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Thursday
3 December, 2009
12 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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Web-site Address : <http://rajyasabha.nic.in>
 <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>
E-mail Address : rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 3rd December, 2009/Agrahayana, 12, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

द्वितीय प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग (ए.आर.सी.) की सिफारिशों का कार्यान्वयन

*201. श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद :

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा :

क्या प्रधानमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने द्वितीय प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग की सिफारिशों को क्रियान्वित करते हुए देश के प्रशासन में सुधार लाने हेतु एक कार्य-योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कार्य-योजना क्या है; और

(ग) इसे कब तक क्रियान्वित कर दिया जायेगा?

प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण): (क) से (ग) जी हां। सरकार दूसरे प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग द्वारा इसकी 15 रिपोर्टों में की गई सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन हेतु विचार कर रही है। स्वीकार की गई कुछ सिफारिशें पहले से ही क्रियान्वित की जा रही हैं। एक निर्धारित समय-सीमा निर्धारित करना संभव नहीं होगा।

Implementation of recommendations of Second ARC

†*201. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:††

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an action plan has been prepared by Government to reform the administration of the country by implementing the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, what is the action plan; and

(c) by when will it be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government is considering the recommendations made by the second Administrative Reforms Commission in its 15 Reports for implementation. Some of the accepted recommendations are already being implemented. It would not be feasible to prescribe a definite time frame.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my good friend, Mr. Prithviraj Chavan, has been described with five designations in the reply. I quite appreciate his workload.

Hon. Minister, I would like to know from you as to why you are not able to share with the House the exact recommendations you have accepted. And, if those have been accepted, what is the difficulty in giving a time-frame to that?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the process that has been followed is quite an exhaustive one. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is the nodal Department. It first examines the Report. There are Fifteen Reports it has so far been received. After it is processed by the administrative Ministry, since each Report deals with various Ministries of the Government of India, the respective Ministries are asked to process it for their initial comments. After that, there is a Group of Secretaries Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. It is called the Core Group on Administrative Reforms. That goes through all the Reports. After that is processed by the Committee Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, it goes to the Group of Ministers. Then, the Group of Ministers takes up each Report, one-by-one. So far, out of fifteen Reports, twelve Reports have been seen by the Cabinet Secretary's Committee and, out of those Twelve Reports which the Core Group has looked at, the GoM has seen six Reports and many recommendations have been accepted and many of them are being implemented. Those recommendations which do not need any legislative action have already been implemented. The Government has given information about those. The information is also given to the Cabinet regularly on every Report. After that, it will be made public. So, there is nothing secret about it, except there are certain actions which require the legislative measures to be taken and that will take time. So, the exact time is not possible to give. But, at the same time, the Government intends to implement the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission. It has done an excellent job over four years. We will take all the good suggestions and implement as much as practical.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, my second supplementary has some importance and I will be grateful if the hon. Prime Minister is kind enough to respond to it.

Sir, whenever we talk of administrative reforms, we talk of reforms in the Civil Services which are a part of it to ensure a faster delivery system. In this connection, I would like to refer to recommendation no, 2.8 of the Memorandum of Action Taken on the Report of the Liberhan Commission which forms a part of this House. It says, "The Civil Servants who are posted at the helm of affairs ought, to be picked for the skills that they are required to exercise, rather than for completely unrelated academic skills or for castiest or regional basis." Sir, my question is: Under the Constitution, reservation for SC/ST is permissible and recognised and, in the same way, reservation for backward classes is permissible. But, you say, in your recommendation, 'the matter is referred to the UPSC for consideration,' My question is: Do you intend to dilute or do away with reservation for backward castes or SC/ST in the light of your acceptance of this recommendation of the Liberhan Commission Report?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, first of all, we are discussing the Reports of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission. The Liberhan Commission's Report is going to be discussed in this House. There is going to be a full-fledged discussion and the hon. Member is definitely welcome to raise those issues when it is discussed.

The hon. Member has asked about the reservation issue. I cannot reply to that. I request the hon. Member to give a separate notice on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Majitha. Not present ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, my supplementary is a part of the main question. Sir, I seek your protection. I asked about the Civil Services. The question is relating to the Constitution. Administrative Reforms include Civil Services reforms. In that connection, the Government has accepted the Report and I am putting a question on that. It is completely within the purview of the main Question. I need your protection with great respect, Sir. Is the Government doing away with reservation for SC/ST and backward classes? That is the question.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, there is no question of doing away with reservation. It is a Constitutional provision.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Then, why have you said that it has been sent to the UPSC? You are saying that the matter has been referred to the UPSC ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing that Report here.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, all these recommendations have to be looked into by somebody. We may not accept them.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Common, before your acceptance, you have reacted in such a way! You have not rejected. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is what I am saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Majitha. Not present.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, basically, administrative reforms involve technical things, legal and procedural matters. But work lethargy is also another aspect of administrative reforms which is going on in our offices, namely, our officers, clerks having all the time cups of tea, chewing paans, giving a cursory look at the files, shifting from one table to another table. Sir, we ourselves get reply to our questions after two months. I would suggest, Sir, that let a sample of 1,000 replies given by various Departments to us, the Members of Parliament, be taken and, Sir, you will find, that 99 per cent of those replies are in negative. Let a third party, a Committee, examine those replies to see whether the work asked by the Members of Parliament could have been done in those, particular, 1000 cases or not.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the whole purpose of setting up the second Administrative Reforms Commission is that the Government wants a very pro-active and accountable administration. The ARC has done excellent work. They have submitted 15 Reports. The intent of the Government is to tone up the administration. But I would not accept a very sweeping remark, which you made earlier, that the entire civil service is not working. There are some people who may not be

very effective. We are re-training them, we are re-posting them. We have got the Right to Information Act which is eliciting information from the officers who are not very prompt and not taking pro-active steps. Sir, it is the intention of the Government to tone up the administration, whether it is the Right to Information Act, whether it is the Administrative Reforms Commission. These are the steps to tone up the administration.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, assuming for the sake of argument that all the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission have been implemented, in such a situation, can you give an assurance that under that system, interference in some form or the other, or the influence in some form or the other, will be avoided in administration, whether political or social, in whatever form?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, this is completely a hypothetical question. I think it is not the intention of the Executive to interfere. Sir, we want to have a good and clean administration, responsive and accountable administration and our intention will be to provide that.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I believe in the ARC Report, there are some recommendations for eliminating corruption in the administrative system. My simple question is: Will the Government look, especially, into those recommendations and implement them instead of waiting for all the Report to be implemented?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as I said, whatever recommendations that get accepted by the Government will be implemented and we are implementing them, without waiting for anything, except those recommendations which entail legislative action by the Government, which will take time. Bills have to be drafted and consultation process has to be done. You asked about corruption. It is the stated policy of the Government that there will be Zero Tolerance to corruption and the steps we have taken in that direction are: One very important step is the Right to Information Act which solicits information and it has given us very open and transparent Government. The other thing is that we are implementing e-governance. We will make sure that a lot of paper work is reduced. People get information in time. Decisions come in time. One of the major reasons for corruption is that the people get a chance to delay decisions by keeping files with them. Now, in e-Governance mode, you can track every file on the computer sitting anywhere and you could know where exactly which file is lying. This is already having a very positive effect on the governance. Of course, this is an ongoing activity. It is not that one fine morning it will be done. Our endeavour is to bring all the important technologies, IT tools and open governance, so that we get a corruption-free Government.

*202. * [The questioner(s) Shri Shivanand Tiwari and Shri Raj Mohinder Singh Majitha were absent. For Answer *vide* page 24 *infra*]

Charges of fomenting trouble in Balochistan

*203. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:††

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has recently, again indicted India in fomenting trouble in the restive Balochistan province;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has strongly protested on the charges of Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports regarding statements attributed to Pakistani leaders, including the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Interior Minister of Pakistan, alleging Indian interference in Balochistan.

(c) and (d) Government has firmly rejected, including at the highest level, such unfounded allegations. Prime Minister had told Prime Minister of Pakistan that India has no interest in destabilising Pakistan and that our conduct is an open book.

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सर, पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री, जनाब गिलानी ने कहा है कि भारत के बलूचिस्तान मामले के संबंध में हस्तक्षेप के सबूत देने के लिए सही वक्त और सही फोरम के बारे में अभी तय नहीं किया गया है। इसका साफ मतलब है कि पाकिस्तान के पास कोई सबूत नहीं है, फिर भी दुनिया का ध्यान बांटने के लिए और मुम्बई हमले के अपराधियों को बचाने के लिए उसके द्वारा इस तरह से बेबुनियाद आरोप लगाए जा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस संबंध में भारत ने क्या किया है तथा यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जुलाई, 2009 में इंडो-पाक एग्रीमेंट में बलूचिस्तान को जोड़ा गया था, जबकि यह उनका घरेलू मामला था, तो क्या यह ड्राफ्टिंग मिस्टेक थी?

श्री सभापति : एक सवाल पूछिए। आपने दो सवाल पूछ लिए हैं।

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सर, वह उसी सवाल का ही हिस्सा था। एक अंदर दूसरा चला गया था।

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, the hon. Member is partially right when he says that Pakistan has not been able to marshal any evidence about India's involvement in the problems that are arising in Balochistan. May I quote the Foreign Minister of Pakistan who on 7th of August, 2009, talking to journalists, said that 'Pakistan Government would disclose evidence regarding India's involvement in Balochistan diplomatically at the right time'? The Foreign Minister again is quoted to have said on November 22nd, 2009 that 'Pakistan is compiling hard evidence of India's involvement and interference in Balochistan.' So, I think, these two statements when read together, the facts certainly come out that Pakistan is striving hard to fabricate evidence about India's involvement in Balochistan problem.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, please.

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सभापति महोदय, अभी कुछ दिन पहले पाकिस्तान ने एक मीटिंग में फिर से आरोप लगाया गया है कि भारत खैबर इलाके में दखल दे रहा है तथा इस तरह पाकिस्तान उसी के इलाके में मौजूद प्रशिक्षित आतंकवादियों को वहां से हटाने की बजाए बार-बार अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय का ध्यान बंटाने की कोशिश कर रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से दूसरा सवाल यह पूछ रहा हूँ कि क्या इस बारे में भारत ने पाक के राजदूत को बुलाकर कोई विरोध जताया है?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, I would like to quote the Prime Minister while making a statement on Pakistan in this hon. House where he said that — I quote the Prime Minister—we believe that a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan, living in peace with its neighbours, is in India's own interest.' We are fully committed to this statement and we would like Pakistan to become stable. They could also contribute so that peace and tranquillity would prevail in the neighbourhood.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that if Pakistan does not take any credible action on the 26/11 dossiers given by India, will India then continue suspending talks and is that position sustainable in the long run?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Mr. Chairman, the talks are, for the time being, suspended. We have repeatedly drawn the attention of Pakistan saying that unless they move in a very transparent manner to bring to book those culprits who conspired and executed the heinous crime in Mumbai, we will not be in a position to resume the composite dialogue. But, in the meanwhile, on the sidelines of various international conferences, we do meet Pakistani representatives and we do exchange views. But we stick to that theory, we stick to that statement of the Prime Minister, that unless those who are involved in the Mumbai attack are brought to justice, India will not be in a position to pursue the talks.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : सभापति जी, मुझे तो आश्चर्य है कि ऐसा प्रश्न कांग्रेस की तरफ से आया और जवाब भी कांग्रेस की तरफ से हो रहा है। इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में पूरा-पूरा विरोधाभास है। एक तरफ इन्होंने कहा है कि पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री, उनके विदेश मंत्री, उनके गृह मंत्री ने ऐसे-ऐसे बयान समय-समय पर दिये हैं। हम उनके बयानों से चिंतित नहीं हैं, आप इसलिए चिंतित हैं कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने जो बयान दिया था, उसकी चर्चा आप क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं? माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी जब Sharm-el-Sheikh में पहुंचे, तो वहां एक Joint Declaration पर दस्तखत हुए थे। हम भी थोड़ा-बहुत ज्ञान रखते हैं कि इस देश में इतिहास में क्या हुआ है, लेकिन आज तक किसी दस्तावेज में पाकिस्तान के साथ, "बलूचिस्तान" का जिक्र नहीं हुआ था, पहली बार उस दस्तावेज में "बलूचिस्तान" का जिक्र हुआ। हम पूछना चाहेंगे कि क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी से कोई गलती हुई, क्योंकि उन्होंने भारत लौटकर अपने बयान को बदल दिया है। मैं समझ सकता हूँ कि उनका बड़ा दिल है, लेकिन...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : सभापति जी, मेरा प्रधान मंत्री जी से यह सवाल है कि ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : कोई आपत्तिजनक ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : राजीव जी, आप जिस दिन आगे की कुर्सी में आ जाइएगा, जवाब दे दीजिएगा, अभी आप पीछे बैठिए, ...(व्यवधान).... आपको अभी मौका नहीं मिल रहा है, आपको अभी समय लगेगा ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Please, put the question. Don't make a statement; question, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, my pointed question to the hon. Prime Minister is: Did the word 'Baluchistan' figure in the Joint Declaration signed by the hon. Prime Minister in Sharm-el-Sheikh, which had never ever been brought in the text between the two nations? This is my only pointed question. We went as a victim of terror and came back to India as accused. This is what we want to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all. Please, do not ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: We went as the victim of terror and after the Joint Declaration we came back as the accused. I would like to seek clarification on this from the hon. Prime Minister. प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हैं, अगर प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां बैठे न होते, तो शायद ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती जयन्ती नटराजन : मिनिस्टर ऑफ फॉरेन अफेयर्स भी यहां बैठे हुए हैं।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : बाकी बनने वाले भी बैठे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

