12,671 crores, 2008-09 (Provisional) is Rs.8,81,469 crores.

(c) Information relating to the amounts saved so far will be available with the Ministries/Departments and their attached/subordinate offices.

(d) The expenditure on pay, allowances and travel expenses excluding Defence Services Personnel and Railways, are as follows:

	Pay	Allowances	Travel Expenses
Actuals 2004-05	103678.46	9316.91	894.80
Actuals 2005-06	10507.81	10238.15	1053.49
Actuals 2006-07	10791.73	11533.89	1084.04
Actuals 2007-08	12958.44	12098.57	1204.63
Revised Estimates 2008-09	26140.14	13421.42	1372.36
Budget Estimates 2009-10	33162.91	16579.03	1949.67

(In crores of Rs.)

Foreign loans

†1275. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the total amount of foreign loans of various kinds on Government upto the year 2007-08;

(b) the amount being paid as interest on these loans every year; and

(c) the year-wise ratio of increase in this loan during last three years?

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

(a) Total amount of foreign loans outstanding under external assistance on Government account up to the year 2007-08 is as under:

Table 1: External Assistance Outstanding on Government Account as end-March 2008 (PR)

(US\$ million)

Total amount outstanding (A+B)	52,538
A. Multilateral	36,170
B. Bilateral	16,368

PR: Partially Revised

(b) The interest payment on these loans was US\$ 706 million, US\$ 895 million and US\$ 917 million during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, respectively.

(c) The rate of increase in these loans during last three years is as under:

Table 2: Variation in External Assistance Outstanding on Government account over previous year as at end-March (per cent)

2006	-0.4
2007 R	6.1
2008 PR	13.8

R: Revised; RP: Partially Revised.

Tax concession to State

1276. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given 100 per cent tax concessions to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir with a sunset clause; and

(b) whether Government is planning to extend the time frame of these concessions?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. In respect of direct taxes, the Government has given 100 per cent tax concessions to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir with a sunset clause. As far as indirect taxes are concerned, there is no time limit in respect of State of Jammu and

Kashmir but there is a sunset clause in respect of the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

(b) Presently, the Government does not have any plan to extend the time-frame of these concessions.

Pension related grievances

1277. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of implementation of the recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission has generated heart burning among many pensioners, for *e.g.* in the grade of Joint Secretary who are drawing less pension than their juniors who retired as Directors about 5 to 10 years back;

(b) whether the anomalous situation is due to miscalculation by banks or any other reasons;

(c) whether Government proposes to look into the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Pensioners who retired in the grade of Joint Secretary prior to 1.1.2006 and were drawing higher pre-revised pension than a pre-1.1.2006 pensioner who retired as Director, continue to draw higher pension after Sixth Pay Commission. Hence, no anomalous situation has arisen in this case.

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

Detection of fake Indian currency notes

1278. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fake Indian currency notes have been detected in various parts of our country during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how many persons have so far been arrested in these cases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that counterfeit currency notes are printed in Lahore and Karachi from where it is sent to Nepal and Dubai and then to India;

(d) if so, whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, with what results?

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

(a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the details of quantum of fake currency detected and total persons arrested till September, 2009 is as follows:

Year	Total (no. of pieces detected)	Value	Total persons arrested
2009 (upto 30.9.2009)	2,47,995	Rs.9,07,64,200/-	868

(c) to (e) Available inputs indicate that high quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) are printed in a neighbouring country and pushed into India through neighbouring countries. The issue has also been taken up consistently with the neighbouring countries in the bilateral fora.

Limit of operation of nationalised banks

1279. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations of nationalized banks like State Bank of India (SBI) is limited to specific areas;

(b) if so, whether it encourages the function of private banks in other areas; and

(c) if not so, whether the allocation of student loan by SBI is limited to those who are living in Specific areas?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Bank of India extends student loan throughout the country without any restrictions.

Fall in foreign exchange reserve

1280. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian foreign exchange reserve fell considerably recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the factors responsible for fall in foreign exchange reserve; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to maintain reserves of foreign exchange?

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

(a) to (d) The Foreign Exchange Reserves comprising Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and Reserve Tranche Position with IMF has increased from US\$ 251.99 billion at the end of March 2009 to US\$ 284.39 billion at the end of October 2009. This increased further to US\$ 286.38 billion as on November 13, 2009. The details are given below.

Foreign Exchange Reserves, Component wise and month wise, during 2009-10

(US\$ billion)

Sl. No.	Month (end of Month)	FCA+	Gold\$	SDRs@	RTP in IMF**	Total Foreign Exchange Reserves
1.	March 2009	241.43	9.58	0.001	0.981	251.99
2.	April 2009	241.74	9.23	0.001	0.983	251.95
3.	May 2009	251.46	9.60	0.001	1.245	262.31
4.	June 2009	254.09	9.80	0.001	1.248	265.14
5.	July 2009	260.63	9.67	0.001	1.338	271.64
6.	August 2009	261.25	9.83	4.828	1.349	277.25
7.	September 2009	264.37	10.32	5.224	1.365	281.28
8.	October 2009	266.77	10.80	5.24	1.58	284.39
9.	November, 2009 (upto 13 November)	262.91	17.50	5.270	0.701	286.38

+ : Excludes US\$ 250 million invested in foreign currency denominated bonds issued by IIFC (UK).

** : Reserve Position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), *i.e.*, Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) which was shown as a memo item from May 23, 2003 to March 26, 2004 has been included in the reserves from the week ended April 2, 2004 in keeping with the international best practice.

@ : Includes SDR 3,082.5 million (equivalent to US\$ 4,883 million) allocated under general allocation and SDR 214.6 million (equivalent to US\$ 340 million) allocated under special allocation by IMF done on August 28, 2009 and September 9, 2009, respectively.

\$: Includes USD 6,699 million reflecting the purchase of 200 metric tonnes of gold from IMF on November 3, 2009.

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

The level of foreign exchange reserves is largely the outcome of the Reserve Bank's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility and valuation changes due to movement of US dollar against other major currencies of the world.

Relevance of WPI

1281. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the irrelevance of the current Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with inflation rate in the context of continuing inflation going negative; and

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken to bring the Price-index in tune with inflation rate by relating the Index with the rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
 (a) and (b) The inflation is measured on year-on-year basis which has base effect and price effect. The annual rate of inflation, based on WPI, became negative during the months of June, July and August, 2009. Negative inflation during this period was both because of the base effect and because of decline in the prices of petroleum products and some manufactured products. WPI and rate of inflation from April 2009 to October, 2009 for three Broad Groups is indicated below:

**Table: Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Inflation for Broad Groups
 (April 09 to October 09)**

	Weight (%)	Apr- 09	May- 09	Jun- 09	Jul- 09	Aug- 09	Sep- 09	Oct- 09
Wholesale price Index (1993-94=100)								
All Commodities	100.00	231.5	234.3	235.0	238.4	240.8	242.7	242.2
I. Primary Articles	22.02	254.4	257.2	259.8	266.6	269.2	275.8	273.4
II. Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.23	323.4	325.7	327.5	338.2	342.9	344.6	345.0
III. Manufactured Products	63.75	203.0	205.9	205.8	206.4	208.1	208.6	208.5
Rate of inflation (per cent)								
All Commodities	100.00	1.31	1.38	-1.01	-0.67	-0.17	0.50	1.34
I. Primary Articles	22.02	6.62	6.32	6.52	7.20	7.98	9.36	8.71
II. Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.23	-5.69	-6.14	-12.53	-10.34	-9.26	-8.18	-6.55
III. Manufactured Products	63.75	1.75	2.18	0.64	0.05	0.10	0.29	1.36

Note: Figures of September 2009 and October 2009 are provisional

Estimate of black money stashed in Swiss Banks

†1282. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to bring back the black money of the people of this country deposited with the Swiss Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the efforts made by different Governments to bring back the black money deposited with foreign banks and the same done by the present Government keeping in view the past experiences;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the estimates, if any, Government have in regard to the black money deposited with foreign banks (particularly in Swiss Banks); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) There is no verifiable information available about black money deposited with Swiss banks or other foreign banks.

Whenever any case of suspected unauthorized maintenance/operation of accounts abroad by persons resident in India comes to the notice of the Directorate of Enforcement, appropriate action under Foreign Exchange Management Act and Regulations made thereunder, including for repatriation of funds lying in such accounts, is taken. However, no roving enquiries are made.

Further, Government has taken appropriate action, from time to time, whenever information regarding money deposited in foreign bank accounts in violation of direct tax laws is received. Efforts have also been made to get bank related information while pursuing investigations in cases of tax evasion and tax avoidance through requests in terms of provisions regarding exchange of information in various Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (referred to as tax treaties) entered by India with foreign countries. Information so received is used for determining tax liability of the tax payers. Our tax treaty partners can also be requested to assist in collection of tax claim, if the tax treaty with that country contains specific provisions for assistance in collection of taxes. In accordance with currently prevailing international practice, tax treaties do not have provision for seeking repatriation of money deposited abroad.

Whenever efforts were made to seek bank related information under the tax treaty between India and Swiss Confederation, the Swiss Federal Tax Administration expressed its inability to exchange the information regarding bank deposits of Indian residents as the information was not necessary for the application of the tax treaty between India and Swiss Confederation but was required only for the enforcement of Indian internal laws. They also replied that such information was not at their disposal under Swiss laws in the normal course of tax administration.

Government has written to its treaty partners for entering into renegotiation of tax treaties in order to widen the scope of Article concerning exchange of information by specifically providing for exchange of bank related information. With respect to Swiss Confederation the first round of negotiation was held at Berne from 10th November, 2009 to 12th November, 2009. Government has also written to prioritized non-treaty countries for entering into negotiations for Agreement for Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection of Taxes. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has also alerted its investigation units to pursue on top priority any information regarding any undisclosed money illegally parked in banks outside the country.

Purchase of Gold by RBI

†1283. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently purchased 200 tonnes of Gold from International Monetary Fund (IMF); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has purchased 200 metric tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the IMF's limited gold sales programme. This has been done as part of RBI's foreign exchange reserve management operations. The purchase has increased the ratio of gold holdings to that of foreign exchange with RBI.

Allowances and fringe benefits for Government employees

1284. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government employees and officers are not getting allowances and fringe benefits at par with nationalized bank although Hon'ble Supreme Court has given an order to give them salary, DA and other allowances at par with nationalized bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Central Government employees are granted pay and allowances based on the recommendations of successive Pay Commissions. The salary, DA and allowances applicable at present are based on the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission as accepted by the Government.

Harassment of common investors

1285. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that common investors are harassed by broker in trading and dematerialized account;

(b) if so, whether Government is going to survey the situation; and

(c) whether Government would give any direction to Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to look into the matter?

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

(a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) receives complaints against all registered intermediaries associated with securities market including stock brokers and depository participants on matters relating to trading and demat accounts respectively. The complaints from investors, as and when received by SEBI are forwarded to the concerned Stock Exchange and Depository, who are suitably empowered to resolve the grievances, for redressal. The complaints received by SEBI, do not indicate that common investors are generally harassed by brokers.

(b) The stock exchanges and depositories have their own administrative mechanism for handling and redressing the investor complaints. In terms of the SEBI (Stock Brokers and

Sub-Brokers) Regulations, 1992, the stock brokers are required to take adequate steps for redressal of grievances of the investors within one month of the date of receipt of the complaint. Similar provisions exist under the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 1996 for grievances received against the depository participants.

In case of violation of any rules, regulations and guidelines by the Stock Brokers and Depository participants, SEBI takes action against them in terms of the applicable Rules, Regulations, SEBI Act and Depositories Act, as warranted. SEBI also conducts special purpose inspections of the stock brokers and depository participants based on the complaints received against them.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government and SEBI to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of the stock exchanges and depositories. Complaints received by the Government from investors, as and when received, are forwarded to SEBI for appropriate action. SEBI has made it mandatory for the stock brokers to get their half yearly internal audit done by independent chartered Accountants/Company Secretaries/Cost and Management Accountants; which covers various areas including their investor grievance handling mechanism. With a view to bring in more transparency in the grievance redressal available in the stock exchanges, SEBI has also directed stock exchanges to disclose all investor complaints and arbitration details on their websites.

New pharma colleges in Maharashtra

†1286. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

(a) whether the Central Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for setting up new pharma degree colleges in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this proposal is expected to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (c) No proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up new degree Pharmacy Colleges has been received.

Parity of Physiotherapists with MBBS and BDS traction

1287. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether matter of parity of physiotherapists with MBBS and BDS has ever been examined by any independent committee;

(b) if so, the details, including findings, thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (c) The matter of parity of Physiotherapists with MBBS and BDS was examined by the Vth Central Pay Commission and not agreed to. The educational qualification and the nature of duties of Physiotherapists are not comparable to those of MBBS doctors and BDS (Dental Surgeons). Further, the Physiotherapists like medical practitioners do not diagnose, investigate, prescribe, treat and follow up patients with various diseases. The Physiotherapists are required to take the advice of doctors with in regard to starting of physiotherapy or occupational therapy and continuing such treatment.

Shortage of typhoid vaccine

1288. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is acute shortfall of vaccines in the country;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that this shortage has occurred due to closure of three important laboratories in the country;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that the vaccine particularly typhoid vaccine has not been available for the last six months; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of Vaccines under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country at present. However, for some months in 2008, there were shortages of Diptheria-Pertusis-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, and since then there have been no shortages.

(c) and (d) Vaccination for typhoid is not a part of Universal Immunization Programme.

Food Regulatory Authority

1289. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has recently set up Food Regulatory Authority (FRA) and appointed representatives of food giants as members of its key scientific panels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the interest of consumers are at risk as major food giants have been nominated on the watch dog body;
- (d) if so, the reasons of appointing representatives of food giants on FRA; and

(e) how the interest of consumers would be protected?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The Government has established Food Safety and Standards Authority of India under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 consisting of 23 members including Chairperson of the Food Authority and appointed independent scientific experts as members of its scientific panels.

The scientific experts in these panels have been selected according to the approved procedures. With a view to bring together the best scientific expertise available in the country for forming scientific opinions, Scientists have been selected as members of the Panels/Committee in their individual capacity of being a scientist and an expert in their respective fields irrespective of their present association or affiliation with any public or private sector organisation. This is in accordance with the international practice followed in respect of Committees requiring high level expertise on any specific subject.

An elaborate procedure has been laid down to manage conflict of interest. The members of the Scientific Committee and Panels are required to submit an annual declaration of interest and declaration of any possible conflict of interest before each meeting of the Scientific Committee and panels. Whenever a conflict of interest is established, Chairman of the panel/Committee is required to exclude such a scientist from consideration of items in the agenda.

Thus an elaborate conflict of interest procedure has been introduced in this standard setting body (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) in the interest of absolute transparency and objectivity.

The guidelines to Scientific Panels and Committee make it very clear that having an interest in a particular scientific issue does not necessarily mean a conflict of interest. In fact, keen intellectual interest in scientific issues is a pre-condition for participation in such Committee and Panels. It is based on the recognition that any scientist can contribute to scientific knowledge and safety of food, if discussions and conclusions are based on reliable scientific evidence, open discussion and rigorous validation procedures.

The Scientific Panels will provide scientific opinion to the Food Authority which would be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and the final decision would be taken by the Food Authority consisting of members from various stakeholders including the consumer organizations.

Specialists for treatment of infectious diseases

1290. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India has very few doctors who specialize in treating patients suffering from infectious diseases (ID) though 48 per cent of deaths in the country are caused by such diseases like tuberculosis, typhoid, right down to the recent Swine Flu;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that none of the 20 odd medical colleges in the country offer a degree course in infectious diseases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. The treatment of infectious diseases does not require specialization. The Medical Graduates (MBBS Doctors) are qualified to treat infectious diseases including tuberculosis, typhoid and swine flu. The Medical doctors posted in various Hospitals/Health Centres are given training/orientation from time to time to update their knowledge and skills. Continuous medical education (CME) and updates help the doctors to manage the cases.

(c) Yes.

(d) As mentioned in reply to (a) and (b) above, the Medical Graduates (MBBS Doctors) are fully qualified to treat infectious diseases with continuous medical education.

Nursing college in Chhattisgarh

†1291. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether any proposal from the State Government of Chhattisgarh along with detailed project report for setting up 'Nursing College' in Jagdalpur and 'Centre for Excellence' in Raipur have been received; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal including grant, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Although the State Government of Chhattisgarh has forwarded the proposal for setting up of Nursing College in Jagdalpur and Centre for Excellence in Raipur but the same can not be considered for release of grant as there is no approved scheme in this regard, at present.

Health survey in EAG States

1292. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Central Government approved and launched health survey in Empowered Action Group (EAG) States;

(b) if so, whether States were identified under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to get feed back on impact of schemes under the mission;

(c) whether field work for survey would commence during 2009-10 and first set of results is likely to start flowing during 2010-11;

(d) whether NRHM was launched in 2005 to bring about improvement in health system and health status of people, especially those living in rural areas; and

(e) if so, to what extent this Mission has been successful so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Government has approved the conduct of an Annual Health Survey by the Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for preparing the District health profile on an annual basis in the States of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. All these States belong to the Group of High Focus National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) states. The Annual Health Survey is being conducted as a panel survey where the sample is followed over the years. The survey activities including data collection, data validation, data processing, report writing etc. generally takes about a years.

The estimates of key indicators like the Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate, Infant Mortality Rate and other programme indicators are useful in effective monitoring of the programmes at the District level. At present, these estimates are available only at the State level.

(d) and (e) The NRHM has been launched by the Government in 2005 throughout the country, with special focus on 18 States which includes 8 erstwhile Empowered Action Group States, 8 North-East States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population of rural India. Since, the launch of NRHM, several activities have been undertaken under NRHM like strengthening institutional mechanism at State, District and Sub-District level, financial support at Village Sub Centre, Primary Health Centres (PHC), Community Health Centers (CHC), Sub-District, District and State level, for better utilization of health services; prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases; revitalizing local health traditions and mainstreaming Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, homeopathy (AYUSH) etc. and considerable progress has been made. The institutional frame work of the NRHM has been established and operationalised in the various States and Districts.

The progress made under NRHM as reported by states is follows:

- Over 6.77 lakhs Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) working actively in the field to connect households with health facilities.
- 4.28 lakh Village Health and Sanitation Committees constituted and untied funds made available to them for local public health action.
- 1.45 lakh Health Sub Centres made more effective through utilization of untied funds, availability of drugs and addition of 44,429 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) on contract.
- 7,613 PHCs made 24x7, with provision of drugs, untied grants, maintenance grants, Rogi Kaalyan Samiti (RKS) grants.
- 9,874 MBBS Doctors, 6,660 AYUSH Doctors, 13,278 paramedic staff, 3 staff Nurses in 5,520 PHCs. 2,344 Specialists taken on contract.
- Upgradation of physical infrastructure completed in 822 CHCs.
- More than 28,000 RKS established in DHs, CHCs, PHCs.
- 617 Integrated District Health Action Plans completed.
- 354 Districts have functional Mobile Medical Units.

Ranking of India by Global Hunger Index

1293. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, according to the Global Hunger Index for 2009 India has been ranked at a poor 65th position with an alarming rating;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government's poor performance in controlling undernourishment, child malnutrition and child mortality has exposed the factual position in the world; and
- (d) if so, what immediate corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) India is ranked 65th on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2009 (as brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) — an alliance of 64 governments, private foundations and international and regional organisations. The index is based on prevalence of child malnutrition, rates of child mortality and the proportion of people who are calorie deficient. The Global Hunger Index for India has declined from 32.7 to 23.9 for the period 1990 to 2009.

(c) and (d) The percentage of children under age three who are underweight has declined from 52% as per National Family Health Survey I (1992-93) to 40% as per National Family

Health Survey — III (2005-06). The rate of under five mortality has declined from 117 per thousand live births in 1990 to 72 in 2007 as per the State of World's Children, 2009.

The Government has initiated various measures to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population *i.e.* infants, children pregnant and lactating mothers of the country. The important measures are given in the Statement.

Statement

The measures taken to improve the health and nutritional status of population.

1. A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up.
2. Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes :
 - Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.
 - Janai Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
 - Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries improved coverage and quality of ANC skilled care to Pregnant women, Post-partum care at community level.
 - Immunization
 - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and malnutrition.
 - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
 - Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation for Preschool Children, Pregnant and lactating women. Iron and folic acid syrup has been added in the programme for children 6 to 60 months.
 - National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)
3. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.
4. Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) including supplementary nutrition.
5. National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid day meal programme)
6. Improving agricultural and horticultural produce.
7. Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating scheme, availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.

Central funding for CHIS

1294. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central funding for implementation of 'Community Health Insurance Scheme' (CHIS) in Andhra Pradesh under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Programme during the last three years and till date, year-wise separately;

(b) the total number of people covered under CHIS in the State during this period; and

(c) the details of the benefits and facilities being provided under CHIS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no such scheme called "Community Health Insurance Scheme" [CHIS] running in Andhra Pradesh under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. However, an insurance scheme viz. [Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme] is run by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A token support of Rs.10 Crores each in 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been approved under NRHM for this Scheme, as an innovative measure, considering that NRHM is focused on Primary Health Care.

(b) Under the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme 204.13 lakh BPL Families are covered till date.

(c) Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme Provides financial protection to families living below poverty line up to Rs. 2 lakhs in a year for the treatment of serious ailments requiring hospitalization and surgery. 389 procedures are covered under the scheme.

Policy for biomedical waste management

1295. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is being proposed to formulate a policy for biomedical waste management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Government had formulated National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management and circulated to States and Union Territories in March, 2002.

These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, notified under the Environment Protection Act 1986, by developing comprehensive plans for segregation, collection, storage, treatment, transportation and disposal of the hospital waste in terms of :

- Segregation, collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste.
- Handling and disposal of sharps, especially auto-disable (AD) syringes.
- Infection control and personal safety measures.
- Mercury waste disposal
- Monitoring, evaluation, awareness, behavioural change and training to improve skills in bio-medical waste management.

Vacant posts of doctors in rural Bihar

1296. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: 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 of Bihar; and
- (b) whether it is being proposed to appoint doctors on contract basis or utilize unregistered doctors in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the Rural Health Statistics (RHS) Bulletin (March 2008), 513 positions of doctors. 176 positions of specialists, 237 positions of nurses, 548 positions of lab technicians and 550 positions of pharmacists are vacant in the State of Bihar. To compensate these gaps the state has undertaken contractual recruitment of health service providers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Introduction of pneumonia vaccine

1297. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the child health bodies urged Government to include pneumonia vaccine in the routine immunization schedule since the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that one child died in India a minute due to pneumonia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the WHO Data published recently reveals that India leads the World with 27 per cent of the global pneumonia cases;
- (d) whether Government introduced a pentavalent vaccine which includes Haemophilus influenza (Hib) one of the two bacteria causing pneumonia; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to include Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) which immunize children against pneumonia?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The Indian Association of Pediatrics: Committee on Immunization (IAP COI) has recommended for inclusion of Pheumococcal vaccines in the routine immunization schedule, considering the high mortality caused by this disease in children in the country.

(b) The IAP COI has suggested the following schedule for immunization of children with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine: 3 doses to be given at 6,10,14 weeks and 1 booster at 15-18 months of age.

(c) Yes. As per the recent WHO report, India accounts for the maximum 43 million new cases out of 156 million new pneumonia cases reported every year globally.

(d) No.

(e) Government takes a decision on introduction of any new vaccine on the basis of recommendation made by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).

VIPs affected by Swine Flu

1298. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat and the Principal Secretary to the Government of Gujarat Health and Family Welfare Department have been affected by Swine Flu;

(b) if so, who are the other VIPs affected by Swine flu;

(c) what is the total number of persons affected by Swine Flu in India and the persons died out of this disease;

(d) whether it is controlled or being controlled or whether it can be eradicated; and

(e) if so, the time-frame to do so?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per policy, the names of persons found positive for swine flu are not disclosed except to the individual himself/herself.

(c) As on 29th November, 2009, there are 18007 laboratory confirmed cases and 573 deaths due to Pandemic influenza A H1N1 (swine flu).

(d) and (e) The present Influenza Pandemic cannot be eradicated. History of past pandemics suggests that pandemic comes in waves spread over 1-2 years. The first wave that started in India in July 2009 has peaked in some State (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh) and well under control. As of now, States of Rajasthan, Kerala, Haryana, Delhi are showing increasing influenza activity but the situation in these States are also under control.

Expenditure on health

1299. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on health is very low in Government sector as compared to the private sector;

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

(c) the average annual amount spent/being spent on health sector during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the health sector has largely been commercialized in the country; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As per the National Health Accounts India 2004-05 (with provisional estimates from 2005-06 to 2008-09), health spending by Government and private sectors in the country for the last 3 years is estimated as follows :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Public expenditure	Private expenditure
2006-07	40678.86	127840.57
2007-08	48685.21	142690.24
2008-09	58681.38	157393.54

Information on expenditure for the current year is not available relatively low public spending on health has led to the emergence of a large private sector. This contributes towards commercialization of the health sector.

Government plans to increase the public spending on health. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims to raise public health spending to at least 2% of the GDP during the Plan Period.

To support the public health system in the States, Government of India had launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 and this has an outlay of Rs.90,558 crore during the 11th Plan period. The Mission aims to provide quality health services, which are accessible, affordable and accountable. It also strengthens the primary health care and aims of reducing the out of pocket expenditures. The allocation for a number of other programmes has also been enhanced substantially in the first two years of the Plan period.

Swine Flu cases in Maharashtra

1300. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is a sharp rise in number of cases of Swine Flu in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that only few government hospitals are equipped to treat the patients;

(d) if so, whether he would direct the private hospitals to attend to Swine Flu cases, without charges; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. The community spread of pandemic influenza A H1N1 (swine flu), first noticed in Maharashtra in first week of August, 2009 reached peak in third week of August and started declining after first week of September 2009. Details are given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) No.

(d) and (e) As per the Government of India guidelines all States, have identified adequate number of Government hospitals treat patients of swine flu.

Treatment of influenza requires isolation facilities. Hospitals in private sector conforming to the guidelines were allowed to admit and treat swine flue cases. Wherever necessary, the existing legal provisions were used to enlist them.

It is not possible to direct private hospitals to treat swine flu patients free of cost. However, those identified private hospitals provided with testing facility by Government laboratory and given Oseltamivir (the drug to treat swine flu) from Government stock passed on these benefits to the patients.

Statement

Details of the cases of swine flu in Maharashtra

S.No.	Week	No. of laboratory confirmed cases
1.	17-23 August 09	598
2.	24-30 August 09	262
3.	31 August -6 September 2009	441
4.	7-13 September 2009	250
5.	14-20 September 2009	405
6.	21-27 September 2009	349
7.	28 September - 4 October 09	393
8.	5-11 October 09	288
9.	12-18 October 09	191
10.	19-25 October 09	120

Measures to control population growth

†1301. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the concrete steps being taken by Government to control the growing population;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government is not worried about population explosion;
- (c) whether Government would enact one child law on the line of China; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them according to their choice. 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 Same 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.

To encourage Family Planning through responsible and planned parenthood, voluntary and informed choice of Family Planning method best suited to acceptors have been adopted as envisaged in National Population Policy 2000 and further incorporated in the implementation frame work of National Rural Health Mission/RCH-II.

Population stabilization is also one of the objectives of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in April, 2005. It gives a thrust on reduction of infant mortality, maternal mortality and fertility rate with following specific interventions :-

- (i) National Family Planning Insurance Scheme has been started since November, 2005 to compensate the sterilization acceptors for failures, complications and deaths and also provides indemnity insurance cover to doctors.
- (ii) Compensation Package for Sterilization was increased in September, 2007 in family planning *i.e.* in Vasectomy from Rs.800/- to Rs.1500/- and tubectomy from Rs.800/- to Rs.1000/- in public facilities and to a uniform amount of Rs.1500/- in accredited private health facilities for all categories in all States for vasectomy.
- (iii) Specific action points/strategies have been incorporated in the States Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) under NRHM to address the up-gradation of Family Planning Services.
- (iv) Promoting acceptance of No Scalpel Vasectomy to ensure male participation.
- (v) Promoting IUD 380A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.
- (vi) Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year encouraged through growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.

- (vii) Increasing the basket of choice by systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme. The outreach activities through the institution of ASHAs and Monthly Health and Nutrition Days under NRHM have also helped.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to enact one-child norm in the country on the lines of China. India follows a developmental approach emphasizing on strengthening the services and meeting the unmet needs.

Spurious drugs in the market

1302. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether he is aware of the large scale presence of spurious drugs in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. The drugs samples tested all over the country during the last five years revealed that approximately 0.3% to 0.4% of around 40,000 samples tested per annum were found spurious. A recent survey carried out by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) on the basis of the statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad to assess more accurate extent of spurious drugs in the country has revealed that the extent of spurious drugs is further much below this level (about 0.045%).

(c) The following steps have been taken by Government to check the manufacture, sale or marketing of spurious and sub-standard drugs in the country :

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been amended under Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 passed by the Parliament on 5th December 2008 and has come in to force since 10th Aug, 2009. Under this Act stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs have been provided. Certain offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.
2. A Whistle Blower Policy has been started by Government of India to encourage vigilant public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country. Under this policy the informers would be suitably rewarded for providing concrete information in respect of movement of spurious drugs to the regulatory authorities.
3. The Port and Zonal Offices of the CDSCO are actively involved in the detection of cases of the spurious drugs in the country.
4. A meeting with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Commissioner Customs and all the Port officers was held on 23-06-2009 to sensitize the concerned departments

about the import of fake drugs in the country and for taking action for absolute confiscation and prosecutions in cases of import of spurious drugs.

5. In the 39th meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, held on 10th December, 2008, the States were requested to play pro-active role in assessing the extent of spurious drugs in the country.
6. In the 40th meeting of DCC held on 29.6.2009, guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 were adopted for the purpose of uniform implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act in the country. The guidelines have been placed on the web site of CDSCO.
7. Under a Capacity Building Project through World Bank, assistance was provided to upgrade testing facilities and to establish new drug number of samples. Under this project 23 States and 6 Central Drug laboratories have been strengthened.

Incentives for doctors in rural areas

1303. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide incentives to the doctors working in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there are no sufficient doctors in the rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Government has amended the post Graduate Medical Education Regulations provide —

- (i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and
- (ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

Under National Rural Health Mission, incentives to doctors posted in the rural areas is provided by the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) There is uneven distribution of doctors in urban and rural areas leading to shortage of doctors in rural areas mainly due to reluctance of the doctors to work in the rural areas. However, as per information furnished by Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 7,48,757. In addition there more than six lakh practitioners of Indian system of medicine and Homoeopathy. Currently, there are 300 medical colleges in the country for teaching modern system of medicine with annual intake of 35,252 who add up to the existing medical manpower.

Progress of NRHM in Andhra Pradesh

1304. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the progress of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the shortcomings which have been noticed with details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to plug these shortcomings and make NRHM a success in the State and the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes. The Government has received the progress report of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Andhra Pradesh. The State has reported effective and efficient implementation of NRHM. As per the latest report, 21,916 village Health and Sanitation Committees (VHSCs) have been constituted and 21,916 Joint Accounts are operational in the State. Rogi Kalyan Samiti is operational at 16 District Hospitals, 168 Community Health Centres (CHCs) and 1573 Primary Health Centres (PHCs). All the districts have started developing their own Integrated District health Action Plan (IDHAP). A total of 690 PHCs have been strengthened with three Staff Nurses each to make them functional 24x7. A total of 58 Sub-district

Hospitals, 120 CHCs including facilities below district level and 16 District Hospitals are functioning as First Referral Units (FRUs). About 17 districts have functional Mobile medical unit (MMU).

70,700 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) have been selected and 68,500 are trained in 1st Module. About 51,201 ASHAs have been provided with drug kits. 10,322 Sub-centres are functional with an ANM.

9505 Sub-centres (SCs) are strengthened with 2nd ANM. As far as manpower expansion is concerned, 121 Staff Nurses, 9505 ANMs have been recruited on contractual basis.

The State has been advised to accelerate the implementation of steps for institutional care for new born, rationalizing the position of health human resources etc. Regular State visits and hand-holding Workshops are conducted to address the areas which need support in the State.

Experience sharing Workshops are also convened where States share their best practices for benefit of other States.

Deaths due to common diseases

†1305. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more people are dying in the country from other prevalent diseases than swine flu;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the total number of deaths till date in the country in 2008-09 caused by swine flu, diarrhoea, malaria, dengue and other prevalent diseases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the testing of swine flu has been made more easy and effective in the private sector hospitals as compared to the Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the changes made for swine flu test in Government and private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. There have been 561 deaths among laboratory confirmed cases of Swine flu (as on 26.11.2009). But the number of deaths due to other prevalent diseases is more than swine flu. The details in this regard are:-

The number of deaths due to Vector Borne Diseases reported in the country during 2008, 2009 are given below:

Year	Diseases			
	Malaria	Dengue	AES including JE (Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis)	Kalaazar
2008	935	80	684	146
2009	619 (till Sept.)	56 (till 16th Nov.)	605 (till 17th Nov.)	57 (till Sept.)

- As per the National Health Profile-2008, deaths due to Diarrhoeal Diseases during 2008 were 2841.
- As per latest estimates, about 328,000 people died of tuberculosis in the year 2008-09.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.

Promoting breast feeding

†1306. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to ban children food products and other substitutes used in lieu of mother's milk for spreading the message of breast feeding;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has no details about the deaths of children owing to the negation of breast feeding by Indian women; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. At present Government has no proposal to ban children food products and other substitutes used in lieu of mother's milk for spreading the message of breast feeding. However, the Government has implemented Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992 as amended in 2003.

This Act provides for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods to protect and promote breastfeeding.

(c) and (d) Specific details in this regard are not available. However, as per the information available from the office of the Registrar General of India (2001-03), the commonest causes of death among children aged 0-4 years are perinatal conditions (33%), respiratory infections (22%), diarrhoeal diseases (14%), malaria (2.7%), congenital anomalies (2.7%) and fever of unknown origin (1.5%)

Menace of swine flu and dengue

†1307. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the menace of swine flu and dengue still exists;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh is in the grip of Japanese fever; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, the action taken by Government for prevention of these diseases, the amount spent on it, and the number of deaths caused by these diseases so far?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a)
Yes .

(b) Yes .

(c) The first case of Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) was reported in India on 13th May, 2009. As of now 30 States/UTs have reported Pandemic influenza A H1N1 (swine flu). State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

Government of India took a series of action of prevent/limit the spread of pandemic influenza A H1N1 and to mitigate its impact. 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. Laboratory network has been strengthened. There are forty two laboratories (24 in Government Sector and 18 in Private Sector) testing the clinical samples. Government of India procured 40 million capsules of which 18 million have been given to the States/UTs which is also used for preventive chemoprophylaxis. Three Indian manufacturers of Vaccine are being supported to manufacture H1N1 vaccine. Four million does are being imported to vaccinate the higher risk group. Training of district level teams is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. IMA has been provided funds to train private practitioners. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery, open large number of screening centres and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. A task force in the I and B Ministry is implementing the media plan. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to create awareness among public. All such information is also available on the website : <http://mohfw-h1n1.nic.in>. As of now Government has spent/committed about Rs. 331 crores in the current financial year.