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

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: I seek the indulgence of the Chair to permit me to answer that question. This question has been answered twice before in this House. It is a fact that Baluchistan was mentioned in the Sharm-el-Sheikh statement.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: For the first time.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: And that question was raised by the Leader of the Opposition on the floor of this House and the Prime Minister made a detailed statement about how it happened. All that the Prime Minister said was that about Baluchistan India's position is an open book, and we stand committed to that statement.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : सभापति जी, मैं जो प्रश्न पूछना चाहता था, वह प्रश्न रूडी साहब ने पूछ लिया है और सब बात यह है कि "बलूचिस्तान" का मामला कभी उठा ही नहीं था। Sharm-el-Sheikh में अगर माननीय प्रधान मंत्री और पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री की ज्वाइंट कम्युनीक में यह शब्द न आया होता, तो यह मामला कभी उठता ही नहीं और हम सब उधर से उसके आरोपी नहीं होते। वैसे इस सवाल का जवाब तो माननीय मंत्री जी ने दे दिया है, लेकिन प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : यह शब्द क्यों आया, इसका जवाब नहीं दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, please.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : सभापति जी, पूरे देश को इस बात की चिंता रही कि आखिर "बलूचिस्तान" शब्द आपकी कम्युनीक में आया कैसे? माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं, मैं उनसे यह specially जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह बलूचिस्तान शब्द उस communique में कैसे आया, जब कि वहां से हमारा कभी कोई वास्ता नहीं रहा है और न ही हमारी तरफ से कभी कोई intervention रहा है, फिर भी हम स्वयं अपने आपको दोषी मान लें, यह कैसे हुआ?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, he has again repeated the same question. I am afraid, I have to repeat the same answer ...*(Interruptions)*... We have never. ...*(Interruptions)*... Balochistan, and it is a fact that Balochistan figured in that statement ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति : कृपया आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... Don't interrupt.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Silence of the Prime Minister makes the whole thing a suspect ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Rudy, you had your chance ...*(Interruptions)*... Panyji, your name has not been called. Please, resume your places ...*(Interruptions)*... There shall be no agitation in the House. Please, resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... कृपया आप लोग बैठ जाइए*(व्यवधान)*..

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : महोदय, मैं भी आग्रह करूंगा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी को इस पर जवाब देना चाहिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह बहुत गंभीर विषय है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, resume your places. Allow the Question Hour to proceed. Mr. Rajeev Shukla.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: It is obvious now that in order to cover up their own mistakes, as far as promoting terrorism in India is concerned, Pakistan always brings Balochistan to the forefront. I want to know from the hon. Minister that Pakistani leaders have been saying from long that they have given credible evidence to India for its role in Balochistan. Have you received any evidence till now from Pakistan?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Not even a shade of it; nothing has been heard from Pakistan.

'सैनिक फार्म्स' में मकानों को नियमित किया जाना

†*204. **डा. प्रभा ठाकुर :** क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली के 'सैनिक फार्म्स' क्षेत्र में बने हुए मकानों की वर्तमान संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) क्या सरकार की इस क्षेत्र में रहने वाले सैकड़ों निवासियों से विकास शुल्क लेकर उनको मूलभूत सुविधाएं देने के लिए इन मकानों को नियमित किए जाने की कोई योजना है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं?

शहरी विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सौगत राय): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

विवरण

(क) दिल्ली नगर निगम ने सूचित किया है कि डाटाबेस बनाने के दिल्ली नगर निगम के प्रयासों के भाग के रूप में उनके द्वारा 2008 में कराए गए सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार सैनिक फार्म्स क्षेत्र में 1650 पते/मकान पाए गए जिनमें से अधिकांश रिहायशी स्वरूप के हैं।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) सरकार ने दिल्ली में अनधिकृत कालोनियों को नियमित करने के लिए संशोधित दिशानिर्देश 2007 जारी किए हैं और दिशानिर्देश सैनिक फार्म सहित संपन्न वर्गों द्वारा बसाई गई अनधिकृत कालोनियों से संबंधित नहीं है।

Regularisation of houses in Sainik Farms

†204. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing houses in Sainik Farms area of Delhi;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to regularise these houses in order to provide basic facilities to the hundreds of residents living in that area after charging development fee from them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has informed that as per survey got conducted by it in 2008 as part of MCD's efforts to create database, 1650 addresses/buildings were found in the Sainik Farms area, most of which are residential in nature.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government has issued Revised Guidelines 2007 for regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi and the Guidelines do not relate to unauthorized colonies inhabited by affluent sections including Sainik Farms.

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर : महोदय, मैंने दिल्ली के "सैनिक फार्म्स" कॉलोनी के नियमन के बारे में प्रश्न पूछा था। उसके जवाब में जो आया है, उसमें लिखा है कि सैनिक फार्म्स में 2008 के सर्वे के अनुसार 1650 पते/मकान पाए गए हैं और वे रिहायशी हैं। मैंने पूछा था कि क्या उसमें उनको कोई मूलभूत सुविधाएं देने के लिए इस कॉलोनी को regularise करने की सरकार का कोई विचार है, तो उसका जवाब नहीं में आया है। इसके लिए कारण बताया गया है कि 2007 में जो दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए थे, उसके अनुसार "सैनिक फार्म्स" को संपन्न वर्गों द्वारा बसाई गई अनधिकृत कॉलोनी माना गया है, इसलिए यह regularise नहीं की जाएगी। महोदय, मैं शहरी विकास मंत्री, श्री एस. जयपाल रेड्डी जी को बहुत appreciate करती हूं। उन्होंने दो हजार से ज्यादा कच्ची बस्तियों का नियमन किया है।

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या "सैनिक फार्म्स" में केवल संपन्न लोग ही रहते हैं, सारे rich लोग ही रहते हैं? जो 1650 मकान या और भी जो मकान हैं, क्या उनमें कोई आम आदमी, मध्यम श्रेणी के मिडिल क्लास के लोग रहते हैं? अगर रहते हैं, तो उनकी कितनी तादाद है? इसके अलावा इतने जो मकान बन गए हैं, ये मकान क्यों बने, कैसे बने और इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है, जो जिम्मेदार है, उन पर कोई कार्रवाई हुई? सभी जानते हैं कि ...

श्री सभापति : आप एक सवाल पूछिए।

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर : ठीक है, एक सवाल का जवाब आ जाए, तो फिर दूसरा supplementary पूछूंगी।

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, the MCD has informed us that as part of the first phase of efforts to create a data base, a private agency has carried out a survey in the Sainik Farms area. The survey revealed a total of 1650 addresses/buildings in the Sainik Farms area, which are largely residential in nature. The second phase of the effort is to commence soon whereby three-dimensional data base would be generated on the addresses/buildings in the colony. The thing is that while doing the survey, the MCD did not have access to the houses. They had high walls and large gates which were very well barricaded. So, we are trying to get it from the three-dimensional data, if it is possible. But, as far as we know, 'aam admi' do not live in the Sainik Farms.

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर : सर, यह मामला तो बहुत गंभीर है। मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि आम आदमी वहां रहते ही नहीं हैं, तो पहले तो यह सर्वे कराया जाए कि कितने आम आदमी वहां रहते हैं? मैं मंत्री महोदय के जवाब से बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं हूँ। वहां समृद्ध भी रहते हैं, वी.आई.पी. भी रहते हैं और आम आदमी भी रहते हैं। मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि जिनकी मिलीभगत से ये मकान बनते हैं, जिन अधिकारियों की "मैं हूँ ना" की प्रेरणा से ये बनते हैं, "मैं हूँ ना" के अंदाज में वे कहते हैं कि आइए, मकान बनाइए, मैं आपके interest को protect करूंगा, तो उनमें से कितने suspend किए गए और उसके बाद वापस कितने बहाल कर दिए गए? क्या आप उन मकानों को तोड़ने की कार्यवाही करेंगे या फिर वे मकान बने रहेंगे? और यदि बने रहेंगे, तो फिर उनको मूलभूत सुविधाएं क्यों नहीं मिलनी चाहिए, यह बताइए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please reply to one question.

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Basically, Sir, the unauthorised affluent colony, called the Sainik Farms, has a long history. It was started in the late sixties as a cooperative society for rehabilitation of war widows and retired Defence personnel.

With Government support, land was purchased by the society and allotted to the Defence personnel for farmhouses. Over time, the area, commonly known as Sainik Farms, has attracted many non-Defence persons also. There are many plots with large houses and villas including swimming pools and duck pools in the colony.

The situation of this colony has been further complicated by the issuance of notices for acquisition of land. Some affected parties challenged the acquisition proceedings, and, in many cases, as a result of the orders of the court, acquisition proceedings have been quashed.

Some cases are still reported to be pending. But no demolition can take place because there is the NCT of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, which is valid up to 31.12.2009 and the proposal is there to extend the same up to 31.12.2010, which is under consideration of the Government. Till this law is in operation, no demolitions can take place there.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any permission was taken for construction of these 1,650 houses in the Sainik Farms. This is first part. Secondly, out of 1,650 houses, how many houses are lying vacant? Sir, last part of my question is about the unauthorised colonies, which are going to be regularized as per the notification. By what time, these unauthorized colonies are to be regularised?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, there is no question of taking any permission for building any of these houses. This is entirely... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Without permission, how can they construct houses in Sainik Farms? *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री सभापति : सुन लीजिए।

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, this is entirely an unauthorised colony built in violation of building norms and all sorts of regulations. It is not possible for the Ministry to find out as to how many houses are occupied and how many are not occupied because the MCD officials are not allowed ingress to the houses, and, do the survey from outside, *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Sir, the answer is not satisfactory. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I would like to know... *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I need your protection. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I need your protection. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, can anybody construct houses in the Sainik Farms?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : आप भारत सरकार के मंत्री हैं, आप क्या बोल रहे हैं? *...(व्यवधान)...* आप क्या बोल रहे हैं? *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. *...(Interruptions)...* Next. *...(Interruptions)...* Dr. Heptulla, please.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी का ध्यान उसकी ओर खींचना चाहूंगी कि इन्होंने House में admit किया है कि Sainik Farms unauthorised है। अगर यमुना पुश्ता पर गरीब लोग रहते हैं, तो उन unauthorised colonies को तोड़कर आप उन लोगों को सड़क पर फेंक देते हैं, लेकिन यहां जो लोग रह रहे हैं, ये पैसे वाले लोग हैं। ये अपनी बिजली बनाते हैं, धरती में से अपने आप पानी खींचते हैं, म्युनिसिपल टैक्स नहीं देते, खुद अपनी सीवेज लाइन डालते हैं, तो क्या भारत सरकार इस तरह के independent Sainik Farms को बनाने की इजाजत देती है? क्या उनका नाम Republic of Sainik Farms कहलाएगा?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Madam, you would be happy to know that in the year 2007, Cabinet took a decision to regularise all unauthorised colonies. The process *...(Interruptions)...* Please *...(Interruptions)...* The process was started and 1639 applications were received by the Government. Out of that, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has issued provisional regularisation certificates to 1280 unauthorised colonies. Sainik Farms was kept out of the ambit of this. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You have not done your homework. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: I have done my homework. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I know that ...*(Interruptions)*... You are making a wrong statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, as the hon. Member asked, the Sainik Farms people are charged property tax by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. They are supplied electricity by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. But they are not given any water; nor are there any arrangement for sewerage, drainage or solid waste management. ...*(Interruptions)*... because they are unauthorised and these facilities are not extended there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please resume your place? ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, the question is same. You are saying that this is an unauthorised colony. It is not the question of one colony alone. The question of regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi has been there for the last so many years, और उसमें भी conflicting reports हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन unauthorised colonies को बसने का प्रमाण पत्र आपने चुनाव के पहले दिया था क्या उन सभी colonies को अधिकृत किया गया है? वह हुआ है या दूसरी कोई रिपोर्ट आयी है?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, as I stated earlier, Cabinet took a decision on 08.02.07 to regularise unauthorised colonies, both existing ...*(Interruptions)*... Just a moment. ...*(Interruptions)*... both existing on public land as well as on private land. However, it was decided that for affluent colonies like Sainik Farms, a separate policy will be evolved later on. ...*(Interruptions)*... Applications for regularisation of unauthorised colonies ...*(Interruptions)*...

ONE HON. MEMBER: What is the separate policy? ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. वी. मैत्रेयन : उसके बाद दो साल हो गए हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : अभी आपने कहा कि regularise कर दिया। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Different policies for different people are there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Applications for ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to this. Applications for regularisation of unauthorised colonies were invited by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and a total of 1639 applications were received. The GNCTD has also issued provisional regularisation certificates to 1280 unauthorised colonies, and you would be happy to know

that ...*(Interruptions)*... in these unauthorised colonies, the work of ...*(Interruptions)*... construction of roads, drainage, water supply has been taken up and during the financial year 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 885 crores has been sanctioned. ...*(Interruptions)*... During the financial year 2009-10, a provision of Rs. 786 crores has been made ...*(Interruptions)*... and Rs. 638 crores have been released. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : बजट कहां से आया? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: The progress is being monitored by the GNCTD. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question Number 205. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: They are taking the House for granted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, you have been heard across the House. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 205 please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कमाल अख्तर : महोदय ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

श्री कमाल अख्तर : मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप अभी नहीं पूछ सकते।

श्री कमाल अख्तर : सर, मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या सप्लीमेंटरी पूछने के लिए बड़ा नेता होना या आगे बैठना जरूरी है?

श्री सभापति : नहीं, बिल्कुल जरूरी नहीं है। आप बैठ जाइए। प्रश्न संख्या 205.

Assessment of urban poverty

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

(a) whether as per the estimates of the Planning Commission, urban poor for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05, based on the Uniform Recall Period method, has increased from 76 million to 91 million during this period;

(b) whether any assessment has been made by her Ministry or any other agency to find out the condition of migrants who have reached urban areas from villages;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether the India Urban Poverty Report, 2009, finds gender discrimination affecting women greatly; and

(e) the details of schemes, with physical targets and achievements during the last three years targeting women among urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) As per the estimates of the Planning Commission, based on the Uniform Recall Period method, the number of urban poor population has increased from 76.34 million to 80.80 million during the years 1993-94 and 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has brought out 'India Urban Poverty Report 2009' containing research papers/ academic papers on key facets of urban poverty such as economic development and urban poverty, gender dimensions of urban poverty, poverty and migration, unorganized sector and urban poverty, etc. The Report, based on study findings; reveals that (i) rural migrants into urban areas have lower probability of being poor than the local population and (ii) among migrants, the incidence of poverty is higher for rural-urban migrants compared to urban urban-migrants.

(d) The chapter in India Urban Poverty Report on 'Gender Dimensions of Urban Poverty' observes that women in urban areas are affected due to poverty and gender discrimination.

(e) The scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, which has been comprehensively revamped with effect from 1.4.2009, is the major scheme for addressing the issues of urban poverty with focus on women. The scheme has 5 major components:

- (1) Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)
- (2) Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP)
- (3) Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP)
- (4) Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)
- (5) Urban Community Development Network (UCDN)

Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) component under Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) targets at:

(i) Assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful self employment ventures - UWSP (Loan & Subsidy)

(ii) Revolving Funds for Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/Thrift & Credit Societies (T&CSs) formed by the urban poor women - UWSP (Revolving Fund).

Further, under the Guidelines of SJSRY, it is stipulated that the percentage of women beneficiaries under USEP and STEP-UP shall not be less than 30%.

The physical targets and achievement under SJSRY during the last three years are as follows:

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
No. of urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises	120000	136178	120000	181050	120000	184736
No. of urban poor provided skill training	150000	167364	150000	248264	150000	303418

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सभापति महोदय, urban population जो 2001 की जनगणना के अनुसार 28 प्रतिशत है, 2026 तक उसके 38 प्रतिशत होने का अनुमान है। साथ ही urban growth के 67 प्रतिशत रहने का अनुमान है। 2001 से 2026 के बीच देश की जनसंख्या बढ़कर 370 मिलियन होने का अनुमान लगाया गया है जिसमें urban population 250 मिलियन होगी। यानी 30 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी की सीमा रेखा के नीचे होंगे। महोदय, जब तक राज्य सरकार urban population को land security नहीं देगी, आप चाहे जितनी भी स्कीमें या प्रोग्राम बना लें, उनकी स्थिति सुधरने वाली नहीं है। इसलिए 11वीं योजना के working group में इस पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया था। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि 11वीं योजना के वर्किंग ग्रुप ऑन अरबन पॉवर्टी में सिक्योरिटी ऑफ लैंड टेन्योर टू पुअर की सिफारिश की है? अगर हां, तो इसके रिकमंडेशन की डिटेल्स बताएं और मंत्रालय किस रिकमंडेशन को लागू करने की दिशा में क्या कदम उठा रहा है?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, as we said in the reply, the total number of urban people suffering from poverty has increased in the period between 1993-94 and 2004-05. But this is in absolute terms. In terms of percentage, it has actually come down. In the period 1993-94, it was 32.4 per cent.. In the period 2004-05, it has come down. What I could make out from the hon. Member's question is that he wanted to know about the security of tenure to the people living below the poverty line in the urban areas. This is what has been planned under the Rajiv Awas Yojana. The scheme has already received with the clearance of the Planning Commission. It has now gone to the States and the security of land tenure for the urban poor will be finalised. The Prime Minister has already said that we have started the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission for the urban areas. We will accelerate this programme also. Today, lakhs of our citizens live in slums which lack of basic amenities. We wish to make our country slum-free as early as possible in the next five years. We will provide better housing facilities to slum dwellers through a new scheme called the Rajiv Awas Yojana.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के पार्ट-(e) का जवाब नहीं दिया है। मैंने उनसे पूछा था कि उन स्कीम्स का डिटेल्स बताएं जो फिजिकल टारगेट्स एंड अचीवमेंट्स के साथ जिनमें अरबन पुअर महिलाओं के लिए लक्ष्य रखा गया है। लेकिन मंत्री जी ने अरबन पुअर के लिए एस.जे.एस.आर.वाई. के तहत जो

फिजिकल टारगेट्स एंड अचीवमेंट्स है, वह ही बताया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि वे सदन को बताएं कि एस.जे.एस.आर.वाई. में महिलाओं के लिए 30 प्रतिशत लक्ष्य रखा गया था। क्या पिछले तीन वर्षों में ये लक्ष्य पूरे किए गए हैं? अगर हां, तो इसका पूरा डिटेल्स बताएं और महिलाओं के संदर्भ में विशेषकर बीमारु राज्यों के बारे में, बीमारु राज्य - बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में डिटेल दें?

श्री सभापति : सवाल पूछिए।

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, as we have said in our reply, under the SJSRY, there is a separate programme called the Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP). It is a women-centric programme. The Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) component targets at assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures — UWSP (loan and subsidy), and revolving funds for Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/Thrift and Credit Societies formed by the urban poor women - UWSP (Revolving Fund).

Further, under the guidelines of the SJSRY, it is stipulated that the percentage of women beneficiaries under the USEP and STEP-UP shall not be less than 30 per cent. We have been achieving this target.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, in the light of the fact that there are conflicting estimates which place the total number of urban poor to be significantly higher than the figures of the Planning Commission, and what is worse, in the Gini coefficient on urban poverty, which measures the intensity of inequality in the urban poor, there have been a significant increase in the density and the inequality of urban poverty. What measure does the Government have, if any, for a more accurate assessment of the total number of urban poor, and what are the measures to bring down the incidence of growing urban inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, as the hon. Member knows it, and as I have said it in my reply, the figures, which we gave here, are based on the Uniform Recall Period method. Now, that is a way of measuring urban poverty as it is known. There is the other Mixed Recall Period method. But the Uniform Recall Period method is a more effective process. Sir, I also mentioned that though in absolute terms, the number of urban people suffering from urban poverty has increased between 1993-94 and 2004-05, the percentage of people suffering from urban poverty has gone down from 32.4 per cent to 25.7 per cent. And I also mentioned in my answer that this Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is specifically targeted at reducing urban poverty by providing various sources of self-employment and wage employment to urban poor with a special target towards the urban poor women, and besides that, the various Ministries have other programmes. As you know, the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension, the Widow Pension and the ICDS, they all targeted the urban poor. So, there is an overall holistic approach by the Government to reduce urban poverty in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Praveen Rashtrapal.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. In fact, the Ministry itself is having a very significant nomenclature. It is housing and urban poverty alleviation. In fact, the poverty alleviation cannot be done by one Ministry; the entire Government has to work in that direction. In fact, according to the comparative figure of 1993-94 to 2004-05, we all hope that in view of the introduction of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the migration of poor people from rural areas to urban areas will decrease and hence, there will be an improvement in the near future. However, I request the hon. Minister to find out a possibility whether his own Department can provide employment to urban poor because they are doing housing activity; whether this Ministry will take up the matter with the Union Cabinet that in all the housing activities in urban areas only urban poor people should be employed. That is my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: It is a very well thought out question, Sir, and the Ministry is already aware of this. You know that there are two programmes for housing of the urban poor. One programme is the BSUP and the other is ISDP. Both these programmes are building houses for the urban poor. Now, it has already been instructed to the different State Governments that these groups of urban poor should be given priority if they want to do construction work in the houses being built for the poor people. So, what the Member is mentioning, the Ministry has already issued guidelines to that effect.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Very good. Very good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Karat.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Thank you, Sir. I welcome that part of the report which deals with a Gender Dimension of Urban Poverty because indeed, in a patriarchal society women do share disproportionate burden of poverty. However, the figures which have been provided in the Minister's reply reflect a pattern of 'exclusive growth' instead of the 'inclusive growth' which we have been promised. For example, even going by your figures, whereas urban poverty has increased so much, the number of people who have been covered, if you take one third of it, is the princely number of 60,000 women in the whole country. You have had 60,000 woman beneficiaries, and the target itself is only 1,20,000.