Dengue is endemic in the country. Twenty one States and three UTs are reporting dengue cases from time to time. During 2009, till 16th November there have been 9915 cases of dengue. Prevention and control of dengue is managed by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP). The vector control measures initiated under the programme includes personal prophylactic measures such as use of bed nets; biological control through use of larvivorous fish and use of biocides; chemical control through use of chemical larvicides like abate and aerosol space spray during day time. Environmental management and source reduction methods include detection and elimination of mosquito breeding sources; Health Education is provided to common people regarding the disease prevention and control through visual and print media. Government of India has sanctioned a cash grant of Rs. 8.82 Crores for prevention and control of dengue during the year 2009-10 which is in addition to supply of test kits and logistics (insecticides).

Twenty three Japanese Endemic Districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh have reported 2868 Acute Encephalitis Syndrome Cases/Japanese Encephalitis (up to 26.11.2009). Apart from the

vector control measures initiated by NVBDCP, Government of India has initiated vaccination programme for Japanese Encephalitis with live attenuated vaccine for children from 1-15 years. Altogether 34 districts in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been covered under vaccination. During current year an amount of Rs 56 lakh was provided to the State.

In the current year, there have been 573 deaths due to Pandemic influenza A H1N1 (as on 29th November, 2009), 56 deaths due to dengue (as on 16th November, 2009) 56 deaths due to dengue (as on 16th November, 2009) and 505 deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome/Japanese Encephalitis (as on 26.11.2009).

Statement

Details of Laboratory confirmed cases of Pandemic Influenza A H1N1

(As on 29th November 2009)

Sl. No.	State	Lab confirmed cases reported during the day	Lab confirmed cases cumulative	Death of Lab confirmed cases during the day	Death of Lab confirmed cases cumulative
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi	60	4514	0	22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	773	0	50
3.	Karnataka	0	1632	0	120
4.	Tamil Nadu	0	1849	0	7
5.	Maharashtra	0	3973	0	223
6.	Kerala	7	1307	0	26
7.	Punjab	3	62	0	3
8.	Haryana	34	1290	0	8
9.	Chandigarh (UT)	0	137	0	0
10.	Goa	1	57	0	5
11.	West Bengal	0	128	0	0
12.	Uttarakhand	0	84	0	5
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0	6	0	1
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	56	0	0
15.	Gujarat	0	275	0	46
16.	Manipur	0	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Meghalaya	0	8	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	4	0	1
19.	Assam	0	45	0	0
20.	Jharkhand	0	1	0	0
21.	Rajasthan	19	994	3	42
22.	Bihar	0	7	0	0
23.	Uttar Pradesh	13	653	0	3
24.	Puducherry	0	71	0	6
25.	Chhattisgarh	0	17	0	1
26.	Madhya Pradesh	0	9	0	1
27.	Daman and Diu	0	1	0	0
28.	Orissa	0	26	0	3
29.	Nagaland	0	2	0	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	25	0	0
Total		139	18007	3	573

Basic immunization schedule

1308. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the children in the country are not immunized;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of basic immunization of children, most of them run risk of disease even in the period of basic immunization schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government in consultation with the State Governments proposes to evolve a policy to ensure that each and every child is immunized and in the scheduled period itself; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As per the latest DLHS-3 survey in 2007-08, 54.1% children (12-23 months) had received full immunization and only 11.3% children (12-23 months) were found to have had 'No Immunization'.

The details of vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) as reported by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) and the World Health Organization-National Polio Surveillance Project (WHO-NPSP) during 2006, 2007 and 2008 are given in the Statement. (See below).

(d) and (e) Under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), immunization cards are issued to individual beneficiary at the time of birth/at first immunization and is monitored by the Health Worker during Village Health and Nutrition Days and during home visits, so as to ensure timely immunization.

Statement

Details of Reported Cases of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Years	Diphtheria	Pertusis (Whooping Cough)	Measles	Neonatal Tetanus	Tetanus Other	Polio- Myelitis
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
2006	2834	30088	64185	625	2815	676
2007	3812	46674	41144	1076	7491	874
*2008	3977	43532	44247	876	2956	559

Source : Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)/ National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP)/(WHO)

*Figures Provisional

Equipping of health centres with pathology labs

1309. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) the number of health centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of health centres equipped with immediate blood and urine and other pathological tests; and

(c) what steps Government has taken to equip the health centres with laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A State wise details of number of health centres functioning in the country as per the Rural Health Statistics (RHS) Bulletin (March 2008) is given in the Statement (*See below*). All Primary health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) are envisaged to have facilities for immediate blood, urine and other pathology tests. As per RHS Bulletin March 2008, there are 12886 lab technicians positioned at PHCs and CHCs in various States in the country.

Statement

Details of Number of Sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs Functioning

(As on March, 2008)

S.No.	State/UT	Sub centre	PHCs	CHCs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12522	1570	167
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	592	116	44
3.	Assam	4592	844	103
4.	Bihar	8858	1641	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	4741	721	136
6.	Goa	172	19	5
7.	Gujarat	7274	1073	273
8.	Haryana	2433	420	86
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2071	449	73
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1907	375	85
11.	Jharkhand	3958	330	194
12.	Karnataka	8143	2195	323
13.	Kerala	5094	909	107
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8834	1149	270
15.	Maharashtra	10579	1816	407
16.	Manipur	420	72	16
17.	Meghalaya	401	103	26
18.	Mizoram	366	57	9
19.	Nagaland	397	86	21
20.	Orissa	6688	1279	231
21.	Punjab	2858	484	126
22.	Rajasthan	10742	1503	349
23.	Sikkim	147	24	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	8706	1215	206
25.	Tripura	579	76	11

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Uttarakhand	1765	239	55
27.	Uttar Pradesh	20521	3690	515
28.	West Bengal	10356	924	349
29.	A and N Islands	114	19	4
30.	Chandigarh	14	0	2
31.	D and N Haveli	38	6	1
32.	Daman and Diu	22	3	1
33.	Delhi	41	8	0
34.	Lakshadweep	14	4	3
35.	Puducherry	77	39	4
	ALL INDIA	146036	23458	4276

Total eye-sight campaign

†1310. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

- (a) whether a proposal to declare eyes as national property is under consideration;
- (b) whether any eye transplantation scheme is being implemented in order that all the blinds have eye-sight;
- (c) if not, whether Government proposes to launch 'Total Eye-Sight Campaign'; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a)
There is no proposal to declare eyes as national property.

(b) to (d) Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a recurring grant-in-aid of Rs.1000 per case is given to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) through the Districts Health Societies (NPCB) for management of other eye diseases including corneal transplantation.

Under the Information Education Communication (IEC) component of National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), masses are being encouraged to donate eyes to meet the requirement of cornea for restoration of sight of the affected persons by corneal transplantation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The focus has been shifted from “Pledging of Eyes” to “Actual Collection of Eyes” by launching “Hospital Retrieval Programme” in major with various specialities, teaching hospitals attached to Medical Colleges and large multi-specialty hospitals in Government and Non-Government Sector, Army, Railways, ESI and Industrial Establishments of the Country.

Causes of infant deaths

1311. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the respiratory and gastro-intestinal disorders are two major causes of infant deaths;

(b) if so, whether our district and block level hospitals are having specialists in these fields and are equipped with the requisite infrastructure; and

(c) what is the extent of penetration of healthcare in semi-urban and rural areas, in addition to rural health coverage under the Grameen Swasthya Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the Report on Causes of death in India 2001-2003, by the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, the leading causes of infant deaths are as under :-

1. Perinatal conditions (46%);
2. Respiratory infections (22%);
3. Diarrhoeal diseases (10%);
4. Other infectious and parasitic diseases (8%);
5. Congenital anomalies (3.1%);

(b) and (c) Under the umbrella of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012) the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, 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. This includes creation of new health facilities and up gradation of the existing ones, need based hiring of skilled manpower and provision of required equipments and drugs.

Central assistance for eradication of malaria

1312. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether malaria has taken a heavy toll of life this year in Mumbai, Maharashtra and other States this year;

(b) if so, how many such deaths have been reported so far from all the States; and

(c) the amount of Central assistance given for eradication of malaria in different States, this year and during the last three years in different ways?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No. The total deaths reported on account of malaria in the current year (upto September, 2009) are only marginally higher compared to the total deaths in the country as a whole during the corresponding period in 2008. As regards Maharashtra, in the current year (upto September, 2009), deaths reported on account of Malaria are 106 as against 101 deaths in 2008 during the corresponding period.

(b) State-wise reported deaths due to malaria in the country during this year (upto September, 2009) are as follows :

State/UTs	No. of deaths
Andhra Pradesh	1
Assam	46
Chhattisgarh	3
Goa	1
Gujarat	1
Jharkhand	8
Maharashtra	106 *
Manipur	3
Meghalaya	144
Mizoram	107
Nagaland	30
Orissa	126
Tamil Nadu	1
Tripura	60
West Bengal	81
Dadra Nagar Haveli	1
TOTAL	719

*Including deaths in Mumbai — 83

(c) The amount of Central assistance given to different States/UTs during the last three years and the current financial year in form of grants-in-aid (cash and kind) under National

Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for prevention and control of vector borne diseases including Malaria is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of Central Assistance given to the States/UTs in the form of grants-in-aid (cash and kind) during last three years and current year under National Vector Borne Disease control programme for prevention and Control of Vector Borne Diseases including malaria

(Figures in Rs. Lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Budget Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,209.76	1,961.17	1,172.30	1,416.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	480.58	566.99	884.57	858.93
3.	Assam	1,979.85	3,582.09	3,635.08	6,616.03
4.	Bihar	1,922.27	2,019.63	2,681.21	3,307.70
5.	Chhattisgarh	2,579.43	2,668.39	2,054.90	1,956.33
6.	Goa	27.40	118.20	16.91	57.57
7.	Gujarat	1,059.80	1,608.85	483.29	698.46
8.	Haryana	283.96	172.39	47.93	146.44
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	5.30	11.13	26.10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.49	4.50	17.97	21.21
11.	Jharkhand	2,862.64	2,076.75	3,438.25	3,433.18
12.	Karnataka	693.67	364.26	681.46	470.22
13.	Kerala	431.44	855.26	307.59	329.79
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1,569.17	1,630.68	739.83	1,444.44
15.	Maharashtra	1,272.01	1,851.39	1,084.11	978.41
16.	Manipur	367.15	369.13	323.85	723.66
17.	Meghalaya	496.08	542.51	497.63	1,102.16
18.	Mizoram	507.05	498.52	418.78	664.19
19.	Nagaland	695.28	549.27	610.04	913.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Orissa	3,577.27	5,166.04	2,153.06	5,672.29
21.	Punjab	40.98	57.07	92.71	143.40
22.	Rajasthan	877.36	1,701.78	1,033.16	674.32
23.	Sikkim	12.93	4.98	10.77	28.68
24.	Tamil Nadu	753.49	751.38	289.55	627.11
25.	Tripura	668.29	905.65	627.31	1,358.22
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2,159.32	1,617.55	2,007.84	2,742.96
27.	Uttaranchal	29.12	47.26	40.93	39.28
28.	West Bengal	1,433.20	1,726.42	1,439.47	3,176.03
29.	Delhi	249.75	236.70	57.31	73.67
30.	Pondicherry	154.79	18.58	3.19	43.23
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	429.42	365.58	287.47	434.29
32.	Chandigarh	40.13	56.81	57.86	55.66
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	41.95	51.26	45.55	64.52
34.	Daman and Diu	20.36	24.66	22.15	19.90
35.	Lakshadweep	12.65	2.80	14.37	22.33
TOTAL		28,945.04	34,179.80	27,289.53	40,340.00

MoUs with private hospitals

1313. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed MoUs, with private hospitals for giving medical services to Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) patients including Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a vast difference between the CGHS rates and the rates the private hospitals charge for the Members of Parliament, resulting them paying substantial amount of hospital bills from their own pockets; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes, all private hospitals, before empanelment with the CGHS, are required to sign a

Memorandum of Agreement with the CGHS, the main features of which are that they will charge only package rates fixed for the procedure, etc. and provide cashless treatment to the pensioners and Ex-MPs etc.

Private hospitals not empanelled with CGHS are not obliged to charge at CGHS package rates.

No incident of over overcharging by empanelled private hospitals has come to the notice of CGHS.

Upgradation of medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh

†1314. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals for upgradation of Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) medical colleges of Bhopal, Indore, Rewa are pending with his Ministry since 2007; and

(b) if so, the action being taken thereon and by when these would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Under a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges” during Eleventh Five Year Plan, proposals from various State Government Medical Colleges including Madhya Pradesh have been received for starting/increase of seats in postgraduate courses. The funds are envisaged to be allocated to the medical colleges after the finalization of the scheme.

Anomaly in grade pay of pharmacists

1315. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmacists are still in Pay Band (PB) I grade whereas the employees of similar expertise are placed far above in PB-II or PB-III;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal in the Ministry to recommend PB-II in case of pharmacists to remove this gross anomaly and injustice; and

(d) by when such a proposal will be sent to the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) for consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) No, the pharmacists in Central Government have been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

placed at grade pay of Rs.2800 in pay band PB-1 corresponding to their pre-revised pay scale of Rs.4500-7000/- on the basis of qualification and their duties and responsibilities.

(c) and (d) While approving the Report of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, the Government referred the matter related to the demands made in regard to pay scales of certain common category posts including pharmacists to a Fast Track Committee. On the basis of recommendation of the Committee the entry grade of pharmacists in Central Government has been kept at grade pay of Rs.2800 in pay band PB-1 and the same will be upgraded to the next higher grade having grade pay of Rs.4200 in pay band PB-2 on non-functional basis after 2 years of service in the grade pay of Rs.2800.

Common prescription medicines under scanner

1316. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some popular and widely used medicines given for cold and pain are under Government scanner on concensus raised about their adverse reactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Concerns expressed by Parliamentarians and media about continued marketing of certain drug formulations like nimesulide, phenylpropanolamine etc. which have been withdrawn/ restricted in some other countries have been taken note of by the Government.

Public health spending

1317. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent study conducted by WHO whose findings reveal that India ranks 171 out of the 175 countries in the world in public health spending;

(b) whether there has been no increase in public health spending over the last few years, making the country overtly dependent on private sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to increase and efficiently utilize the health budget for enhancing public healthcare and tackling existing epidemics and new diseases such as H1N1 flu etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to World Health Organization (WHO) no study has been conducted in the recent past, which ranks the countries by public health spending.

(b) and (c) As per the National Health Accounts India 2004-05 (with provisional estimates from 2005-06 to 2008-09), public spending on health in the country for the last 3 years is estimated as follows:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Public expenditure on health
2006-07	40678.86
2007-08	48685.21
2008-09	58681.38

The information on expenditure for the current year is not available

The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims to raise public health spending to at least 2% of GDP during the Plan period.

To increase, efficiently utilize the health budget and to support the public health system in the States, Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 and this has an outlay of Rs.90,558 crore during the 11th plan period. The Mission aims to provide quality health services, which are accessible, affordable and accountable. It also strengthens the primary health care in the country.

The allocation for a number of other programmers for tackling existing epidemics and new diseases has also been enhanced substantially in the first two years of the Plan period. To tackle H1N1, significant amount is being spent during the current financial year.

WHO's warning on dengue

1318. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued warning regarding outbreak of dengue in the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the preparedness in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also aware that with existing infrastructure it is becoming difficult for the Delhi hospitals to cater to the needs of patients; and

(d) if so, how Government is going to tackle the problem of dengue and also of H1N1?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise. However, Government of India is monitoring the situation and preparedness of the State Government including Delhi for prevention and Control of Dengue.

(c) and (d) Government has adequate infrastructure to tackle the problem of dengue and H1N1. It has been further strengthened both at the level of Government of India and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken following steps:

- All hospitals to designate a special room for attending to fever cases in the Medical OPD (from 9.00 AM to 3.30).
- All accident and emergency departments within the hospitals will attend to fever cases reporting in their emergency after 3.30 PM. In case of reporting of a suspected serious dengue patient, the patient will be stabilized before transportation to a tertiary hospital. One hospital in each district is designated for the facility for testing a dengue beyond OPD hours.
- Availability of platelet concentrate round the clock in four Regional Blood Transfusion Centers under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and all the regional blood transfusion centers under the State Blood Transfusion Council will be ensured.

For controlling H1N1, Government of India has taken the following actions:

- Number of screening centers have been established unidentified health facilities, where patients are triaged (A, B, C, category) according to established guidelines. Mild cases, in category A are advised home care. Category B cases with persistent symptoms or those in high risk group but without complications are given drugs, not trusted and advised home care and follow up Only Category C patients, those showing early warning signs of deterioration or complications, are hospitalized.
- * All Central Government hospitals in Delhi (5) and selected Delhi government hospitals (13) have been identified for managing swine flue. These are having dedicated isolation and critical care management facilities. 4 private hospitals have also been authorized for paid treatment. 5 private labs have also been empanelled for providing diagnostics facilities.

Telemedicine facility for HIV infected patients

1319. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to provide telemedicine facility to HIV infected patients in remote areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of *modus-operandi* and time-frame for this project?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes The telemedicine facility for HIV infected patients is being set up on a pilot basis in the center of Excellence, Maulana Azad Medical college, New Delhi. The project called - project DISHA - ECHO is a joint Collaboration between university of New Mexico, USA and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Government of India.

The telemedicine facility will link ART centers in remote areas with the Centres of Excellence (COE). The interaction of medical officers of ART centers with specialists at COE will promote

access to better Knowledge and practices that will translate into better care for the HIV patients at these ART centers.

(c) The infrastructure and necessary equipment like telecommunications bridge, polycom cameras etc have been received from University of New Mexico, USA and installed. The staff at MAMC has been trained. The initial seven sites identified to be linked up with this COE and ART centres at Indore, Behrampur, Raipur, Burla, Darbhanga, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital Delhi and Jammu. The project is likely to start in next 2-3 months time.

After evaluation of outcome from this pilot, expansion to other Centres of Excellence and ART centers will be considered.

Death of children due to diarrhoea

1320. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 1.5 million children under five die of diarrhoea every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized to stop such deaths; and
- (d) the precautionary measures being taken in future to stop such deaths permanently?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, as per the Report on causes of death in India 2001-2003, about 1.5 million child deaths (0-4 yrs) occur every year in the country. Diarrhoeal deaths account for 13.8% of the total deaths in this age group.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no specific budget for diarrhoeal diseases. States are provided flexibility under NRHM to utilise the budget allocated as per their need.

Government of India is implementing the Management and Control of Diarrhoeal Disease under its Child Health programme, where cases of diarrhoea are provided with ORS and Zinc at health facilities and during home visits through ASHAs and ANMs.

Behaviour Change Communications is also being implemented as part of Information Education and Communication (IEC) to bring about awareness on diarrhoea and other diseases.

An Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) is being implemented by the National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD), Government of India to strengthen surveillance activities and to promote early detection of outbreak and to institute appropriate action for prevention and control of communicable diseases including Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (ADD).

Stipends for ASHA workers

1321. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the decision to pay a stipend of Rs. 500/- in addition to incentives to ASHA workers has been implemented;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) how many ASHAs have been trained and provided with the requisite kits?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Mission Steering Group (MSG) of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), in its fourth meeting on 28th January 2009 had approved, in principle, the payment of monthly honorarium of Rs.500 to ASHA along with performance incentives subject to approval by the Ministry of Finance. In response to a reference, the Ministry of Finance did not support the proposal and pointed out that it runs contrary to the approach of performance linked remuneration adopted by the department earlier and the rationale for proposed change in policy is not justified. Hence the ASHA continue to receive only performance linked incentives as per the approved Framework for Implementation of NRHM.

- (c) As per the state reports, 6.77 lakh ASHA have been trained in first module and 4.66 lakh ASHA have been provided with drug kits.

Vans for mobile hospitals

†1322. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made by Government for health services in rural, tribal and backward areas;
- (b) the details of vans provided by Government for mobile hospitals Statewise; and
- (c) the reasons for not providing vans to Uttar Pradesh for mobile hospitals till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The health services in rural areas are provided through a network of 146036 SCs, 23458 PHCs and 4276 CHCs across the nation as on March, 2008.

- (b) With the objective to take healthcare to the door step of the public in the rural areas, especially in under-served areas, Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) are funded un National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The number of districts where MMUs are working is given in the Statement. (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The need for MMU is assessed and reflected by the State Governments including Uttar Pradesh in their Annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). Funds are released to State Governments after appraisal and approval of the State PIP by National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC). Approval for procurement of Mobile Medical Units by Government of Uttar Pradesh was given in FY 2008-09 as well as FY 2009-10. However, procurement and day to day maintenance of MMU is the responsibility of concerned State Governments.

Statement

Progress Under NRHM as on 31.08.2009

Sl.No.	State	No. of District where MMU working
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	12
2.	Chhattisgarh	
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
5.	Jharkhand	24
6.	Madhya Pradesh	50
7.	Orissa	0
8.	Rajasthan	34
9.	Uttar Pradesh	0
10.	Uttarakhand	13
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	16
12.	Assam	23
13.	Manipur	9
14.	Meghalaya	7
15.	Mizoram	9
16.	Nagaland	11
17.	Sikkim	4
18.	Tripura	4
19.	Andhra Pradesh	17
20.	Goa	2
21.	Gujarat	25

1	2	3
22.	Haryana	6
23.	Karnataka	29
24.	Kerala	7
25.	Maharashtra	0
26.	Punjab	16
27.	Tamil Nadu	29
28.	West Bengal	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
32.	Daman and Diu	1
33.	Delhi	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Puducherry	2
TOTAL		354

Increase in maternal mortality rate

1323. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that maternal mortality rate has been constantly increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of maternal mortality rate during the year 2008-09, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to reduce maternal mortality rate in the country during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) No. As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) data released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for the country has come down from 301 per 100,000 live births in the years 2001-03 to 254 per 100,000 live births in the years 2004-06. Since the estimates for MMR requires large sample size, so RGI releases these estimates only periodically. The comparative details of state-wise estimates for MMR as released by RGI is placed in statement (*See below*).

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012) and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II, 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 in the entire country.

The strategies and interventions being implemented by the Government under NRHM to accelerate the pace of reduction of maternal mortality are:

1. 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;
2. Operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for round the clock (24x7) services
3. Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based training such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section.
4. 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.
5. Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) at Anganwadi Centers which also includes health and nutrition education to pregnant and lactating mothers.
6. Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women
7. Systems strengthening of health facilities through flexible funds at sub Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals.

Details of Maternal Mortality Ratio India and State wise

Major State	MMR (1997-98)	MMR (1999-07)	MMR (2001-03)	MMR (2004-06)
1	2	3	4	5
India Total*	398	327	301	254
Assam	568	398	490	480
Bihar/Jharkhand	531	400	371	312

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	441	407	379	335
Orissa	346	424	358	303
Rajasthan	508	501	445	388
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	606	539	517	440
Andhra Pradesh	197	220	195	154
Karnataka	245	266	228	213
Kerala	150	149	110	95
Tamil Nadu	131	167	134	111
Gujarat	46	202	172	160
Haryana	136	176	162	186
Maharashtra	166	169	149	130
Punjab	280	177	178	192
West Bengal	303	218	194	141
Others	—	276	235	206

*: Includes Others

(Source: RGI, (SRS), 1997-98, 1999-'01, 2001-'03, 2004-'06)

Cultivation and production of medicinal plants

1324. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) the statistics of cultivation and production of medicinal plants; particularly Senna (Sonmukhi), Isabgol, Ashwgandha and Amla, in Rajasthan, during the last three years;
- (b) the average yield per hectare of each crop, in Rajasthan year-wise, and how does it compare with best yield performance in the country;
- (c) whether there is abnormal fluctuation in yield, and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the average income to the farmer, per hectare, year-wise, for each crop and whether it could be termed 'remunerative';
- (e) whether it is not desirable to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) to boost their production; and

(f) the steps Government is contemplating to address the availability of Quality Planting Material and Marketing of the produce, which are the main problem areas for the farmer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) The statistics of cultivation and production of medicinal plants particularly Senna, Isabgol, Ashwagandha and Amla in Rajasthan, during last three years as informed by the State Government is reproduced below:-

		Area in hectares		Production in Metric Tonnes			
Sl. No.	Name of Medicinal plant	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (Provisional)	
		Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
1.	Senna (Sonmukhi)	5729	3043	8356	1564	10518	2589
2.	Isabgol	158035	42929	136277	49130	160544	68871
3.	Ashwagandha	2801	243	3660	2764	6618	3907
3.	Amla	1397	11160	1730	13275	1705	21316

(b) As per available reports the average yield of the above mentioned crops per hectare and per year in Rajasthan is as follows:-

		Average yield in kg/ha.		
Sl. No.	Name of medicinal plant	Year 2006-07	Year 2007-08	Year 2008-09
1.	Senna (Sonmukhi)	531	187	246
2.	Isabgol	272	361	429
3.	Ashwagandha	87	755	590
4.	Amla	7988	7673	12500

Since cultivation of medicinal plants is a new activity, national level comparison is not possible at the moment. However, agro climatic conditions of Rajasthan are considered suitable for better yield of Isabgol and Senna. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh are considered suitable for cultivation of Ashwagandha and Amla yield-wise.

(c) No. However, there are fluctuations in the average production of all crops including medicinal plants due to different climatic reasons such as erratic rain fall, winter frost, drought and non availability of sufficient ground water etc.

(d) The average income to the farmer per hectare / year wise for the referred crop is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of medicinal plant	Average income per hectare in Rs.		
		Year 2006-07	Year 2007-08	Year 2008-09
1.	Senna (Sonmukhi)	6547	2300	4354
2.	Isabgol	7423	13783	19888
3.	Ashwagandha	7830	134956	123163
4.	Amla	40819	35066	72250

The average income of the farmer varies in different agro climatic zones. Present cost benefit ratio for the medicinal plants referred to above is favorable, though erratic monsoonic rainfall etc. sometimes makes the cultivation unremunerative.

(e) Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for these plants is not under consideration at this stage.

(f) Government is implementing a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants" with a total outlay of Rs. 630 crores during the Eleventh Plan. The scheme seeks to promote cultivation of medicinal plants in clusters by organizing growers into Self Help Group, Cooperatives with linkages to nurseries for quality planting material, post harvest management, quality certification and marketing.

Manufacturing of spurious blood

†1325. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases officially registered in regard to the preparation of blood in the country during last two months;

(b) the action taken against the people engaged in preparing of animal blood to be used for human beings; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to deal with such acts in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per report received from Drugs Controller General (India), two cases of Blood Banks storing blood not of standard quality have been detected by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in Kanpur and Lucknow area during the last two months. The license of M/s Umrai Hospital and Blood Bank, Ashiana Blood Bank, Lucknow has been cancelled, while license of M/s C.L. Memorial Hospital, Kanpur has been suspended.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In another case, police detected and seized unauthorized blood bags at Lucknow. Eight persons were arrested and case has been registered with Lucknow police.

(c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has stepped up the number of raids/inspections at all the blood banks in Uttar Pradesh since September 2009. Show cause notices to 40 Blood Banks have already been issued by the State Government.

Spurious drugs in the market

†1326. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of substandard and spurious drugs at several medical stores in the market still continues;

(b) whether such drugs are playing with the health of the patients and if so, the persons whom Government considers responsible for circulation of such drugs; and

(c) the number of cases of spurious drugs detected during the last two years the name of States where maximum number of spurious drugs are being manufactured and sold, the action taken against the persons found guilty in such cases and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. The State Licensing Authorities during the raids or inspections of medical stores have detected certain cases of sub-standard and spurious drugs. Consumption of sub-standard or spurious drugs could be harmful. The manufacturing, marketing, etc of such drugs is an undercover activity indulged by unscrupulous persons. The drugs samples tested all over the country during the last five years have, however, revealed that approximately 0.3% to 0.4% of around 40,000 samples tested per annum were found spurious. A recent survey carried out by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) on the basis of the statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad to assess more accurate extent of spurious drugs in the country has revealed that the extent of spurious drugs is further much below this level (about 0.045%).

(c) The manufacture of spurious drug being a clandestine activity and because of its interstate movement no State can be considered as where the maximum no. of spurious drugs are being manufactured and sold, however maximum number of cases have been detected in Maharashtra. Prosecution are launched after necessary investigation by the regulatory agency in such cases. A details of showing the numbers of samples tested, declared spurious, prosecution launched, number of persons arrested and approximate value of drugs seized in the last two years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 as obtained from the State Licensing Authorities is given in the Statement (See below). The information in respect of year 2008-09 has been received from only some of the State Drugs Controllers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details Showing number of Samples tested, samples declared Not of Standard Quality, samples declared Spurious, Prosecution Launched, cases decided, persons arrested and approximate value of drugs seized during 2007-08 as per the feed back available from the States

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of drugs samples tested	No. of drugs samples declared not of standard quality	No. of drugs samples declared spurious/ adulterated	No. of prosecution launched for manufacturing, sale and distribution of spurious/ adulterated drugs	No. of cases (as mentioned in the earlier column) decided	No. of persons arrested	Approximate value of drugs seized (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3962	82	5	1	1	Nil	2,50,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Data not received			Data not received			
3.	Assam	237	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	1471	36	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	164	32	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	1984	269	4	5	Nil	Nil	14,000
7.	Haryana	1913	108	Nil	27	43	2	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	623	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	696	39	Nil	9	Nil	Nil	4,10,000
10.	Karnataka	3094	224	01(vet)	24	Nil	Nil	13,24,000
11.	Kerala	4228	222	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1848	59	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	7038	633	19	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Manipur	Data not received			Data not received			
15.	Meghalaya	276	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	46	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	1133	77	2	1	Nil	4	Nil
19.	Punjab	914	30	6	4	1	Nil	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	1805	126	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Sikkim	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	1988	260	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Tripura	381	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3548	74	16	28	4	64	7,00,000
25.	West Bengal	855	66	7	11	Nil	7	1,10,000,00
26.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	90	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
29.	Delhi	52	4	1	2	Nil	8	Nil
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Daman and Diu	41	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Chhattisgarh	283	31	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Jharkhand	131	9	4	—	—	—	—
35.	Uttaranchal	273	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		39117	2429	46	115	54	85	26,98,000

Statement Showing number of Samples declared Spurious, persons arrested, persons convicted and persons/companies involved in manufacture etc of spurious drug during 2008-09 as per the feed back available from the States.

S. No.	States	No. of samples declared spurious	Number of persons arrested for manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious drugs	Number of persons convicted for manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious drugs	details of persons companies involved in manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious drugs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1			1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		Data not received		
3.	Assam		Data not received		
4.	Bihar		Data not received		
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	6	1	Nil	4
7.	Haryana		Data not received		
8.	Himachal Pradesh		Data not received		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	14	13	Nil	14
14.	Manipur		Data not received		
15.	Meghalaya		Data not received		
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland		Data not received		
18.	Orissa		Data not received		
19.	Punjab		Data not received		
20.	Rajasthan	8	3		8

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Sikkim		Data not received		
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	Nil	1	2
23.	Tripura	4	Nil	Nil	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh		Data not received		
25.	West Bengal	3	5	Nil	
26.	Pondicherry		Data not received		
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh		Data not received		
29.	Delhi		Data not received		
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		Data not received		
31.	Daman and Diu		Data not received		
32.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Chhattisgarh		Data not received		
34.	Jharkhand		Data not received		
35.	Uttaranchal	1	1	Nil	1

People's planning at grass root level

1327. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken initiatives for people's planning at the grass root level by the Panchayats and local bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen the financial health of the Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Article 243 ZD of the Constitution provides for constitution of District Planning Committees (DPCs) to consolidate plans prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities for the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

As the concept of grass-roots planning through the DPCs was almost non-existent in most of the States, the Ministry has pursued, in the first instance, the establishment of DPCs in the

Districts where Part IX of the Constitution applies. As of now, 22 States out of the 24, covered by Part IX of the Constitution, have constituted the DPCs. The Planning Commission has issued guidelines regarding the district plans on 25th August 2006 in which all the States were advised that the district planning process should be an integral part of the process of preparation of the States' Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012). The Planning Commission has also released a Manual for Integrated District Planning which the States can use as handbook for participatory grassroots level planning.

(c) "Sound finances" of the Panchayats is a Constitutional obligation enjoined on the States by Article 243-I. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is pursuing the States for the devolution of finances based on activity mapping, inclusion of Panchayat Sector in the State budget, timely action on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) and assignment of adequate and appropriate revenue sources to Panchayats to strengthen the own resources of Panchayats.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended grants amounting to Rs. 20,000 crore for allocation to States in ten equal half yearly installments during the period 2005-06 to 2009-10 to supplement the resources of Panchayats.

Off-shore oil field

1328. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been able to arrest natural decline in crude output from off-shore oil fields through any specialized treatment based on latest technological development taking place around the globe;

(b) if so, whether any financial study has been undertaken to have a cost-benefit analysis to see whether the cost of such specialized treatment is decisively and substantially less than the output increased; and

(c) the total crude oil production from all the off-shore oil fields, whether being manned by ONGC or through blocks leased to private companies, during the years 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) ONGC has been able to arrest natural decline in crude production to a great extent from offshore oil fields through implementation of redevelopment schemes and use of new technologies/specialized treatments.

(b) Cost benefit analysis is an integral part of any re-development scheme executed/being executed and new technology or specialized treatments adopted in the fields. The development schemes, technology induction or any specialized treatments are taken up for implementation only after they are found techno-economically feasible.

(c) The details of crude oil production from ONGC offshore fields and fields operated through JV during the last three years are given below:

Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)	
	ONGC	JV operated
2006-07	17.993	4.671
2007-08	18.020	4.894
2008-09	17.801	4.302

Gas produced by ONGC/OIL

†1329. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gas produced by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are called Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas and Non-APM gas in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of APM gas and Non-APM gas out of total production;

(c) the consumer sale prices of these gases in March, 2009; and

(d) whether Government is making efforts to increase the prices of APM gas slowly and gradually it proposes to raise it upto the 4.2 dollar per MMSCM unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by ONGC, out of its total production, approximately 97% is APM and 3% is non-APM. As informed by OIL, out of its total production, approximately 88% is APM and 12% is non-APM.

(c) The gas produced of ONGC & OIL is being sold to power and fertilizers sectors at APM rate of Rs.3200/mscm (thousand standard cubic meters) outside North-East and at Rs.1820/mscm in North-East. As regards other APM customers, *i.e.*, Court mandated customers and customers up to 50,000 scmd (standard cubic meters per day), natural gas is sold at Rs.3840/mscm outside North-East and at Rs.2304/mscm in North-East. Further, the gas produced by ONGC and OIL is sold at non-APM rates of US\$4.75/mmbtu (million British thermal unit) in Gujarat, Maharashtra and along HBJ, at Rs.3200/mscm in North-East and at US\$3.86/mmbtu in the rest of the country. The mentioned price excludes royalty, transportation charge, taxes, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) A proposal to increase the price of APM-gas gradually in under consideration of the Government.

Road-map for new gas connections

†1330. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has given directions to oil companies to prepare road-map for providing 5.5 crores new gas connections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the areas where new gas connections will be provided and the time-limit fixed therefore;
- (d) whether Government has determined the number of new gas connections and the area for each oil company; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) As per the "Vision-2015" adopted for LPG sector, 5.5 crore new LPG connections are targeted to be released by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) by the year 2015 to raise LPG population coverage to 75%. The focus would be on rural areas and areas where LPG coverage is low.

As a step towards this objective, a new scheme of rural LPG distributor namely, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) for small size LPG distribution agencies has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisement inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released by in 8 States where the reach of LPG is low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations.

Incident of fire at IOC depot at Jaipur

†1331. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the probe in the incident of fire at Indian Oil Corporation unit in Jaipur has been completed;
- (b) if so, the major reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any conspiracy angle has been established;
- (d) whether foreign elements have been found to be involved in the incident;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether it has a hazardous effect on the atmosphere of Delhi and surrounding States;
and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) A seven member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has been constituted by the Ministry on 30.10.2009 to inquire into the causes of the incident at Jaipur and to suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee will submit its report within 60 days. Preliminary findings have indicated that there was massive leakage of Motor Spirit (MS) from the valve of one of the tank, which led to formation of vapour cloud. Spark from an unknown source resulted in explosion of the vapour cloud, which started the fire in all the 11 tanks of the depot.

(e) and (f) Damage caused to the environment is being investigated by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

Auction of NELP under VIII rounds

1332. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the eight rounds of auctions under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) block-wise and bid-wise;

(b) the details of winners of the bids block-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that with every round average number of bid per block has been reducing; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. Single bids have been received in respect of 20 blocks and multiple bids have been received in respect of 16 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.

(c) and (d) There is no particular trend of increase/reduction in average number of bids per block in successive rounds of bidding under NELP. During NELP VIII round, the number of bids received per block has declined due to global financial situation and the response received is in tune with responses to similar offers made in other countries.

Pricing of petroleum product

†1333. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh to give suggestions for fixing the basis of consumer sale prices of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, whether any representative of the common consumer has been included in the committee as a member;

(c) if so, the name of member;

(d) whether the committee has to give suggestions on other matters also apart from matters related to fixing of sale price; and

(e) if so, the details of these matters and whether committee has been asked to think further keeping in view the current system of under recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted an Expert Group on 31.08.2009 under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, former Member, Planning Commission to examine the current pricing policy of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely, Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and to make recommendations for a viable and sustainable pricing policy for these products. The Group's terms of reference include:

- (i) Examination of the current taxation structure on the sensitive petroleum products, with particular reference to Petrol and Diesel and make recommendations to rationalize the taxes levied by the Central and State Government.
- (ii) Examination of the financial health of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies and to recommend ways of compensating them for their under-recoveries in case they are not permitted to charge market prices as a result of Government's intervention, in order to protect consumers.
- (iii) Any other matter, which the Expert Group may consider necessary.

The composition of the Expert Group is given below:

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Dr. Kirit S. Parikh
Former Member, Planning Commission | Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Isher J. Ahluwalia
Chairperson, Indian Council for Research
on International Economic Relations
(ICRIER) | Member |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3.	Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Member
4.	Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member
5.	Shri Suman K. Beri,. Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	Member

Pipavav Power Project

1334. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat requested to the Central Government for allocation of 3.15 million cubic metres a day (MSCMD) gas for Pipavav Power Project;

(b) if so, when it was submitted by the State Government; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat has sent proposal in this regard to Central Government on 02.09.2009.

(c) The entire gas produced from PMT is already committed and is being sold by the Government nominee, viz., GAIL (India) Limited, to various priority sectors customers. As regards gas produced from KG D-6 field, it has been decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG D-6 fields will be made to these projects as and when they are ready to commence production.

Gas flare in Assam

1335. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of associated gas produced and volume flared annually during the last three years in Assam indicating value of such gas flared;

(b) the utility pattern of such associated gas including production of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or cooking gas and other petrochemical products;

(c) the present percentage of utilization of the un-flared gas component-wise;

(d) the plan of Government, if any, for productive utilization of this national asset including investment proposals made by his Ministry; and

(e) the quantum of carbon emitted to the environment by the flared gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The year wise total volume of associated gas produced, Gas flared and the value of flared gas in Assam for the last three years are given below:

Year	Associated Gas Production (MMSCM)	Gas Flared (MMSCM)	Value of Gas Flared (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	1704.45	206.59	38.78
2007-08	1669.72	192.22	36.44
2008-09	6093.63	173.29	30.09

(b) to (d) The associated gas is distributed along with the free gas and no separate record for utilization is maintained for associated gas.

The natural gas produced, after meeting internal requirements for ONGC, OIL and Joint Venture in Amguri Field are mainly sold to GAIL and Assam Gas Corporation Limited. Approximately, 90% of the unflared gas is being utilized with maximum utilization by Power and Fertilizer Sector.

(e) As per calculation, based on the average calorific value of the default emission factor for gas and the International panel on climate change, Assam flared gas *i.e.* 8436 k. cal/SCM the total quantum of carbon emitted to the environment by the flared gas is equivalent to 0.343MMT of CO₂ during 2008-09.

Loss suffered in IOC depot at Jaipur

†1336. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total losses suffered in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot fire accident in Jaipur in recent past;

(b) in what manner IOC is going to compensate the losses suffered by the industrial and residential houses situated in the area around the depot; and

(c) whether Government has any concrete action plan to tackle the immediate losses as well as the long term adverse effects on the health of the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) It is estimated that petroleum products worth approx. Rs. 191 crore have been lost in the recent fire at IOC Depot in Jaipur. The replacement cost of Depot buildings and machinery is estimated to be over Rs.160 crore. 11 deaths have been confirmed of which 6 are employees of IOC. 7 persons have suffered serious injuries. The blasts in the Depot have damaged the roof, window panes and walls of nearby factories, shopping complex, some residential buildings etc.

(b) and (c) IOC has released an *ad-hoc* relief package amounting to Rs.50 crore to Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) for disbursement to the small and medium industries adversely affected by the fire incident.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Losses caused to the surrounding areas will also be compensated through insurance cover taken by IOC under public liability policy and third party liability policy. Government of Rajasthan has also announced a relief package with deferment of Value Added Tax remittance/service tax etc. till 31.03.2010, 50% waiver of the fixed portion of the electricity tariff, concessional loans from Rajasthan Finance Corporation and RIICO, rescheduling of repayment of loans, etc. for the affected industries.

Damage caused to the environment is being investigated by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

Gas corridors

1337. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has prepared a blueprint to set up a nodal agency for putting in place a grand national plan for establishing 'Natural Gas Highways' to connect South East and Central India with natural gas pipeline network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is wide Inter-State disparity in consumption of gas and Southern States are not adequately benefited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which gas corridors would be extended to Southern and Eastern parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) The development of trunk natural gas pipelines in the country depends upon gas availability, and location of production centres and customers. There is disparity in consumption of gas between various States in the country. However, with a view to provide connectivity to unserved areas in the Southern and Eastern parts of the country, Government has authorized GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd. (RGITIL) for laying the following pipelines:-

GAIL (India) Limited

- Kochi-Kanjirakkod-Bangalore-Mangalore
- Haldia-Jagdishpur
- Dabhol-Bangalore

RGITIL

- Kakinada-Basudebpur-Howrah
- Kakinada-Nellore-Chennai

- Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore
- Chennai-Tuticorin

As per the information received from GAIL and RGTIL, all these pipelines are expected to be completed by 2012-13.

Projects undertaken by PSUs in petroleum sector

1338. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian public sector and other large companies should be encouraged to compete for execution of Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) projects which are on the anvil in UAE, and other Middle-East region with 2009 being the most difficult year in the world economy due to global recession and shortage of liquidity;

(b) whether Indian companies' proven expertise in these fields be fully utilized through competing and getting such assignments as EPC projects involve contracts for designing the installations, procuring the necessary material, engineering the ongoing construction and finally commissioning; and

(c) during 2008, the number of foreign projects executed by PSUs in Petroleum Industry and foreign exchange earned thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Engineers India Limited (EIL) provides consultancy for hydrocarbon and petrochemical projects on EPC mode. Most projects in UAE and other countries in the Middle East region are executed on EPC basis, with estimated cost of about US\$ 1 billion. EIL has so far not carried out an EPC project abroad. Recognising possible EPC project execution opportunities in the region, EIL had joined M/s Tecnimont SPA, Italy in 2007 to form a Joint Venture Company. This Joint Venture Company was mandated to work in the UAE/Middle East region for executing EPC projects.

The year 2008-09 saw unprecedented recession and downturn in the world economy when the crude and gas prices plummeted to low levels. This made several of ongoing Hydrocarbon projects unviable leading to slowdowns and some of the new projects were even shelved. As a result of above liquidity shortage, Tecnimont-EIL Joint Venture Company could not start its EPS business in the UAE. However, many projects are under revival stage at present. EIL is restarting its operations for bidding for EPC projects in Middle East.

(b) EIL has the requisite skills and experience for carrying out basic engineering, detailed engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of Hydrocarbon and Petrochemical Projects on EPC mode of execution. EIL has already executed to-date 16 EPC contracts, for Onshore and Offshore Projects in India.

(c) EIL is engaged in rendering PMC and consultancy services for overseas clients and is currently working in Algeria and Abu Dhabi. Amount of foreign exchange earned as professional fee from Overseas Operations during the Finance Year 2008-09 was equivalent of Indian Rupees 121.43 corers.

Fire in IOC depot at Jaipur

1339. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for recent fires at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depot Jaipur;
- (b) the other previous cases of oil depot fires during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government plans to protect oil depots in Odisha alongwith all depots in the country; and
- (d) whether Government would hold an enquiry and fix responsibility for such a loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (d) A seven member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has been constituted by the Ministry on 31.10.2009 to inquire into the causes of the incident of fire at IOC depot, Jaipur and to suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee will submit its report within 60 days. Preliminary findings have indicated that there was massive leakage of Motor Spirit (MS) from the valve of one of the tank, which let formation of vapour cloud. Spark from an unknown source resulted in explosion of the vapour cloud, which started the fire in all the 11 tanks of the depot.

(b) During the last three years, there has been no major fire in oil depots of public sector oil companies.

(c) There is an existing mechanism to ensure the safety at all oil depots of public sector oil companies in the country, including Odisha, which includes regular safety audits to ensure, adherence to the safety norms prescribed by OISD Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), State Pollution Control Boards, etc. Further, in order to take preventive steps so as to avoid such incidents in future, the Ministry convened a meeting on 3.11.2009, to review the safety and security at oil and gas installations in the country, which was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of all public and major private oil companies having installations in the country.

Distribution of LPG in rural areas

1340. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether penetration of LPG in rural areas is very low; and

(b) if so, the action taken to make LPG available in all the villages in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase rural penetration and to cover remote as well as low potential areas, a new scheme namely Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) for establishing small size LPG distribution agencies for the locations having potential of 600 or more refill sales per month has been launched on 16.10.2009.

The advertisement inviting applications for agencies under the RGGLVY scheme have been released by public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in 8 States where the reach of LPG is low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations.

For setting up of additional new LPG distributors under this scheme and under Industry Marketing Plan (IMP) 2008-10, OMCs are carrying out feasibility studies for various locations across the country. It is targeted that around 5.5 crore new LPG connections shall be released till the year 2015, most of which are expected to be in rural areas/presently uncovered areas.

Royalty on crude oil

1341. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is required to pay royalty to the State Governments on crude oil and Gas based on the Wellhead price of crude oil as per the Government Notification dated 16th December, 2004, 20th August, 2007 and Resolution dated 17th March, 2007;

(b) whether Government is aware that during the period from April 2008 to December 2008; ONGC paid the royalty to the State Governments on Post Discount Prices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented the Central Government for payment of royalty as per aforesaid Notification and Resolution; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The royalty on mineral oil in respect of commercial production from onland areas, is required to be paid to the State Governments at a rate fixed by the Central Government as percentage of the sale price of the mineral oil at the oil fields or the oil well head, as the case may be, under the provisions of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act (ORDA), 1948, and Notifications issued from time to time.

(b) and (c) ONGC started making payment of Royalty at post-discount price from 1.4.2008 (due on 31.5.2008) in line with provisions of ORDA, 1948 and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas's decision on the subject.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government for payment of royalty as per pre-discount prices. On examination of the issues raised by Government of Gujarat, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified to the Government of Gujarat that royalty payments made by ONGC is on the basis of crude oil price actually realized *i.e.* post-discount price.

Job cards issued under NREGS

†1342. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that job cards were given to 1,06,35,840 villagers in Uttar Pradesh and 1,12,60,859 villagers in Madhya Pradesh in the year 2009-2010 but only 15,38,544 and 24,07,128 villagers respectively were provided with employment;

(b) if so, whether this is the reason for a large number of villagers migrating towards towns in search of employment;

(c) the reasons for providing employment to less number of people; and

(d) whether Government would obtain information from other States also about providing employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) A job card issued to a rural household under NREGA is valid for a period of 5 years. As per latest reports received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, cumulative number of job cards issued since inception of the Act is 1,06,83,969. Number of households provided employment in the State was 28,66,349 during the year 2006-07; 43,46,916 during 2007-08; 52,07,665 during 2008-09 and 28,61,505 during 2009-10 (up to October, 09). In Uttar Pradesh, 1,09,38,138 job cards have been issued. Number of households provided employment was 25,73,245 during 2006-07, 40,96,408 during 2007-08; 43,36,466 during 2008-09 and 32,27,258 during 2009-10 (up to October, 09).

NREGA is demand based. Employment is provided to the job card holding rural households only when they apply for it. During the current year (2009-10 upto Oct.'09) in Madhya Pradesh, 2866252 households have demanded employment against which 2861505 households have been provided employment and in Uttar Pradesh, 3228631 households demanded employment out of which 3227258 households have been provided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

employment. Employment under NREGA is to be provided within 15 days from the date from which employment has been demanded. Hence, at a particular point of time, there may be a gap between the employment demanded and employment provided.

NREG Act only provides a guarantee for 100 days of employment in a year per household on demand. The workers are free to avail alternative forms of employment.

(d) All State Governments furnish information on the status of implementation of NREGA through Monthly progress Reports (MPRs). This information is available on web site www.nrega.nic.in.

Implementation of NREGS in Punjab

1343. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the actual allotment made for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 for Punjab under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) the actual amount utilized for the year 2008-09, district-wise, and the number of house-holds benefited thereby, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the funds under the Scheme actually reach the needy house-holds, registered under the Scheme and are not taken up by the intermediaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) NREGA is demand based programme. Central Government releases funds to the States for implementation of NREGA based on labour demand at the field level. A sum of Rs.67.75 crore was released to Punjab during 2008-09 and Rs.53.97 crore has been released in the current year so far.

(b) District-wise utilization of funds and number of households provided employment for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto Oct.'09) is given in the Statement (see below).

(c) With a view to monitor the use of funds under NREGA to ensure that the funds actually reach the beneficiaries, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry:-

- (i) A web enabled MIS has been operationalised which tracks the funds released by the Centre to the States/districts up to the various implementing agency level.
- (ii) The States/districts are required to submit Audit Reports and Utilisation certificates for the previous year, bank reconciliation statement, implementing agency-wise expenditure statement for each block and fund non-diversion certificate while submitting their proposal to the Centre for release of funds.

Statement

District-wise utilization of funds

Sl. No.	States	2008-09		2009-10 (upto Oct'09)	
		No. of households provided employment	Expenditure	No. of households provided employment	Expenditure
1.	Hoshiarpur	35512	2061.22	25096	1411.65
2.	Amritsar	14913	1132.64	5774	514.02
3.	Jalandhar	4234	193.71	3288	204.55
4.	Nawanshahr	4154	252.27	5165	250.57
5.	Barnala	1268	279.17	1127	113.90
6.	Bathinda	17036	465.25	8986	533.68
7.	Faridkot	5319	46.18	1850	91.54
8.	Fatehgarh Sahib	1955	142.90	1581	86.97
9.	Firozepur	9943	133.47	8617	325.12
10.	Gurdaspur	7036	385.73	12804	502.92
11.	Kapurthala	2566	10.49	1139	69.88
12.	Ludhiana	996	100.79	5023	240.81
13.	Mansa	7241	196.58	3681	284.18
14.	Moga	1703	93.86	932	29.18
15.	Muktsar	11259	240.89	10635	459.24
16.	Patiala	4398	284.84	5756	260.56
17.	Rupnagar	1046	124.12	2778	277.84
18.	Sangrur	11652	707.56	28780	377.68
19.	SAS Nagar	5763	230.79	515	20.59
20.	Taran Taran	1908	94.60	1521	56.11
TOTAL		149902	7177.06	135048	6110.99

Rural Employment scheme under liberalization programme

1344. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched any scheme to generate employment in villages and small townships in rural areas, under the liberalization programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, its *modus operandi* and the estimated number of employment opportunities generated thereby so far; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for operationalising and popularizing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, implements the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) as wage employment programme and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as self employment programme in all the rural areas of the country.

(b) The NREGA aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Under NREGA, 4.51 crore rural households were provided 216.32 crore persondays of employment during 2008-09. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a holistic programme of self employment covering all aspects including provision of income generating assets, training and capacity building, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing support. Under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), 18.62 lakh Swarozgaris were assisted during 2008-09.

(c) The Ministry has adopted five pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) people's participation, (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability and (v) vigilance and monitoring of rural development programmes for operationalising and popularizing the schemes and for their effective implementation.

Violation of norms in PMGSY

1345. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the funds were claimed in violation of norms and guidelines in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such irregularities;
- (c) the funds actually utilized during the last five years under PMGSY, State-wise; and
- (d) the plan prepared under the current Five Year Plan for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure incurred during the last five years State-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) In the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-012), State-wise plan for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has not been prepared.

Statement

State-wise expenditure incurred during last five years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	2004-05 Expenditure	2005-06 Expenditure	2006-07 Expenditure	2007-08 Expenditure	2008-09 Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117.83	106.79	265.27	381.89	494.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.10	3.20	64.15	131.76	152.01
3.	Assam	113.82	255.88	461.66	608.75	1007.05
4.	Bihar	106.90	184.67	458.36	580.68	1067.54
5.	Chhattisgarh	278.07	442.19	652.01	932.50	863.34
6.	Goa	0.17	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	62.25	79.98	109.51	156.99	255.26
8.	Haryana	33.26	48.42	136.52	216.51	313.09
9.	Himachal Pradesh	65.33	122.73	288.59	281.98	240.51
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.78	16.95	32.24	105.09	190.71
11.	Jharkhand	95.08	64.78	56.76	63.18	211.47
12.	Karnataka	42.90	57.58	132.52	349.12	550.37
13.	Kerala	18.00	15.76	25.19	61.32	84.41
14.	Madhya Pradesh	439.51	587.72	1007.69	1358.73	2198.06
15.	Maharashtra	31.15	178.32	218.75	637.33	929.98
16.	Manipur	0.00	29.21	13.42	64.28	37.97
17.	Meghalaya	10.92	11.18	16.75	15.59	12.64
18.	Mizoram	46.68	43.94	37.85	59.47	54.55
19.	Nagaland	24.29	20.86	32.63	20.42	87.31
20.	Orissa	268.89	377.36	582.81	677.41	1163.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Punjab	17.02	51.60	79.94	366.95	269.02
22.	Rajasthan	450.16	608.27	1228.89	1455.44	1695.54
23.	Sikkim	19.17	30.36	43.86	88.81	103.99
24.	Tamil Nadu	79.66	52.22	68.09	108.65	127.87
25.	Tripura	19.82	18.09	40.82	155.60	315.77
26.	Uttar Pradesh	447.02	367.68	709.93	1201.04	2000.07
27.	Uttaranchal	30.16	28.55	67.00	99.73	152.79
28.	West Bengal	237.51	295.95	470.06	439.47	583.18
TOTAL		3077.45	4100.39	7304.27	10618.69	15161.98

Land Acquisition Bill

†1346. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to re-introduce the Land Acquisition Bill;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the new Land Acquisition Bill will be modified and would be different from the old Bill;
- (d) whether all the issue have been taken care in the new Bill on which the Agricultural Organizations were registering its protest against the old Bill; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Introducing the L.A. (Amendment) Bill, 2009 in the Parliament is under consideration.

(b) to (e) The details of the Bill would become known once it is introduced in the Parliament.

Potable water supply

†1347. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a possibility of having different types of diseases by drinking contaminated and fluoride water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the plan formulated to provide uncontaminated pure potable water to common people in each village;

(d) whether pure potable water is available to the people of every village; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) Consumption of water containing certain contaminants in excess of the prescribed limit is harmful to human health viz. excess Fluoride may cause dental, skeletal and non-skeletal fluorosis, excess Arsenic may cause arsenicosis and related diseases; excess nitrate may cause methemoglobinemia in infants and bacteriological contamination may cause typhoid, diarrhea, dysentery, etc.

(c) Water is a state subject. Government of India assists the States financially and technically in their efforts to provide potable water to rural habitations under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under Bharat Nirman-Rural drinking water component, all habitations having water quality problems are to be covered with provision of potable water.

(d) and (e) As reported by the States in the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Department, as on 1.4.2009, there were about 1.80 lakh rural habitations in the country affected with excess chemical contaminants viz. Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, salinity and nitrate in ground-water based drinking water sources. Details showing State-wise number of rural habitations with various contaminants in ground water based drinking water sources is given in the Statement.

Statement

Number of quality-affected rural habitations as reported by the States in the Online Integrated Management Information System (as on 1.4.2009)

Sl. No.	State Name	Contamination-wise number of habitations					
		Total	Fluoride	Arsenic	Iron	Salinity	Nitrate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,097	498	483	2	114	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	274	0	0	274	0	0
3.	Assam	26,588	517	810	25,261	0	0
4.	Bihar	34,909	5,957	2,510	26,442	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	8,379	51	12	8,158	158	0
6.	Gujarat	948	450	0	1	274	223
7.	Haryana	179	173	0	0	6	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	88	0	8	8	72	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	0	0	0	6	0
10.	Jharkhand	815	83	0	730	1	1
11.	Karnataka	8,559	4,152	21	3,127	1,203	56
12.	Kerala	1,879	172	0	1,291	335	81
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5,385	4,720	0	178	481	6
14.	Maharashtra	3,989	1,415	0	922	442	1,210
15.	Manipur	5	0	0	5	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	107	1	0	106	0	0
17.	Nagaland	157	0	0	157	0	0
18.	Orissa	23,666	700	2	20,247	2,665	52
19.	Puducherry	4	0	0	4	0	0
20.	Punjab	864	54	1	51	758	0
21.	Rajasthan	37,658	11,775	66	103	24,787	927
22.	Tamil Nadu	637	0	14	542	81	0
23.	Tripura	7,102	1	2	7,097	2	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5,911	1,768	873	2,800	455	15
27.	Uttarakhand	9	2	7	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	10,773	582	5,196	4,339	657	0
TOTAL		1,79,988	33,071	10,004	1,01,845	32,497	2,571

Working hours for agriculture labour

1348. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Agriculture Labour Act, 1952 the labourer has to work only for six hours to get full daily wage since agriculture work is not like industrial work;

(b) if so, whether he is prepared to withdraw the notification issued by his Ministry to increase the working hours from 9 to 12; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Ministry of Rural Development does not administer the Agriculture Labour Act, 1952.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has not issued any notification increasing the working hours from 9 to 12. However, under NREGA, *vide* circular dated 28.5.2008, the Ministry has clarified that nine hours of works is inclusive of one hour of interval of rest. Therefore, there is no question of withdrawing the notification.

Complaints against NREGS workers in Mahoba

†1349. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report in September/October, 2009 regarding corruption prevailing in various works being carried out under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the officers responsible for corruption and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make NREGS corruption free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of NREGS in Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh have been received in this Ministry during September/October, 2009. Details are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Complainants	Allegation made
1.	Shri Munnalal and others, Gram Sabha Kudar, Tehsil Charkhari, District Mahoba	Work not provided for 100 days, payment through fake entries in muster roll under NREGA at Gram Sabha Kudar, Tehsil Charkhari, District Mahoba.
2.	Shri Sandeep Dixit, Member Central Employment Guarantee Council	Irregularities and Violation of NREGA Guidelines in Mahoba District of Uttar Pradesh

(c) The complaints have been sent to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for taking appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Response of the State Government has not been received so far.

(d) To make NREGS corruption free, the following steps have been taken:-

(i) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (www.nrega.nic.in) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

information. More than 8.4 crore job cards and 2.4 crore muster rolls have been up loaded on the web site.

- (ii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. 8.13 crore bank/post office accounts have been opened so far.
- (iii) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.
- (iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.
- (v) Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.
- (vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

Failure of Central agencies in rural road projects

1350. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work relating to development of rural roads in various States particularly in Bihar has been entrusted to Central Agencies such as CPWD, IRCON and NHPC;
- (b) if so, whether the Central agencies have completely failed to complete the construction of rural roads in time;
- (c) if so, whether the State Governments particularly Bihar has now decided to take back the task from the Central agencies and to complete it with their own efforts; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which the Central Government now intends to help the State Governments to complete the task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) 5 Central Agencies namely, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), M/s IRCON International Limited, M/s National Building Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC), M/s National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and M/s National Project Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) have been engaged for the implementation of PMGSY in Bihar.

(b) Project proposals for 18905.75 km. road length have been cleared for implementation under PMGSY through 5 Central Agencies in Bihar. 5247.79 km. road length have been completed by these agencies upto 31.10.2009.

(c) Rural Road projects under PMGSY are also being implemented by the State Government through their own agencies in Bihar.

(d) Project proposals for 18696.17 km. road length have been cleared by the Ministry of Rural Development for implementation through the agencies of the State Government under PMGSY in Bihar.

Accountability for implementation of NREGA schemes

1351. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have urged the Centre to extend National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) limit to 200 days as drought relief measure;

(b) if so, whether Union Government is considering to change this scheme as Rural Employment Guarantee Act;

(c) if so, whether some of States have pointed out that this act must lay down clearly authorities who are accountable;

(d) if so, whether in the past there has been number of objections raised in regard to misuse of scheme; and

(e) if so, whether any final decision has been taken for laying down norms and authorities who will be accountable in implementing scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Ministry received proposals from Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for enhancement of the number of days of guaranteed wage employment under NREGA from 100 to 200 days in drought affected areas.

(b) Government of India has decided to insert the words "Mahatama Gandhi" before National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to be renamed as "The Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005".

(c) to (e) Objections received in the Ministry are referred to the concerned State Government for taking appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. For investigation into matters of serious nature, National Level Monitors (NLNs) are deputed by the Ministry to the concerned district/State for investigation and their reports are shared with the concerned State Government for taking corrective measures. The authorities which are accountable for implementation of NREG Act have been clearly stipulated in the Act.

Relaxation of programme guidelines for rural road sector

1352. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to relax the programme guidelines for effective implementation of rural road schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines issued under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been simplified to speed up road connectivity projects running at a low pace in Naxal hit areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to monitor construction of rural roads under the PMGSY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to ensure effective implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) the Programme Guidelines have been amended to the following extent:-

(i) With the use of annual State Schedule of Rates, while estimating the cost of road projects by the State Governments, it is expected that the tender value would approximate the estimated value. In case the value of tender received is above the estimated value that has been cleared by the Ministry, the difference (tender premium) pooled for the entire State for works cleared in a particular Phase/Batch will be borne by the State Government.

(ii) In order to provide connectivity in the blocks bordering international boundary (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs), the population of the habitations within a path distance of the 10 km. may be treated as a cluster to determine the eligibility for connectivity under PMGSY. Earlier, it was 1.5 km.

(iii) The funding liability of the Government of India for the bridges falling on PMGSY roads has been enhanced upto 50 m span from existing 25 m. Cost of causeways, irrespective of their length, is to be fully borne by the Government of India. For bridges of higher span, the cost is shared between the State Government and the Government of India proportionately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the constraints being faced in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas for execution of PMGSY projects, the Ministry has decided to relax the programme guidelines as under :-

- (i) Since, it is not possible to carry out detailed survey and prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) because of continuing violence in LWE affected areas, Stage-I proposals may be prepared even on the basis of line estimates for these areas.
- (ii) Time period for completion of works in LWE affected areas may be extended upto 18 months for new contracts keeping in view of the security related interruptions. No price escalation would, however, be payable by the Central Government.
- (iii) In view of the likelihood of non-availability of contractors, works may be departmentally executed in LWE affected areas by hiring machineries, procuring material and deployment of labourers on contract or piece-work as provided in the State Government's PWD manual.

(e) The programme is implemented by the agencies of the State Governments. Hence primary responsibility to monitor the implementation of the scheme is with the State Government. The Ministry of Rural Development monitors the implementation of the Programme through :-

- (i) Performance Review Meetings (PRC)
- (ii) Regional Review Meetings (PRC)
- (iii) Meetings of the Empowered Committee
- (iv) Field visits of the Officers of Ministry of Rural Development and National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), and
- (v) Inspection by National Quality Monitors (NQMs).

Watershed management project

1353. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans of promoting watershed management in the drought-hit areas of rural India;
- (b) if so, the areas where such projects are taking place; and
- (c) the details of Central assistance and funds given to the various State Governments to implement such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) and (b) Earlier three watershed programmes namely Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas program (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) have been implemented by Department of Land Resources. These three schemes have been consolidated into a single programme since 26.2.2009 known as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). This Programme covers erstwhile DPAP and DDP areas as well.

(c) The details of projects sanctioned and central assistance given to the various State Governments to implement IWMP projects are given in the Statement.

Statement

*State-wise Project sanctioned and funds released under IWMP
during 2009-10 (as on 25.11.09)*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	Area (Lakh ha)	Funds Released (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110	4.73	30.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	0.68	5.45
3.	Assam	57	2.21	14.81
4.	Chhattisgrah	29	1.52	9.83
5.	Gujarat	68	3.3	23.28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36	2.04	16.51
7.	Karnataka	81	3.42	23.58
8.	Meghalaya	18	0.3	2.43
9.	Madhya Pradesh	94	5.47	34.44
10.	Nagaland	22	1.06	8.56
11.	Orissa	57	2.95	19.09
12.	Punjab	6	0.35	2.29
13.	Rajasthan	162	9.26	69.92
14.	Sikkim	3	0.14	1.17
15.	Tamil Nadu	50	2.50	16.17
16.	Tripura	10	0.3	2.45
TOTAL		816	40.23	281.67

Villages connected with all weather roads

1354. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many villages are yet to be connected with all weather roads, State-wise;
- (b) whether there exists a time-bound programme for completion of these roads;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has laid any special emphasis on completion of roads in remote areas or tribal areas; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far especially in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Rural Road is a state subject. Therefore, information about status of all weather road connectivity of all villages is not maintained in the Ministry of Rural Development. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) fund is provided to the State Governments to provide all weather connectivity to habitations with population of 500 and more persons. The eligibility criteria is 250 or more persons for Hill States (North Eastern States, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir), Tribal (Schedule-V) Areas and Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme). About 71,778 habitations are to be connected with all weather roads under PMGSY. State-wise detail is given in the Statement.

(b) to (d) It is expected that all habitations with population of 1000 persons or more will be provided with all weather road connectivity by March, 2012. In Hill States (North Eastern States, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir), Tribal (Schedule-V) Areas and Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) all habitations with population of 500 or more persons are expected to be provided with all weather road connectivity by March, 2012.

(e) In Jharkhand, the number of eligible habitations to be connected under PMGSY was 7770. Out of this, projects for connecting 3,947 have been sanctioned by the Government and 1,539 have been connected with all weather roads till September, 2009. The Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned 1,930 road works having length of 9190.88 km. The value of the sanctioned projects is Rs.2385.85 crore. Till September, 2009, the State Government has constructed 3,869 Km roads and spent Rs. 903 crore.

Statement

State-wise details of the Habitations yet to be connected under PMGSY

Sl.No.	State	Habitation yet to be connected
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	674
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	587
3.	Assam	6228
4.	Bihar	7343
5.	Chhattisgarh	5318
6.	Goa	18
7.	Gujarat	1154

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1996
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2281
11.	Jharkhand	6369
12.	Karnataka	0
13.	Kerala	135
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10834
15.	Maharashtra	508
16.	Manipur	544
17.	Meghalaya	597
18.	Mizoram	168
19.	Nagaland	43
20.	Orissa	13233
21.	Punjab	121
22.	Rajasthan	531
23.	Sikkim	198
24.	Tamil Nadu	259
25.	Tripura	1284
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3389
27.	Uttarakhand	2092
28.	West Bengal	5873
TOTAL		71778

Implementation of PMGSY in Bihar

†1355. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocated funds and the targets fixed during the current financial year under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Buxar district of Bihar;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the details of the roads which are planned to be constructed and by which agencies;
- (c) whether work is being completed and in conformity with the stipulated time and standard quality by these agencies; and
- (d) the details of the remaining roads of this district which are to be taken up under this scheme and by when these are targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Funds are allocated under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) by the Ministry of Rural Development to the States and not district-wise. Similarly, the targets are fixed under the programme for the States and not district-wise.

(b) 119 road works of length 319.43 km. have been cleared by the Ministry of Rural Development for implementation under PMGSY through the agencies of the State Government in Buxar district of Bihar. 98 road works of length 573.12 km. have been cleared for implementation under PMGSY through M/s National Project Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) in Buxar district of Bihar.

(c) 17 road works of length 162.12 km. have been completed by M/s National Project Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) and 19 road works of length 31.268 km. by the State Government under PMGSY in Buxar district of Bihar.

(d) The State Government has been requested to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) soon for rural roads to connect the remaining eligible habitations under Bharat Nirman. Rural Roads Project under PMGSY is to be completed within a period of 9 to 12 months from the date of issue of work order.

Watershed projects

1356. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of ongoing watershed projects in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the time by which all these ongoing projects would be completed;
- (c) whether any new watershed projects have been initiated; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) The details of State-wise ongoing watershed projects are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) The department has been pressing upon the State Governments the urgency to complete ongoing projects within the next 2 to 3 years at every review meeting.