As far as Self-Help Woman Groups are concerned, the actual amount of revolving fund, the actual marketing and training facilities are what is crucial for the sustainability of these Woman Self-Help Groups. So, would the Minister kindly inform the House whether he will shift from 'exclusive growth' to 'inclusive growth' by increasing your targets in a much more substantive manner? And would he also kindly inform the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One question, please.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:whether he will give them that marketing outlets? For example, he has so many marketing outlets of the Central Government in different States. Will he, at least, reserve a percentage of those outlets for Urban Self-Help Groups to be able to sell their products, including railways, if I might add?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Madam, your point on gender discrimination and gender problem among the urban poor is well taken. One of the reasons for urban poverty is migration. As you know, out of our total population of 1,029 million, 307 million are migrant population. Out of that, the female migrants constitute 216.7 million. So, a large number of women are migrating and it is seen that the migration of women mainly takes place due to marriage. Sixty-four per cent of the women are moving from rural areas to the urban areas due to their marriage. We have fixed the targets under the SJSRY for 2009-10 laying particular emphasis on the problems of women. We have set the targets for 2009-2010. The number of urban poor to be assisted for individual micro enterprises is 25,000. The number of urban poor women to be assisted for group micro enterprises is 25,000. The number of urban poor women to be assisted for thrift and credit with revolving fund assistance is 50,000. The number of urban poor to be imparted skill training is two lakhs. So, we have set quite an ambitious target in the whole programme and we are providing them. You will be happy to know that our achievement, as reported on 15.11.2009, is very good with regard to women. The number of urban poor women already assisted for group micro enterprises is 10,556. The number of urban poor women assisted for thrift and credit with revolving fund assistance is 20,338. The number of urban poor imparted skill training is 76,972. So, we are making considerable progress towards empowering women in the urban areas, especially, the urban poor.

Telephone advisory committee

*206.DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines of his Ministry for the appointment of MPs on the Telephone Advisory Committee and the tenure of such Committee;

(b) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the appointment of such Committee in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether there has been a delay in the case of other States too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per extant policy, Hon'ble MPs of Lok Sabha except Ministers shall be members of any one Telephone Advisory Committee (TAG) falling within their constituency and Hon'ble MPs of Rajya Sabha except Ministers shall be members of any one TAC falling within their adopted constituency for Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) programme. Normally, the tenure of TACs is two years.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. All 359 Telecom District Level TACs including 20 TACs of Tamil Nadu have already been constituted [tenure of 348 TACs are upto 30.09.2011 and of 11 TACs are upto 30.06.2010].

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister comes under the category of either avoiding or evading, if not amounting to misleading. The brief answer given by the hon. Minister looks as if everything is all right. But in reality it is not so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question. Don't make comments.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am coming to the point. My first supplementary is this. As per the answer, the MPs are entitled to be a Member of the Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) for a period of two years. While it is so, my specific question is this. Once the tenure is over it will be automatically renewed if the membership is continuing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a break period between the last tenure and renewal. I mean whether there is a long break. I would like to know whether there is a break period between the constitution of the first Committee and the second Committee. The Minister can answer straightaway.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Telephone Advisory Committees are constituted to get a constant feed-back for the services that the BSNL and the MTNL provide in this country. In order to give a representative character to the TACs, the hon. Members of Parliament have sought to give their nominees. Five such nominees are inducted in the TACs. All Members of Parliament, except the Ministers, are Members of the TACs. As of date, we have 359 TACs, including 20 TACs of Tamil Nadu. They have already been constituted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Is there any break? He has not answered that question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, a break will be there because when the tenure of a Member of Parliament is going to end definitely another Member has to come, whether it is the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: What happens if the Member is continuing? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. RAJA: Even if he is continuing, the tenure of the TAC is of two years. Having completed two years, the MP, whether he is existing MP or the new, has to suggest new names or say that he wants to stick to the old names.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: He is asking about the MP himself.

SHRI A. RAJA: The MP is automatically a Member. The problem is. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am sorry, Sir. There was a break, an inordinate break.

SHRI A. RAJA: It is only when the Committee is constituted that members can be nominated. There cannot be meetings of the Committee unless it is constituted. So, we wanted to constitute the Committee, after which, automatically, by virtue of his/her official capacity, the Members would be appointed in the new TAC.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, my second supplementary is very specific. A Member of Parliament, apart from his/her own membership, can nominate five persons to be appointed in the Committee. As far as I am concerned, I received a communication from the Ministry that I could suggest certain names. I, then, wrote to the Ministry suggesting names of some people. But there was no response from them. Then, I wrote a D.O. letter, specifically, to the hon. Minister. After having waited for months, after having seen that there was no response, I reported the matter to the hon. Prime Minister, stating that my letter had not been responded to and that he should kindly look into the matter...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to reply to my letter. He seems to have instructed...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: After the communication from the Prime Minister, I came to know a week back that a committee has been constituted. I have got all the records...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that you have got all the records. Please put your supplementary.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: It only shows how they were silent for months, and it is only after I wrote to the Prime Minister and he intervened...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a supplementary...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, this is a matter of fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to put a specific supplementary.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, my supplementary is that there has been an inordinate delay on the part of the Department and the hon. Minister, and the Minister responded only after the intervention of the Prime Minister. I would like to know whether there was an undue delay, an inordinate delay.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I have the courage to tell the House that there was an inordinate delay in constituting the TAC. What is the reason behind it? I am having high regards for the hon. Prime Minister and Parliament. But that does not mean that each and every activity is intervened by the higher-ups. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: What was the difficulty?

SHRI A. RAJA: I will come to that. Sir, the discretionary power, which has been sanctioned to the Cabinet Minister in this Department, whether in the 90s or in 2002, has been enjoyed by all the Ministers. Now, when the trade unions put forth their view that since the TAC had not served its purpose, and it was wastage of the BSNL money, the Committee should not be constituted. So, there was this divergent view amongst the trade unions. So, when I assumed charge, there was a second thought as to whether the TAC was necessary or not. Still, that question is there. In spite of that, I decided to continue with TAC. My point of view was that. It is an existing policy, and the service of the BSNL and MTNL should not be equated with other private operators. Since we have our own social obligations, this has to be reflected and represented by people having the same social attitude and social mentality. We also have the responsibility to see how the services can be extended to people who are at the lowest strata of the society. So, there was a delay. Now the delay was not on the part of the Minister. The delay was because of the confusion that whether TAC should be constituted. Thereafter, we resolved the problem. But this is not a question of inordinate delay, resulting in financial loss to the Government, or, to the BSNL.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Viplove Thakur. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... इन्होंने बहुत explain करके कहा है, यूनियन का बोला है कि डिले इसलिए हुई है। जब एक बार decision हो गया है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shanappa, your name has not been called.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : कमेटी बननी है और इन्होंने कहा है कि कमेटी भंग की जाती है। जब एम.पी. का time पांच साल का है या राज्य सभा का छह साल का है, आप कमेटी के जो पांच मैम्बर्स ले रहे हैं, उनके लिए तो ठीक है कि आप नाम मांगिए, लेकिन एम.पी. को continue रखिए, क्योंकि उसका टाइम है। मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री प्रश्न यह है कि पहले State Telephone Advisory Committee हुआ करती थी, क्या आप उसको दुबारा शुरू करने की सोच रहे हैं? क्या यह district में है कि केवल constituency तक है? क्योंकि पूरे राज्य की जो प्रॉब्लम्स होती हैं, वे सॉल्व नहीं होती हैं, इसलिए क्या आप उसको दुबारा से रिवाइव करने की सोचेंगे?

श्री सचिन पायलट : चेयरमैन सर, हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि TACs किस उद्देश्य को लेकर गठित की गई थीं। इसका उद्देश्य यह था कि उपभोक्ताओं की मुश्किलात को विभाग के सामने पेश करने के लिए एक प्लेटफार्म चाहिए था। चूंकि माननीय सदस्य इस कमेटी के मैम्बर होते हैं, by virtue of being a Member of Parliament, वे TAC के मैम्बर automatically बन जाते हैं, लेकिन ये TACs इसलिए गठित की गई थीं कि पूरे देश भर में BSNL और MTNL की जो services हैं, उनको बेहतर बनाने के लिए एक interface हो और जो सारी मुश्किलें आती हैं, वे कंपनी और मंत्रालय तक पहुंचें और मंत्रालय भी अपनी बात उपभोक्ताओं तक पहुंचा सके। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य महोदया से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो TAC बनी हैं, प्रदेश में स्थानीय स्तर पर जो दिक्कतें आती हैं, उनका इजहार करने के लिए बनाई गई हैं। यह सदन है। अगर इनको BSNL और MTNL के बारे में कोई विशेष दिक्कत है, तो वे हमें आकर बताएं, हम उन पर निश्चित रूप से काम करेंगे।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, मैं बिल्कुल जाती तजुर्बे की बुनियाद पर मंत्री महोदय को यह बताना चाहता हूं कि इनका एक पत्र आता है कि आप TAC के मैम्बर्स के लिए पांच नाम भेजें। हमने पांच नाम भेज दिए। उसके एक महीने के बाद फिर पत्र आता है कि आप मैम्बर्स का नाम भेज दें। इस पर हमने कहा कि हमने तो नाम भेज दिया।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूं। हमने फिर इनको लिख कर दिया। छः महीने हो गए, लेकिन उसका जवाब नहीं आया। कुछ पुराने मैम्बर्स को continue किया गया, कुछ नए लोगों को जोड़ा गया और सबका टेलीफोन discontinue हो गया। TAC के मैम्बर्स के लिए आपने हर मैम्बर को पांच नाम भेजने के लिए कहा है और आपने छः महीने तक वह service provide नहीं कराई, इसकी भरपाई कौन करेगा? आप सवाल का जवाब नहीं देते हैं।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए न।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : छः-छः महीने तक आप सवाल का जवाब नहीं देते हैं। हर मैम्बर पांच लोगों को TAC के लिए nominate करते हैं, लेकिन छः महीने तक तो वे मैम्बर्स नहीं रहे, तो इसकी भरपाई कौन करेगा?

श्री सचिन पायलट : चेयरमैन सर, जहां तक TACs के formation की बात है, कहीं पर यह प्रावधान नहीं है कि माननीय सदस्यों के द्वारा जो चिन्हित नाम हैं, उनको लेना है। लेकिन चूंकि ये जनप्रतिनिधि हैं, मंत्रालय ने इनकी भावनाओं का आदर करते हुए इनसे नाम लिया है और हमारी कोशिश रहती है कि उसमें समाज के हर वर्ग का प्रतिनिधित्व हो। जैसा आपको इससे पहले उत्तर में बताया गया कि यह विवाद हुआ था कि TAC बनाने का आज कोई लाभ है या नहीं, इस पर चर्चा हुई थी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : नाम आपके मांगने पर भेजा गया था, हमने खुद-ब-खुद नहीं भेजा था।

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज़। आप वक्त मत जाया कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सचिन पायलट : सांसदों ने हमें जिन पांच नामों का निवेदन किया है, उनको TAC में मैम्बर बनाने पर विचार किया जाएगा। यह एक continuous process है। अलग-अलग राज्यों की अलग-अलग समय पर कमेटी बनती रहती है।

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Mumbai and the last Telephone Advisory Committee was constituted in 2006. Its term ended in 2008 automatically. During this two years' term, there was only one meeting of the TAC, which was organised by the General Manager. My suggestion to the hon. Minister is that there should be some regulation, some directive from the Ministry that in every three months there should be a meeting of the TAC; otherwise, why do you make us the members of the TAC?

Sir, another thing I would like to suggest - I have also written to the hon. Minister - that there should be, at least, one common room for all TAC Members in all telephone exchanges so that they can come and listen to the grievances of the people and do their job more effectively. So, I request that these two suggestions should be accepted.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Sir, I think, it is a suggestion, and we will examine the suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Question No. 207.

Hostage issue with Singapore

*207. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken up the hostage issue with Government of Singapore recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken with the Government of Singapore on the issue of safety particularly of the women and the children among the Indians living there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Singapore registered vessel 'Kota Wajar' was hijacked by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden on 15 October 2009. Two Indians are on board the ship. The issue of their safe and early release was immediately taken up by our High Commission in Singapore with the Government of Singapore and ship owning company. The Government of Singapore has informed that negotiations are still going on between the owner of the vessel and the hijackers. All crew members are reported to be safe. The Government of Singapore has assured us that they are continuing to monitor this incident closely and are working with the owner of the vessel to ensure the safe release of the crew members.