(c) and (d) Three watershed programmes namely Drought Prone Areas program (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme

(IWDP) of the Department of Land Resources have been consolidated into a single programme (IWDP) of the Department of Land Resources have been consolidated into a single programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). This was approved by the Cabinet on 26.02.2009. During 2009-10, a total of 816 projects covering an area of 40.23 lakh ha. have been sanctioned so far. The State-wise details of the project sanctioned under IWMP are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of ongoing projects under Watershed Programme

Sl. No.	State	No of no-going projects as on 31.03.2009
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2583
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	143
3.	Assam	146
4.	Bihar	507
5.	Chhattisgarh	958
6.	Goa	4
7.	Gujarat	3933
8.	Haryana	869
9.	Himachal Pradesh	861
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1110
11.	Jharkhand	1357
12.	Karnataka	2742
13.	Kerala	28
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1681
15.	Maharashtra	2871
16.	Manipur	41
17.	Meghalaya	112
18.	Mizoram	52
19.	Nagaland	18
20.	Orissa	1195

1	2	3
21.	Punjab	15
22.	Rajasthan	5841
23.	Sikkim	21
24.	Tripura	22
25.	Tamil Nadu	930
26.	Uttaranchal	779
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1103
28.	West Bengal	453
TOTAL		30375**

**Out of 30375 ongoing projects by the end of 2008-09, 2474 no. of projects have been completed during 2009-10 (as on 23.11.2009)

Statement-II

State-wise details of Project sanctioned and funds released under IWMP during 2009-10 (as on 25.11.09)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	Area (Lakh ha)	Funds Released (Rs in Crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110	4.73	30.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	0.68	5.45
3.	Assam	57	2.21	14.81
4.	Chhattisgrah	29	1.52	9.83
5.	Gujarat	68	3.3	23.28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36	2.04	16.51
7.	Karnataka	81	3.42	23.58
8.	Meghalaya	18	0.3	2.43
9.	Madhya Pradesh	94	5.47	35.44
10.	Nagaland	22	1.06	8.56
11.	Orissa	57	2.95	19.09

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Punjab	6	0.35	2.29
13.	Rajasthan	162	9.26	69.92
14.	Sikkim	3	0.14	1.17
15.	Tamil Nadu	50	2.50	16.17
16.	Tripura	10	0.3	2.45
TOTAL		816	40.23	281.67

Employment of disabled under NREGA

1357. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that disabled are considered ineligible in some States for work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, whether Government has instructed the State Governments to treat all at par with suitable employment under this scheme;

(c) if so, the response from the State Governments; and

(d) the total number of disabled benefited under NREGA for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Para 5.5.10 of Operational guidelines for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) reads as under:

“If a rural disabled person applies for work, work suitable to his/her ability and qualifications will have to be given. This may also be in the form of services that are identified as integral to the programme. Provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 will be kept in view and implemented.”

(c) and (d) Disabled persons have been provided employment under NREGA. State-wise details of number of disabled persons provided employment during the last three years are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of disabled persons provided employment

Sl. No.	States	No. of Disabled beneficiary in 2006-07	No. of Disabled beneficiary in 2007-08	No. of Disabled beneficiary in 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23096	46967	61496

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	0	0
3.	Assam	995	2865	2945
4.	Bihar	2231	89502	16537
5.	Chhattisgarh	8873	8722	6477
6.	Gujarat	9	16	239
7.	Haryana	2	4	3966
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14999	4079	2196
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	209	274	248
10.	Jharkhand	71	53844	11431
11.	Karnataka	1000	75	1308
12.	Kerala	34	717	1072
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24822	30684	16344
14.	Maharashtra	549	129	422
15.	Manipur	0	40	111
16.	Meghalaya	343	212	341
17.	Mizoram	5000	839	996
18.	Nagaland	980	3280	628
19.	Orissa	803	0	3318
20.	Punjab	0	1	78
21.	Rajasthan	0	15268	18362
22.	Sikkim	0	17	45
23.	Tamil Nadu	601	2195	4009
24.	Tripura	1477	3351	2199
25.	Uttar Pradesh	14691	21309	16666
26.	Uttaranchal	448	249	412
27.	West Bengal	45158	52059	32763
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			20
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			2

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Daman and Diu			0
31.	Goa			0
32.	Lakshadweep			73
33.	Puducherry			68
34.	Chandigarh			0
TOTAL		146401	336698	204772

Data about corruption cases in NREGA

1358. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases of corruption like enrolling of ineligible persons, fake muster rolls, under payment to beneficiaries have been detected in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, whether Government has prepared any data on the reported cases; and

(c) what action has been taken against the guilty officials and what steps are being taken to plug the loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received in this Ministry regarding irregularities in implementation of NREGA. These complaints mainly relate to issuance of job cards to ineligible persons, fudging of muster rolls, delay in payment of wage to NREGA workers. The complaints received in this Ministry were sent to the concerned State Governments for taking action in accordance with the Act provision. As per the reports available from the State Governments, FIRs have been lodged with the Police and disciplinary action has been taken against the officials against whom the charges have been established. The following steps have been taken by the Ministry to minimize corruption under NREGA:-

- (i) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.
- (ii) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (www.nrega.nic.in) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information. More than 8.4 crore job cards and 2.4 crore muster rolls have been up loaded on the web site.

- (iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. 8.13 crore bank/post office accounts have been opened so far.
- (iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.
- (v) Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.
- (vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

Road projects approved by NRRDA

1359. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals approved by the National Rural Roads Development Authority (NRRDA) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that inspite of releasing 97 per cent of funds only 60 per cent of works have been completed in various States;
- (c) if so, the reasons for such tardy progress of works;
- (d) whether the target to complete works under PMGSY has been pushed to 2012-13 from 2007-08; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) State wise details of the works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) approved by the Ministry of Rural Development after scrutiny by National Rural Road Development Agency (NRRDA) is given in Statement.

(b) Under PMGSY 1,02,563 works valued at Rs. 1,11,361 crore have been approved by the Ministry of Rural Development till 30th September, 2009. An amount of Rs.57,483 crore has been released to the States. The State Governments have incurred expenditure of Rs.54,985 crore and completed 63,670 works till September, 2009. Hence the expenditure as percentage of sanctioned cost is 49.3% and completion of works is 62%. Expenditure as percentage of fund released to the states is 96%.

- (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Initially, it was envisaged to achieve the targets under PMGSY by end of Tenth Five Year Plan. This could not be achieved due to reasons mentioned below:

- (i) Inadequate resources
- (ii) Inadequate project execution capacity in states
- (iii) Inadequate contracting capacity in some states
- (iv) Issues related to availability of land and delay in forest clearance

At present, no target has been fixed for completion of the works under PMGSY.

Statement

Details of the Projects cleared during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Sl. No.	States/UT	2006-07 No. of roads	2007-08 No. of roads	2008-09 No. of roads
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	340	366	1260
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	116		104
3.	Assam	629	139	2582
4.	Bihar	432	945	5628
5.	Chhattisgarh	683	1251	1049
6.	Goa			
7.	Gujarat	449	386	466
8.	Haryana	47	108	67
9.	Himachal Pradesh	639	165	19
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	251	25	440
11.	Jharkhand		353	669
12.	Karnataka	256	313	739
13.	Kerala	84	322	200
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3071	2800	1935
15.	Maharashtra	1559	441	128
16.	Manipur	59		131
17.	Meghalaya	26		36

1	2	3	4	5
18. Mizoram			30	47
19. Nagaland			29	11
20. Orissa		851	1689	2076
21. Punjab		119	639	
22. Rajasthan		3634	2321	337
23. Sikkim		67	93	105
24. Tamil Nadu		379		2409
25. Tripura		266	332	78
26. Uttar Pradesh		2881	817	1310
27. Uttarakhand		102	94	
28. West Bengal		236	444	590
29. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		38		81
TOTAL		17214	14102	22497

PMGSY in Maharashtra

1360. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometer of roads were laid under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Maharashtra during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) the amount allotted to Maharashtra Government during above period for the purpose and the amount spent by the State Government during this period; and

(c) what is the target for the current financial year for roads to be laid under PMGSY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The roads measuring 8680 km were built up during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The details are as under:-

(i)	2006-07	—	1600 km.
(ii)	2007-08	—	2942 km.
(iii)	2008-09	—	4138 km.
	TOTAL	—	8680 km.

(b) The details of amount allotted to Maharashtra and expenditure incurred during the above period are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Year	Amount released	Expenditure
1.	2006-07	103.42	219.00
2.	2007-08	563.96	637.00
3.	2008-09	1030.00	938.00
Total		1697.38	1794.00

(c) Road length target of 2950 km under PMGSY for Maharashtra State for the current financial year is 2950 km under PMGSY.

World Bank aid for Andhra Pradesh

1361. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has released Rs. 733 crores to Andhra Pradesh for providing drinking water, improving sanitation and for creation of underground drainage system in villages;

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

(c) the details of conditions put by World Bank for releasing the above money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Board of the World Bank has approved loan for Andhra Pradesh Rural Water and Sanitation project on 22nd September 2009. The total project cost is US\$ 180 million of which the International Development Association (IDA) credit through to World Bank is US\$ 150 million. The project comprises of three main components: Capacity and Sector Development; Infrastructure Development and Project Implementation Support. The project envisages implementing water supply schemes in about 1600 Not Covered habitations/No Safe sources habitations and 1000 Partially Covered habitations in the State.

(c) The proposed terms of releasing fund is as per standard International Development Association (IDA) terms, with a maturity of 35 years, including a grace period 10 years. The project starts from 1st December 2009 and ends on 30th November 2014.

Establishment of shipyards in the country

1362. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to establish two more shipyards in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price of ships have crashed in the international market and ships could be purchased at a competitive price from the international market, instead of setting up new domestic shipyards;

(c) whether Government has provided budgetary support to the projects;

(d) whether the work on the two projects has not commenced as yet; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) National Maritime Development Programme had envisaged setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the east coast and another on the west coast of India.

(b) It is a fact that prices of ships have declined considerably in the international markets from their earlier peak values seen in mid 2008. As such, the ships can be purchased from the international market at competitive prices at present. Shipping is a cyclical industry and the ups and downs of the shipping markets have a direct impact on the ship building industry. Ship Building is a capital and labour intensive industry providing immense opportunities for employment of skilled and semi.

Skilled manpower. Ship Building activities also promote a large number of ancillary industries and as such, promote the development of the region where the shipyard is located. Therefore, setting up new domestic shipyards is not only beneficial for the Indian shipping industry, but for the country as a whole.

(c) to (e) No budget allocation for the project has been made during the year 2009-10. 'Expression of Interest' has been invited from experienced and interested Shipyards/firms for participation in a global competition for setting up an International Size Shipyard on BOT license on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively.

Accident involving 'Black Rose' Ship at Paradeep Port

†1363. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that recently a ship named 'Black Rose' has met with an accident at Paradeep Port of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that environment is being adversely affected due to leakage of oil from the ship; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to check the same and the measures under consideration to compensate the losses?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The vessel loaded part cargo of Iron Ore (23384 tons) at Paradip. Since the remaining cargo (approx. 12600 tons) to be loaded from Paradip Port was not ready, the vessel was directed to wait at outer anchorage area. At 1740 hrs on 9th Sept. 2009, the Paradip Port reported that this vessel developed a list of 20 degree to starboard due to shifting of cargo and endeavoured to beach the vessel. The list kept on increasing and reached 30 degree starboard. There was a power failure on the vessel and eventually the vessel capsized and sank at 1902 hrs on 9th Sept. 2009 approximately 2 to 3 miles from the Paradip coast in 15 meters of water. The prevailing weather conditions at that time was wind speed 15 knots and wave/swell height was 2 meters. There were 27 crew members on board. 26 crew were rescued and 1 Ukrainian Chief Engineer went missing. SAR operation was carried out and the body of the Chief Engineer was later recovered from his cabin.

(c) No, Sir. There is no impact on the environment since the leakage of oil was negligible which was retrieved immediately by using a Pollution Control Vessel, equipment and manpower of Paradip Port Trust. Subsequently, the entire quantity of oil stored in the ship has been removed.

(d) Does not arise.

FDI in the shipping sector

1364. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the shipping sector is abysmally low;
- (b) if so, the reasons for poor FDI in shipping sector; and
- (c) what are the efforts made by Government to enhance FDI in shipping sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian flag suffers from certain barriers in terms of tax and duty structures which may have impeded the growth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Shipping being an international business with virtually no trade barriers, tends to thrive in regimes which offer tax free climate. Apart from the open flag registries (FOCs like Panama, Liberia Malta, etc.) countries like Singapore, Dubai offer substantial fiscal incentives for ship owning activities. Though India introduced the tonnage tax system for shipping companies in 2004 to bring about a globally competitive level playing field, new taxes in the form of service tax, FBT etc. which were introduced later on, reduced it competitiveness.

(c) The Government introduced the tonnage tax scheme with effect from 1.4.2004 to provide level playing field so that Indian shipping becomes internationally competitive and thereby enhance the FDI in shipping sector. From financial year 2005-06, the tonnage tax benefits have been extended to dredgers also.

Leakage of fuel from 'Black Rose' ship at Paradeep Port

1365. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fuel of the 'Black Rose' vessel at Paradeep Port has started leaking;
- (b) if so, the extent to which it has spread in the sea so far;
- (c) the steps taken to prevent leakage and remove the debris from sea bed; and
- (d) the steps taken to protect the turtles from oil spill?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) A negligible quantity of oil leaked from the Engine room of the sunken vessel 'Black Rose', which was immediately removed by using a Pollution Control vessel, equipment and manpower of Paradip Port Trust. There was no spread of oil further in the sea.

(c) The Holes and Vents of the vessel were initially blocked and subsequently the entire fuel oil available in the sunken ship has been retrieved by an agency engaged for this purpose.

- (d) There was no harm caused to any marine species including turtles.

Office of MMD at Chennai

1366. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an office of Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) in Chennai to help, regulate and assist the maritime sector;
- (b) the details of the duties and authority of such MMD offices;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to strengthen the Chennai Office of MMD to encourage the maritime sector;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government expects the maritime sector to grow rapidly in India; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to decentralise and strengthen office of Directorate General of Shipping in Tamil Nadu and Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the main duties and authority of such MMD offices are as under:-

- (1) Registration of sea-going vessels as laid down in Part-V of the Merchant Shipping Act and the rules made thereunder.
- (2) Conduct examinations under Part VI of the Merchant Shipping Act and the rules made thereunder.
- (3) Survey of Passenger ships as laid down in Part VIII of the M.S. Act and the rules made thereunder.
- (4) Ensuring safety of the ship as per the procedure laid down in Part IX of the M.S. Act and the rules made thereunder.

12.00 NOON

- (5) Conduct investigations and inquiries into shipping casualties on Indian Ships in any part of the world and foreign vessels in India, as a substantially interested state, under Part XII of the M.S. Act.
- (6) Implementation of IMO and ILO conventions, recommendations, obligations as adopted by the Govt. of India from time to time.
- (7) Conduct Port State Control and Flag State Implementation inspection.
- (8) Conduct audits under the ISM Code and ISPS Code.
- (c) The Government have initiated measures to modernize and streamline the working of all the MMDs including Chennai for better development of maritime sector. Additional staff has been sanctioned and new MMDs have been set up. Following the delegation of the statutory functions of survey to Indian Register of Shipping, the MMDs have more time to attend to other statutory functions. E-governance modules have also been rolled out to streamline various functions discharged by MMDs.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) No fresh steps are under consideration to decentralize and strengthen the office of Directorate General of Shipping in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2008-09) of Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 954/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping

II. Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., Mumbai and related papers

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I lay on the Table

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping, under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:
 - (1) G.S.R. 767 (E), dated the 20th October, 2009, publishing the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

- (2) G.S.R. 800 (E), dated the 7th November, 2009, publishing the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 801 (E), dated the 7th November, 2009, publishing the Mormugao Port Employees (Superannuation and Age of Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2009.
- (4) G.S.R. 802 (E), dated the 7th November, 2009, publishing the Mormugao Port Employees (Allotment of Residences) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) See No.L.T. 854/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Fifty-ninth Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Annexure to the Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-09.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 853/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together with Explanatory Note on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 686 (E), dated the 17th September, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (11th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 690 (E), dated the 23rd September, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (12th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 745 (E), dated the 12th October, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (14th Amendment) Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No.L.T. 843/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance.

II. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Insurance Companies and related papers.

III. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Trust/Institutes/Centres/Council and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
Sir, I lay on the Table:

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification S.O. 2629 (E), dated the 20th October, 2009, amending Notification No. S.O. 1937 (E), dated the 14th November, 2007, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 005/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) (a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 972/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 974/15/09]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 975/15/09]

- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 976/15/09]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 977/15/09]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (i) (a) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 970/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 969/15/09]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 971/15/09]

- (iv) (a) Sixteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Development Economics (CDE), Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2008-09 together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 967/15/09]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 968/15/09]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 966/15/09]

- (vii) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad, Haryana for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 965/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I lay on the Table

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 672 (E), dated the 14th September, 2009, amending G.S.R.569 (E), dated the 16th December, 1996, to substitute certain entries in original Notification
- (2) G.S.R. 676 (E), dated the 14th September, 2009, appointing the 15th day of September, 2009, as the date on which sub-sections (2A), (2B), (2C) and (2D) shall be inserted in Section 28F of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (3) G.S.R. 678 (E), dated the 15th September, 2009, authorizing the Authority constituted under Section 245-O of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), to act as the Authority under Chapter VB of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (4) G.S.R. 810 (E), dated the 11th November, 2009, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 118 (E), dated the 1st March, 2002, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 998/15/09]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. 582 (E), dated the 19th August, 2009, publishing Corrigendum to G.S.R. 436 (E), dated the 1st July, 2005, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1001/15/09]

- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. 809 (E), dated the 11th November, 2009, seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of All Fully Drawn or Fully Oriented Yarn/Spin Draw Yarn/Flat Yarn of Polyester (non-textured and non-POY), originating in, or exported from, the Peoples Republic of China, Thailand and Vietnam, under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1002/15/09]

- (iv) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. 821 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, exempting taxable service in relation to one or more of the specified processes during the course of

manufacture of part of cycles or sewing machines, subject to certain conditions, under sub-section (4) of Section 94 (Chapter IV) of the Finance Act, 1994, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1003/15/09]

- (v) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification S.O. 2879 (E), dated the 11th November, 2009, empowering all Additional Directors of Income Tax and Joint Director of Income tax working under the Director General of Income Tax (Investigation) and Director-General of Income Tax (Intelligence) to issue authorization, under sub-section (1) of Section 132 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 999/15/09]

- (vi) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1974, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 798 (E), dated the 6th November, 2009, regarding exemption of the goods falling under Chapter 69 of schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 and manufactured by KVIC Units, during the period from the 1st September 1987 to 28th February, 1989, from the Excise duty.
- (2) S.O. 673 (E), dated the 14th September, 2009, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 265 (E), and G.S.R 266 (E), dated the 31st March, 2003, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1000/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:

- (1) G.S.R. 750 (E), dated the 14th October, 2009, publishing the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

- (2) G.S.R. 769 (E), dated the 20th October, 2009, publishing the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 851/15/09]

Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Centres and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1015/15/09]

- (b) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Department of Statistics Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1024/15/09]

- (c) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1013/15/09]

- (d) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Punjab University, Chandigarh, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1026/15/09]

- (e) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1016/15/09]

- (f) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1012/15/09]

- (g) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, JSS Institute of Economic Research, Dharwad, Karnataka for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1017/15/09]

- (h) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Department of Statistics, Gauhati University, Assam, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1021/15/09]

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Department of Economics, Lucknow University, Lucknow, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1023/15/09]

- (j) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Department of Statistics, Patna University, Bihar, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1029/15/09]

- (k) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1027/15/09]

- (l) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Department of General and Applied Geography, Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar (M.P.), for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1025/15/09]

- (m) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1014/15/09]

- (n) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1019/15/09]

- (o) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 22/15/09]

- (p) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1018/15/09]

- (q) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1028/15/09]

- (r) Annual Report and Accounts of the Population Research Centre, The Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the working of the above Centres.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1015/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of IPGTRA, Jamnagar 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 No.7-1/2004-CCH, dated the 18th March, 2009, publishing the Homoeopathy Central Council (Registration) Amendment Regulations, 2008, under sub-section (2) of Section 32 of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, together with delay statement.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1040/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (IPGTRA), Jamnagar, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1039/15/09]

Report and Accounts (2008-09) of AYCL, Kolkata and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited (AYCL), Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1211/15/09]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Disinvestment of profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Finance on the Disinvestment of profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the House of the following factual position:

The policy on disinvestment articulated in the President's Speech to Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009 and Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 6th July, 2009 requires the development of "people ownership" of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to share in their wealth and prosperity, with Government retaining majority shareholding and control. This objective is relevant to profit-earning CPSUs as it is only these that will sustain investor-interest for sharing in their prosperity.

In line with this policy announcement, Government has decided that:

- (i) already listed profitable CPSUs not meeting the mandatory public shareholding of 10 per cent are to be made compliant;
- (ii) all CPSUs having positive networth, no accumulated losses and having earned net profit for three preceding consecutive years, are to be listed through public offerings out of Government shareholding or issue of fresh equity by the company or a combination of both; and
- (iii) the proceeds from disinvestment would be channelised into National Investment Fund and during April 2009 to March 2012 would be available in full for meeting the capital expenditure requirements of selected Social Sector Programmes decided by the Planning Commission/Department of Expenditure. The *status quo* ante will be restored from April 2012.

In pursuance of above policy, the Department of Disinvestment is in dialogue with the administrative Ministries and the CPSUs to assess their capital expenditure requirements to be raised through issue of fresh equity. The composition of the 'public offering' will be based on this input and each case will be considered on merits and submitted to Government for approval.

Disinvestment of Government shareholding in NTPC Limited (5%) and SJVN Limited (10%) and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (5%) through Public Officing in domestic market, is under implementation. These Public offerings are likely to be completed by 31st March 2010.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. Mr. Sen, you have seven minutes.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in response to the statement made by the hon. Finance Minister to the Calling Attention Motion, I would like to seek some clarifications. While doing so, at the outset, I would like to quote the present hon. Finance Minister's assertion in this very House on 27th February, 2001, which he made as Leader of the Opposition on the same subject. He said and I quote, "Therefore, if the objective of the Government is to bridge the resource crunch by disposing of capital assets in order to meet consumption expenditure, it would simply not be permissible under any amount of fiscal prudence." But, precisely, I understand, maybe on the aegis of social sector expenditure and capital expenditure, same thing has started and 'that fiscal prudence' has taken a somersault. I ask the hon. Finance Minister why such a position has been taken. Is it that within a span of eight years the perception of fiscal prudence has undergone a change? It has been told that the social sector expenditure and capital expenditure of public sector undertakings will be met out of the proceeds of disinvestment. Now, the social sector expenditure is, basically, a budgetary responsibility aimed at enhancing the consumption capacity of the common people. So, basically, to augment the consumption capacity and the Budgetary expenditure, whether it is prudent to sell capital assets of the country that helped the country to avoid the serious and disastrous financial crisis arising out of the global meltdown. I would like to know whether it is prudent to disinvest on the same.

The Government has also made a statement that reducing the Government's share to 51 per cent does not amount to privatisation. But, I strongly feel, this disinvestment process is, basically, designed to pave the way for creeping privatisation of the country's Blue Chip PSUs. The Government made a statement that 51 per cent will be retained by it. So, most humbly, I would like to ask a question. How much credibility and sanctity that this policy statement may have looking at the track record of shifting policy position on the same subject in the process of last one decade? Sir, even within the framework of the UPA Government, four years back, the position was that Navratna PSUs would not be disinvested. Now, within a span of four years, the Navratna PSUs have been ordered to be disinvested — either listed or unlisted — to the tune of 10 per cent. Within a span of four years, as soon as the Government got relieved from the bondage of the Left support, it has changed its stand! And, if this goes on — the Government, in the Parliamentary democracy, is also expected to go on changing — the disinvestment process, precisely, create an enabling situation. Maybe, there may not be privatisation of this moment. But, it is creating an enabling situation to final privatisation of the public sector network of the country which is, basically, governed by the neo-liberal political, economic design. So, this Government is making itself instrumental in creating an enabling condition for creeping privatisation of PSU's in the country.

Sir, my third point is, the Government is arguing that disinvestment is being done to ensure people's ownership of PSUs. Now, the PSUs are under the control of the Parliament which is

elected by people. Can there be more effective and broader mechanism of ensuring people's ownership other than the Parliamentary control? If you see the shareholding profile of the already disinvested public sector undertakings you will know the real position. What does it show? It shows that a very miniscule part of share invested has gone into the hands of general public. In BHEL, Sir, out of 32.8 per cent share disinvested, public holds only 1.9 per cent. In SAIL, the public holding is only 1.9 per cent out of 14.18 per cent disinvested. In BEL, 24.18 per cent was disinvested and the public holding is only 2.4 per cent. In ONGC, out of 25.86 per cent disinvested, general public holds only 1.6 per cent. In GAIL, Sir, out of 42.66 per cent, which is almost privatised, disinvested, the general public holds only 1.6 per cent. So, it is a very small or miniscule part that is owned by a few private individuals. Can that be a better way of ensuring people's ownership other than the present Parliamentary control? And, precisely for this purpose, why should you create an enabling situation to go thus far and vest ownership on private individuals. Basically, it is not even private individuals but the shares disinvested have gone to big corporate entities, FIs, financial institutions, NRIs, other companies and collective entities, not individual entities by which you can show semblance of people's ownership. I think, Sir, it does not work.

Sir, my fourth point is: What is your credibility to revive the sick PSUs? Of course, you need fund mobilisation in view of resource crunch for social sector expenditure. Let me tell you, when the Government is lamenting for resource crunch, can it afford the luxury of allowing tax revenue foregone, as per the last Budget statement, to the tune of Rs. 4.5 lakhs crores? How can the Government, which is lamenting on resource crunch, allow accumulated unpaid tax arrears to the tune of Rs. 1.98 lakh crores till last year which is increasing in geometric position practically? So, to quote the hon. Finance Minister's own statement in this very House, how is it permissible, under any amount of fiscal and economic prudence, to forego such huge revenue? And, at the same time, how prudent is it to sell capital assets for meeting the Budgetary expenditure?

Sir, my sixth point is...*(Time-bell rings)*...I am going to complete, Sir. The PSUs also need funds or resources for their own modernisation and expansion. So, let them go in for IPOs. But, do they really need funds? Presently, the PSUs are having huge reserve and surplus of Rs. 4.85 lakh crores till last year. Just now, the hon. Finance Minister, while replying to another question, said that PSUs are not expected to augment their earning by interest income. They must go in a productive employment generation route. I fully endorse that idea.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I am concluding in one minute. How these Rs. 4.85 lakh crores being utilised? Kindly have a scrutiny. It remains underutilised or locked up with meagre interest rates either in the Government bonds or in the banking system. I would like to know

whether that is permissible. Let me say, Sir, having a debt equity ratio of 0.75 per cent for PSU — Re. 1 is equity and 0.75 paise is debt burden — should they not go to debt procurement route instead of diluting the equity and diluting the capital asset?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, Mr. Sen. Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I am concluding. Just one minute.

Sir, I would like to ask whether the country's banking sector is only for exploitation by private corporate houses which have the track record of not paying back and generating NPAs for the banking system. So, I think, in that aspect also, in no way the disinvestment is justified. Will the hon. Minister for Finance clarify this?

And my last point, Sir, is...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, please allow me. It has been told that the PSUs to be listed to assess their real worth. Is the Stock Market such a holy place to assess the real worth of a PSU?...*(Interruptions)*... Do you want to assess the worth of the country's Blue Chip PSUs through Stock Market? I don't know how you explain this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, please conclude. I told you in beginning itself that you have got seven minutes.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I am concluding in one sentence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. There are other speakers.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, please allow me. It is my last point. How will the hon. Minister explain that holy place where several thousands of vanishing companies accounting for several crores of rupees of loot of small investors? I can refer to my esteemed colleague Mr. Shourie. His own experience in the run up to the ONGC ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You cannot go on like this. I call the next speaker, Shri N.K. Singh.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: The Stock Market was manipulated.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. It is not a clarification ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. N.K. Singh, you have five minutes.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, whether the funds...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What you are now saying is not a clarification. Please conclude...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: So, I request the hon. Minister that he should consider these basic points to which his attention has been drawn before the country's Blue Chip PSUs are taken to Stock Market for manipulation by selling their capital assets...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I request the hon. Minister to kindly revert his decision of disinvestment. Thank you.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have six questions to ask; but, perhaps, no answers to give.

Before I ask my questions, there are three overarching considerations. The first and foremost is, I must compliment the hon. Finance Minister for having pulled out this entire issue of disinvestment where it was lying in deep freeze in public domain as an important instrument of economic policy.

Secondly, I think we all realise that disinvestment is more about the politics of disinvestment than about merely the economics of disinvestment. I need not go into the history, therefore, of the flip-flop stories. Third the Government policy stands today, it is fairly clear, but it is more of a programme than a policy. It is short-term pragmatism over long-term prognosis and it is an undue emphasis on immediate progress than long-term performance. Now, I come to my questions. My first question to the hon. Finance Minister is that while the rest of the globe is not only not doing any disinvestment, in fact, it is buying shares and the Government is strengthening its consolidation and hold, Is India, a *sui generis* case to do the very contra factual than what the rest of the world is doing? I understand that, perhaps, there are budgetary compulsions; I understand that the fiscal deficit is large; I understand also that for a softer exit from the stimulus package this, really, is of enormous help. So, I think that the first question is: Are we a *sui generis* case apart?

My second question is that since we are just doing 10 per cent disinvestment, an incrementalism, then, clearly any investor who realises there is little or no say in the management of this company is not likely to put in the true value of the company. So, I think that we are not with 10 per cent not being able to realise the embedded value of what the public asset is. This is a classic case where not only the family silver is being sold, but by insistence on 10 per cent, family silver is being sold far too cheaply.

Thirdly, Sir, I think that the issue is of timing. The Finance Minister has repeatedly assured us that he will watch out for the best possible timings, but he knows that global markets are choppy; Indian markets continue to remain volatile, and the assurance and the comfort that he has is that the timing in the light of global and national market volatilities would be a timing which enables us to extract the maximum value from the sale of these undertakings.

My fourth question is of quality of due diligence. What assurance the Finance Minister has is that the due diligence being done by entities which are appointed by these public sectors are companies in whom we can have confidence. I hope he is not following the CPWD procedure of the lowest tenderer in which case the cheapest is not always the best and these are large values involved. Therefore, we need an assurance that the quality of due diligence which is being done will enable us to extract the maximum possible value.

My fifth question Sir, is, in the large number of the spectrum of public undertakings which are proposed to be disinvested, what is the logic in the sequencing? How are priorities being assigned? What is the methodology for their selection? What is the rationale on which the sequencing is being done by the Ministry of Finance?

My last question, Sir, is this. Mr. Finance Minister, I read with great interest the statement of the Chairman of the 13th Finance Commission last week. He has said that the embedded value in these public undertakings are close to \$ 400 billion. And that if even less than 50 per cent of this was being realised, India would have closed \$ 200 -250 billion to embark on anything that it wants on infrastructure, to embark on everything which it wants for the social sector, to embark on undertaking measures for taking the economy to a low carbon trajectory. Would the Finance Minister, therefore, move away from disinvestment through stealth, disinvestment through incrementalism into a genuine disinvestment which enables us to realise the maximum potential from these public undertakings? Finance Minister, get out of the mindset of "to be or not to be", because you are really in a sense the essence Prince of Denmark in this large game of economic reforms. When we are in cusp of change and when yesterday's data suggests that India is well poised at over nine per cent rate of growth, use this as an important armoury, use it imaginatively and use it boldly.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you for adhering to the time allotted.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I am grateful that you have given me opportunity to ask certain questions from hon. the Finance Minister.

Hon. Finance Minister, my statistic shows — and I hope I am not wrong — there are 214 operational PSUs, out of which profit-making are 160 and loss-making are 54. But we need not be very happy about the 160 number of profit-making because out of these 160, only 99 are having positive network and 61 are having negative network.

With your vast experience, the hon. Finance Minister, you are aware that under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA), if the network of a company is negative, *per force*, under Section 3, you have to go before the Bureau of Industrial Financial Reconstruction. Therefore, in this kind of not a very encouraging scenario, I have seen a silver lining from you that in all those companies, which are making profit in the last three years and whose network is positive, you are going to off-load ten per cent.

Now, the first question is this. Part (a) is, how are you going to select these companies? Part (b) of my question is, and it is more important, by ten per cent off-loading — the money is going to come to the social sector, you have already outlined, in the National Investment Fund for three years — the companies are not going to gain anything; they are going to get nothing. Therefore, what kind of encouragement are you going to give to the workers of these companies in terms of off-loading of shares? Are you having any strategy to ensure that the workers of these profit-making networth positive companies also have a share in the process? Do you propose to off-load something for them as well, if at all you wish?

The second is, instead of this general rule, thumb rule, hon. Finance Minister, why don't you have an individual PSU specific policy? There are PSUs and there is a PSU. The geographical location, international market, domestic market and a whole range of other things are there. Therefore, do you propose to have some kind of a policy which also addresses the individual concern of individual PSUs? These are my two questions.

I am a little worried, hon. Finance Minister. This whole off-loading is a kind of a selling of silver — if I can use my good friend, Mr. N.K. Singh's expression — through the privatisation route; it is not a disinvestment route. There is no policy *per se* indication in the entire policy which shows that these PSUs can also raise finances by themselves. Therefore, what kind of limitations are there? We would like to have a clarity about it because (a) they cannot use the money for themselves; (b) the workers are not being given any stake in the off-loading of ten per cent; and (c) the individual benchmark of individual companies is not being taken into account. We would like to have a clarity from you on this whole issue.

Now, we come to the disinvestment route of sick companies. Hon. Finance Minister, I always don't resist of appreciating a very vast administrative experience in the last nearly forty years that you have been a Minister in one Department or the other. You have seen that there are many companies which have become chronically sick. Now, Hindustan Photo Films is sick since the year 1990. Do you have any strategy for these companies or not? This is very important. After all, national asset is involved there; the workers' interest is involved there; they have a parliamentary accountability. Now, kindly see, when I said — now here this number becomes very relevant — out of 214, if 54 are loss making and 61 are having negative networth, this number becomes a very huge number of nearly 115 PSUs. What is your strategy for this huge number?

Hon. Finance Minister, may I tell you a very specific instance? And, that is the instance of Hindustan Cable. Now, this PSU went to the BIFR and the BIFR recommended that let some profit-making PSU become the strategic partner of this particular PSU. The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation was willing to become the strategic partner, but no decision has been taken. Therefore, 'family silver' is being shifted off under the garb of ten per cent off-loading and

for chronically sick PSUs, no strategy is there and there is no proposal even of merger of these PSUs with profit-making PSUs. I think, hon. Finance Minister, we need clarity on this very important issue that is there for all of us to see.

The third question, hon. Finance Minister, is: after all, what do we need? What we need is that these PSUs must become profit-making good concerns with functional autonomy. They should not become an appendage to the Government. Therefore, when you are looking at this whole scenario of disinvestment, by whatever route, what is the focus area as far as improving the functioning, competitive edge and autonomy of these units are concerned? Does the policy factor all these into consideration? I will be grateful if these three questions are answered.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The question of disinvestment is not at all a new question. Disinvestments have been done for several years. The Government has taken a decision to disinvest 10 per cent shares from the companies which are working well. And, therefore, my first question to the hon. Minister would be, how did you arrive at this decision? What is the reason behind this? Is it that the Government were short of money and, therefore, they came to this decision? Was this the only source of income for the Government that they decided to alter the original decision and take a new decision? As I remember, the original decision of the Government was to disinvest only those companies which are sick, and for that kind of disinvestment, I am sure, nobody in the House would have objected. But the present decision is meant for companies that are running well. Therefore, my first question is, why was this decision taken?

Sir, the Government has announced that the proceeds from disinvestment would be used for capital expenditure on social sector projects, mainly health and education. Has the plan been made? You may get huge amounts from disinvestment, as proposed. What is your plan? I would like to know, in the interest of the people of the country, what is the plan that you have for investment in education and health out of the amount that you get?

Sir, it has been said that funds made available from disinvestment will be used to bridge the fiscal deficit. According to me, this is an unhealthy practice, a short-term vision and is decelerating the Government's goals. I do not understand why such a decision was taken. In case of disinvestment, future streams of income from the wins are foregone against a one-time receipt from the sale of Government shares. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government whether a decision was arrived at only after consideration from all angles or it was taken in a hurry. The other objective that has been stated is, to develop people ownership. What percentage of the population invests in the share market? If it is a small percentage, then what is better— Government investing the dividend proceeds for the public at large, or giving benefit to the small number of population which might be just about half per cent of the population? Therefore, my question is, how do you find it logical?

Sir, the primary objective is to raise resources to bridge the fiscal deficit. Then why such arguments as increasing public and workers' participation have been given? Has the Government asked the workers whether they want this disinvestment of ten per cent share or not? It is absolutely necessary to consult the workers of the company whether they appreciate this type of disinvestment. Has the Government analysed the loss on account of dividend that could have accrued to the Government? Was the amount of dividend more? The Government can take the loan from outside if the Government needs money urgently. Were the calculations done by the Government, and if it is so, what the calculations of the Government are? Another important aspect I would like to mention. Sir, it is necessary that some industries should be run entirely by the Government because in case of emergency these industries would be useful to you, but not the private industries. I would give the illustration of petroleum sector where crude prices were increased to a large extent, but the Petroleum Department of our Government did not increase the price because that sector is operated by the Government itself. Therefore, it is necessary that such sectors should remain in the hands of the Government. This is a question of future. Lastly, Sir, has the Government considered the point of time when disinvestment is to be done? Did you want to do it right now? Did you think that there will be people giving good price and ready to buy them? If it is not so, why don't the Government wait for a good period to come? It must be consulted in the market and found out whether we can get good price for shares, and then only the Government should go in for this. Otherwise, it is better and desirable that the Government waits.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri O.T. Lepcha, not present. Shri Mahendra Mohan, not present. Shri D. Raja. You have five minutes, Mr. Raja.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am not in agreement with the hon. Finance Minister or the Government on the issue of disinvestment. According to me, every disinvestment is private appropriation of public property. Disinvestment of profit-making public sector enterprises is mother of all scams allowing cherry-picking by the interested private parties. In the past, we have witnessed appropriation of State capital by bunch of parasitic looters using fraudulent arrangements in the name of strategic disinvestment. I can refer to some of the past examples — BALCO, Modern Food, IPCL, FACT. Due to constraint of time, I would like to elaborate a bit on the experience of BALCO. BALCO was sold to those of Sterling Industries which was debarred from accessing capital market for two years on the charge of price rigging involvement. Its market value was supposed to be Rs.15,000 crore, but 50 per cent was sold at Rs.551.5 crore. When challenged by the workers, the Supreme Court did not interfere in the merits of the sale and left the issue as it is a Government policy. This emboldened further similar disinvestments. I can give various experiences, but due to time constraint I stop at this. It is reported now that UPA Government or UPA-II Government has decided to sell Government

stakes in 60 PSUs, out of which 50 are with positive net worth and have recorded net profit in the last three years consecutively. This includes SAIL, BSNL and Coal India. NHPC and Oil India have already listed on. This has kick-started the earlier stalled disinvestments programmes of SJVN and Rural Electrification Corporation. NMDC, MMTC and Neyveli Lignite Corporation are already in the list to bring down the Government stakes.

They are all being put on the list of Stock Exchanges. Sir, I would like to tell this august House that there have been myths and motivated propaganda against the Central public sector enterprises over the years. A few years ago, the Centre for Industries and Economic Research brought out a publication, 'Performance of Public Sector - a Comparative Study', which revealed that the public sector units were performing better than the private giants. The total turnover of Central public sector enterprises during 2007-08 was Rs.10,81,925 crores, compared to Rs.9,64,896 crores in the previous year showing a growth of more than 12 per cent in the turnover of profit-making public sector enterprises. Now, if you take the profit, it stood at Rs.90,140 crores during 2007-08, compared to Rs.89,578 crores in 2006-07. Contribution of Central public sector enterprises to the Central Exchequer by way of Excise duty, Customs duty, corporate tax, interest on Central Government loans, dividends and other duties and taxes went up from Rs.1,14,878 crores in 2006-07 to Rs.1,65,994 crores in 2007-08. (*Time-bell rings*). Thus, public sector enterprises have been growing tall, both as performer and as contributor. In spite of above facts, the UPA-II wants to go ahead with the so-called reforms as dictated by the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO trio, and, as desired by the corporate sector...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude now.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am completing, Sir. As my hon. colleagues pointed out, as selling family silverware in the days of *Nawabs* and *Maharajas* in order to maintain a particular lifestyle was the order of the day, now, disinvesting or selling the public sector shares is the order of the day to meet the Budget deficits and for purposes other than supporting the weak public sector.

Finally, Sir, this act of the Government, I understand, appears to be very unconstitutional. Privatisation of public sector enterprises is contrary to the very Preamble of the Constitution which declares India as a socialist, democratic Republic. Now, Part-IV of the Constitution - Directive Principles of State Policy - states, "that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good". Again, I quote, "that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;". These principles are sought to be flouted by the Government in the name of strategic disinvestment programme. In the context of so-called reforms in finance sector, off-loading the Government stakes in public sector enterprises

is not in the interest of our economy. (*Time-bell rings*). The public sector is the only sector which has been meeting certain social and national objectives like providing employment to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and OBCs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: So, the Government will have to reconsider its decision of selling the Government's stakes, shares in the public sector undertakings.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Rahul Bajaj. You have five minutes' time.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I also disagree with the hon. Finance Minister, but for reasons which are somewhat different from what my friend, Mr. Raja, just now mentioned. He is not doing enough. I realise that consensus is required. In India, we go slowly but surely. And, consensus in India, I believe, means that both the Houses should be able to pass or approve what the Government wants to do.

We are a democratic society. I fully support that. But, Sir, things like family silverware being sold, this thing is happening, or, that thing is happening; what 'family', Sir. Are we undermining our country? Is this country only of few companies here and there? The country has land, water, air and people. We have to work for the 1,000 million people of this country. Keep some strategic units like ONGC or the State Bank of India with yourselves. We can understand that. It is fair enough. I have no comments on that. But, through you, I would like to request the Finance Minister that subject to consensus, the loss-making units should either be made into profit-making or sold off. But that takes a lot of time, and, some of them which are sick, sell them off, and, that should be sold to the highest bidder. You may get a lower price. But today, you are giving public money, shareholders' money, taxpayers' money every year. The total numbers of employees in public sector companies are very limited. You can give them any kind of VRS, I don't mind. Give them very attractive golden handshake, I don't mind. I am pro-employees. I employ 50,000 people today, Sir, in the group. I am not anti-employees but, for them, we cannot survive. The taxpayers' money, the country's money cannot be thrown away. So, loss making units should also be sold off to the highest bidder.

Coming back to the profit-making units, Sir, here, the important part is transparency. We have made some mistakes in the past. I would say, even as a business house that it should be sold through the capital market, not to the individual bidder. No. We are not yet ready as a country for that. We have heard 'socialism' for fifty years. It is in our DNA almost. Sell it through the capital market, through a transparent mechanism. Let it determine the things. Maybe you get a little lower price than what an individual company or a group may offer but that does not matter. Let there be no criticism. Whether it is an IPO or a public issue by a company, about

which some people asked the question, the money will come to the company, and, the company will use it. Where it is a disinvestment by the Government, by the President of India, it will go into the investment fund, which will be spent on social structure or physical infrastructure.

My friend, Mr. Manohar Joshi spoke about it. We need money; the Government needs money. Can't they see that? Can't they see the fiscal deficit growing? It is unsustainable, Sir. It will lead to inflation. We don't want the growth momentum to stop. So, I am grateful to you and the hon. Prime Minister for saying that you would not withdraw the fiscal stimulus. We will wait for the Budget. Of course, in the second quarter, 7.9 per cent growth rate is very, very encouraging and almost surprising.

हिंदी में बोलते हैं, पब्लिक सेक्टर कंपनी का अचार डालेंगे क्या? Will you pickle them? What are you keeping them for? Some people may criticize me but I say it very proudly, help the people, help the country, do the NREGA, do the loan waiver and prevent the farmers from committing suicide, and, fight with terrorism; that is for the Government to solve, not for running a hotel or even an airline. My friend Praful is not here. It is making loss of Rs, 5,000 crore every year. What for? You have got so many airlines. Nobody is holding us to ransom, Sir. If you want some of your flights to North-East — I have no time to go into that — we can give them subsidy to fly to the North East; go to Mecca. That is not the issue. But, why should not the loss-making units be privatised, Sir? *(Time-bell rings)* Mr. Mukherjee, Sir, I am very sorry. Ten per cent; ten per cent. We are not at all ambitious, Sir. Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to tell the Finance Minister that he must move forward and not listen to my friends, Mr. Raja, Mr. Tapan Sen. They are very old type, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am older than them, Sir, but broader-minded like our Finance Minister. So, my point of view is that इसको पिकल मत करो, इसका अचार मत डालो। Let not the taxpayers' money be put into loss-making units. ...*(Interruptions)*... Brinda ji, don't interrupt. *(Time-bell rings)* It is your conflict of interest. That is not my conflict of interest. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't try to focus your unions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, give me some more time because they are interrupting me. Brinda ji always interrupts me because she is such a close friend of mine. I would like to conclude by saying that with regard to some strategic companies, you need not do anything at the moment. But there also, make them accountable to people and make them more efficient. I was Chairman of Indian Airlines. There are outstanding people in public sector. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bajaj, please conclude.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: The problem is that today in some companies, although I do not want to name them, the political and administrative interference is creating problems, and, that is why, the unions get very disturbed. I was talking to the pilot while coming from the Port of Spain.
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Please conclude. Please.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: I am concluding, Sir. So, this is not the job of the Government to run every company. Through you, I would like to make a request to the Finance Minister, who has an experience, as Ravi Shankar ji said, of over forty years. Take courage in your hand and ignore Mr. Raja and go not for 10 per cent but much more than that and even privatise. Thank you, Sir.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Thank you, Sir. At the outset itself, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister that we have got a GDP growth of 7.9 per cent. When the economic atmosphere around the country is so bad, that growth is actually surprising. Why do not all of us congratulate the Finance Minister? All of us should be happy on 7.9 per cent growth rate which was never expected. Sir, I congratulate you. Now, Sir, I don't want to take more time. I know my time is only five minutes.

The first thing which I want to know is, my friend, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad also asked, there are a number of loss-making PSUs which are continuously making losses. All efforts to turn around failed. They have put a substantial burden on the exchequer. What are you going to do with them? What is your policy on that? That is what I want to know first.

My second question is that you are disinvesting 10 per cent of the good profit-making PSUs. But the contribution of the workers in getting profit cannot be ignored or cannot be over-emphasised. When you take profit from public sector by selling the equity, what consideration you have for the workers? As has been said here, I would like to know whether you are prepared to give a portion of the equity to the workers of those profit-making PSUs.

Sir, my third question is, now you are doing 10 per cent disinvestment. Next year it can be 20 per cent. Sir, there is an apprehension that this is a beginning for total transfer of management for privatisation. If that is so, I do not agree. To that extent I don't agree with Rahul Bajaj; to this extent, I agree with Raja that the management should be, under any circumstances, with the Government. Don't disinvest to the extent that the management is transferred out of the Government. That is my point. Sir, I have an example of Maruti. Earlier Maruti was in joint sector. Now, it is a private company. Therefore, I want the Government to assure, I want the Finance Minister to assure the House. Yes, we support the disinvestment policy but not to such an extent that the Government loses the management.

Sir, my fourth point is, as has already been mentioned here, economic ambience around is not conducive to getting maximum value for the equity. That is what I feel. Some others are also feeling the same way. Therefore, is the Government sure that this is the best time for off loading, for getting the maximum price? May I know whether such a study has been conducted? If not, why not a study be conducted so that the off loading will be done at the best time for fetching the maximum value for the equity. Sir, with these words I want to conclude. Thank you very much. These are my four questions.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the statement has stated that, "The proceeds from disinvestments would be channelised into National Investment Fund and during April 2009 to March 2012 would be available in full for meeting the capital expenditure requirement of selected social sector programmes decided by the Planning Commission or Department of Expenditure. The status quo ante will be restored from April 2012". Sir, would the Minister kindly clarify what he means by 'status quo ante'? If at all it is about channelising the proceeds into National Investment Fund, how would he meet the needs for the requirements of selected social sector programmes which is a never ending process? Two, disinvestment is defined here as "...it requires the development of "people ownership" of Central Public Sector Undertakings..." So far, we were thinking that Public Sector Undertaking itself is of peoples. When it is owned by the Government, naturally, it is of peoples. Let us say, for argument's sake, that this is intended for "people ownership." What are the plans that the Government is having to restrict the entry of private industrialists in any garb? Otherwise, that would defeat the very purpose of "people ownership" of Central Public Sector Undertakings. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister. *(Interruptions)* Please. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we want some assurance from the hon. Minister that SC and ST employees will not be removed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we did not get time. We want to raise this issue. None of the speakers has raised this issue.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have made their contribution while participating in this Calling Attention discussion. First of all, I would like to dispel one thing — I have not brought out any new policy. Disinvestment is not being enunciated by the Government for the first time; Disinvestment is going on from the 90s. The process of disinvestment has taken different turns. At some point in time, there was a strategic sale. Two Disinvestment Commissions were appointed; first one was by the Democratic Front Government in 1996 and another one was by the NDA Government. They made a series of recommendations. Many recommendations were acted on.

Therefore, the first point, which I would like to clarify, is that this is not something new which I have brought. The second point, which I would like to make quite clear at this point in time, is that neither I want to be extra bold nor I want to be extravagant. I would like to chart a middle-course, as I have done in my earlier economic policies, and I would like to do so. Therefore, I am not going for outright privatisation. Whether the Government should engage itself in doing business or not, I am not going to enter into it. We are doing business. Sometimes we are doing bad business, and sometimes we are doing good business. But that does not mean that we are going to completely give up our doing business. We are going to do so.

Three things we shall have to keep in mind. Nobody can give you a guarantee. It is a parliamentary democracy. Every Government is sovereign. Every Government is elected with the mandate of the people. They have the right and authority to decide what would be the best in the interests of the country. The policy, which I am having for today, will be limited up to 2014. If the new Government considers it necessary, it can continue with it. And if it considers it not necessary, it can scrap it. This is the constitutional framework in which we are functioning. My friend, Mr. Sen, need not be worried about it. Nothing is permanent here. If you come tomorrow with 272 seats in the Lok Sabha, you will be fully entitled to do whatever you like to do. Therefore, let us not unnecessarily agitate on issues which are not the point for discussion.

The statement, which I have made, is limited. One, the Government will not go beyond ten per cent at this stage. I have stated that only those profit-making Public Sector Enterprises will be listed which are earning profit for three preceding consecutive years, which are having no accumulated loss, and which are having positive net worth.

When they will be listed; at what point of time; many Members have enquired. Of course, the Government will have to assess at what point of time they will disinvest; they will offload. The objective is to get money, good, bad or indifferent. The objective is not to make charity. The objective is to get the maximum price. Therefore, we shall have to make an assessment at what point of time they will disinvest. I am not carried away by an ideological Budget that I will offload the shares at a time; the Government does not want to do business. At the same time, I would not like to incur loss. I would like to get the maximum out of the market, prevailing in the market conditions, and for that, the best time is to be ascertained. And who will ascertain that? This has been pointed out on a number of occasions. I know that when I presented my Budget, there was a big disappointment because I did not read out the number of public sector enterprises which I was going to disinvest, and when I had interaction with the Chambers of Commerce, I told them, I have no such intention. Disinvestment is a Government policy continuing even not under your bondage. I do not consider that there was any bondage of the Left parties. They were our valued cooperators and we are grateful to them for lending their support to this Government, the first

1.00 P.M.

UPA Government, for full five years. But as many as seven public sector enterprises we have disinvested. If you want the list, I can give the list. There was no question of any bondage. Therefore, do not come to this conclusion that because our Left-Front parties are not supporting the Government, the Government has taken the decision. What we suggested in the Common Minimum Programme got reflected in the Presidential Address to the Joint House; that got reflected in my Budget Speech. I am just translating that objective into this in a limited way. So, the timing will have to be chosen. They are the individual public sector enterprises; the Departments and the Ministries concerned, and the Department of Disinvestment, all will have to consult each other, and they will find out what would be the maximum prices that we can fetch from the market, depending on the market condition.

One very valid question has been raised by Mr. N.K. Singh, and I appreciate that question, but in a different context. My interpretation is different. That speaks, on the one hand, on the strengthening of our economy. He raised this question that when the other developed countries are helping the private corporate sectors, including the major banks, by injecting money into them, why, at that point of time, we are going to dispose of our shares in the public sector undertakings. These differences speak of the strength of Indian economy. Thanks to Mrs. Indira Gandhi. I must tell you that in 1969 she took the decision of nationalising the 14 scheduled commercial banks, in all aspects, branch expansion, deposit mobilisation, credit disbursement; if Rs.25 lakh crores of deposits we have mobilised over these years, it is not by accident, but it is only because the public sector banks gave an excellent account, and they did not collapse when the mighty banks all over the world collapsed like pack of cards and the Governments of those countries had to inject resources to make them alive,. . . *(Interruptions)*.... somehow, to go on floating. The question is whether we could have done better. Always we can think that we can do better. But the intention is quite clear. I do agree that it is bad fiscal management. What I said in the House, in 2001, sitting on the other side — I don't change my views simply because of the accident that from that side I have come to this side — was that I should not like to use the proceeds of the disinvestment to meet the normal revenue expenditure. That is really a wastage of the family silver. But if you use the disinvestment proceeds for strengthening the public sector enterprises themselves, enhancing their capacity, their modernisation, upgradation of their schemes and their expansion, what is wrong with it? What I have stated in my statement is that the public issues would be public offerings out of Government shareholding or issue of fresh equity or a combination of both. There will be all these three elements. What have I stated? I have stated that we have already decided some. It is not correct to say that the Navratnas are not listed. Some of them are listed. They are not allowed or permitted by the SEBI to offer above

10 per cent, which is mandatory. But now the SEBI is making noise. We do feel that adequate time has been given. Therefore, in the case of those public sector enterprises which have been listed and which are exempted from offering minimum 10 per cent, the exemption will be lifted now. The public sector enterprises, which have been listed, will have to comply with the minimum 10 per cent. Those enterprises which have done less than 10 per cent will have to do the balance so that they can reach the 10 per cent. Those enterprises which are listed now will go up to 10 per cent. It is not necessary that everyone will have to go in for 10 per cent. Some may go in for five per cent or some may go in for six per cent depending on the market and their requirement.

Another question has been raised whether there will be any share held by the employees if there is disinvestment. I am emphasising on the words of every disinvestment proposal that a part is earmarked for the employees. But, unfortunately, they are not fully subscribed. I would request my colleagues, Mr. Sen and Mr. Raja, to encourage the workers, whatever shares have been allocated to them, to subscribe. Take, for instance, the Indian Oil Corporation. The shares allocated to them were not fully subscribed. There are others also. Therefore, they should be encouraged. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): You give them loans.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You can't give them price concession. That is not possible. ...(*Interruptions*)... They will buy because they get enough. Don't say this. When you are talking of the ordinary people, you are talking of one per cent or two per cent. When you compare their income level and the public sector employees' income level, you will find that they are not helpless. Let us not distort the whole thing. In the situation which prevailed 30 years ago, the question didn't arise. The other day I have given a hefty seventeen-and-a-half per cent to step up the salary of the bank employees. I have given seventeen-and-a-half per cent compared to thirteen per cent, thirteen per cent and 13 per cent. When in three five-year bipartite they got thirteen per cent each, in the last bipartite which we signed on 27th November I have given them seventeen-and-a-half per cent. Don't say they can't buy that much. It is more than that. It is not that they are going to have bulk shares. But it will convey the right sense. It really means their participation. Therefore, their provision is always being met.

Another issue that has been raised is: What are you going to do about the sick public sector enterprises? It is true that, surely, I can't do what I can do for the profit-making companies. I am exposing them to the market. Which is the best place, I do not know. Which is the best place? Which is the place where you can have competition, where you can have bidding to assess as to what would be the value of a share of a public sector undertaking? If I do not stash in the stock market, where should I stash? Who is going to buy that? It is not a holy place. But when I am going in for that, I am not judging on that. But is there any other way, when I am going in for

disinvestment? I know you are, on principle, against disinvestment. I do not agree with that. That is the basic difference. Let us live with that basic disagreement. The Left does not believe in disinvestment. But I believe in disinvestment. I did disinvestment in the UPA-1 with your support as part of the Common Minimum Programme, I am doing it now and if I get the opportunity in future, I might do it. Nobody can give you guarantee that it will remain static at 10 per cent. So far as this period is concerned, the mandate is concerned, I have no intention of enhancing it beyond 10 per cent. But when the new Government comes after five years, what decision they will take, who can tell this? They can say that nothing should be done and everything should be under the Government's control. They are free to do so. So it depends on them. Let us not mix it up. There is nothing against the Constitution. If somebody feels that this act of the Government is anti-Constitutional, he or she is free to go to the court and take the help of distinguished lawyers, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad or Shri Arun Jaitley, to file a writ petition. There is no problem. That is not the correct interpretation either of the Preamble or of the Directive Principles of the State.

Shri Shiva has raised an issue that how we would meet the requirement if the money goes to the NIF. What is the concept of the NIF? This decision was taken because the general criticism was that you will mix it up with the Consolidated Fund of India and thereafter, you will, with the approval of the Parliament through Supplementary Demand, spend for your normal regular expenditure. So it was earmarked. It was thought that the corpus which would be created out of the proceeds of disinvestment that corpus would be used for the purposes of social sector. We have actually used some money — this was created on 27th January, 2005 — in the social sector projects, health care, employment and education; capital investment in the selected profitable and revivable public sector enterprises that yield adequate return in order to enlarge their capital base. The fund was professionally managed. It was not managed by the Government. It was not part of the Consolidated Fund of India. There were three asset managers, the UTI Asset Management Company, the SBI Fund Management Company and the Jeevan Bima Sahayog Asset Management Company. They were the managers of this fund and the corpus was being used. The total amount was more than Rs. 1,800 crores. Therefore, the corpus was limited. I have sought one time exemption for a period of three years because I know during this period, during the remaining part of the Eleventh Plan, massive investment would be required for social sectors, health and education. The revenue realisation, the revenue buoyancy, which we enjoyed in the previous years from where our tax GDP ratio increased from 8 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 to 12 per cent of GDP, is no longer available. Although there has been some improvement in the manufacturing sector now and there will be some improvement in the remaining years, but it is not adequate. Exports are going down continuously. Imports are

going down. Customs duties are going down. As the raw materials, intermediates and components are not being imported, to that extent, the manufacturing activities are not stepping up. On excise duties, realisations are going down. It cannot be made up only from direct taxes. We have looked at the Budget Paper. The Budget Estimates from direct taxes is around Rs.2,70,000 crores, and the B.E. is around Rs.2,69,000 crores from indirect taxes. Taken together, we will, perhaps, have around Rs.6,00,000 crores. But there will not be buoyancy which was witnessed year after year. Therefore, from where will the money come? Is it through borrowed resources! I agree with Shri Rahul Bajaj, and I myself stated in my Budget speech, that this level of fiscal deficit is not sustainable. Please remember, whatever elbowroom we have, whatever we could do, whether by introducing the NREGA, or, going in for a one-time loan waiver for the farmers, it was not because of mere revenue buoyancy, but because of the fiscal discipline, because of FRBM, because of reduced fiscal deficit, that is, revenue deficit to the extent of 1.2 per cent and fiscal deficit to 2.5 to 3 per cent. That provides you economic muscle. These rules cannot be ignored. And, if we try to ignore it, we may have some temporary reliefs, but there will be reactions and there will be counter-productive actions in no time. As it has happened, the bubble will burst. What happened in developed economies, which is described in various ways, say, meltdown, or, international financial crisis, because it was some sort of bubble artificially created, not backed by basic fundamentals, and the bubble burst. And, I am not indulging in going for the bubble. Therefore, that level of fiscal deficit is not acceptable in our system. This is my most respectful submission. So, some corrective measures have to be taken. That is why I have indicated that we will take a one-time exemption for these three years, namely, from 2009-12, and again, from 1st April, 2012, the entire proceeds will go back to the NII, and only the interest earned from the corpus will be used for this purpose because, at that time, the money will not be required.

Another important point raised was, what we are going to do for the sick industries. We established a mechanism which is known as the BRPSE, that is, the Board for Reconstruction of the Public Sector Enterprises. All the sick units were referred to them. And, from time to time, they have been making recommendations. This was established in July, 2004. This was also a part of the Common Minimum Programme. And, some sick companies have been revived. A couple of cases, which Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, has referred to, — I myself know about them — that is, the Hindustan Photo Films and the Hindustan Cables, and to the question as to why the strategic partnership could not click, I will find out. A readymade answer is not there with me. I shall have to find out from the Department. But, in this country, we shall have to keep in mind that we cannot simply throw people who walkout. We shall have to keep in mind the fact that the social security in our country is not so adequate. Therefore, with such people, if I simply throw them out of job overnight, it is not possible. The society will not accept it. Therefore, a

remedy should not be worse than the disease. So, we shall have to carry on with some sort of drag on; these are all drag on the revenues. But, at the same time, what would you do unless you can make a proper rehabilitation? These expert bodies are making recommendations, and we are trying to salvage the situation.

I would like to repeat in my conclusion, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, that there is no question of Government's responsibility being given up; the management will be with the Government. So far as the present mandate of this Government for the five years is concerned, we are not going beyond 10 per cent; we are not going for strategic sale. At what point of time we will go for it and the public sector enterprises will be off-loaded, we will be guided by the experts, looking at the conditions of the market where the maximum values could be discovered. Keeping that in view, we will take the appropriate action. I am not going to reel out, nor is the Department of Disinvestment going to reel out for the satisfaction of the stock brokers and to go on speculation that such and such company, such and such percentage will be off-loaded on such and such date. It is not possible.

Now, Shri N.K. Singh raised this question about due diligence. Yes, that is very important that due diligence is to be exercised and is to be exercised in the transparent manner. That is why we are not doing it merely through the civil servants or the brokers; wherever the experts are available, we are taking their help and we are trying to work out and get the recommendations from all of them.

Sir, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad gave certain figures. I think, I have answer to some of them. I could read out the figures that whichever companies have been stated.

Lastly, Sir, my good friend, Shri Rahul Bajaj has advised me to be bold enough. I normally accept his advice, but in this case, I am a little scared to accept his advice, and I would like to be rather conservative or rather meek than to be too bold. Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman. Sir, I once again express my gratitude to the participants.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for one hour for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at seventeen minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled, after lunch, at seventeen minutes past two of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Legal Metrology Bill, 2008

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up reply to the discussion on the Legal Metrology Bill, 2008.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, with your permission, I would like to say that yesterday Shri S.S. Ahluwalia quoted Manu Smriti. It is here:

तुलामानं प्रतीमानं सर्वं च स्यात्सुलक्षितम् ।
षट्सु षट्सु च मासेषु पुनरेव परीक्षयेत् ॥

The weights and measures should be fixed by the State and it must be checked every six months. This is in Manu Smriti.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, there was a demand for this shloka. He could not quote and now Shri Jois has quoted it. Mr. Minister, now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, yesterday, seven senior Members of this House participated in the discussion on the Legal Metrology Bill, 2008. At the outset, I would thank all the Members who have given deep thinking about this Bill.

Sir, firstly, I would like to give the background idea about the Legal Metrology Bill. The Government initially wanted only to make amendments to the existing two Acts, namely, the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, and the Standards of Weights and Measures Enforcement Act, 1985. Sir, when the amendment Bills were examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, it recommended, vide Tenth Report, integration of two legislations into a single legislation.

This is to avoid duplication and contradictions in the two Acts. Accepting the suggestion of the Standing Committee, The Legal Metrology Bill, 2008 was prepared. Sir, it was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24th October, 2008. Thereafter, this Bill was referred to the Standing Committee for examination. After examination of the Standing Committee's Report and discussions — I repeat, discussions — with the State Governments and stakeholders, certain official amendments have been proposed. Sir, there has been discussion at every stage with the State Government and different stakeholders. The Parliamentary Standing Committee which examined the 2008 Bill made six recommendations. Sir, out of the six recommendations, two recommendations are pertinent, (1) giving rule making power of States; (2) to do away with the Government Approved Test Centres proposed in clause No. 24. Sir, the Department examined the recommendations in consultation with the States. The recommendation to give rule making power to States was accepted. We have not taken any power or diluted the power of the States. But the recommendation to do away with the GATC was not accepted. Sir, I will tell you in detail why it was not accepted. This is because; it is felt that it only gives an additional option to the States. It strengthens the States. It does not take away their powers of functions. Sir, The Legal Metrology Bill, 2008 omits the following provisions in the existing legislation; (a) revelation of weights or measures used in industrial production. Sir, it is with the industrial manufacturing sector. We are not concerned. (b) Exempting regulation of weights or measures of other goods

meant for export. Sir, it is exported to other countries. Sir, it does not concern our people. These were felt to be unnecessary as these restrictions do not affect consumers in India. Sir, The Legal Metrology Bill, 2008 has the following new features, (a) verification of prescribed weights or measures by the Government Approved Test Centres (GATC); (b) prescribing qualification of legal metrology officers appointed by the State Government. It has the following modified provisions: nomination of a director by a company who will be responsible for complying with the provision of the enactment. This is against the existing provision of the entire Board of Directors being responsible. Sir, the Legal Metrology Bill, 2008 is a single legislation in place of existing two legislations on weights and measures. The total number of provisions in the Bill is only 56 against 160 sections together in the existing two Bills. Thus, the Bill has greatly simplified the weights and measures. I would like to answer some of the questions put by the Members of this House. Many of the speakers stated that there should not be concentration of power at the Centre or dilution of the power with the States. Sir, the reply is: at present the powers are divided between the Centre and the States. The Centre has the power to frame the rules for laying down specifications, modal approval and establishing standards. The States lay down the rules for enforcement of the Act. So, we are giving a common idea. We are giving a modal of the rules. At the time of consultation with the States, during the preparation of The Legal Metrology Bill, 2009, the State Governments had in a conference suggested that for the sake of uniformity the rule making power will be the Centre.

Accordingly, this has been put in the Legal Metrology Bill, 2008. But, Sir, after examination by the Standing Committee, a second round of consultation was held with the State Governments. Some of the State Governments suggested that they should be given the powers that they are enjoying even today. Accordingly, this has been proposed as an official amendment. These official amendments have been communicated. According to these official amendments, the Centre will frame the rules in respect of those items which they are doing even today. The States are proposed to be given powers to frame the rules, which they are enjoying today. Thus, after the official amendments, the present *status quo* will be restored. The amendment Nos. 52 (a) and 55 (2) have been made for this purpose.

Sir another question which was put was about the Government-Approved Test Centres. Many of the Speakers objected to the proposal for Government-Approved Test Centres, contained in section 24 of the Bill. Sir, the Government-Approved Test Centres can be recognised either by the Government of India or by the State Governments. Those State Governments which do not wish to appoint the Government-Approved Test centres can refrain from doing so. So, we will have these Test Centres only with the consent of the State Governments. So far as the Government of India is concerned, the Government of India will take

the opinion of the State Governments prior to recognising any Government Approved Centre. Sir, there was an apprehension that it will be franchise to private people. Sir, our idea is to give it to the Government institutions, IITs and approved organisations only. Sir, this is the idea we have.

Sir, in the Eleventh Plan, the Government of India has been implementing a massive scheme of Rs.170 crores for giving equipment and providing laboratory buildings to the States. Capacity and skill building are also part of this project. Sir, we have already written to the Chief Ministers of the States for providing supporting funds to ensure that this programme is a success. Notwithstanding this huge effort, the State Governments may find it difficult to verify weights and measures services in all sectors. Even today, important areas like thermometers and blood pressure instruments are not being verified by the State Governments. This situation cannot be allowed to continue.

Sir, the Indian Boiler Act was amended in 2007 and a similar provision was provided in the Indian Boiler Act also. Sir, the rules would give details of how the GATC would be approved and what conditions they would be required to meet. Sir, we will do all these with the consent and approval of the State Governments. I can also assure that the Legal Metrology Department of State Governments will continue to enforce the laws as they have been doing today. GATC will only supplement their activities.

Sir, another point was made that why there is an appellate authority with the Government. Sir, the reason is, there are so many legislations. Further, this is also the practice in the Act, as it stands today.

The other question was: Why have exports not been regulated in the new Bill? Sir, the items meant exclusively for exports will not touch the Indian consumer. The exporters will have to comply with the rules of the importing country. Therefore, any additional check on them will be unnecessary and will not help the Indian consumer.

Sir, another point was that the proposed Bill has not provided for reverification of weights and measures. Sir, section 24 provides for rules regarding the measurement and verification. The procedure for reverification will be provided in the rules.

Another point made was that there is no need for the word “Legal” before “Metrology”. Sir, the phrase “Legal Metrology” is a well accepted international term which describes the legal regulations applicable to weighing and measuring instruments. The State Governments are also familiar with this term — many of State Departments are known as Departments of Legal Metrology.

Sir, another question has been asked about the responsibility of Company Directors under the law. Some of the speakers suggested that it is not sufficient to make one Director responsible for the enforcement of weights and measures, as has been provided in Section 49 of the Legal Metrology Bill. Sir, in the existing Act, the entire Board of Directors as well as the

Company is responsible for any acts of omissions or commissions. The need was felt to change this provision since the Board of Directors as a whole will not be directly capable of controlling the proper compliance of the provisions of this Act.