(c) There is a large community of persons of Indian origin, (predominantly Tamils) in Singapore who are well integrated into the local system. As citizens of Singapore, their rights are derived from the Singaporean constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Prior approval to initiate case against senior officials

† *202. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that now prior approval is not required to initiate a case against officials on higher posts in administration;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the number of cases under consideration upto October, 2009 which are to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Prior approval under Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 is required to conduct inquiry or investigation against officers of Joint Secretary and above in the Central Government. However, such approval is not necessary in cases involving arrest of a person on the spot on the charge of accepting illegal gratification. Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 197(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, provide for previous sanction for prosecution of public servant.

(c) As per information received from the CBI, the number of cases seeking prior approval to conduct inquiry or investigation against senior officials on higher posts under consideration upto October, 2009 is 9. A total of 162 cases are pending for prosecution sanction as on 31.10.2009; 142 with Central Government and 23 with State Governments. In 3 cases prosecution sanction is required from both the Central and State Governments. Of these 162 cases, 90 cases are pending for less than three months.

Moon mission

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after the spacecraft Chandrayaan's discovery of water in some form on the surface of moon, NASA's Mission Attack Moon's spacecraft LCROSS was allowed to be crashed into the Moon on 9th October, 2009 and the dust and other particles unleashed by the collision were collected by LCROSS, in an analyzer after four minutes;

(b) if so, the results of the analysis and whether moon could be considered to be habitable in the light of the Chandrayaan-I/ LCROSS Missions; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether India would play a role in the determination of property rights on the Moon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) In recent past, the different countries namely Japan, China, India, and USA had planned their own lunar missions independently. The USA's combined lunar mission, comprising of Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) and Lunar CRater and Observation Sensing Satellite - LCROSS- was originally planned to orbit as well as impact/crash on the lunar surface. The analysis of the data collected from this mission has also confirmed the presence of water on the moon.

(b) Based on the analysis of the results of the Chandrayaan-I and LCROSS, at this point of time, it would not be possible to consider the moon to be habitable.

(c) With the current global understanding and as per the UN Treaties on Outer Space Activities, the outer space, moon and other celestial bodies are common to the entire humankind for exploration. Accordingly, at this point of time, the determination of the property rights on the moon does not arise.

Separate visa for J&K people

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of issuing visa on a separate sheet to Kashmiris, treating Kashmir as a separate country, by China has been continuing for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time when this fact came to the notice of Government and steps taken by the Government to counter it; and

(c) the reasons for the failure of his Ministry and Immigration officials in stopping thousands of Kashmiris from going to China and whether it is not indicative of gross negligence on the part of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government is aware that since 2008 China is issuing visas on a separate paper that is stapled to the passports of Indian nationals from the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Government has taken necessary action, including issuing an advisory stating that such visas are not considered valid for travel out of the country. Government's position that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds of domicile and ethnicity has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese Government.

National Frequency Management Board

*210. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended for the establishment of a National Frequency Management Board to prepare a comprehensive spectrum policy for the future;

(b) if so, the action being proposed by Government on the recommendations of TRAI; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been set for constitution of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. TRAI in its recommendations on [Allocation of Pricing of Spectrum for 3G and Broadband Wireless Access Services] dated 27 September, 2006 recommended constitution of National Frequency Management Board (NFMB) in order to prepare a long-term vision and planning for spectrum availability including additional spectrum, its efficient usage, planning for future requirement and effective monitoring.

However, based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted in this Ministry on 18 September, 2006, the Telecom Commission had already approved the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Radio Spectrum Engineering and Management (CERSEM) for formulation of spectrum management policy, evolving national spectrum plan keeping in view the future technologies and spectrum requirement of stakeholders and formulation of recommendations on efficient utilization of spectrum.

Passport offices in Maharashtra

†*211. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals to open new passport offices/passport service centres in Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of the places identified for this purpose; and

(c) the criteria for identifying places to set up new passport offices/passport service centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of P.S.K. is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Government had entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government (NISG), Hyderabad with the task of undertaking a time-bound study on the passport issuance system, including its IT aspects with the objective to deliver passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment, through streamlined procedures and committed, trained and motivated workforce. The Government accepted the NISG report and the Cabinet approval for the Passport Seva Project was obtained in September, 2007. The NISG also recommended the location of the Passport Seva Kendras on the basis of a study conducted by them on the number of passport applications received from various districts under each Passport Office.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement

Details of Passport Seva Kendra (PSK)

Distribution of proposed PSKs

Passport Office	PSKs at existing Passport Office locations	Proposed PSKs at new locations	Total No. of PSKs
1	2	3	4
PSKs to be Newly Setup			
Delhi	Delhi 1, Delhi 2	Gurgaon	3
Mumbai	Mumbai 1, Mumbai 2, Mumbai 3	None	3
Hyderabad	Hyd 1, Hyd 2, Hyd 3	Vijayawada, Nizambad, Tirupathi	6
Chennai	Chennai 1, Chennai 2, Chennai 3	None	3
Bangalore	B'lore 1, B'lore 2	Hubli-Dharwad, Mangalore	4
Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad 1, Ahmedabad 2	Baroda, Rajkot	4
Cochin	Cochin	Thrissur, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Rural, Kottayam	5
Jalandhar	Jalandhar 1, Jalandhar 2	Hoshiarpur	3
Trivandrum	Trivandrum	Kollam, Trivandrum rural	3
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	Ludhiana, Ambala	3
Trichy	Trichy 1, Trichy 2	Thanjavur	3
Kolkata	Kolkata	Bahrapur	2
Lucknow	Lucknow	Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur	4
Jaipur	Jaipur	Jodhpur, Sikar	3
Kozhikode	Kozhikode 1, Kozhikode 2	Kannur 1, Kannur 2	4
Thane	Thane	Nasik	2
Pune	Pune	None	1
Patna	Patna	None	1
Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	None	1
Surat	Surat	None	1

1	2	3	4
Bhopal	Bhopal	None	1
Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	None	1
Bareilly	Bareilly	None	1
Malappuram	Malappuram	None	1
Nagpur	Nagpur	None	1
Amritsar	Amritsar	None	1
Guwahati	Guwahati	None	1
Madurai	Madurai	Tirunelveli City	2
TOTAL			68

PSKs co-located with Passport Offices

Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	None	1
Ranchi	Ranchi	None	1
Coimbatore	Coimbatore	None	1
Panaji	Panaji	None	1
Jammu	Jammu	None	1
Srinagar	Srinagar	None	1
Shimla	Shimla	None	1
Raipur	Raipur	None	1
Dehradun	Dehradun	None	1
TOTAL			9
TOTAL OFFICES			77

Revision of licence fee

*212. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to revise the licence fee to 8.5 per cent of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of Telecom operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that TRAI has not been consulted although such activity require TRAI's recommendation as envisaged under the TRAI Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the proposal would have negatively impacted mobile operators in B and C categories who pay 8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively as licence fee of AGR; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) Sir, in the interest of simplicity, transparency, ending arbitrage in the rates of licence fee without affecting the total licence fee contribution to the Government Exchequer and ensuring a level playing field between different services, Government is envisaging a uniform licence fee rate for various telecom service providers. Accordingly, a committee was constituted in Department of Telecom (DoT) in May 2009. The Committee has since submitted its report on 31.08.2009, recommending a uniform licence fee 8.5% of AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) for various telecom service providers. On 02.12.2009, Government has sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the matter enclosing therewith a copy of the report dated 31.08.2009 of the Committee. A decision will be taken by the Government keeping all aspects in mind including the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Being a policy matter, no time-frame can be fixed for arriving at the decision.

Financial support to museums in States

†*213. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial support provided to State Governments, particularly Uttar Pradesh, for preservation of protected monuments and construction of new museums during the last three years, monument wise, museum-wise and plan-wise;

(b) whether the entire allocated amount was utilized for these activities during the said period; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The entire expenditure on conservation, protection and maintenance of centrally protected monuments, and establishment and running of its site-museums is incurred by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) through its own budgetary allocations. Circle-wise details of expenditure incurred by ASI on conservation works and year-wise details on museums for last 3 years is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Under the scheme "Financial Assistance for Setting up, Promotion and Upgradation of Regional and Local Museums", several State Governments have submitted proposals in respect of both new and existing museums. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted any proposal. Details of proposals submitted by State Governments in respect of new museums during the last 3 years are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Presently, there is no scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments for preservation of monuments protected by them.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement-I

*Year-wise and Circle-wise expenditure for conservation/ preservation
and environmental development of centrally protected monuments
during the last three years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Circle/Branch	Expenditure 2006-07	Expenditure 2007-08	Expenditure 2008-09
1.	Agra Circle	677.00	633.00	774.00
2.	Lucknow Circle	559.97	775.00	1201.39
3.	Aurangabad Circle	375.00	738.95	285.00
4.	Mumbai	380.00	415.00	465.15
5.	Bangalore Circle	839.18	1035.22	1088.94
6.	Dharwad Circle	640.52	593.00	423.64
7.	Bhopal Circle	839.18	906.69	997.96
8.	Bhubaneswar Circle	298.98	278.29	234.16
9.	Kolkata Circle	288.68	338.13	419.34
10.	Chennai Circle	456.40	531.00	505.00
11.	Chandigarh Circle	434.00	494.82	512.48
12.	Shimla Circle	117.50	125.00	118.00
13.	Delhi Circle	836.57	786.36	728.64
14.	Goa Circle	81.95	92.20	118.00
15.	Guwahati Circle	112.17	103.52	175.25
16.	Jaipur Circle	302.00	285.00	280.00
17.	Hyderabad Circle	661.47	743.23	865.00
18.	Patna Circle	155.00	427.97	377.72
19.	Srinagar Circle	268.70	300.00	405.30
20.	Thrissur Circle	208.99	261.75	286.17
21.	Vadodara Circle	300.06	339.98	405.62
22.	Dehradun Circle	180.00	177.50	169.40
23.	Raipur Circle	242.00	235.00	
24.	Ranchi Circle			78.45
25.	Science Branch	543.95	609.90	555.36
26.	Horticulture Branch	1108.81	1584.76	1743.63
TOTAL :		10816.89	12886.19	13498.60

Details of expenditure under the Museum Sub-Head during the last three years

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Plan Expenditure	Non Plan Expenditure
2006-07	184.93	266.69
2007-08	270.21	282.31
2008-09	449.46	283.12

Statement-II

*Details of proposal received for establishment of new museums
run by State Government*

2007-08

State	Name and Address of Museum/State	Remarks
	Nil	No proposal was received during this period, as establishment of new museums was not covered under the scheme during that period.

2008-2009

Sl. No.	State	Name and Address of Museum/State	Remarks
1.	Rajasthan	Government Museum, Baran Rajasthan	Rs.30,00,000/- sanctioned for DPR.
2.	Rajasthan	Town Hall Museum, Jaipur Rajasthan	Government of Rajasthan is to make a presentation.

2009-2010

1.	Rajasthan	Director, Government Museum, Tonk, Rajasthan	The proposal is incomplete and the museum has been requested to furnish the documents.
2.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan State Archival Museum, Bikaner, Govt. Press Road, Bikaner-Rajasthan	The proposal is incomplete and the museum has been requested to furnish the requisite documents.
3.	Rajasthan	Manuscript museum (Rajasthan oriental research institute) PWD Road, Jodhpur-342001	The proposal is incomplete and the museum has been requested to furnish the requisite documents.

GDP in Social Sector

*214. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the net expenditure, as percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in social sector is still low in comparison to some of the developed economies;

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

(c) whether Government's expenditure on social services and rural development has been increased over the years but it has hardly any impact on the overall poverty reduction and improvement in the social security net;

(d) if so, whether despite improvement in Central allocations, there are still leakages in the system which are preventing the benefits from reaching the intended target groups; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) As per Human Development Report 2007-08 released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the government expenditure on health and education which constitute the major components of social welfare for India are estimated at 0.9% and 3.8% of GDP respectively. However, if the private expenditure on health is taken into account, the share of total expenditure on health will work out to be 4.25% of GDP in 2004-05. Similarly, inclusion of investment in education by private sector will increase the percentage share of education in GDP. The comparable numbers for some of the developed and developing countries are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) to (e) The government expenditure, for Centre and States combined, on social and community services as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to have increased from 5.2% in 2002-03 to 6.5% in 2008-09. The government expenditure on rural development during this period has increased from 0.9% of GDP to 1% of GDP. The budget allocation for social and community services and rural development for 2008-09 of Eleventh Five Year Plan was 6.5 % and 1% of GDP respectively. The details of expenditure on social and community services and rural development and their share in GDP are given in Statement-II (See below).