Sir, there are certain other rules also which are at present existing in our country like the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Here, a similar situation is there. Sir, in those Rules, even officers below the Director level are permitted to be nominated. Sir, actually FICCI had suggested that this should be as per the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. But we have not accepted that. We are saying, 'one of the Directors.'

Sir, it may also be noted that in the Legal Metrology Bill, 2008, at any point of time, if the Director is not held responsible, the Company as a whole will come under this rule.

Sir, these are the amendments which we have made. Sir, we are not diluting any of the rights of the State Governments. We are strengthening them. Sir, this law is to protect the interest.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, the discussion is over and the questions that the Members had put, the Minister has tried to answer them with the help of 21 amendments. I believe, the Bill had gone to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee's advice was that the Bill in this form should not be brought to the House, and, this fact is evident, Sir, when the Bill was brought to the House. I don't know the reasons behind it. Maybe, there was no other Legislative Business and ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:... so the Government thought to bring this Bill. They could have done these amendments, their homework before bringing it to the House. Now, instead of bringing a Bill over here with 21 amendments, why don't they do the amendments and bring a comprehensive Bill, including all that what you have envisaged, what you have spoken in the House? My point is, bring a comprehensive Bill instead of bringing amendments in your own original Bill. Instead of Opposition Members' bringing amendments, the Government itself is accepting that they did not apply their mind very well while they brought the Bill to the House. Take it back and bring it tomorrow or day-after-tomorrow or any other day or at the end of the Session. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, I would suggest one thing. Whenever they bring the amended Bill or a comprehensive Bill, it is not necessary that we discuss it again. We will pass it without any discussion by voice vote.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Would you like to respond?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, these amendments were given well in advance to the Secretariat and my impression was that this has been distributed to everybody. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is,

“That the Bill further to establish and enforce standards of weights and measures, regulate trade and commerce in weights, measures and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure or number and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2-4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5 - Base unit of Weights and Measures

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 5. There is one amendment (No. 3) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (3) That at page 4, lines 23 and 24, the words “supplementary units” be ***deleted***.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 - Standard units of weights and measures

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 7. There is one amendment (No. 4) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (4) That at page 4, line 34, the word “supplementary” be ***deleted***.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 13-Appointment of Director, legal metrology officers and other employees

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 13. There are two amendments (Nos. 5 and 6) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (5) That at page 6, line 4, after the word “Director”, the words “the Controller” be ***inserted***.

- (6) That at page 6, line 17, **for** the bracket and figure “(6)”, the bracket and figure “(7)” be **substituted**.

The questions were put and the motions were adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 14 to 22, was added to the Bill.

Clause 23 - Prohibition on manufacture, repair or sale of weight or measure without licence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 23. There is one amendment (No. 7) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (7) That at page 8, **after** line 7, the following proviso be **inserted**, namely:-

“Provided that no licence to repair shall be required by a manufacturer for repair of his own weight or measure in State other than the State of manufacture of the same.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 24 - Verification and stamping of weight or measure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 24. There is one amendment (No. 8) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (8) That at page 8, line 24, **after** the word “shall”, the words “appoint or engage persons having such qualifications and experience and” be **inserted**.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Matilal Sarkar to vote.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, can I move the amendment on behalf of Shri Matilal Sarkar?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I shall now put Clause 24, as amended, to vote.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 to 30 were added to the Bill.

Clause 31-Penalty for non-production of documents, etc.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 31. There is one amendment (No. 9) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (9) That at page 9, line 25, **after** the words “thereunder to”, the words “submit returns” be **inserted**.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 32 to 36 were added to the Bill.

Clause 37 - Penalty for contravention by Government approved Test Centre.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 37. There is one amendment (No. 10) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (10) That at page 10, **after** line 23, the following be **inserted**, namely:-

“(2) Where any owner or employee of a Government Approved Test Centre performing duties in accordance with the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, wilfully verifies or stamps any weight or measure in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, he shall, for every such contravention, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.”.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 38 to 40 were added to the Bill.

Clause 41 - Penalty for giving false information or false return.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 41. There is one amendment (No. 11) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (11) That at page 10, line 48, **for** the words “ten thousand”, the words “five thousand” be **substituted**.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 41, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 42 to 50 were added to the Bill.

Clause 51 - Provisions of Indian Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure not to apply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 51. There is one amendment (No. 12) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (12) That at page 14, line 34, **after** the words “Code and”, the words and figure “section 153 of” be **inserted**.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 51, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 52 - Power to make rules

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 52. There are six amendments (No. 13 to 17) by the hon. Minister.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- (13) That at page 14, line 37, in marginal heading, **for** the words “Power to make”, the words “Power of the Central Government to make” be **substituted**.
- (14) That at page 15, lines 11 to 14 be **deleted**.
- (15) That at page 15, lines 23 to 25 be **deleted**.
- (16) That at page 15, line 28, the words “or the State Government” be **deleted**.
- (17) That at page 15, line 30, **for** the words “the fee”, the words “the qualifications and experience of persons appointed or engaged and the fee” be **substituted**.

The questions were put and the motions were adopted.

Clause 52, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Matilal Sarkar. He is not present.

We shall now take up insertion of new clause 52A. In clause 52A, there is one amendment (No.18) by the hon. Minister.

New Clause 52 A - Power of State Government to make rules

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

18. That at page 15, **after** line 46, the following new clause be **inserted**, namely:-

“52A.(1). The State Government may, by notification, and after consultation with the Central Government, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(2). In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) the time within which the weight or measure may be got verified under proviso to sub-section (1) of section 16;

- (b) registers and records to be maintained by persons referred to under sub-section (1) of section 17;
- (c) the form, manner, conditions, period, area of jurisdiction and fees for issuance of licence under sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (d) fee for verification and stamping of any weight or measure under sub-section (1) of section 24;
- (e) manner of notifying Government Approved Test Centre, terms and conditions and fee to be paid under sub-section (3) of section 24;
- (f) fee for compounding of offences under sub-section (1) of section 48.

(3). In making any rule under this section, the State Government may provide that a breach thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.

(4). The power to make rules under this section shall be subject to the condition of the rules being made after previous publication in the Official Gazette.

(5). Every rule made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of State Legislature, where there are two Houses and where there is one House of State Legislatures, before that House.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

New Clause 52A was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 53. In clause 53, there are two amendments (No.19 and 20) by the hon. Minister.

Clause 53 — Delegation of Powers.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

- 19. That at page 15, line 49, the words and figure “or section 19,” “be **deleted**.
- 20. That at page 16, line 1, the words and figures “section 22 to 24 and section 50 relating to power to lay down scale of fee,” “be **deleted**.

The questions were put and the motions were adopted.

Clause 53, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 54 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 55. In clause 55, there is one amendment (No.21) by the hon. Minister.

Clause 55 — Existing Director, Controller and Legal Metrology Officer not to be affected by the new qualification to be prescribed.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

21. That at page 16, line 21, **for** the word “Central”, the word “State” “be **substituted**.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 55, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 56 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 1. In clause 1, there is one amendment (No.2) by the hon. Minister.

Clause 1 — Short title, extent and commencement.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

2. That at page 1, line 4, **for** the figure “2008”, the figure “2009” be **substituted**.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the Enacting Formula. In the Enacting Formula, there is one amendment (No.1) by the hon. Minister.

Enacting Formula

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I move:

1. That at page 1, line 1, **for** the word “Fifty-ninth”, the word “Sixtieth” be **substituted**.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister to move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.
..(Interruptions)..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I want the third reading.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has assured that the powers which are already vested with the State Governments will not be snatched away through this Bill. At the time of making rules circulate the model rules to the States, take back their reaction, and, then come out with the rules. That will be better. Because in the Act, you may say, no, we are not

doing it, but while making rules and sub-legislation when it will come, it may snatch the power of the States. So, this is my apprehension. Secondly, still I have my doubts for the testing centres — the calibration testing centres and other centres. Are you going to outsource them or are you going to keep them with the Government? My third apprehension is about Director. You are talking about the Director that you will specify a person who will look after it. Will he be an instrumentation engineer or merely a Director? If he is not an instrumentation engineer and is not qualified to know the fault at the calibration level, then it is useless. I think there should be some qualification for the Director who can become the authorised person of that company who can see that the calibration is done in the right direction.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Sarkar, you were not there.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I rang up four to five times from my residence. For 25 minutes, I was standing below for DTC vehicles. Sir, I want to seek one clarification. Though I have not heard the hon. Minister, my apprehension is that if the power of the making rules lies only with the Central Government, then the States will be deprived and the States may not be able to suit their own conditions. That is why, the power of making rules should vest with the State Governments.

The second apprehension is that so far as the Bill in its present form is concerned, the company at fault may seek to escape leaving the responsibility only on the officer concerned. The company may escape. So, I would like to get clearcut clarifications from the Minister whether this provision would be removed while framing the rules, and whether provisions in this regard as needed would be accommodated.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I want to give an assurance to clarify that our idea is to strengthen the State Governments. So, while drafting the Bill, we had discussed twice with the State Governments and other organisations. So, when the rules come, we will definitely discuss them with the State Governments because we want their co-operation. We are also interested in protecting their interests. Definitely, we will have interaction with the State Governments and their views would be taken into consideration seriously and accordingly, the rules will be framed.

Sir, regarding the Government-approved testing centres, I would submit that the State Governments have all powers to have their own centres, and if the Government of India is going to have any Government-approved testing centres, we will have the consent of the State Governments, and we are not going to franchise. But, the idea is that with the consent of the State Government, whether we can give it to institutions like IITs and other eminent institutions; whether this is possible. This is the idea that we have got.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, IITs are educational institutions. They are not testing centres. How are they going to do it in IITs?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: This is just an idea. The main thing is that this will not be franchised.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Minister should not come out with off the cuff ideas. Yesterday, I spoke about National Physical Laboratory which was started in 1950. The prime work was this. Now, when we are making Legal Metrological Institutes — I belong to Jharkhand State. There is an Institute in Ranchi, Jharkhand also. — why don't you do this and involve the Instrumentation Engineers in this?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the intention.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Like at the time of giving licence for pharmacy, you need a B.Pharm person.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, these suggestions are seriously considered. Now, coming to the qualification of the Directors, it can be addressed in the rules. Sir, the Director will be a well-qualified person.

Now, I move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

सर, यह बिल जो हम संसद के सामने ला रहे हैं, इसमें बहुत मूलभूत संशोधन शामिल किए गए हैं। लोक सभा में माननीय सदस्यों ने इसे 25 नवम्बर, 2009 को पारित कर दिया है। इस बिल को अब मैं आपके सामने रख रहा हूँ इस बिल में संशोधन के लिए स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने जो सुझाव दिए थे, वे हमने मान लिए हैं। इसमें जो महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन शामिल किए गए हैं, वे इस प्रकार हैं - इस अधिनियम को Gender Neutral बनाने के लिए इसके टाइटल को बदल कर 'Employees Compensation Act' किया जा रहा है। वर्तमान में इसका शीर्षक 'Workmen Compensation Act' है।

इस अधिनियम के Schedule II में बहुत रैस्ट्रिक्शन्स थे, जिससे पूरा लाभ कर्मचारियों को नहीं मिल पाता था। यह शैड्यूल खतरनाक उद्योगों की सूची है। हमने इस बारे में दिए गए सुझावों को मानते हुए सभी Restrictive Clauses को हटाने का प्रस्ताव रखा है। उदाहरण के तौर पर - जहां-जहां क्लैरिकल स्टाफ को कवर नहीं किया था, वे सब क्लॉजिज़ हमने Schedule II से हटा दिए हैं। जहां-जहां यह प्रावधान था कि केवल 20 या इससे ज्यादा काम करने वाले Establishment में यह कानून लागू होगा, इसे हमने हटा दिया है। इसी प्रकार जहां यह add किया हुआ था कि "पिछले बारह महीने में कम से कम एक दिन '25 या इससे ज्यादा' अथवा '50 या इससे ज्यादा' अथवा '10 या इससे ज्यादा' वर्कर्स काम करते हों, तभी वह खतरनाक Establishment या activity मानी जाएगी", इसको हमने हटा दिया है।

इसी Schedule II में कुछ जगह पर शिप वगैरह में 25 टन का जहाज या इससे ज्यादा का जो रैस्ट्रिक्शन था, वह भी हमने हटा दिया है। जहाज का जितना भी Tonnage हो, उस पर कार्य करने के दौरान अगर खतरा है, तो वर्कर को compensation मिलना चाहिए। वर्कर के परिवार को दाह-संस्कार के लिए अभी तक केवल 2500 रुपया मिलता था, इसे बढ़ाकर हमने ESIC के बराबर 5000 रुपया करने का प्रस्ताव रखा है। यह भी प्रस्ताव है कि सरकार इसे समय-समय पर Notification करके Price Index के हिसाब से बढ़ाती रहेगी।

इस अधिनियम में अधिकतम मजदूरी की सीमा जिस पर वर्कर को compensation दिया जा सकता है, वह 4000 रुपये है। हमने प्रस्ताव रखा है कि इसे भी सरकार Price Index के हिसाब से समय-समय पर बढ़ाती रहेगी।

वर्तमान में मजदूर को अगर कोई injury होती है, तो इलाज के खर्च Reimburse करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है, इसे हमने डालने का प्रस्ताव आपके सामने रखा है। इसी प्रकार से Minimum Compensation की राशि को बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव है। जैसा कि death के case में 80 हजार रुपए से 1 लाख 20 हजार रुपए तथा permanent disability के case में 90 हजार रुपए से 1 लाख 40 हजार रुपए बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव है।

महोदय, Workmen Compensation Commissioner वर्तमान में केवल राज्य सरकारों के अधिकारी होते हैं। उसमें special qualification का प्रावधान नहीं है। हमने अब Advocates तथा Judges को भी इसमें शामिल किया है। इसी प्रकार राज्य सरकारों के Gazetted Officers, जिनका qualification तथा experience अन्य क्षेत्रों, जैसे-Personnel Management, HRD तथा Industrial Development में हो, उन्हें भी eligible बनाया गया है।

उपसभापति जी, हमने इस बिल में पहली बार यह प्रस्ताव रखा है कि Compensation Commissioner मामलों का निपटारा केवल 3 महीने की अवधि में पूरा कर देंगे।

महोदय, इन संशोधनों से लाखों गरीब मजदूरों का भला होगा, जो कई तरह की गम्भीर दुर्घटनाओं का शिकार होते हैं। जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा कि हम Standing Committee की recommendations को मान कर संशोधन प्रस्तावों को संसद के सामने लाये हैं। मेरी यह कामना है कि आप सभी मिल कर इसका समर्थन करेंगे तथा इसे सर्वसम्मति से पास करेंगे। ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूँ।

महोदय, यह बहुत ही अच्छा कानून है। जिन तब्दीलियों की वजह से, बदलावों की वजह से या amendments की वजह से बहुत से कामगारों को फायदा होता है, ऐसे कानून को अगर हम जल्दी-से-जल्दी मंजूरी दें, तो उसका अमल बहुत ही जल्दी होगा। इसलिए मैं आपसे विनती करता हूँ तथा तमाम सदस्यों से विनती करता हूँ कि इस कानून को पास कर के workers की, कार्मिकों की भलाई के लिए मदद करने की, मैं आशा करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

The question was proposed.

श्री उपसभापति: श्री के०बी० शणप्पा।

श्री के०बी० शणप्पा (कर्नाटक): धन्यवाद, उपसभापति जी।

महोदय, इन्होंने जो वर्तमान compensation का बिल रखा है, उसमें heading में Workmen बना दिया है और नीचे में उसको Employees बनाया है। अगर वह इसे 'The Employees Compensation Amendment Bill' कह कर लाते, तो it would have perfectly served the purpose. आपने यहाँ पर Employees किया है। खुशी की बात है कि इस देश में बहुत सालों के बाद, तकरीबन 80 सालों के बाद, जब आप लेबर मिनिस्टर बने हैं, तो थोड़ा-कुछ परिवर्तन लाने की चिन्ता की है।

3.00 P.M.

महोदय, वह मेरे फ़ाज़िल दोस्त हैं। हम लोग एक ही district से आते हैं। वह गुलबर्गा के हमारे एमपी0 भी हैं। मैं वहीं का वाशिदा हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*... वह भी 40 सालों से राजनीति में हैं और मैं भी 40-50 सालों से राजनीति में हूँ। वह बहुत अच्छी तरह से 40 years में तकरीबन 10 बार चुन कर यहाँ आए हैं। He has got a good record. ...*(व्यवधान)*... जी हाँ, मैं 50 सालों से राजनीति में हूँ। वह कर्णाटक में एक अच्छे administrator के रूप में जाने जाते हैं। मुझे खुशी है कि आपके यहाँ आने के बाद यह पहला मौका है।

महोदय, working class बहुत ही कुचली हुआ जमात है। ये बिखरे हुए हैं। इनको ई0एस0आई0 का भी कोई safe guart नहीं है। वे contract में काम करते हैं, ship yard में काम करते हैं और माइंस में भी काम करते हैं। महोदय, ये बहुत सी ऐसी जगहों पर काम करते हैं, जो कि जोखिम भरा काम रहता है। ऐसे लोगों के लिए उन्होंने बहुत ही हमदर्दी से यह कानून बनाया है। पहले जो कुछ भी था, इसे 1923 में बनाया गया था। इस तरह बहुत साल लग गए हैं। Britishers के जमाने में, मेहनतकशों के लिए उन्होंने थोड़े-से कानून बनाये थे।

देश के आजाद होने के बाद 1948 में आपने फैक्ट्री एक्ट बनाया जिसमें यह था कि किस तरह से फैक्ट्री होनी चाहिए, working class और management में क्या संबंध होना चाहिए, कोड ऑफ कंडक्ट क्या होना चाहिए, पेमेन्ट ऑफ वेजेज क्या होना चाहिए, पेमेन्ट ऑफ वेजेज बोर्ड कैसा होना चाहिए और किन-किन मजदूरों को कितनी-कितनी सैलरी देनी चाहिए। इन 60 सालों के अंदर कई wage boards निकल गये। टेक्साटाइल वेज बोर्ड है, सीमेन्ट वेज बोर्ड है, इंजीनियरिंग वेज बोर्ड है, शुगर फैक्टरी में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को, अलग-अलग तरीके से आपने बहुत कुछ सहूलियतें दीं, लेकिन यह जो कानून आपने लाया है, इसमें ज्यादातर अमेंडमेंट की बात नहीं है। “workmen” की जगह पर आपने “employees” बना दिया। जो employee काम करते हुए मर जाता है, उसके funeral के लिए आप जो कई हजार रुपये देते थे, स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की सिफारिश के बाद उसे अब आपने 3 हजार से लेकर 5 हजार तक का अमाउंट रखा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि मरने के बाद का यह जो पैसा है, this is not for the person who is dead. वह जिस कम्पनी में काम करता है, उसे जो कम्पेनसेशन मिलता है, वह तो चला गया। उसके ऊपर जो फैमिली डिपेंड रहती है, उसे पेमेन्ट ऑफ ग्रेज्युटी, प्रोविडेंट फंड अथवा कंपेनसेशन का जो पैसा होता है, वह दिया जाता है। उसकी फैमिली जो सर्वाइव करती है, वह कितनी बड़ी है, यह किसी को पता नहीं चलता है। कानून को भी पता नहीं चलता कि उसके पीछे डिपेंडेंट लोग कितने हैं। अगर वह कम उम्र में मरता है तो इसको मल्टिप्लाई करके आपने 3 लाख या 4 लाख का प्रावधान किया है।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

मैं मंत्री महोदय से इतना ही बोलूंगा कि आप अच्छा कानून लाये हैं। I support you, लेकिन आप इतना कंजूस मत बनिये। आप बहुत कंजूस बन गये हैं। 5-10 हजार रुपये देने से क्या उसके funeral का खर्चा कम हो जाता है? अगर कोई क्रिश्चियन मर जाता है तो उसका coffin बनाने के लिए 10 हजार लगता है। हम जैसे कोई मरते हैं तो मिट्टी में गाड़ कर फेंक देते हैं, इसमें कोई खर्चा नहीं है, लेकिन फिर भी खर्चा है। लकड़ी द्वारा जलाने वालों के लिए तो न जाने लकड़ी का कितना भाव हो गया है! Is there any scientific study behind it? जब आप देते हैं तो दिल खोल कर दीजिए। दिल खोल कर दे दो। उसको 10 हजार बनाइये। मरने वाले के साथ आप यह क्या bargaining कर रहे हैं? I request the Chair to advise them not to do so.

दूसरी बात, आपने यहाँ पर कमीशन की बात छेड़ी है। आपने यह अच्छा किया है कि तीन महीने के अंदर इसका फैसला होगा। सर, मुझे पता है कि कभी-कभी कंपेनसेशन का पैसा देने के लिए भी वर्कमैन को कई बार सताया गया। अगर कोई वर्कमैन कम्पनी के काम के लिए जाते समय रास्ते में मर जाता है तो मैनेजमेंट बोलती

है कि वह तो मेरे premises में नहीं मरा, वह तो बाहर मर गया। उसका पैसा देने के लिए मैं तैयार नहीं हूँ। वह तो कांट्रैक्ट लेबर था, वह कांट्रैक्ट के अधीन मर गया, इसलिए मैं उसको पैसे नहीं दूंगा। आप इसमें principal employer का एक प्रावधान जरूर insert कीजिएगा। यह कभी-कभी होता है, लेकिन जिसके लिए वह आदमी अपनी जान देता है, उसकी जिम्मेदारी उस principal employer के ऊपर जानी चाहिए। एक मिडलमैन बोलता है कि मैं तो कांट्रैक्टर हूँ, मुझमें इतनी ताकत नहीं है कि मैं 4 लाख या 5 लाख दूँ। जब एक्सिडेंट होता है तो सरकार डिक्लेयर करती है कि उसको पांच लाख रुपये का मुआवजा दिया जाये। बाक़ में जो लोग मर गये, उनको एक-एक लाख, दो-दो लाख रुपये दिये गये। जो आदमी मरता है, वह कम्पनी की जिंदगी के लिए मरता है, वह अपने लिए नहीं मरता है। वह अपनी जान हथेली पर रख कर काम करता है। वह माइन्स में जाता है। गोल्ड माइन्स के बारे में आपको मालूम है। आपने वहाँ देखा है कि किस तरह से वह नीचे जाता है। अगर वह परमानेंट लेबर है, तब तो उसकी कोई गारंटी है। उसके लिए फैक्ट्री एक्ट है और उसके लिए वेज़ बोर्ड है, मगर इसके लिए क्या है? कांट्रैक्टर बोलता है कि साहब, यह मेरा लेबर नहीं है। कांट्रैक्टर के पास उसका कोई मस्टर नहीं है। आप इसमें यह प्रावधान रखिये कि जब कोई कंपेनसेशन के लिए क्लेम करता है तो उसके पास मस्टर है या नहीं। वह जैसे ही फर्स्ट मारनिंग में जाएगा तो उस मालिक के पास उसका हिसाब-किताब होना चाहिए।

आपने क्लर्कों के बारे में भी यहाँ पर एक सहूलियत दी है। It is good that instead of calling them 'workmen,' you are calling them 'employees.' जब हम कोई फैक्ट्री में काम करते थे तो वे हमको वर्कमैन नहीं बोलते थे।

वे बाबू कहते थे हमको, लेकिन तनखाह वर्कमैन से भी कम मिलती थी। आपने इनके बीच में जो डिफरेंसिएशन निकाला, वह बहुत खुशी की बात है। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि यह जो Factory Act, 1948 है, यह बहुत पुराना है, कानून भी बहुत पुराना है। यह कानून उस वक्त बना था जिस वक्त industries were completely handled by the manpower. तब जो सीमेंट फैक्ट्री होती थी, आपको मालूम है उसमें जब हम काम करते थे, I was an employee in the foundry, 3000 लोग काम करते थे, अब उसकी जरूरत नहीं है, क्योंकि पिछले 60-70 साल में टेक्नोलॉजी इतनी बढ़ गई है कि जितनी प्रॉडक्शन हम निकालते थे, आज खाली 300 employees उतनी प्रॉडक्शन निकाल रहे हैं और accident का रेट भी कम हो गया है, क्योंकि वे contract labour के थू काम करवाते हैं। श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिज़ साहब भी यहां बैठे हैं, वे हमारे लेबर मिनिस्टर रह चुके हैं, he knows; उन्हीं के टाइम का यह बिल है। Contract labourers के बारे में he has very sympathetically taken the stand. I appreciate you, Sir. We salute you. At least, you thought for the unorganised labour, जिनके लिए कोई कानून नहीं था, जिनके लिए कोई safe guard करने वाला नहीं था, उन लोगों के बारे में सोचकर आपने जो पिछले सत्र में कानून बनाया, उसके लिए हम आपके शुक्रगुजार हैं। लेकिन, आज payment on compensation का जो बहुत ही छोटा मुद्दा आपने लिया है, आज के इस दौर में you should go through the book. Factory Act को लीजिए, इसमें बहुत से investigations होने हैं, बहुत से amendments होने हैं। 1948 Act बहुत पुराना है, ब्रिटिशर्स के हाथ में जो-जो कानून थे, उन्हीं में amendments करके आप लोगों के सामने लाए हैं। Kindly see that a new Factory Act is to be drafted, और एक कमिटी बनाइए, कितने ही ट्राइब्यूनल्स और अथॉरिटीज़ यहां पर हैं। बहुत से अच्छे लोग यहां पर हैं। Lower House में इसके ऊपर चर्चा हुई, यहां पर भी यही तो चर्चा हुई। मैं यह चाहूंगा कि पूरा संशोधन हो; you should have a complete thorough investigation in this labour act. चाहे Payment of compensation Act हो, Factory Act में standing orders हों, इन तमाम चीजों पर एक कमिटी बिठाइए, ताकि वर्कर्स और मैनेजमेंट के बीच में तकरार का सिलसिला न रहे। आज जो यह Compensation Act आया है, मैं इसके बारे में भी कहूंगा कि इसमें Standing Committee ने भी बहुत ही छोटी रिकमेंडेशन की है, यह जो ज्वाइंट कमिटी ने आपको रिपोर्ट की है, they have not gone through it. Very limited recommendation है यह

कि दो-अढ़ाई पास करो। On what basis have they recommended? 80,000 का 1,20,000 करो! नहीं, सर, ऐसा नहीं होगा। आदमी के मरने के बाद उसकी पूरी हिस्ट्री आपके पास होनी चाहिए। How much money is actually to be paid to you; उसको सारा पैसा एक ही साथ उसके हाथ में देना है या उसकी फैमिली को समय-समय पर देना है। इन तमाम चीजों का ब्यौरा इस कानून में होना चाहिए और contract labourers का आप एक रिकार्ड बनवाइए। So far, nobody has kept it. जहां पर education होता है, वहीं पर उनको शोहरत मिलती है और घर में काम करने वाले बहुत से employees हैं, वे घरों में काम करते हुए मर जाते हैं, atrocities की वजह से मारे जाते हैं। आपने पेपर में पढ़ा होगा how many ladies died, how many boys died in that, उनके बारे में आपने क्या किया है? Are they not the employees? मैं समझता हूं कि इस देश में इसकी इंकवायरी होनी चाहिए कि ऐसे कितने लोग हैं जो होटल्स में काम करते हैं, उनके लिए क्या गारंटी है? 24 घंटे उनका हाथ पानी में रहता है, पानी की वजह से इतना गंदा रहता है कि उनके हाथ को कोर्क हो जाती है। उनको wage नहीं मिलती और जो हाथ पर gloves डालते हैं, वे भी उनको नहीं मिलते और कहीं भी safety equipments नहीं मिलते हैं।

इसी तरह salt workers हैं, और भी कई तरह के लोग हैं। Mines में काम करने वालों के लिए masks तक नहीं रहते हैं, उनकी सांस घुट जाती है। अभी चीन में हाल ही में कितना बड़ा हादसा हुआ। हमारे यहां भी इस तरह के बहुत से हादसे होते रहते हैं, लेकिन payment of compensation को और थोड़ा मजबूती से लागू करना चाहिए। आदमी तो मर जाता है, लेकिन उसकी फैमिली के लिए, उनमें से किसी को नौकरी देनी चाहिए। You must make a provision in it that if a person dies while working, अगर उसका कोई dependent है, तो उसको compulsory तौर पर नौकरी देनी चाहिए। कभी-कभी ऐसा हुआ है कि आपने इसे मालिक के ऊपर छोड़ दिया है। कमिश्नर के पास कई बार, कई लोगों की अपील जाती है, तो वह कहते हैं कि नहीं, इनकी कंपनी में वह प्रावधान नहीं है। गवर्नमेंट में यह प्रोविजन है कि अगर कोई आदमी काम करते हुए मरता है, तो उसके परिवार के किसी सदस्य को उसकी जगह पर ले लेते हैं, उसकी अपील भी एक ही साल के अंदर होती है, अगर कोई छोटा बच्चा है, तो उसके बड़ा होने तक नहीं, एक ही साल के अंदर लेते हैं। कंपनसेशन की जो प्रॉब्लम है, आप कंपनसेशन के लिए पैसे दीजिए, लेकिन उसके जो dependent members हैं, उनमें से किसी को तुरंत नौकरी देनी चाहिए। अगर ऐसा प्रोविजन आप करते हैं कि immediately उसकी पत्नी को नौकरी दी जाए, तो मैं समझता हूं कि आपकी जो भावना है, यह कंपनसेशन देने के लिए अमेंडमेंट लाने की जो भावना है, इससे उन लोगों को कुछ मदद मिलेगी। इन सब चीजों के साथ मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि आपका जो प्रयास है, it is a good effort, but it should be a refined one. मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि आगे आने वाले दिनों में आप इसको स्टडी करके, thoroughly study करके इस देश के वर्किंग क्लास के लिए जो फैक्टरी ऐक्ट और लेबर कानून होना चाहिए, उसमें आप जरूरी अमेंडमेंट करेंगे, इतना कहते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं और आपने मुझे इस बिल पर बोलने के लिए समय दिया, इसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I do support the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009, which has been prepared on the basis of the Report of the Arjun Kumar Sengupta Committee constituted by this Government and brought before the House today. This is a very positive legislation and, I think, it would have been better if the Bill had come much earlier. While supporting this Bill, I thank the hon. Minister of Labour, the Minister of State for Labour, the ex-Labour Minister, who is sitting in this House, during whose tenure it was drafted, and all the persons connected with the drafting of this Bill. The previous speaker

while supporting the Bill said that many Acts had been passed by the Parliament. But, unfortunately, no Governments other than the Congress Government took the initiatives to do that. If you look at the Labour Acts which are existing today in this country, you will find that all the Acts had been passed when the Congress Government was in power. It is a fact that the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation and Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 was passed when there was a Government other than the Congress. Having said that, I want to say that it reveals that the Congress Government is more sympathetic towards the welfare of the labour than any other Government. Of course, the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act was passed during the NDA Government regime. But that came into limelight in the form of an Ordinance when Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister and Shri P.A. Sangma was the Minister of Labour.

Now, coming back to this Bill, I want to mention here that the points which have been included in this Bill are very important. Take the case of compensation. When you talk about compensation, whether it is Delhi Metro or the Golden Quadrilateral roads or cement factories or mines or any other type of industries where the workers are working, if they die while working due to accident or any occupational disease or any other disease or any such things, they should be paid compensation.

We must realise that both the ESI and the Provident Fund do not cover the total workforce in the country. It is also a fact that if the social security schemes like the ESI and the Provident Fund had covered the total workforce, this piece of legislation would not have been very much relevant for the working class. We have around 400 million workers in our country. These two social security schemes, the ESI and the Provident Fund cover a minimum number of workers. Therefore, this piece of legislation is very much required in this country.

Now I come to a very important point. In all the labour Acts it has been mentioned that if a minimum number of 15 or 20 or 30 or 50 workers are working in a factory, then only this Act is applicable to them; otherwise, this Act is not applicable. I can see that there is no mention of this minimum requirement of number in this Bill. Now in this modern age, even 10 persons can run a factory. So there can be 10 persons or 15 persons or 20 persons or less than 10 persons who can run a factory, where there is always an apprehension of a fatal accident. I think this is a very important point. On the other hand, nowadays, in view of the changing global situation, these companies are giving contracts to big contractors or small contracts, this contractor or that contractor. Nobody knows where it ends. Ultimately, the benefit of compensation may not really go to the real family of the deceased or the injured person. So deletion of the number will definitely give benefit to the families of workers.

So far as the amount is concerned, I fully agree with the hon. Member who was just now speaking. The amount has been increased from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,20,000 and from Rs. 90,000

to Rs. 1,40,000. Definitely, it is a good step. I fully support this step because this is what the Standing Committee has recommended, which is represented by not only the Members of the Congress Party but also the Members of different parties. This issue was discussed in the Standing Committee and all the Members gave their views. It would have been better if it had been increased to Rs. 5 lakhs. Of course, they might have discussed all the things involved in it, like the condition of employers, revenue, etc. If an accident occurs at any place, the Government announces a compensation of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 1 lakh. Now in the case of an accident where the workers are involved, sometimes, they announce a compensation of Rs. 3 lakh or Rs. 5 lakh. So the amount which has been mentioned here is very less, but, definitely, it is a good move. It is also mentioned here that provided that the Central Government may by a notification in the Official Gazette, from time to time, enhance the amount of compensation mentioned in this clause. This Bill is empowering the Government to enhance the amount as and when required. They can also enhance the amount. I think that takes care of the concern expressed by the hon. Member.

If you look at the time limit, it is a very important clause. Suppose a person who belongs to Orissa, is working in Delhi and he dies in an accident. It is very difficult for the family of the deceased to come to Delhi from Orissa or Rajasthan or Bihar or from any other place to file a compensation case or whatever it may be. Our judicial system is such that, sometimes, it takes three years or four years or five years to decide a case. So this time limit of three months is a very important thing for the workers.

The other important issue is change of nomenclature from workmen to employees, which is again a very important thing.

Now, this word 'workmen' is a very old word. Maybe, in earlier times, women were not working. So, we called them 'workmen'. Perhaps, the word 'workmen' may not seem to include women. So, to have gender parity, we are changing the nomenclature. In our country, we have many words like workmen, employees, contractors, labourers, etc. 'Employees' is the more dignified word, and we can use the word 'employees' in place of 'workmen' in all the Acts. It should include all the workmen covered under the Trade Unions Act. That would give a moral boost to the workers. So, changing the nomenclature from 'workmen' to 'employees' is, definitely a good move.