There has been a decline in the total number of persons living below poverty line during the period 1993-94 to 2004-05 and the poverty ratio which was 36 per cent in 1993-94 has come down to 27.5 per cent in 2004-05. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points. To achieve the objective of inclusive growth and to alleviate poverty in the country the Government has taken initiatives through direct interventions by implementing programmes such as: National Rural Employment Guarantee

Scheme (NREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and the Total Sanitation Campaign etc. The Government has taken various measures to ensure that the actual benefits of various programmes reach the intended target groups. These include intensive monitoring at various levels, participation of public, bringing transparency and use of modern technology.

Statement-I

Public Expenditure on Health and Education in selected countries (As % of GDP)

Countries	Expenditure on health (% of GDP)	Expenditure on education (% of GDP)
	2004	2002-05
US	6.9	5.9
UK	7.0	5.4
Germany	8.2	4.6
France	8.2	5.9
South Africa	3.5	5.4
India	0.9	3.8
Pakistan	0.4	2.3
China	1.8	1.9
Phillipines	1.4	2.7
Indonesia	1.0	0.9

Source: Human Development Report 2007-08, UNDP.

Statement-II

*Details of expenditure on social and community services and
Rural Development and their share in GDP*

Year	Actual values (Rs. Crores)				Share in GDP (%)		
	Social and community services	Social security and welfare	Rural development	GDP at current prices	Social and community services	Social security and welfare	Rural development
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2002-03	127531	6563.63	23111.6	2454561	5.2%	0.3%	0.9%
2003-04	141630	8561.95	26339.3	2754620	5.1%	0.3%	1.0%
2004-05	162064	10352.5	26522.8	3149407	5.1%	0.3%	0.8%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2005-06	189298	15108.7	36767.8	3586743	5.3%	0.4%	1.0%
2006-07	227952	18225.7	41990	4129174	5.5%	0.4%	1.0%
2007-08 RE	287826	26612.5	46341.2	4723400	6.1%	0.6%	1.0%
2008-09 BE	344184	33840.5	53437.3	5321753	6.5%	0.6%	1.0%

Source: Indian Public Finance Statistics 2008-09.

Appointment of disabled persons as chairpersons

*215. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal/suggestions have been received to the effect that only disabled persons be appointed as chairperson or on the positions of importance in Commission for the disabled and various Government institutions for the welfare of the disabled;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any plan for this important matter; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No Commission for Persons with Disabilities exists at present. A suggestion has been received *inter alia* for setting up of a National Commission for Welfare of Physically Challenged and appointment of an active renowned physically challenged person as Chairman of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDG).

(b) and (c) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, already envisages appointment of a Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities to *inter alia* safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities. Act also lays down eligibility criteria for appointment to this office.

Appointments to posts are made keeping in view the prescribed eligibility criteria and in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Nuclear reactors from USA

*216. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to purchase Nuclear Reactor from USA during the coming years; and

(b) if so, the numbers of reactors that have been imported and the likely cost of the reactors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Setting up of Light Water Reactors based on co operation with US is planned.

(b) A pair of reactors is planned in the first instance. This will be followed up with additional reactors at the same site after the work on first two reactors tapers off. No reactors have been imported as yet and details including costs, are yet to be worked out.

Representation for flood moderation and river training

*217. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Assam has made any representation for flood moderation and river training in Brahmaputra and Barak valleys;

(b) if so, the details of outlays, allocation and achievements made so far; and

(c) the future plan of Government to combat erosion and flood level in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Assam has submitted the schemes for Flood Moderation and river training works in Brahmaputra and Barak valleys for inclusion under the Flood Management Programme (FMP) under which Central Assistance is provided as grant to the State Governments during Eleventh Plan for undertaking Flood Management Works. 82 numbers of eligible schemes of Assam with a total estimated cost of Rs. 708.59 crore have been included under the programme. Till November, 2009, an amount of Rs. 223.829 crore has been released to State Government of Assam under FMP towards approved schemes. As informed by State Government of Assam, above mentioned 82 schemes are under progress and are targeted to benefit an area of 557 thousand Hectare.

(c) Brahmaputra Board has been constituted under an Act of Parliament in January, 1982 under Ministry of Water Resources for planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra Valley and for matters connected therewith. With a view to chalk out the future plan to tackle the problem of floods and erosion in Assam, Brahmaputra Board has prepared a Concept Note on future course of action for Bank Stabilization of river Brahmaputra in consultation with expert organizations/institutions including IIT Roorkee and IIT Guwahati. The modalities are being worked out for carrying out mathematical model studies in collaboration with IIT Guwahati.

Telecom spectrum licence scam

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked the CBI to probe the alleged scam in allotment of second generation telecom spectrum licences made by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in January, 2008; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Sir, as per information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), they have entrusted the case regarding allotment of second generation telecom spectrum licences to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 12.10.2009.

CVC has conveyed that the Preliminary investigation by it has shown following irregularities:

(i) Entry fee for Unified Access Services License (UASL) issued to new entrants during 2007 was the same as decided during the year 2001 on the basis of a bidding process.

(ii) There is no mention of 'First-Come-First-Served' (FCFS) Policy in the guidelines issued by Department of Telecommunications for issuance of UASL and website of the Department also does not contain any information about this policy.

(iii) FCFS Policy has not been followed by the Department.

(iv) There was no-lock-in period for the licensees for off-loading of their stakes, which enabled the licensees to offload their stakes at an early stage.

Reactions of Government on Preliminary investigation by CVC are as follows:

(i) Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the decision of then Government, the Unified Access Services (UAS) licences are being granted continuously on First-Come-First-Served (FCFS) basis since introduction of UAS licensing regime in November 2003 at the entry fee for the 4th Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) licence(s) awarded in 2001 & in service areas where there were no 4th operator, the entry fee of existing Basic Service Operator (BSO) fixed by the Government in 2001 based on TRAI's recommendation. Based on this policy, 51 new UAS licenses/Lol(Letter of Intent) had been issued till March 2007.

TRAI in its recommendations dated 28.08.2007 has not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence. Accordingly, Government continued with the existing entry fee structure for UAS licences and 122 new UAS licences were issued in 2008. The fact that TRAI had not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence, is also evident from TRAI's letter dated 26th May 2008 to Department of Telecom (DOT) conveying that keeping in view the objective of growth, affordability, penetration of wireless services in semi-urban and rural areas and principle of level playing field and opportunity for equal competition between the incumbents and new entrants, the TRAI recommended the same entry fee as was taken from the fourth cellular operator for grant of CMTS license in the year 2001.

(ii) In consonance with New Telecom Policy (NTP) 1999 & TRAI recommendations, the Guidelines for Unified Access Services (UAS) licences issued on 14.12.2005 are the extant guidelines for grant of new UAS licence. All UAS licences issued in year 2008 are governed by these detailed guidelines. These guidelines, *inter-alia* stipulate that "Licences shall be issued without any restriction on the number of entrants for provision of Unified Access Services in a Service Area." When entry conditions are fixed and licensing is being done without any restriction of number of licences, there can not be any other transparent method other than the method of First-Come-First-Served basis. The Parliament was also informed of this policy from time to time in reply to questions raised therein.

(iii) DOT (Department of Telecom) has been implementing a policy of First-Come-First Served for grant of UAS licences under which initially an application which is received first will be processed first and thereafter if found eligible will be granted LOI and then whosoever complies with the conditions of LOI first will be granted UAS licence. This stand of DoT regarding the award of UAS Licenses on first come first served basis was clarified by Press release dated 10.01.2008 and accordingly, the UAS licences were granted in year 2008.

(iv) As per the UAS licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005 and the provisions of the UAS licence agreement, there were no lock-in-period/restriction on sale of equity/ issuance of additional equity shares by the licensee company. Such transactions including the ceiling limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) were subject to extant guidelines of the Government/Statutory Bodies.

There were news articles regarding sale of equity by two new telecom licensee companies. However, these companies informed DOT that their shareholder/promoters have not sold the equity and the investments have been brought in by their foreign partners by subscribing to additional equity which would be used for rolling out the services.

Government, in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), decided that there shall be a Lock-in-period for sale of equity of a person whose share capital is 10% or more in the UAS licensee company on the effective date of the UAS licence till completion of three years from the effective date of the licence or till fulfillment of all the rollout obligations, whichever is earlier, subject to certain other conditions. In this regard, necessary amendment of the UAS licence agreement(s) has been issued on 23.07.2009.

The above issues alongwith certain other issues are presently before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in writ petition No. 7815/2008 in the matter of Dr. Arvind Gupta Vs UOI & others and the matter is sub-judice.

Financial assistance for RTI

*219. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any communication from the State Governments seeking financial assistance for implementing the Right to Information Act; and

(b) the details in this regard and along with the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to provide States with the financial assistance required to implement the RTI Act during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) State Governments like the Government of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Uttarakhand had sought Central assistance for implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The Parliament has, by law, cast an obligation on the State Governments to implement the Act. The State Governments are required to meet the statutory obligation out of their own funds. However, the Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds are provided, *inter-alia*, for strengthening the State Information Commission (SIC) and for capacity building on RTI through the State level Administrative Training Institute (ATI). In this regard, a sum of Rs.4.90 crore has been released to the State Information Commissions during 2008-09 and 2009-10 under the scheme and a sum of Rs.3.27 crore to the Administrative Training Institutes during these periods.

Problems of PIOs

†*220. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any mechanism to hear and understand the problems being faced by the persons of Indian origin in various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry holds annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions, thus creating a platform for Overseas Indians including PIOs to voice their concerns and expectations from the Government of India. Seven such Conventions have been held so far since 2003.

In addition to this flagship annual event of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, an effort is made to reach out to sections of the vast overseas Indian community, who are unable to participate in the annual Conventions held in India, by holding mini versions of the PBD Conventions at places abroad on a regional basis by rotation. Three such regional mini PBDs have been held at New York (2007), Singapore (2008) and the Hague (2009).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

As a result of wider consultations held at these Conventions, decisions were taken by the government on the establishment of Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, conceptualisation of PIO University, formation of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin, setting up of the India Development Foundation and launching of The Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK).

For the Indian workers in the Gulf countries, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect their interests and welfare. MoUs have been signed with UAE in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009 and with Bahrain in June, 2009. The MoUs contain broad principles for enhancing employment opportunities and for ensuring that the recruitment and terms of employment are in conformity with the laws of both the Countries, measures to be taken by the host Country for protection and welfare of the workers and constitution of a Joint Working Group for effective implementation of the MoUs.

All these mechanisms facilitate better understanding of the problems and concerns of people of Indian origin in various countries.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Atomic power plants

†1522. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of atomic power plants functioning in country at present and power generation capacity of each of them;
- (b) the number of new atomic reactors under construction/proposed to be constructed;
- (c) whether it is a fact that old atomic reactors are not able to generate power to their capacity owing to the paucity of Uranium;
- (d) whether Uranium has been arranged for the new atomic reactors under construction; and
- (e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) There are seventeen reactors in operation in the country. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Six nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 3160 MW are under construction. The Government has accorded financial sanction for start of work on four more reactors with total capacity of 2800 MW in October 2009. The work on these reactors has begun. More reactors are also planned.

(c) Three reactors (TAPS-1&2 & RAPS-2) use imported uranium and function at full capacity. Other reactors use indigenous uranium and operate at lower capacity due to shortage of uranium. All efforts are being made to provide adequate uranium by augmentation of indigenous supplies and opening of new mines/processing units.

(d) Uranium has been arranged for four reactors under construction. Uranium will be provided for fifth reactor in the year 2010. The sixth reactor is a fast breeder reactor and will use mixed oxide fuel. This will be made available in time for completion of the reactor.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of reactors in operation in the country

Unit & Location	Reactor Type	Capacity (MWe)
TAPS-1 Tarapur, Maharashtra	BWR	160
TAPS-2 Tarapur, Maharashtra	BWR	160
TAPS-3 Tarapur, Maharashtra	PHWR	540
TAPS-4 Tarapur, Maharashtra	PHWR	540
RAPS-1 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	100
RAPS-2 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	200
RAPS-3 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	220
RAPS-4 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	220
MAPS-1 Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu	PHWR	220
MAPS-2 Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu	PHWR	220
NAPS-1 Narora, Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220
NAPS-2 Narora, Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220
KAPS-1 Kakrapar, Gujarat	PHWR	220
KAPS-2 Kakrapar, Gujarat	PHWR	220
KAIGA-1 Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220
KAIGA-2, Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220
KAIGA -3 Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220
TOTAL		4120

BWR: Boiling Water Reactor

PHWR: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor

*Owned by DAE and operated by NPCIL

Amendment in Atomic Energy Act

1523. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDMURI HARIKRISHAN:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for delay in amending the Atomic Energy Act to allow private sector participation in the production of nuclear energy;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to rope in PSU's as junior partners to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and wants to produce nuclear energy by PSU's alone;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the NPCIL has got resources to achieve the 20,000 MW nuclear power targeted by 2020; and
- (e) if not, the plans to pool the resources, apart from PSU's?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Amendments to Atomic Energy Act has to be done in a careful manner after a detailed examination of all issues, including nuclear safety, physical security and international commitments.

(b) to (e) Under Atomic Energy Act, 1961 Government companies set up for production of nuclear energy in the country have the responsibility for implementing India's nuclear power programme and they are in a position to achieve this objective. NPCIL can enter into Joint Ventures with Indian companies as minority partners.

Success of Pokhran test

1524. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Senior Scientist involved in nuclear device tests in Pokhran has stated that the success of the tests was exaggerated and explosion of hydrogen bomb lacked precision and proficiency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) in what way deficiencies in nuclear devices are proposed to be removed when our country has committed not to carry further nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recent past certain scientists in the country did raise some doubt about the success of the thermo-nuclear test carried out by India in 1998. However, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) after examining the issue in detail has released a statement confirming achievement of 50 ± 10 KT yield in the thermo-nuclear Pokhran-II test carried out in 1998.

(c) The question does not arise in the case of the India's thermo-nuclear test.

Disclosure about nuclear test

1525. SHRI NARESH GUJJAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) Government's position on the disclosure under performance of thermonuclear tests in 1998 aired publicly by certain well known Indian Scientists;
- (b) whether it would not damage our National Security; and
- (c) if so, the action Government intends to take against those who have caused grave damage to our National interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) There were reports in the press expressing doubt raised by certain scientists regarding the under performance of the thermo-nuclear test conducted by India in 1998. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) after examining the issue in detail has released a statement confirming achievement of 50 ± 10 KT yield.

- (a) No, Sir. There is no doubt about full success of nuclear tests carried out in May, 1998.
- (c) In view of the answer to (b) above, this does not arise.

Installation of nuclear plants

†1526. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of atomic power plants and names of the places where they have been decided to be set up in the year 2009-10;
- (b) the criteria for choosing the places;
- (c) the names of the places, company with its country alongwith capacity and kind of reactor to be installed;
- (d) their selection authority and criterion for selection;
- (e) whether antecedents of these companies have been established;
- (f) whether it is a fact that a French company has been awarded contract despite their blemished track record; and
- (g) by when these reactors would start generating power by turning critical?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The Government has accorded sanction for the construction of four reactors -KAPP-3&4 (2 x 700 MWe) at Kakrapar, Gujarat and RAPP- 7&8 (2x700 MWe) at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan in October, 2009. In addition, 'in principle' approval has been accorded in October, 2009, for sites for more nuclear power plants. The details of the location/ State / Reactor type and capacity are:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Location	Reactor Type	Capacity (MWe)
Kumharia, Haryana	Indigenous Pressurised	4x700
Bargi, Madhya Pradesh	Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)	2 x 700
Kudankulam, Tamilnadu	Light Water Reactors (LWRs)	4x1000
Jaitapur, Maharashtra	based on international cooperation	6x1650
Chhayamithi Virdi, Gujarat		6x1000\$
Kowada, Andhra Pradesh		6x1000\$
Haripur, West Bengal		6 x 1000\$

* Additional potential 2 x 1000 MWe already under construction.

\$ Actual capacity will depend on the rating of the reactors selected.

(b) The sites have been chosen from among those offered by various state governments based on their suitability for locating nuclear power plants in accordance with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board's code for Safety in Siting of nuclear power plants and regulations of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) and (d) The Government has designated the following sites for setting up LWRs in co-operation with the countries as follows:-Kudankulam and Haripur - Russian Federation Jaitapur - France Chhayamithi Virdhi & Kowada - USA

The reactors and companies involved are VVERs of Atomstroyexport (ASE), Russian Federation, EPRs of AREVA, France, ABWRs of General Electric Hitachi (GEH) & AP-1000 of Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC), USA.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The units are planned to be constructed with a gestation period of about 6 years from first pour of concrete to commercial operation. The planning is to start work on the first set of twin units at these sites by 2012.

Atomic power units in Rajasthan

†1527. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had expressed its intention to set up atomic power units at Banswada in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether site has been selected for this;

(c) whether its detailed project has been prepared; and

(d) the time by when the work on Banswada Atomic Power Station would commence?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The potential of site at Banswada, Rajasthan for setting up nuclear power plant in future was evaluated by the Site Selection Committee of the Government. No decision is made regarding this site for setting up of the plant.

(b) to (d) Not applicable.

Revenue collection

†1528. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) the details of total revenue collected by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the year 2007-08 and 2009-10 so far;

(b) whether it is lesser than the year 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The details of total revenue collected by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in respect of Basic Services, interconnect usage charges (I.U.C.) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) in the year 2007-08 and 2009-10 (up to September, 2009) are as follows.

Year	Amount Collected (Rs. in crores)			
	Basic Services	I.U.C.	CMTS	Total
2007-08	15478	5001	10116	30595
2009-10 (Upto September, 2009)	6242	1425	5068	12735

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reason for decline in Revenue since 2006-07, is downward revision of tariff due to competition, surrender of fixed line telephones and migration of customers/traffic to the services of other operators. Therefore, less revenue billed has consequently resulted in lesser recovery compared to the year 2006-07.

The steps taken by BSNL for improving revenue and collections are given in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by BSNL for improving revenue and collections

(A) Steps initiated for increasing revenue are as under:

- (1) Competitive and affordable tariffs for mobile services are being offered. The tariffs are being rationalized for basic services by providing variety of suitable plans.
- (2) Various value added services, new services and bundling etc. are being provided.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

- (3) Broadband services are being provided aggressively for promoting Basic Services.
- (4) Steps have been initiated to ensure easy availability of products by increasing the sales and distribution channels.
- (5) Coverage in rural areas has been increased with the expansion of network.
- (6) Efforts are being made for improving the quality of services and customer interface.
- (7) Agreements have been signed for leasing of towers with other service providers.
- (B) Measures taken for collection of revenue are as under :
 - (1) Payment reminders through IVRS are being issued to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones. Phones are disconnected as per the schedule in case of non-payment of dues by customers.
 - (2) Connections remaining disconnected for non-payment are permanently closed after three months from bill issue date and accounts regularized by adjusting available Security deposit.
 - (3) Graded discount scheme regarding grant of discount to defaulting customers, for clearance of old outstanding dues has been introduced.
 - (4) Legal proceedings wherever required are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues.
 - (5) The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective land revenue acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.
 - (6) Circle-wise and Year-wise target for liquidation of outstanding dues are fixed to get the maximum realization. The progress in this regard is closely monitored.
 - (7) Heads of Circles have been authorized to Appoint Private Recovery agents on commission basis to assist BSNL in recovery of outstanding revenue. Procedure for settlement of defaulter cases through Lok Adalat has been introduced for recovery of outstanding telephone dues in respect of permanently closed connections.
 - (8) In addition to the above, during the current year (2009-10), a new recovery scheme under the brand name 'Project Kuber' has been launched to recover the outstanding dues over 3 months to 3 years old through experienced private recovery agents/agencies in respect of closed connections.

R.S. Nataraja Murthy Committee report

1529. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are more than 2.76 lakhs Gramin Dak Sevaks engaged part-time by the Department of Posts to distribute mail in rural areas;

(b) whether the R.S. Nataraja Murthy Committee has recommended revision of wage structure for Gramin Dak Sevaks and if so, to what extent the recommendations have been accepted by Government;

(c) whether the women dak sevikas will also be considered for gender-related additional facilities, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) There are 273336 Gramin Dak Sevaks in the Department of Posts as on 31/3/2009 engaged for providing postal services including mail distribution primarily in rural areas.

(b) Shri R.S. Nataraja Murti Committee made its recommendations on the revision of wage structure for Gramin Dak Sevaks. The salient features of the recommendations accepted and implemented by the Department are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The women Gramin Dak Sevikas will be paid maternity grant equivalent to three months Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) out of the welfare grant for the birth of two children.

Statement

*Salient features of Recommendations of Shri R. S. Nataraja Murti
Committee accepted and implemented by the Government*

1. Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) of Gramin Dak Sevaks [Implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2006]

Sl. No.	Category of GDS	Existing TRCA	Revised TRCA w.e.f. 01.01.2006	Work load in hours
1	2	3	4	5
1	GDS Sub Postmaster	Rs.2125-50-3125	Rs. 4575-85-7125	4-5 hours
2	GDS Branch Postmaster	Rs 1280-35-1980	Rs 2745-50-4245	Up to 3 hours work
		New TRCA slab	Rs 3200-60-5000	More than 3 hours up to 3 hrs.30 min
		Rs 1600-40-2400	Rs 3660-70-5760	Up to 4 hours.
		New TRCA slab	Rs 4115-75-6365	More than 4 hours up to 4 hour 30 min
		New TRCA slab	Rs. 4575-85-7125	More than 4 hrs 30 min up to 5 hours
3	GDS Mail deliverer/ Stamp vendor	New TRCA slab	Rs 2665-50-4165	For work up to 3 hrs. for new entrants

1	2	3	4	5
		Rs 1375-25-2125	Rs 3330-60-5130	For Work load Up to 3 hours 45 minutes
		Rs 1740-30-2640	Rs 4220-75-6470	More than 3 hours 45 minutes up to 5 hours
4	GDS Mail Carrier/ Packer/ Mailman	New TRCA slab	Rs 2295-45-3695	For work up to 3 hrs for new entrants
		Rs1220-20-1600	Rs 2870-50-4370	More than 3 hrs up to 3 hrs 45 min
		Rs 1545-25-2020	Rs 3635-65-5585	More than 3 hours 45 minutes up to 5 hours.
2. Other Allowances (implemented w.e.f. 9.10.2009)				
Nature of Allowance		Existing allowance	Revised allowances	
Office Maintenance Allowance (OMA)		Rs 50 per month for GDS Sub Postmaster/ Branch Postmaster	Rs. 100 per month for GDS Sub Postmaster /Branch Postmaster	
Fixed Stationery Charge		Rs 10 for GDS Sub Postmaster/ Branch Postmaster and Rs. 5 for other categories of GDS	Rs. 25 p.m. for GDS Sub Postmaster /Branch Postmaster and Rs. 10 for other categories of GDS like GDS Mail Deliverer/ Stamp vendor and Mail Carrier doing delivery work.	
Boat Allowance		Rs. 10 per month	Actual charges paid to the Boatman subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 per month for Conveyance of Mail	
Cash Conveyance Allowance		Rs. 10 per occasion plus Bus fares for conveyance of cash from Branch office to Account office.	Rs. 50 per month	
Cycle Maintenance Allowance (C.M.A)		Rs. 30 per month provided the Gramin Dak Sevak travels a distance of 10 kms per day.	Rs. 60 per month for GDS Mail Deliverer/Mail Carrier who use their own cycle for discharge of Duty. Present Minimum Distance Condition of 10 kms for grant of cycle maintenance allowance stands withdrawn	

1	2	3	4	5
	Combined Duty Allowance (CD A) for Branch Postmasters.	Rs. 100 per month for performing delivery or conveyance or both.		<p>1. GDS Branch Postmasters performing delivery or conveyance duties or both will be paid Rs. 500 P.M. for each item of work separately.</p> <p>2. If the Branch Postmaster is performing delivery at the BO village only, it will be restricted to Rs. 250 P.M.</p> <p>3. BPM exchanging Mails at Bus stand or at Railway Stations will be compensated at the rate of Rs. 250 P.M.</p>
	Allowances for combination of duties for Mail Delivery/Mail Conveyance.	Rs. 75 per month for GDS Mail Deliverer/Mail Carrier for performing additional duty.		GDS MD/MC attached with the additional duty of another post, revised rate of allowance will be at the rate of Rs. 25 per day subject to a Maximum of Rs. 625 P.M.
	Compensation to Mail Carriers who are detained for exchange of mails	Rs. 3/- per hour subject to a Maximum of Rs. 6 per day.		Rs. 6/- per hour subject to a Maximum of Rs. 12 per day subject to same conditions.