Now, it is also a welcome move that the medical reimbursement costs have been increased. But, in my opinion, it could have been increased a little more. Here, I would want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that while passing the Amendment Bill in the House, we should have given a thought to one more aspect. As the House is aware, we have lakhs and lakhs of compensation cases pending all over the country. In many cases, the cases have lapsed, and the families of victims have given up hopes. This could be because they are not able

to get the continued support of the Unions for a long time. It is well-known that the office-bearers change every year, and there are, at times, rivalries within the Union. So, for various reasons, the compensation cases, filed before the Compensation Commissioners, whether it is the Assistant Labour Commissioner, who has been notified to handle the cases, either have lapsed, or, sometimes, the employers are not interested to proceed with the case, or, sometimes, the families of the victims are not able to come and fight the case. I would like to know from the hon. Minister — he can give the information later on — as to how many compensation cases are pending, before the Compensation Commissioner, which are at least a year old. I would also request the hon. Minister to give an assurance, while replying to the debate, that he would see to it that the compensation cases are disposed of within a specified time-frame so that the affected families get the benefit. Secondly, I would like to know whether the lower level officers, or, to say, the BDO/Tahsildars would be given the power to handle these cases. Otherwise, even if you confine it to the Assistant Labour Commissioner, it so happens that there is one Commissioner for two or three districts, and that also creates difficulty in enabling the families of the victims to file cases and get the benefit. So, the Government should take a liberal view and nominate the officers at the block level and the Tahsil level, so that people can file for compensation and also get the benefit.

Sir, this, definitely, is a very good Bill, and the Amendments which have been brought forward are quite welcoming. While appreciating the hon. Minister for this, I once again support the Bill. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. Sir, this Bill has already been passed by Lok Sabha and has come here. At the outset, while saying so, I would like to say that we will also pass the Bill. Having said that, I have certain observations to make on the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Sir, the Bill has taken certain laudable initiatives by enhancing the compensation and also by removing various restrictive clauses. My first point is, it is good that you have enhanced the compensation. There is no doubt about it. But at the present level, kindly consider that the enhancement is too meagre. You have kept a provision here that again for further enhancement, you need not come back to Parliament. The Government has empowered itself to increase it from time to time. But, at least, to make a beginning — I think, my friend, Shri Khuntia also told the same thing — the beginning should also look like a good beginning. The amount that is being given for death and permanent disablement is too meagre even for the most unorganised sector workers. So, this is one point.

Sir, my second point is that through this Bill an effort was made to liberalise the coverage. It is a welcome step. But, a close reading of the Bill will reveal certain ambiguities which are there in it. The contract workers and casual workers will become a victim of non-implementation and

non-coverage of it. You will find it when you go through clause by clause. There are certain restrictive clauses which have been removed. But, there still remains a scope for interpretation that casual and contract workers, even those whose names are there in the employment registers, I am not telling about those whose names are not written in employment registers, even for them, there is a problem of coverage. I think, precisely, that is one of the reasons as to why there is so much of accumulation of compensation cases throughout the country. Several thousands of cases are pending. I should not say that there are lakhs of cases, though my friend, Khuntia talked about lakhs of such cases. If not lakhs, I think, at least, there are several thousands of cases which are pending throughout the country. One of the basic factors for delay in those cases is the ambiguity about the employer-employee relationship, and as usual, neither the principal employer nor the contractor takes any responsibility for this. So, this is another thing which I want to bring to your notice. If you want to deliver this benefit to the workers through this Bill, if this is really put into implementation, these are the aspects which, I think, need to be reviewed. I would request the hon. Minister to give a close look to that.

Sir, my third point is this. I would like to draw your attention because this is closely related to workplace safety aspect. Nowadays, there has been a phenomenal increase in workplace level accidents. You must link it with the kind of situation the workers are facing at their workplace. It is linked with the nature of employment relationship. Sir, even in the Government Departments, in public sector units the manner in which contractorisation is increasing, the major jobs are getting outsourced, getting done by contractors, and that is creating a very big problem. So, naturally, this brings forth the issue of appropriate enforcement. For that purpose, having an appropriate enforcement machinery, duly manned, having enough manpower, having a thorough inspection machinery is of tremendous importance, if this Bill is really to deliver benefits to the intended beneficiaries among the working class who are contributing to your annual growth of the GDP in a very big way. It is the workers who are contributing in it. You just take right from December, 2008, till today. Many accidents have taken place during this period. In collieries, there are such places where these accidents have taken place. In a big fire in a factory in Faridabad more than 18 workers were killed. In the Sivakasi big fire, many workers were killed. In the Singrauli explosive factories, side by side, it happened. All these accidents have taken place from December, 2008 till today. In BALCO Captive Power Plant, the big chimney got collapsed, 41 workers were killed in that. Please go through the number of workers who have been killed in these accidents. These were the workers who were regular workers mostly. At all the places of accidents, there are reports that more workers were killed but their names were not in the register. So, that again reiterates the importance of proper enforcement; otherwise, all good intentions of passing this Bill will reduce it to a piece of paper in the statute books. I emphasise for the hon. Labour Minister this aspect particularly. While emphasising that, I

would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this, and urge him to review this Bill. We are now going to pass this Bill. Another Bill is pending in this House itself. That Bill is called Labour Laws Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments (Amendments) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill. It is pending. Maybe, next week, we will be taking it up. While you are extending the coverage of the Workmen's Compensation Act, enhancing the benefit, in another Bill, you are bringing a provision to relieve the employers from the responsibility of submitting reports, annual returns, maintaining employment register in a very big way. On one side, you are enhancing the benefit. On another side, you are exempting employers from the basic labour laws including the Workmen's Compensation Act! On the one hand, you are enhancing the benefit, on the other hand you are bringing a Bill by which you are liberating the employers from their obligation to act according to those laws, basic laws.

Sir, what is it? An establishment employing up to 40 will be relieved or exempted or their obligation under all those labour-related Acts will stand substantially diluted. What do you mean by established employer up to 40? It is 70 per cent of the manufacturing and industrial establishments in the country. Anybody can consult the survey of industries, have a scrutiny; I think, I am correct. This is the fear I am living. You are liberating more than 70 per cent of the industrial and manufacturing establishments from the obligation of all labour laws including the Workmen's Compensation Act. At the same time, through this Act, you are enhancing the basic facilities and the benefit! I think, this Act and the next Act that is going to be coming in Parliament would work at cross purposes.

We are supporting this Bill with an earnest request to review the amount of compensation, strengthening the enforcement machinery, increasing the number of inspectors, arranging a regularly monitoring safety inspection teams in all the work places. You must take these steps; then only the purpose of the Bill for which it is brought is served. Along with that, I request you to please review and withdraw another Bill that is pending in Parliament which seeks to liberate the employer from all their obligations under all basic laws in more than 70 per cent of the industrial establishments in the country. Both the Bills would be working at cross purposes and I seriously urge upon the hon. Minister, while extending my support to this Bill, to consider withdrawal of the Bill which I just referred to.

With these few words, I conclude. Sir, thank you.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, can I put a question to the Minister? What is the jurisdiction of this Bill? I am putting this question because there is a dispute going on on off-shore/on-shore labourers between the Labour Ministry and the Ministry of Oil and Natural Gas. Does this Bill include only on-shore labourers or it also includes the off-shore labourers? Now that we have got deep sea exploration of oil, many workers are working at

very odd conditions in deep sea areas, in the Indian Ocean. What is the extent of jurisdiction of this Bill? Will they be covered by it or would the ONGC take care of them?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Madam, ONGC has denied taking care of them. Twelve nautical miles away from the shore, no Labour laws or the Indian laws would be applicable on them. They are denying it and it should be taken care.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: That is exactly what I wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. Is the Minister going to take care of these people through this Bill or he is going to bring in another legislation for the off-shore workers?

श्री वीर पाल सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कर्मकार प्रतिकर (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2009 का समर्थन करता हूँ और माननीय मंत्री जी को इस विधेयक को लाने के लिए बधाई भी देता हूँ। जिन लोगों के बारे में अब सोचा गया है, उनके बारे में बहुत पहले सोच लेना चाहिए था, क्योंकि वह समाज का ऐसा तबका है, जिसके बारे में बहुत कम लोग सोचते हैं।

महोदय, यह जो विधेयक लाया गया है, इसमें अभी और बहुत संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता है तथा इस विधेयक को और विस्तार से लाना चाहिए था। क्योंकि सन् 1948 में और आज 2009 में बहुत बड़ा अंतर है और बहुत अंतराल है। जैसे आपने अंत्येष्टि खर्चों को ढाई हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर पांच हजार रुपये किया है, ठीक है कि आपने कुछ बढ़ाया है, लेकिन बढ़ाते समय इस बात को तो जरूर देखते कि 1948 में और 2009 में जो महंगाई का अंतराल बढ़ा है, वह बहुत बढ़ा है। 1948 में कपड़े का रेट दो रुपये गज था और आज की तारीख में क्या मूल्य है, अगर उस रेश्यो के हिसाब से बढ़ाते तो निश्चित रूप से सभी वर्गों में, खासकर मजदूरों में इसका बड़ा भारी स्वागत होता। आज कहीं आकस्मिक दुर्घटना होती है, चाहे वह रेल की हो या किसी दूसरी जगह पर हो, तो पहले सरकार मुआवजे की घोषणा एक लाख रुपये या दो लाख रुपये की करती थी, लेकिन अब सरकार दस लाख या बीस लाख रुपये के मुआवजे की घोषणा करती है। आपने मजदूरों के लिए जो दुर्घटना का मुआवजा है, वह केवल 80 हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर एक लाख 20 हजार रुपये कर दिया है, मेरे विचार में यह बहुत कम है और आपको इस पर विचार करना चाहिए।

मेरा सरकार से और मंत्री जी से यह भी निवेदन है कि विधेयक में जो कर्मकार शब्द की जगह पर कर्मचारी शब्द लाए हैं, इसमें इन्होंने अधिनियम की धारा 2 की उपधारा (1) के उपनियम में जितने भी चाहे रेल, पोत, वायुयान, मोटर यान, इन्हें देखकर लगता है कि जो खतरे के काम मजदूर करता है, उन क्षेत्रों को इसमें लिया गया है। जिस समय यह कानून बना था, उस समय में और आज के समय में बहुत अंतर आ गया है। आज जितने कर्मचारी प्राइवेट क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं, उतने कर्मचारी सरकारी क्षेत्र में काम नहीं करते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि जितना खतरा कर्मकारों के लिए कोयले की खदानों में है, उतना खतरा और किसी क्षेत्र में नहीं है। जहां पर प्राइवेट रूप में, ठेकेदारी प्रथा या अन्य प्रथा से काम होता है, उसमें 70 से 80 परसेंट लोग अब काम करने लगे हैं। चाहे मजदूर मकान बनाता है, चाहे कोयले की खदान में काम करता है, उन लोगों की सुरक्षा और संरक्षा के लिए भी कोई न कोई प्रावधान करना चाहिए। क्योंकि वहां पर काम करने वाले मजदूरों की ज्यादा संख्या होती है। अगर तीन मंजिला मकान पर पुताई करते समय या प्लास्टर करते समय या मकान का लेंटर डालते समय मजदूर छत से गिर जाता है और उसकी मृत्यु हो जाती है, तो जो ठेकेदार उससे काम करवा रहा होता है, उससे पैसे मांगने की हिम्मत उसके घर वालों की नहीं पड़ती है। वह ऐसे मामलों में पैसा देता भी नहीं है, जब उसके परिवार वाले आते हैं, तो उनको समझा-बुझाकर और कहीं-कहीं पर तो पुलिस से

कहलवा कर उन्हें वापिस भेज देते हैं। कभी भी मजदूर के परिवार वालों को ठेकेदारों से कुछ नहीं मिलता है। आपको उनका प्रावधान करना होगा। यह अच्छी बात है कि इन्होंने कहा है कि हम तीन महीने में निपटारा कर देंगे, मगर निपटारा तो तब कर देंगे जब वह कमिशनर के यहां जाएगा। जब मजदूर की वहां जाने की हैसियत ही नहीं है, तो निपटारा कैसे कर देंगे? ऐसे बहुत से केस होते हैं, जिनमें ठेकेदार मजदूरों को वहीं से घर वापस कर देता है और उनको ठेकेदारों से कुछ नहीं मिलता है। यह बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र है। मंत्री जी को इस संबंध में भी सोचना चाहिए कि यह जो देश का मजदूर वर्ग है, जो कमजोर वर्ग है, यह समाज का वह अंग है, जिससे हम कुछ न कुछ लेते ही हैं, इसका भला होना चाहिए। मेरा दूसरा निवेदन यह है कि आपने जिन क्षेत्रों को इसमें शामिल किया है, इनका दायरा और बृहद करें तथा और बढ़ाएं। एक अन्य निवेदन यह है कि जो एकल मजदूर काम करते हैं। जब हम कभी पहाड़ों पर जाते हैं या वैष्णो देवी की यात्रा पर भी देखते हैं कि एक चार आदमी एक पालकी को उठाकर किसी बुजुर्ग और असहाय महिला या पुरुष को दर्शन करवाने के लिए ले जाते हैं। वह इतना दुरुह रास्ता है कि वहां पर अक्सर एक्सिडेंट हो जाते हैं और उनका पैर फिसल जाता है तथा उनकी मृत्यु हो जाती है। उन लोगों का न तो किसी से कांट्रेक्ट होता है और न वे किसी के कर्मचारी होते हैं, मगर वे भी खतरे की जगह पर काम कर रहे हैं। इसलिए आपको इनके बारे में भी सोचना चाहिए। मैं अंत में यही बात कहते हुए कि जो आप यह संशोधन लाए हैं, एक अच्छा कदम है, लेकिन और इसमें बड़े संशोधन तथा और बड़ी सोच की जरूरत है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करते हुए, यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इन्होंने दुर्घटनाओं में होने वाली मृत्यु और व्यावसायिक बीमारियों से होने वाले नुकसान में जो compensation का प्रावधान किया है, यह स्वागत योग्य है। मैं इसका स्वागत करते हुए, जो हमारा ऑब्जर्वेशन है, उसको कहना चाहता हूं। मैं इस बात का स्वागत भी करता हूं कि इन्होंने gender को neutral बना दिया, जिससे सभी कर्मचारियों को सुविधा मिल सकेगी। सन् 2002 की सेकंड लेबर कमीशन की रिपोर्ट की सिफारिशों के आधार पर Workmen's Compensation Act में कुछ संशोधन करने के लिए कुछ प्रावधान आए हैं। इन्होंने जो Workmen की जगह Employee किया है, मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं। इससे तमाम employees को benefit मिलेगा।

सर, हमारे देश में 40 करोड़ से ज्यादा अन-आर्गनाइज्ड वर्कर्स हैं और बहुत सी जगहों पर उनके रेकार्ड्स मेंटेन नहीं किए जाते हैं। अभी हमारे मित्र तपन कुमार सेन बाल्को का उदाहरण दे रहे थे। वहां पर एक्सिडेंट के बाद जब डेड बॉडी निकलती थी, तो उसकी आइडेंटिफिकेशन नहीं हो पाती थी क्योंकि उनका कोई रेकार्ड मेंटेन नहीं किया जा रहा था। एक बड़ी दुर्घटना घटी जिसमें 40 से ज्यादा लोग मारे गए और उनका आइडेंटिफिकेशन नहीं हो रहा था। इसका यह कारण है कि वे अन-एजुकेटेड हैं। वे रूल्स नहीं जानते हैं और वे कॉन्ट्रेक्टर के अंडर काम करते हैं तथा काफी दबाव में रहते हैं। इस संदर्भ में इस कानून को थोड़ा और पॉजिटिव होना चाहिए क्योंकि उनकी पहुंच employer तक नहीं हो पाती है, जिसके बहुत से कारण हैं, वे अन-आर्गनाइज्ड या फाइनेंशियली वीक हैं।

इन सब चीजों को देकर, ये अपने एम्प्लॉयर्स पर दबाव नहीं बना सकते हैं। इससे इनको सारी सुविधाएं नहीं मिल पाती हैं। सर, नोटिफिकेशन में इस बात को कहा गया है, बिल के क्लॉज 1 के सब क्लॉज 2 में कहा गया है 'It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.' इसका मतलब है कि राष्ट्रपति महोदय के तुरंत हस्ताक्षर के बाद भी इम्प्लिमेंट नहीं होगा, इसमें और देर लगने की संभावना है, इसलिए इसमें इस तरह की एक व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए कि इसको राष्ट्रपति महोदय के हस्ताक्षर के तुरंत बाद implement कर दिया जाए। सर,

compensation में क्लॉज 7 (a) में मृत्यु की अवस्था में अमाउंट 80,000 से बढ़ाकर 1,20,000 रुपया किया जा रहा है। जो परमानेंट डिसएबल्ड हो जाएंगे, ऐसी अवस्था में यह 90,000 रुपए से बढ़ाकर 1,40,000 रुपए किया जा रहा है। हमारे तमाम साथियों ने कहा है कि यह अमाउंट बहुत ही नेग्लिजेबल है। अभी एक माननीय सदस्य बाल्को की बात कह रहे थे, जहां अभी हाल ही में एक्सीडेंट हुआ है, वहां सरकार ने खुद घोषणा की है कि उनको पांच लाख दिया जाएगा, जबकि यहां पर 1,40,000 रुपये देने के बारे में कहा जा रहा है। इस मायने में मेरा एक सुझाव है और मैं उम्मीद करूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इसे ग्रहण करेंगे कि यह जो मिनिमम अमाउंट है - एम्प्लॉयर तो देना नहीं चाहते हैं, इसलिए मृत्यु के केस में कम से कम पांच लाख रुपए और परमानेंट डिसएबिलिटी के केस में आज की बाजार दर को देखते हुए छह लाख रुपए करना चाहिए। हम जानते हैं कि मिनिमम वेजेस ऐक्ट है, लेकिन बिल्डिंग एण्ड कांस्ट्रक्टर्स वर्क्स में मिनिमम वेजेस ऐक्ट इम्प्लिमेंट नहीं होता है, इसलिए मंत्री महोदय को यह अमाउंट बढ़ा देना चाहिए। यह compensation पांच लाख और परमानेंट डिसएबिलिटी के केस में छह लाख रुपए करना चाहिए। इन्होंने एक प्रोविजन रखा है कि सरकार बीच-बीच में इसको बढ़ा सकती है। अभी एक अच्छी शुरुआत हो, इसलिए इसके क्लॉज 9 (a) में इस तरह से संशोधन कर देना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि बहुत सी कोर्ट्स में compensation commissioner ही नहीं है। वह बरसों से नहीं है, इसलिए तमाम केसेज पेंडिंग हैं। इसको कैसे हल कर सकते हैं, इसकी एक परमानेंट व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। एक बात और है, अगर compensation का केस तीन महीने में इम्प्लिमेंट नहीं होता है, तो उसके लिए कुछ दण्ड का प्रोविजन होना चाहिए या वर्कमैन compensation का पैसा, जो बरसों से पड़ा है, उसको कंपाउन्ड इंटरस्ट एटलीस्ट बैंक रेट से मिलना चाहिए। इस तरह का एक प्रोविजन इसमें होना चाहिए। एक शुरुआत इस तरह से देने की होनी चाहिए। सर, मैं इसको इम्प्लिमेंट करने की बात कह रहा हूं। मैं बहुत से ऐक्ट्स के बारे में नहीं कहना चाहता हूं, मैं एक बात कहूंगा जो कि एक लेजिटिमेंट डिमांड है, आप कहेंगे कि मैं जल्दी से खत्म कर दूं, मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वे मजबूर हैं, यह उन तक पहुंच सके, इस ऐक्ट को इस तरह के प्रावधान से थोड़ा सा और उनकी तरफ, उनकी सुविधा के लिए प्रोविजन में जोड़ा जाना चाहिए। सर, मैं एक आखिरी बात कहना चाहूंगा कि बहुत सी बीमारियां हैं। इस तरह की करीब पचास इन्जरीज हैं, जिनके लिए इसमें प्रावधान किया गया है, लेकिन कुछ इंटरनल इन्जरीज होती हैं और इंटरनल इन्जरीज का कोई असेसमेंट नहीं होता है। जैसे जो लोग पत्थर की खदान में काम करते हैं, उनको सिल्कोसिस हो जाता है। इस इंटरनल इन्जरी का माप करने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाती है। इंटरनल इन्जरी में आदमी की डेथ तक हो जाती है, उसका कोई ट्रीटमेंट नहीं है। इनको कैसे कम्पनसेट किया जा सके, इस तरह का भी प्रावधान इसमें होना चाहिए। जो लोग इंटरनल इन्जरी में अफेक्टिड हो गए हैं, उनका सांइटिफिकली टेस्ट कराकर कम्पनसेट किया जा सके, इसमें इस तरह का संशोधन जोड़ा जाना चाहिए। जैसे कैमिकल फैक्ट्री ही नहीं और भी दूसरी फैक्ट्रियां हैं, आजकल काफी हैज़ारडस फैक्ट्रीज आ गई हैं, जिनसे काफी ज्यादा नुकसान हो रहा है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक डिपार्टमेंट में भी नुकसान हो रहा है, इंटरनल इन्जरी हो रही है, इन तमाम चीजों को उसमें लाया जाए। मेडिकल ट्रीटमेंट की उत्तम व्यवस्था की जाए, उनको कम्पनसेट किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I rise to support this Amendment Bill. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 provides for payment of compensation to workmen and their dependants in the case of industrial accident, in the case of injury caused due to industrial accidents, including occupational diseases arising out of and during the course of employment resulting in death or disablement.

Sir, this Bill is very meticulously drafted. The Second National Commission on Labour, constituted in 2002, have gone into this Act and have given some recommendations and those recommendations have been examined by the concerned Ministries, Departments, State Governments and Union Territories, and, simultaneously, a Bill was introduced in the 14th Lok Sabha in September, 2008. Sir, why I am referring to the exact date is, as soon as the Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha, it was referred to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee, within three months, had submitted its report to the Parliament with certain recommendations but due to the dissolution of Lok Sabha, the Bill got lapsed and now it has been introduced. This Bill contains amendments and many things are to be welcomed.

The foremost is the substitution of the word 'workman' with 'employee' for the law is applicable to all employees and mostly it is gender neutral. All my colleagues who are fighting for 33 per cent would appreciate that the time is ripen that every possible action is being taken on this route, and removing this gender disparity by way of substituting a word in Bill indicates the actual mind of this Government.

Secondly, the enhancement — as my all other colleagues have pointed out — of the compensation payable to a worker for death has been increased from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,20,000 and so also for disability, it is from Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 1,40,000. Sir, what I don't understand is, in Tamil Nadu Government, even for the unorganized sector workers, if any unorganized sector worker dies, his family is compensated with Rs. 1 lakh. Compared to that, this is very less and I couldn't understand the rationale behind how a disabled person is getting more whereas the dependant of a diseased person is getting less? ...*(Interruptions)*... Excuse me. I am trying to bring something to the notice of the Minister. The disabled person is getting Rs. 1,40,000, whereas, a diseased person and his dependants will get only Rs. 1,20,000. If the argument goes in a way, as my senior colleague, the former Minister, told me very clearly, that the man who is disabled has to undergo much pains, he lives in anguish, his future life is at stake and so he wants this enhancement. But as far as I am concerned, Sir, what I would like to submit to the Minister is, a disabled person, of course, undergoes some miseries. But, at the same time, if a person dies, his family is totally deprived of any income or any person to support. So, I would like to suggest to the Minister that the compensation given for the dependants of a person who has died should be enhanced more than to that of the disabled or, at least, both should be equal. This is my suggestion. Sir, there are two other things which are to be very much welcomed.

The amendment made in Section 4 of the principal Act says, 'Provided that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, from time to time, enhance the amount of compensation mentioned in clauses (a) and (b).' So, by way of notification itself it empowers the Government to enhance the compensation or the minimum wages. So also, sub-section (1)

of Section 20 of the principal Act says, 'after the words "appoint any person"— this is an amendment to be welcomed wholeheartedly by all— the words "who is or has been a member of a State Judicial Service for a period of not less than five years or is or has been for not less than five years an advocate or a pleader or is or has been a Gazetted Officer for not less than five years having educational qualifications and experience in personnel management, human resource development and industrial relations" shall be inserted'. So, this lays some qualifications for the Commission. Earlier, we could not understand, Sir, how any person without any qualification could have been made Commissioner. It has been existing for all these days. And it is the right time that the condition that the Commissioner has to possess some qualifications has been brought in.

Another provision that has been provided for in this Act is that any matter relating to compensation must be disposed of within a period of three months from the date of reference. This time fixation will fetch the affected persons the necessary compensation that has to reach them. After death or disability of any person, a workman, hereafter to be called an employee, for the family which has to run hither and tither to get compensation, it is a very strenuous effort and this provision would assure them that they would get compensation within three months.

My foremost query to the hon. Minister is: It is said that this Act is not applicable to the employees who are covered under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. I can understand that. But, at the same time, this Act includes a Master Seaman or other members of the crew of a ship, a Captain or other member of the crew of an aircraft. So, while the Captain of an aircraft can be included in this, whereas he is eligible for some compensation in any other manner, I don't understand why employees who come under the ESI are exempted. While making these points for consideration, I welcome this Bill for all the amendments that have been made, at least, now; they should have been brought in much earlier. I hope, the points that I have made to the Minister would be considered and they would bring relief to the employees in future.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो 'The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009' लाया गया है, मैं इसके समर्थन में खड़ी हुई हूँ। यह बहुत ही सही समय पर, बहुत ही उचित बिल लाया गया है। अभी यहां पर बहुत कुछ कहा गया है, मैं उन सब बातों को रिपीट नहीं करूंगी। सबसे बड़ी बात मुझे यह लगी कि यहां जो compensation के बारे में कहा गया है कि employee की death पर हम 1,40,000 रुपया देने जा रहे हैं और permanent disability के लिए 1,60,000 रुपया देने जा रहे हैं। यहां पर मेरा प्वाइंट यह है कि जो एक्सिडेंट में घायल हो जाते हैं और जिन्हें पांच-पाच, छः-छः महीने बिस्तर पर पड़े रहना पड़ता है, उनके लिए compensation उतना नहीं रखा गया है, जबकि उनको compensation की ज्यादा जरूरत होती है। एक्सिडेंट में कई बार व्यक्ति की बाजू टूट जाती है, टांग टूट जाती है, कई बार स्पाइनल इंजरी हो जाती है अथवा कुछ और इंजरी हो जाती है, ऐसे में उनके इलाज के लिए जो compensation दिया जाता है, वह बहुत कम होता है।

4.00 P.M.

मैं मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करूंगी कि इस Bill में वह इसे जरूर लाए। जहां इन्होंने मरने के बाद और permanent injury के लिए पैसा दिया है, वहां पर इलाज के लिए भी पैसा बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। वे कहीं पर भी काम करते हैं और जो उनके मालिक हैं, जरूरी नहीं है कि वे उन लोगों को नौकरी पर वापस रख लें। इनको यह बात भी इसमें लानी चाहिए कि जिस जगह पर जिन employees का काम करते समय accident हुआ, चाहे वह कोयले की खदान हो या कोई और जगह हो, वहाँ पर उनको दोबारा service मिले, उन्हें employment मिले। इन्हें इसका भी प्रावधान होना चाहिए, क्योंकि वे लोग इन्हें कह देते हैं कि “नहीं-नहीं, अब आप काम करने के योग्य नहीं रहे।” वे लोग न तो permanent disabled होते हैं कि बेड पर पड़े हैं और न ही वे कहीं और जा पाते हैं। इसलिए इस बात का भी प्रावधान इसमें जरूर रखना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही उनकी treatment के लिए ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा compensation होना चाहिए, क्योंकि बीमारी के बाद इलाज के समय उनके पास इतना पैसा नहीं होता, जिसके कारण वे ढंग से इलाज नहीं करवा सकते हैं। इसलिए मैं यह चाहूंगी कि इसमें यह एक provision जरूर रखना चाहिए, जिससे कि इलाज के लिए उन्हें ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा compensation मिल सके, उन्हें ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा पैसा मिल सके, चाहे वे जिनके employees हैं, वे इन्हें दें या Government दे। इस प्रकार जिस तरह से भी हो, इसका प्रावधान इसमें रखना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि compensation देने में बहुत विलम्ब हो जाती है। जैसा इन्होंने कहा कि जो tribunal बने हैं, उनमें Commissioners ही नहीं हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि जैसे अभी हमारे यहाँ रोहतांग में मजदूरों की death हुई है। वे बाहर के मजदूर थे। यहाँ तक कि उन लोगों के रिश्तेदारों को यहाँ आने के लिए पैसे नहीं थे। इन्होंने डी0सी0, कुल्लू को कहा कि आप इनका दाह संस्कार यहीं कर दीजिए। अब मुझे यह बताइए कि ऐसे में वे compensation के लिए इतनी दूर, दूसरे स्टेट में, कैसे आएँगे? उनके पास किराए के लिए इतने पैसे कहाँ हैं? इस तरह इसमें एक प्रावधान यह भी होना चाहिए कि चाहे तो उनका केस वहाँ की कोर्ट में transfer हो जाए या वहाँ की गवर्नमेंट को लिखा जाए कि “इतने-इतने लोगों का ऐसा हुआ है, यह Death Certificate है, यह उनका पूरा ब्योरा है”, जिससे कि वहाँ की गवर्नमेंट ही उनको compensation दे सके। क्योंकि, यह जो आना होता है और बार-बार चक्कर लगाने होते हैं, इसमें उतना compensation नहीं मिलता जितना उन लोगों का खर्च हो जाता है। जो एक aggrieved employee है, ठीक है, आपने उसे “मजदूर” से “Employee” कर दिया, यह एक dignified बात है, लेकिन उसके रिश्तेदार कहाँ आ पाएँगे, कहाँ वे जा पाएँगे? इसी में वे चक्कर लगाते रहते हैं, उनकी correspondence होती रहती है। इसमें छः-छः महीने बीत जाते हैं, लेकिन उनको compensation नहीं मिलता। सर, मेरा निवेदन है कि इस तरह का प्रावधान रखा जाए।

तीसरी बात यह है कि अभी सभी ने Contractors की बात कही। मैं भी कहूंगी कि जो factories हैं, जो असली हैं, वे बहुत कम मजदूर रखती हैं, बहुत कम employee रखती हैं, बाकी contract पर रखती हैं। Contractor के साथ उनका कोई मेल नहीं होता। अगर contract के अन्दर किसी employee की या किसी मजदूर की या किसी की भी death हो जाती है या accident में कुछ हो जाता है, तो उसे कुछ नहीं मिलता। इस बात का भी ध्यान रखना चाहिए। यह contract का जो system है, इसको खत्म करके, यह कहा जाना चाहिए कि आप direct और सही employees रखिए, जिससे कि उन लोगों को फायदा हो सके या जिससे कि इन चीजों के लिए जो bills आ रहे हैं या जो amendments आ रही हैं, इनका वे फायदा उठा सकें। इतना कहते हुए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूँ कि आपने मुझे समय दिया।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब भाषा को लेकर देश में विवाद होता है, तब इस संसद में हम जो भी कार्य करते हैं, सारा कुछ भाषा की दृष्टि से ध्यान देते हुए किया जाना चाहिए या फिर इसमें अगर कोई तकनीकी त्रुटि है, उसे भी मंत्री महोदय को देखना चाहिए। जैसे इसमें अंग्रेजी में “as passed

by Lok Sabha on 25th November” लिखा हुआ है। यह हमको दिया गया है। इसमें कहा गया है कि “This Act may be called The Workmen’s Compensation (Amendment) Act.” हालांकि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि उनको “employees” नाम देंगे। English में लिखा है “This Act may be called” वहीं हिन्दी में इसमें लिखा है कि ‘इस अधिनियम का संक्षिप्त नाम “कर्मकार प्रतिकर (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2009” है।’ अंग्रेजी में “may be” और हिन्दी में “यह है” लिखा है। लोक सभा ने इसे पारित करके हमारे सदन में दिया है।

महोदय, मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि इसमें “कर्मकार प्रतिकर” के स्थान पर “कर्मकार प्रतिकर” कर देंगे, लेकिन हमें जो पेपर दिया गया है, उसमें ऐसा नहीं है। यह एक महज संयोग की बात है। अगर माननीय मंत्री महोदय को इस तर्क का या इस वितर्क का पहला वक्ता माना जाए...। माननीय मंत्री महोदय कर्णाटक से आते हैं और हमारे विपक्ष की ओर से पहले स्पीकर श्री शण्पा जी भी कर्णाटक के हैं। कांग्रेस की ओर से जो पहले स्पीकर थे, जिनको हम दूसरा स्पीकर मानेंगे, श्री खूंटिया जी, वह संयोग से उड़ीसा से आते हैं और भाजपा का दूसरा स्पीकर, मैं भी उड़ीसा से आता हूँ। यहाँ पर अभी तक जितने सदस्य बोले, बहुत ही धनात्मक ढंग से बोले। चाहे वह सीपीआई के हों या सीपीएम के हों, यहाँ तक कि कांग्रेस की जो दूसरी वक्ता श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर जी हैं, हम आपस में नोक-झोंक करते हैं, लेकिन आज उनका यहाँ पर जो भाषण रहा, वह बहुत ही धनात्मक रहा। इसमें पार्टी का मामला नहीं रहा, लेकिन यह संयोग और दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि कांग्रेस के पहले वक्ता, जो कि एक ट्रेड यूनियनिस्ट हैं, श्रमिक आंदोलन से आते हैं, उन्होंने कहा कि कांग्रेस की सरकार ही सारे श्रम कानून लाती है। उन्होंने इसका राजनीतिकरण कर दिया।

महोदय, स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की जो रिपोर्ट है, उसके पेज 4 के पैरा 8 में है,

“The funeral expenses of the deceased employee have been proposed to be raised to Rs. 3,000 from Rs. 2500. When the Committee sought to know that since when Rs. 2500 was being paid as funeral expenses, and whether it was sufficient to meet the entire expenditure, the Ministry, in their written reply, stated as under: “The funeral expenses was increased from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2500 with effect from 8th December, 2000.” उसके बाद, ईएसआई कितना दिया जाता है, उसका जिक्र किया गया है।

महोदय, मैं संयोग से इस स्टैंडिंग कमेटी में मੈम्बर हूँ। उस समय स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के चेयरमैन सीपीआई के श्री सुरावरम सुधाकर रेड्डी जी थे। उस समय हमारी कमेटी ने यह प्रश्न किया कि क्या इस ढाई हजार से काम चलेगा? क्या तीन हजार से काम चलेगा? उन्होंने कहा कि 2000 में उसको एक हजार से ढाई हजार बढ़ाया गया था। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि 2000 में किसकी सरकार थी? सारी दुनिया जानती है कि 2000 में राजग की सरकार थी और उसके प्रधान मंत्री श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी थे। अगर इस कानून के अंदर सरकार, मंत्रिमंडल और मंत्रालय सख्ती लेना चाहता है कि हम समय-समय पर इसकी बढ़ोत्तरी करेंगे, महंगाई के कारण हम इसमें बढ़ोत्तरी करेंगे और प्रत्येक समय जो बढ़ोत्तरी होगी, उसके लिए हम संसद के पास नहीं जाएंगे। यह enactment होता है, यह तो संशोधन का कानून है। यह इस देश के श्रमिकों के लिए, इस देश के मजदूरों के लिए बहुत कुछ देने वाला कानून नहीं है। आप केवल इसके एक शब्द का परिवर्तन करते हैं। “कर्मकार” से “कर्मचारी” करते हैं, “workmen” से “employees” करते हैं और जो ढाई-तीन हजार आप देते हैं, उसकी सीलिंग को आप बढ़ाते हैं।

महोदय, आज सरकार के मन में एकाधिकार वाली भावना नहीं होनी चाहिए। यह सरकार पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू, इंदिरा गांधी और राजीव गांधी की बहुमत वाली सरकार जैसी सरकार नहीं है। यह सरकार आज भी बैसाखी के आधार पर चल रही है। यह बात सही है कि पिछली बार कांग्रेस के 145 मੈम्बर्स

जीते थे और आज 206 मैम्बर्स हैं। महोदय, यह सरकार आज भी यूपीए की सरकार कहलाती है। यह कांग्रेस की सरकार नहीं है। ध्यान देना चाहिए कि महंगाई को किस प्रकार बढ़ाया जाता है। स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के बारे में भी कहा गया।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): However, it is the Congress-led Government.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : शान्ताराम जी, आप यह घमंड अपने मन में मत रखिये। यह Congress-led सरकार हो सकती है, but, it is not the Congress Government as it was the Government of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, or as it was the Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. महोदय, मेरा विषय इतना है कि एक साल पहले दिसम्बर ...**(व्यवधान)** ...

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा (महाराष्ट्र) : पाणि जी, आपने इंदिरा जी को compliment दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : लेकिन इंदिरा जी के शासन करने का जो तरीका था, आज वह आपमें नहीं है और आगे चल कर यह पता चल जाएगा। महोदय, मेरा यह कहना था कि दिसम्बर, 2008 को स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने इस पर सोचा था। मंत्री महोदय शुरू में बोले कि स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने जो-जो सुझाव दिए हैं, उनको हमने वैसे ही ग्रहण कर लिया है, यह पूरा सत्य नहीं है, कहा जा सकता है कि यह 75% सत्य है। महोदय, स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने कहा था कि कॉन्ट्रैक्ट लेबर को भी इसमें शामिल करिए। आप कर्मकार शब्द को कर्मचारी में परिवर्तित करते हैं, आप कहते हैं कि स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने उस समय पांच हजार किया था, इसलिए हम मान लेते हैं, किन्तु स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने उस समय कहा था कि कॉन्ट्रैक्ट लेबर्स को आप इसमें शामिल कीजिए, क्या आप उसको ग्रहण किए हैं? मैं आपसे एक प्रश्न करना चाहता हूं कि दिसम्बर, 2008 में दाल का क्या भाव था, आज दाल का क्या भाव है? उस समय चावल का क्या भाव था? मैं आप ही के शासन के समय की बात कर रहा हूं। मैं अटल जी के शासन के समय की बात नहीं करता हूं, उस समय तो महंगाई को बांधा गया था। किन्तु, मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि 2008 में जो कीमत थी, क्या आज 2009 में वही कीमत है? नहीं है। दोबारा सत्ता में आने के बाद आपने महंगाई इतनी बढ़ा दी है, यह एक अलग विषय है, इसलिए मैं इसमें नहीं जाना चाहता हूं। महंगाई जो बढ़ी है, यह सर्वस्वीकृत है और इसने कर्मचारी, कर्मकार और गरीब मजदूर की ही नहीं, बल्कि मिडल क्लास और अपर मिडल क्लास के लोगों की कमर को भी तोड़ दिया है। यह एक अलग विषय है, किन्तु सरकार को इस पर गौर करना चाहिए कि जितनी इसमें बढ़ोत्तरी की गई है, उतनी उनको प्राप्त नहीं हुई है। इसलिए आपको इसके बारे में सोचना होगा। मैं आपसे कह रहा था कि आपने केवल employee करके इसको gender neutral कर दिया है, इससे आप शाबाशी मत लीजिए, यह शाबाशी आप मत लीजिए। व्याकरण के लिए आपको असुविधा होती थी, इसलिए आपने इसे gender neutral कर दिया है, यह कोई महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा नहीं है।

आज आप भारत निर्माण की बात करते हैं। आज देश में शारीरिक श्रम के प्रति एक श्रद्धा का जागरण हुआ है। मैं यहां पर कई बार कह चुका हूं कि जो सुपरवाइजरी बात करते हैं, जो केवल बैठकर भाषण दे देते हैं, उनसे काम नहीं होता है। आप किसी भी डिजीजन को लेने के लिए बैठक करते हैं, लेकिन बैठक के लिए जो कुर्सी लाता है, बैठक के लिए जो चाय लेकर आता है, वही शारीरिक परिश्रम करता है। हमने महात्मा गांधी को महात्मा इसीलिए कहा क्योंकि वे केवल भाषण नहीं देते थे, वे आपको केवल सुझाव नहीं देते थे, बल्कि साथ ही साथ वे परिश्रम करते थे। इसलिए जो वर्कमैन था, वह श्रमजीवी के आधार पर था। आज दुनिया में दृष्टिकोण बदला है, हरेक काम के लिए लोग लड़ रहे हैं। इसलिए वर्कमैन से आप इम्प्लॉयी तक आए हैं, कर्मकार से

आप कर्मचारी तक आए हैं, श्रमिक से आप कर्मचारी तक आए हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा, मेरे मित्र श्री आर०सी० सिंह भी कह रहे थे कि इस देश में लगभग 40 करोड़ असंगठित क्षेत्र के लोग हैं। 40 क्या, 45 करोड़ भी असंगठित क्षेत्र में होंगे। खेत में जो काम करता है, उस खेत किसान, खेत मजदूर के बारे में आपका दृष्टिकोण क्या है? आपने पिछले साल असंगठित क्षेत्र के विधेयक को यहां पर कानून में तब्दील किया और वाहवाही लेनी शुरू कर दी कि हमारी सरकार ने असंगठित क्षेत्र के लिए कानून बना दिया है, किन्तु उसके लिए आर्थिक प्रावधान कहां पर हैं? हमने कहा था और संयोग से श्री अर्जुन कुमार सेनगुप्त जी किसके विचार से संसद में आए हुए हैं, यह दुनिया को पता है। श्री अर्जुन कुमार सेनगुप्त जी हमारी लेबर कमिटी में थे और उन्होंने एक सुझाव दिया था कि नाबार्ड की तर्ज पर नेशनल सोशल सिक्योरिटी फंड क्रिएट किया जाए और उसी फंड से ही आप जिस सोशल सिक्योरिटी की बात करते हैं, उसके लिए स्कीम चलाएं, उसके लिए उसी से आप फंडिंग करें। Without making any provision for funds, you are claiming that you have passed the Bill, and, enacted the Act, namely, the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act. किन्तु, उसके लिए पैसे का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है, इसके बारे में आपको ध्यान देना होगा। आपने उस समय कहा था कि इस देश के खेतिहर मजदूरों के लिए आप एक कम्प्रिहेंसिव बिल लाएंगे। हमने भी बार-बार डिमांड की थी कि खेत में जो गरीब किसान काम करते हैं, जो सीमांत किसान काम करते हैं, जो marginal farmers काम करते हैं, जिनको हमारी उड़िया भाषा में “भागोचासी” कहते हैं, आज उनकी हालत बहुत खराब हो गई है। आप उनको किसानों और मजदूरों में मत बांटिए। वह आधा एकड़ जमीन का मालिक है, वह अपनी ज़िंदगी उसी में दे देता है, वहां पर वह काम करता है, वह खेतिहर मजदूर के बराबर है, उसकी सोशल सिक्योरिटी के बारे में आप क्या सोचते हैं? आज खेतिहर मजदूर की जो liabilities हैं, उनके बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं? आपने कहा था कि खेतिहर मजदूर के बारे में आप एक Comprehensive Bill लाएंगे, वह आज तक आप नहीं ला पाए हैं।

आप वाहवाही लूटते हैं कि “नरेगा” के माध्यम से हमने इतना employment दिया। आज सुबह प्रश्न काल में “नरेगा” के ऊपर हंगामा भी हुआ। जो लोग “नरेगा” में काम करते हैं, अगर उनमें से किसी के साथ हादसा हो जाए, किसी एक्सीडेंट में कोई मर जाए, तो उसके लिए आप कहां से प्रावधान करेंगे? इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह जो बिल है, पूरा का पूरा हाउस इसका समर्थन कर रहा है, इसलिए यह पारित हो जाएगा, लेकिन आपको इस बात की ओर ध्यान देना होगा कि इस देश में असंगठित क्षेत्र के नाम पर जो आंगनवाड़ी के वर्कर्स हैं, “नरेगा” के तहत काम करने वाले लोग हैं, खेतिहर मजदूर हैं, इन लोगों को आप कोई हादसा होने पर कैसे मुआवजय देंगे, इसके लिए आपको ढंग से सोचना होगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बिल में एक विषय है, जो रेलवे के बारे में है। रेलवे के कर्मचारियों का इसमें समावेश करने के लिए एक क्लॉज़ भी है। अंत में मैं इतना कहूंगा कि यह तो समाविष्ट हो गया है, हम लोग समर्थन दे रहे हैं, लेकिन आप अगर कर्मचारियों का हित चाहते हैं, “कर्मचारी” शब्द के अंतर्गत जितने लोग हैं, अगर उन सबका कल्याण आप चाहते हैं, तो मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि कर्मचारी की एक ही मानसिकता होती है, जो कि इस देश की मानसिकता है और वह लोकतंत्रीय मानसिकता है। कर्मचारी हमेशा चाहता है कि एक प्रकार से चुनाव के माध्यम से उसका उस समय का नेता तय हो। इसलिए रेलवे के कर्मचारियों के नेताओं के चुनाव की व्यवस्था जो 2005 में हुई, वह पारदर्शी नहीं थी, उसमें श्रम मंत्रालय कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर पाया। इसलिए मैं इस मौके का लाभ उठाते हुए माननीय श्रम मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि 3-4 साल हो गए हैं, रेलवे के कर्मचारियों के नेताओं के चुनाव विधिवत जयेनवाइज़ करवाने की ओर ध्यान दिया जाए।

इसी के साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि संसद के एक ही परिसर में बहुत से कर्मचारी काम करते हैं, सुरक्षा के कर्मी काम करते हैं, लोक सभा के कर्मचारी काम करते हैं, राज्य सभा के कर्मचारी काम करते हैं।

एक ही परिसर में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की तनखाह में, सुविधाओं में कोई विसंगति नहीं रहनी चाहिए। इसलिए मैं आपसे गहराई से निवेदन करता हूँ कि राज्य सभा के जो कर्मचारी हैं, उन लोगों के प्रति भी न्याय किया जाए। लोक सभा के कर्मचारियों को जो सुविधा दी जाती है, समान सुविधा, राज्य सभा के कर्मचारियों को भी दी जाए। आपने मुझे इस विधेयक पर बोलने के लिए समय दिया और सभी लोगों ने इतना आग्रहपूर्वक मुझे सुना, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir, no Act, whether the colonial rule or the Congress rule, comes in the vacuum. Behind this Act, there was people's struggle, working class struggle. If you see the first Act of 1923, you can see that there was a lot of struggle before that Compensation Act. So, the rulers are forced to bring certain amendments, certain laws to protect the working class. That becomes a part of their job. Without struggle, no Act has come. Even the Compensation Act of 1923 came only like that. Some Acts, as correctly pointed out by my colleague, Tapan Kumar Sen, has correctly stated many Acts though they are there on papers, they are not implemented. The other day I made a Special Mention that no Central Act had been implemented in Sivakasi Fireworks. Thousands and thousands of workers are suffering. So, I want to suggest two things here. One, the compensation should be enhanced immediately in this Act. I want the Minister to consider that.

Two, under clause 25A, the Commissioner shall dispose of the matter relating to compensation under this Act within a period of three months from the date of reference. It is a good thing. But what happens is after the Commissioner gives an award, the concerned worker has to go through a process. First he has to go to civil court. If he gets any relief there, the employer moves the High Court and gets a stay. That is why thousands of cases are pending in the courts. So, I request the Minister to amend the Act and give the power of a civil court judge to the Commissioner. If you give the power of the civil court judge to the Commissioner, then also the employer can go to the High Court, but he has to deposit 50 per cent of the amount and the worker gets immediate relief. Now the worker is not getting any relief. The litigation goes on in the High Court and then the Supreme Court and in the meantime he dies. So, I request you to amend that and the Commissioner should have the power of a civil court judge. That must be considered.

Another thing I want to say is this. This power is not a new thing. The Provident Fund Authority is having that power. The ESI Authority has got that power. When these authorities can have this power, why not this Commissioner? Then only you will be doing justice.

You have already deleted Section 2(n) of this Act in the year 2000 Now I request you to delete Section 12. I am not a trader or a businessman. If I say I am not a businessman, I need not pay any compensation. So that section is already deleted in 2(n). Now I request the Minister to delete Section 12 also. Otherwise, many people will not get any compensation. I propose these two amendments.

I again request you to go through the occupational diseases. New occupations have come up. In most of the occupations, nothing has been done so far. The occupational diseases may vary from region to region. The State Government should be authorised to search for the occupations and perhaps an expert should be appointed to help it in finding other occupational diseases. This must be given. With this, I support the Bill.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को इतना बढ़िया बिल लाने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं इस पर बहुत ज्यादा नहीं कहते हुए आपके माध्यम से केवल एक बात मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहता हूँ। Sir, I am drawing your attention.

महोदय, मैं एक बात जानना चाहता हूँ, मैं भाषण नहीं देना चाहता हूँ, कि फैक्ट्री के जो regular employees हैं, उनका तो नाम है, लेकिन जो regular employees नहीं है, जो scheduled worker नहीं है और जिसको बाहर से बोरो किया गया है, अगर वह फैक्ट्री में कोई काम करता है और उसमें वह मर जाता है, तो who will pay the compensation? This has to be clarified.

The previous speaker has rightly said that if the Commissioner does not dispose of the case within three months, and if the compensation has not been paid partly or completely, then what will happen? अगर उसकी जगह कोई सिविल जज रहेगा, तो बढ़िया होगा, क्योंकि आपने कहा है कि तीन महीने के अंदर इसका dispose of हो जाना चाहिए। आप इसके बारे में clarify करेंगे कि अगर वह तीन महीने के अंदर dispose of नहीं होता है, तो क्या होगा? अगर तीन महीने के अंदर फैसला हो जाता है, तो उसका execution कैसे होगा और कौन execute करेगा? अगर execute करना है, तो क्या फैसला करने के बाद उनका जो प्रिंसिपल employer होगा, उनको आधा पैसा जमा करना है या नहीं जमा करना है? इसके बारे में भी क्लीयर करेंगे।

सर, एक और बात मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि क्रियाकर्म के लिए, funeral के लिए जो आपने कहा है कि 5000 रुपए देंगे, वह ठीक नहीं है। Funeral के लिए 5000 रुपए काफी नहीं हैं, इसका amount बढ़ाना चाहिए, क्योंकि सब चीजों के दाम बढ़ गए हैं। जो electric cremation की मशीन है, उसके भी दाम बढ़ गए हैं, लकड़ी के दाम भी बढ़ गए हैं, इसलिए इस amount को थोड़ा बढ़ाना चाहिए।

अंत में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि आपने 80,000 रुपए से जो थोड़ा बढ़ाया है, वह कम है, उसे थोड़ा और बढ़ाना चाहिए। आपने मिला-जुलाकर यह अच्छा काम किया है कि workman और workmen को employee और employees में परिवर्तित कर दिया है, यह बहुत अच्छी बात है। मैं समझता हूँ कि ये जो बातें मैंने कही हैं, इन पर आप जरूर विचार करेंगे और इनका जवाब हमें जरूर देंगे, क्योंकि ऐसे हजयरो-लाखों मजदूर हैं, जो फैक्ट्रियों में जाते हैं, काम करते हैं और कभी कोई चिमनी गिर गई, कहीं कोई devastation हो गया और वह मर गया, तो उसका पेमेंट कौन करेगा, कौन उसका employer होगा? मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप इस पर जरूर विचार करेंगे और इसके बारे में जरूर कोई नियम-कानून बनाएंगे, धन्यवाद।

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (Assam): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. I have gone through the proposed amendment to improve the position by paying compensation to the workers as and when it is necessary. And also, a mention has been made about the contract workers. But, Sir, I think the hon. Minister is not aware of it— I come from the tea plantation area of the North -

East—that there are a huge number of workers in the regular schedule of the employers. They are popularly known as “*faltoo*” workers. There is no contract system. They are engaged in the tea gardens, including factories, for years together and they do not easily come into the regular schedule. Some of them come only when their own relatives who are there in the regular schedule of the tea gardens retire as workmen. Now, you have changed the name from “workmen” to “employees”. Then only, they can substitute and become regular workers. They are entitled to avail all the benefits available at various levels. So, I will request the Minister to take note of it, and if you just miss it, I think, the proposed Compensation (Amendment) Bill will not be able to do justice to a great section of workers who are there in the North-Eastern area. I do not know the position about the plantation workers. There, the plantation is included; I know. But for the plantation workers of South India and the plantation workers of North India and North-East, there are differences. This matter has been gone into; otherwise, the proposed amendment for compensation of workers will not do proper justice or intended justice to the workers. Therefore, I request you to take note of the so-called, or popularly known, “*faltoo*” workers in the tea plantations of West Bengal and Assam. There are a huge number of them. I don’t know what entitlement or authority the employers have to have more unscheduled workers than scheduled workers. I don’t want to dispute this thing. But this is the situation. In view of the existing situation, this Workmen’s Compensation (Amendment) Bill is not going to do justice to the workers. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister, while thanking him for bringing forward this Amendment Bill, 2009, to take note of these serious lapses. Along with this, I would request him, and I will be happy, to examine the Minimum Wages Act also. The payment of compensation is all right. But it will be incomplete if the Minimum Wages Act is also not examined along with it. You have to examine whether the industrial establishments are really paying the minimum wages as fixed by the Wage Board. There are many instances where these things are not being followed. I am also a trade union activist. I have learnt from my own experience that the industrial establishments do not bother about paying the wages as prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act. The non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act by the industrial establishments in various sectors has to be considered. Your intention to give a lot of relief to the workmen as proposed in this Bill will not be met unless the related Acts are also examined. You should see whether they are getting the due wages or not. I appreciate the amendments brought forward by the hon. Minister. I thank him because I also do trade union activities. This will really bring a lot of relief to the workmen if it is really implemented in the true sense of the words. With these submissions, I conclude and thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Minister.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I had asked a question about the jurisdiction. I had requested the Minister. Mr. Minister, before you reply to the debate, will you please let the House know how far the implementation of the law will be offshore and onshore?

श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सभी दलों की ओर से 12 सदस्यों ने अपने विचार सदन के सामने रखे हैं और बहुत सी अच्छी सलाहें भी उन्होंने दी हैं। जो बिल यहां पर पेश किया गया है, उसके बारे में उन्होंने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं और इसकी प्रशंसा भी की है, इसके लिए मैं सभी सदस्य मित्रों को धन्यवाद देता हूं।

[उपसभापति महोदय पीठासीन हुए]

महोदय, इस बिल को बनाने में स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। इसके साथ ही जो पहले के मंत्री महोदय थे, माननीय श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस जी ने बहुत कोशिश की और इस बिल को सदन में पेश किया लेकिन जैसा कि माननीय सांसद श्री तिरुची शिवा ने कहा है कि पार्लियामेंट भंग होने की वजह से इसको फिर से दुबारा यहां पर लाने की कोशिश की गयी। तो इन 12 सदस्यों ने और शणप्पा साहब ने, जो गुलबर्ग के बहुत बड़े नेता हैं, बात की। श्री रामचन्द्र खूटिआ जी जो ट्रेड यूनियन लीडर हैं उन्होंने अपना विचार रखा। श्री तपन कुमार सेन जी, श्री वीर पाल सिंह यादव, उन्होंने भी अपने विचार रखे। श्री आर० सी० सिंह जी, श्री तिरुची शिवा, श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर, श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि जी, श्री टी०के० रंगराजन जी, श्री राजनीति प्रसाद जी और श्री सिलवियस कोंडपन, जो आसाम के सीनियर नेता हैं, सभी ने इस बिल का स्वागत किया है तथा कुछ संशय भी व्यक्त किए हैं। खासकर के इस बिल में जो कॉम्पनसेशन बढ़ाने की बात थी, वह कॉम्पनसेशन बहुत ही कम है और खास कर शणप्पा साहब ने यह कहा कि लेबर को देने में हम बहुत ही कंजूसी कर रहे हैं। तो ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है कि सैक्शन-2e में जो एम्प्लॉयर रेस्पॉन्सिबल है, तो उस डेफिनिशन में वह एम्प्लॉयर तो देगा, लेकिन 2500 से जो 5000 हमने की है, वह स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की सलाह है। लेकिन उसमें एक प्रावधान है, इनेबलिंग क्लॉज है, आज प्राइस इंडेक्स के मुताबिक हम उसको बढ़ा सकते हैं। तो जब यहां बढ़ाने का प्रावधान है, इनेबलिंग क्लॉज है, तो उसमें कुछ संशय की जरूरत नहीं है। अगर जल्द से जल्द जरूरत है, तो डेफिनिटली उसको इनहान्स करने का अधिकार गवर्नमेंट को है और फिर से सदन में आने की जरूरत नहीं। अमेंडमेंट के लिए कई महीने लगते हैं, उससे छुटकारा भी मिल गया। तो जो सदस्यों के मन में संशय है, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वह दूर हो जाए और हम नोटिफिकेशन के जरिए इसको इनहान्स कर सकते हैं और प्राइस इंडेक्स के मुताबिक करने के लिए ही वह एक प्रावधान रखा है। लेकिन जो अब 2500 है उसका अमेंडमेंट में समझता हूं कि सन् 2000 में कुछ हुआ है।....(व्यवधान)

सन् 2000 में 2500 था। अब उसको आप ही ने 5000 बनाकर दिया है। फिर उसको बढ़ाना भी है तो डेफिनिटली गवर्नमेंट उसके बारे में सोचेगी और अगर उसकी जरूरत है तो वह करेगी। दूसरी चीज, फैक्टरी ऐक्ट के बारे में भी यहां बोले। वे सारी चीजें अलग हैं, फैक्टरी ऐक्ट हो या ई०एस०आई० का अमेंडमेंट हो या इण्डस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट ऐक्ट का अमेंडमेंट हो, ये एक के बाद एक इस सदन में आएंगे। मैं यह ही कोशिश करूंगा कि उस वक्त भी आप तमाम सदस्यगण उन ऐक्ट के अमेंडमेंट में मदद करेंगे। इसके बाद माननीय सदस्यों ने पूछा है कि सरकार ने स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के कितने सजेसन या रिकमेंडेशन को स्वीकार किया है। इसके बारे में बताना चाहता हूं कि हमारे पास जो इन्फॉर्मेशन है, उस इन्फॉर्मेशन के मुताबिक more or less हो सकता है एक या दो में कुछ बदलाव हो या डेफिनेशन में उसके रहने की वजह से, उसको हमने अलग रखा है, लेकिन more or less जितने भी स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के सजेसन हैं या रिकमेंडेशन हैं, उनको हमने माना है, चाहे वह डिसेबल्ट का हो या डेथ के बाद compensation देने का हो, उसके लिए भी हमने enabling clause रखी है, उसको भी हमने बढ़ाने का प्रावधान किया है। चाहे वह funeral expenses, चाहे वह disability का compensation हो, चाहे डेथ के बाद देने का compensation हो, इसको बढ़ाने के लिए प्राइस इंडेक्स के मुताबिक enabling clause करने की वजह से ज्यादा से ज्यादा करते जाएंगे, यह तो मिनीमम है, मैक्सिमम के लिए भी शैड्यूल 4 में प्रावधान है। जो सबसे कम उम्र वाला व्यक्ति होता है, यदि ऐसे कामों में, जो भी हैजार्डस वर्क्स हैं, उन वर्क्स में, occupations में, वह अपनी जान गंवा देता है, मर जाता है या disable होता है, तो

उसके लिए एक केलकुलेशन है। इसमें उसकी चार-पांच लाख तक compensation बनती है, कम से कम एक लाख, डेढ़ लाख तक compensation बनती है, इसका पूरा शैड्यूल आपको मालूम है, इसलिए इसको बताने की जरूरत नहीं है। इसका शैड्यूल 4 में आलरेडी प्रॉविजन है और शैड्यूल 2 और 3 में भी जो हैजार्डस वर्क्स हैं, occupations हैं, उसकी एक लिस्ट है। अगर कोई occupation इस लिस्ट में नहीं है, शैड्यूल 2 और 3 में नहीं है, उसको शैड्यूल 2 और 3 में शामिल करने के लिए एक स्टेट लेवल पर और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट में एक कमेटी होती है। अगर वह कमेटी यह महसूस करती है कि पार्टिकुलर कोई काम हैजार्डस है, वह हानिकारक है, तो उसको वह कमेटी इस शैड्यूल में तीन महीने का नोटिस देकर शामिल कर सकती है। इसलिए इसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। यह flexible है और हमने इस शैड्यूल 2 में जो भी restrictions थे, पहले एक कानून लागू था कि जहां पर 10 से ज्यादा मजदूर काम करते थे, वहां पर यह नियम लागू था या 15 से ज्यादा थे, उन्हीं पर लागू था, तो उन सारी चीजों को हटा दिया है और अगर एक आदमी भी काम करता है, उसको compensation देना चाहिए, इसका हमने इसमें प्रावधान किया है और इस अमेंडमेंट को आप पास कर रहे हैं। यह सबसे बड़ी बात है कि अगर एक आदमी भी नुकसान या हानिकारक occupation में काम करता है, उसको भी मुआवजा देना चाहिए। जब इस एक्ट में इतना बड़ा प्रावधान है, तो मैं समझता हूं कि आपको चिंता करने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। अगर इस तरह का और कोई occupation भी आता है, तो उसके लिए इसमें गुंजाइश है और उसको इसमें इन्क्लूड कर सकते हैं।

डेफिनेशन के बारे में बात कही गई है। वर्कमैन के बजाए एम्पलाई शब्द एक्ट में क्यों किया है, इसके बारे में पूछा गया है। इसके बारे में बहुत से माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि आजकल जेंडर न्यूट्रल का जमाना है, अगर सिर्फ वर्कमैन बोले, तो बोलते हैं कि क्यों वर्कमैन बोले, तो इसीलिए उसको बदला गया है। सेकेंड लेबर कांफ्रेंस में जो इसके लिए रिकमंडेशन्स आई थीं, उन रिकमंडेशन्स के आधार पर इसको बदलकर हमने Title से लेकर Preamble तक हर जगह पर जहां कहीं वर्कमैन है, उस जगह पर हमने एम्पलाई शब्द को रखा है। ये सारी चीजें हम इस बिल में लाए हैं और सभी सदस्यों ने इसका बहुत वेलकम किया है। जो खासकर पांच सुझाव हैं, वे पांचों वर्कर्स के फेवर में हैं। हमने इसमें एक और नया प्रावधान किया है, जो रिएमबर्समेंट ऑफ actual medical expenses है। पहले यह actual medical expenses देने का या रेमिट करने का प्रावधान नहीं था। अब हमने उसको लागू किया है। हमें वर्कर्स को actual medical expenses देना चाहिए। हमने यह वायदा भी पूरा किया है। पहले कमिशनर की क्वालिफिकेशन थी, यानी workmen compensation में जो कमिशनर के पद को नोटिफाइ किया जाता था, उसमें कोई क्वालिफिकेशन नहीं होती थी, डेफिनिशन में सिर्फ any person लिखा होता था, उसमें जैसे जजों के लिए लीगल क्वालिफिकेशन है, ऐसे ही करते थे। अब स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के सुझाव के अनुसार हमने उसमें विस्तार किया है, not only advocates, retired judges, gazetted officers और दूसरे HRD आदि के जो कोर्सेज करते हैं, उनको भी Workmen Compensation Act के तहत नोटिफाइ करने का अधिकार देना तय किया है। इससे हमें बहुत से अधिकारी मिल जाते हैं और जो भी vacancies होंगी, उनको भरना भी आसान होगा। दूसरी बात यह है कि जिनको बहुत नॉलेज है, हम उनको भी नोमिनेट कर सकते हैं, इसलिए बहुत से सदस्यों ने इसके बारे में एप्रिसिएशन भी किया है। Workmen Compensation और ESI को हमें अलग-अलग देखना चाहिए। जहां पर ESI का बेनिफिट मिलता है, उनको इससे रोकने के लिए क्या फायदा होगा? आप उनको इससे क्यों रोकते हैं? Workmen's Compensation में भी यह फायदा होना चाहिए और ESI में भी देना चाहिए। इससे यह होता है कि एक वर्कर को Compensation मिलता है और दूसरे वर्कर को Compensation न मिलने की वजह से heart-burning होती है। इसलिए हमने यह एक अच्छा काम करने की कोशिश की है। दूसरे, प्रेजिडेंट ऑफ इंडिया के पास जाने से इसमें देरी हो जाएगी। जिस दिन यह प्रेजिडेंट ऑफ इंडिया से आता है, उसी दिन इसको नोटिफाइ करके लागू करना चाहिए, नहीं तो फिर इसको सरकार में वक्त लगेगा, टाइम लगेगा, माननीय सदस्यों ने ऐसा संशय व्यक्त किया

है। मैं आपको भरोसा दिलाता हूँ, आश्वासन देता हूँ कि as soon as President का assent आएगा, तो डेफिनेटली हम नोटिफिकेशन जल्द से जल्द इश्यु करेंगे। हम इसमें कोई देरी नहीं करेंगे। अगर देरी करेंगे, तो यहां कानून लाकर भी उसका कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। मैंने स्टेट में भी ऐसे बहुत से कानून देखे हैं और यहां भी ऐसे कानून हो सकते हैं कि वे कानून पास तो होते हैं, बिल पास होते हैं, लेकिन from the date of notification बोलने से कई दफा वह notification नहीं होता है और वह ऐसे ही पड़ा रहता है। हमें इस बात का पूरा-पूरा ख्याल है और हम इसके बारे में जानते हैं कि वहां से assent होकर आने के बाद हम नोटिफाई कर देंगे। एक बात कोर्सेज की हुई है। वह तो हमारे डेफिनिशन में है और हमने उसको 2-D में रखा है। आपने भी अमेंडमेंट में देखा होगा।

It covers the whole of India as per section 1(ii), which includes operational area. हम जो नया अमेंडमेंट लाए हैं It also covers the overseas. उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है, इसलिए अब यह समस्या भी आपके सामने नहीं होगी। अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने एक सवाल उठाया कि जो वर्कमैन कम्पेनसेशन मिलता है, अगर बहुत से बाहर के कामगार दूसरी किसी स्टेट में जाते हैं, ट्रांसफर होते हैं या ट्रैवल करते हैं, फोर एग्जम्पल बिहार के वर्कर्स दिल्ली में आए या बिहार के वर्कर्स कर्नाटक में आए, तमिलनाडु में आए, तमिलनाडु के वर्कर्स आंध्र में गए या आंध्र के उधर गए, उनके लिए यह केस फोलो करना बहुत मुश्किल होगा और उनको कम्पेनसेशन मिलने में दिक्कत होती है, आपका ऐसा कहना है, इसके लिए Under section 21(ii), the commissioner can transfer the cases to other commissioner within the State or outside the State. It can avoid the expenses and frequent visits to the offices. ये सारी चीजें हमने इसमें की हैं, लेकिन एक बात एनकोड करना इसमें संभव नहीं है, हम इसके बारे में जरूर सोचेंगे कि जो सिविल कोर्ट ज्यूरिसडिक्शन कमिश्नर को देना चाहिए कि जो डिस्मिशन देते हैं, तीन महीने के अंदर, उसको एग्जिक्यूट करने के लिए जो वक्त लगता है, वह फिफ्टी परसेंट अमाउंट डिपोजिट करके जाएगा। वह प्रावधान इसमें नहीं है। इसे करने की आपकी सलाह है, यह अच्छी सलाह है, हम डेफिनिटली इस पर सोचेंगे। यह एक बहुत बढ़िया सलाह आपने दी है, मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूँ, लेकिन फिलहाल इस बिल में यह नहीं है। एक बात और है कि यह कांटेक्ट लेबर्स पर लागू होगा कि नहीं या कैजुअल लेबर्स पर होगा। In other words, an employee henceforth working either on casual or contract basis whether engaged directly or indirectly is covered within the existing definition. What we have proposed is just to replace the word 'workmen' with 'employees'. Therefore, everything depends on implementation. The implementation of the Act lies with the State Government. Yes, we all can try; Members of Parliament can try, the Government of India will try; every one of us can try our best to implement it. But, ultimately, the State Government should have a commitment to implement it. That is the most important thing. Unless we have the mind and the heart, I do not think passage of any number of laws will not help. But, to really help or assist them, all the State Governments should work on this issue and ये बहुत अच्छे अमेंडमेंट्स हैं और करोड़ों वर्कर्स को इससे फायदा होगा। मुझे खुशी है कि सदन के सारे सदस्यों ने इसको एकमत से सपोर्ट दिया है। मैं आप तमाम माननीय सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): I suggested that the commissioner's power is not mentioned there. The commissioner must have power like the civil court judge or the provident fund commissioner or the ESI commissioner. If the Commission has not given any power nobody will deposit 50 per cent amount in the Commissioner's office. That must be given first. The second thing is, delete Section 12. Section 12 should not be there. You have already deleted Section 2 (n).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has appreciated your suggestion.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Mere appreciation will not help the worker.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, it cannot be done.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, नजमा जी ने जो कहा था, इसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने कुछ नहीं कहा।

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Since you are a senior man and you have got more knowledge in this, but, still I will bring to your kind notice Section 23, the powers and procedure of Commissioners. “The Commissioner shall have all powers of a civil court under the code of civil procedure, 1908 for the purpose of taking evidence on oath which such Commissioner is hereby empowered to impose and for enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of documents and material objects and the Commissioner shall be deemed to be a civil court for all the purposes.”

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, हमारे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया।

श्री उपसभापति : आपका क्या सवाल था?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, मैंने दो बार पूछा था।

श्री उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, आपने इनके सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे : सर, मैंने जवाब दिया, लेकिन वे बात कर रही थीं।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I am sorry. Can you repeat it? I am very sorry.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: It covers the whole of India as per Section 1(2) and it also includes abroad. यह अमेंडमेंट में 2(d) में इसके Definition में है।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: What about territorial water, Deep sea?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: It covers territorial water, sea, air, everything.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The question was put and the motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

The House then adjourned at fifty-eight minutes past four of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 2nd December, 2009.