3. Service discharge benefits (effective from 9.10.2009)

Nature of benefit	Present benefit paid	Revised benefits
Ex-gratia Gratuity	Granted at the rate of half months basic allowance drawn immediately before discharge of service for each completed year of service subject to a maximum of Rs. 18,000 or 16.5 months basic allowance last drawn whichever is less. Minimum service prescribed is 15 years.	Continuance of the existing formula for grant of Ex-gratia Gratuity subject to a Maximum of Rs. 60,000

1	2	3	4	5
Severance Amount		A lump sum severance amount of Rs.30,000/- is paid on discharge provided a GDS has completed 20 years of continuous service. In case of a GDS completing 15 years of service but less than 20 years of continuous service the severance amount paid is Rs. 20,000		Severance Amount shall be paid at the rate of Rs. 1500 for every completed year of service subject to a Maximum of Rs. 60000 with reduction in Minimum eligibility period to 10 years.

4. Maternity Grant [effective from 09.10.2009]

Women GDS will be provided Maternity Grant equivalent to three months TRCA with DA for the birth of two children out of the welfare fund of the Department. This will take effect from the date of issue of the order

5. Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB)

Present calculation of the Ex-gratia bonus by applying the calculation ceiling of Rs. 2500 as basic TRCA+DA shall continue to be adopted till such time a new scheme is devised by the Department.

Payment of Arrears

Arrears of TRCA w.e.f. 1.1.2006 to 31-10-2009 have been ordered to be paid in cash in two instalments of 40% and 60% spread over the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11 after adjusting the payments made toward the basic monthly TRCA + DA drawn from time to time. The 2nd instalment of 60% arrears will be payable only after issue of specific instructions in this regard.

Allotment of 2G telecom spectrum licences

1530. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has referred the matter regarding allotment of second generation telecom spectrum licences to the CBI;

(b) if so, whether CVC have found several irregularities in the allotment of telecom spectrum;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) by when further investigations in the allotment of telecom spectrum are likely to be completed and transparency be maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has referred the matter regarding allotment of second generation telecom spectrum licences to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 12.10.2009.

(b) CVC has conveyed that the Preliminary investigation by it has shown following irregularities:

(i) Entry fee for Unified Access Services License (UASL) issued to new entrants during 2007 was the same as decided during the year 2001 on the basis of a bidding process.

(ii) There is no mention of 'First-Come-First-Served'(FCFS) Policy in the guidelines issued by Department of Telecommunications for issuance of UASL and website of the Department also does not contain any information about this policy.

(iii) FCFS Policy has not been followed by the Department.

(iv) There was no-lock-in period for the licensees for off-loading of their stakes, which enabled the licensees to offload their stakes at an early stage.

(c) and (d) The UAS licences have been awarded with all transparency as per the extant UAS licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005. However, on allegation of irregularities in the award of UAS Licenses to private companies, CBI has registered a case on 21.10.2009 against unknown officials of DOT, unknown private persons/companies and others under section 120-B IPC & section 13 (2) r/w 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. While being an investigation matter no time frame can be fixed, the reactions of Government on Preliminary investigation by CVC are as follows:

(i) Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the decision of then Government, the Unified Access Services (UAS) licences are being granted continuously on First-Come-First-Served'(FCFS) basis since introduction of UAS licensing regime in November 2003 at the entry fee for the 4th Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) licence(s) awarded in 2001 & in service areas where there were no 4th operator, the entry fee of existing Basic Service Operator (BSO) fixed by the Government in 2001 based on TRAI's recommendation. Based on this policy, 51 new UAS licenses/Lol(Letter of Intent) had been issued till March 2007. TRAI in its recommendations dated 28.08.2007 has not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence. Accordingly, Government continued with the existing entry fee structure for UAS licences and 122 new UAS licences were issued in 2008. The fact that TRAI had not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence, is also evident from TRAI's letter dated 26th May 2008 to Department of Telecom (DOT) conveying that keeping in view the objective of growth, affordability,

penetration of wireless services in semi-urban and rural areas and principle of level playing field and opportunity for equal competition between the incumbents and new entrants, the TRAI recommended the same entry fee as was taken from the fourth cellular operator for grant of CMTS license in the year 2001.

(ii) In consonance with New Telecom Policy (NTP) 1999 & TRAI recommendations, the Guidelines for Unified Access Services (UAS) licences issued on 14.12.2005 are the extant guidelines for grant of new UAS licence. All UAS licences issued in year 2008 are governed by these detailed guidelines. These guidelines, inter-alia stipulate that 'Licences shall be issued without any restriction on the number of entrants for provision of Unified Access Services in a Service Area.' When entry conditions are fixed and licensing is being done without any restriction of number of licences, there can not be any other transparent method other than the method of First-Come-First-Served basis. The Parliament was also informed of this policy from time to time in reply to questions raised therein.

(iii) DOT (Department of Telecom) has been implementing a policy of First-Come-First Served for grant of UAS licences under which initially an application which is received first will be processed first and thereafter if found eligible will be granted LOI and then whosoever complies with the conditions of LOI first will be granted UAS licence. This stand of DoT regarding the award of UAS Licenses on first come first served basis was clarified by Press release dated 10.01.2008 and accordingly, the UAS licences were granted in year 2008.

(iv) As per the UAS licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005 and the provisions of the UAS licence agreement, there were no lock-in-period/ restriction on sale of equity/ issuance of additional equity shares by the licensee company. Such transactions including the ceiling limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) were subject to extant guidelines of the Government/Statutory Bodies. There were news articles regarding sale of equity by two new telecom licensee companies. However, these companies informed DOT that their shareholder/ promoters have not sold the equity and the investments have been brought in by their foreign partners by subscribing to additional equity which would be used for rolling out the services. Government, in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), decided that there shall be a Lock-in-period for sale of equity of a person whose share capital is 10% or more in the UAS licensee company on the effective date of the UAS licence till completion of three years from the effective date of the licence or till fulfillment of all the rollout obligations, whichever is earlier, subject to certain other conditions. In this regard, necessary amendment of the UAS licence agreement(s) has been issued on 23.07.2009.

The above issues alongwith certain other issues are presently before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in writ petition No. 7815/2008 in the matter of Dr. Arvind Gupta Vs UOI & others and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Chinese telecom equipments

1531. SHRI N.K.SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government has asked mobile operators to bar the deployment of Chinese telecom equipment in sensitive regions which include border areas and States affected by terrorism and naxalism;

(b) if so, whether the deployment of Chinese telecom equipments in the sensitive regions is posing threat to the National security; and

(c) if so, the details of physical investigations made by Government to ensure bar on deployment of Chinese telecom equipments in sensitive regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) In the interest of national security, the Government has directed Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited that resources should not be procured from the Chinese vendors for deployment in the sensitive regions of Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.

(c) No physical investigation has been made by the Government so far in this respect.

Revenue generated through 2G spectrum

1532. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

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

(a) how much revenue was generated by allocation of 2G spectrum to private companies;

(b) the details of the companies which were allocated 2G spectrum;

(c) whether these companies possess essential experience and infrastructure in communication sector;

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

(e) if not, the reasons and rationale for allocating spectrum to companies without essential experience and infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The UAS licence is granted at a pan India price of Rs 1658.5701 crores. The UAS licence mandates grant of initial/startup spectrum on case by case basis and subject to availability. There is no upfront charges for allocation of 2G spectrum, however the

revenue generated, from the usage of 2G Spectrum and Mirowave Spectrum based on Ajusted Gross Revenue (AGR) from private companies for the year 2008-2009 is Rs.2820.46 crores.

(b) The details of the companies which were allocated 2G spectrum is given in Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The initial/start-up spectrum has been allotted to the Unified Access Service Licencees as per the provisions of their Service Licence Agreements subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is also being earmarked based on the subscriber based criteria evolved from time to time and subject to availability of spectrum in a telecom service area.

(e) Not applicable in view of (c) & (d) above.

Statement

*Details of allotted spectrum to all the GSM operators
(UAS Licensees) as on 31.10.2009*

S. No.	Service Area	Operators	Allotment in 900 MHz band in MHz	Allotment in 1800 MHz band in MHz	Total Allotment in MHz
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Delhi	Bharti	8.0	2.0	10.0
		Vodafone	8.0	2.0	10.0
		MTNL	6.2	6.2	12.4
		IDEA		8.0	8.0
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Etisat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	22.2	31.4	53.6
2	Mumbai	Vodafone	8.0	2.0	10.0
		Bharti		9.2	9.2
		MTNL	6.2	6.2	12.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		BPL	8.0	2.0	10.0
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	22.2	50.2	72.4
3	Koikata	Bharti	6.2	1.8	8.0
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Reliance		6.2	6.2
		Aircel		4.4	4.4
		Vodafone	7.8	2.0	9.8
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	20.2	40.2	60.4
4	Maharashtra	Bharti	0.0	8.2	8.2
		Idea	7.8	2.0	9.8
		Reliance	0.0	4.4	4.4
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Vodafone	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Aircel Ltd.	0.0	4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		Spice		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	20.2	49.2	69.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Gujarat	Vodafone	7.8	2.0	9.8
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		BSNL	6.2	1.2	7.4
		Idea	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Bharti		6.2	6.2
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	20.2	40.2	60.4
6	A.P	Vodafone		6.2	6.2
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Bharti	7.8	2.2	10.0
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		IDEA	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Spice		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	20.2	49.2	69.4
7	Karnataka	Bharti	7.8	2.2	10.0
		Spice	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Vodafone		8.0	8.0
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	20.2	49.2	69.4
8	Tamilnadu (incl. of Chennai)	Bharti		9.2	9.2
		Vodafone	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Aircel Ltd.	7.8	2.0	9.8
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	20.2	47.6	67.8
9	Kerala	BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Vodafone	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Bharti		6.2	6.2
		Idea	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	42.6	61.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Punjab	Vodafone		6.2	6.2
		Bharti	7.8	0.0	7.8
		Spice	7.8	0.0	7.8
		BSNL	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		HFCL		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	21.8	41.4	63.2
11	Haryana	Bharti		6.2	6.2
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Idea	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Vodafone	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		Spice		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	45.2	63.8
12	UP (West)	Bharti		6.2	6.2
		Vodafone	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Idea	6.2	1.8	8.0
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	42.6	61.2
13	UP (E)	Bharti	6.2	1.0	7.2
		Vodafone	6.2	2.0	8.2
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		Idea		6.2	6.2
		BSNL	6.2	3.5	10.0
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Loco		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	43.8	62.4
14	Rajasthan	Vodafone	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Idea		6.2	6.2
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		BSNL	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Bhaiti	6.2	2.0	8.2
		Aircel Ltd.		4.4	4.4
		Shyam Telelink		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Etisalat DB Pvt. Ltd		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		LOOP		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	45.2	63.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
15	M.P	Bharti		8.0	8.0
		Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Reliance	6.2	0.0	6.2
		IDEA	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		Allianz		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	44.4	63.0
16	West Bengal	Bharti	4.4	1.8	6.2
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Vodafone	4.4	1.8	6.2
		Reliance	4.4	1.8	6.2
		BSKL	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		IDEA		4.4	4.4
		Unitcch		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	19.4	33.6	53.0
17	HP	Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Bharti	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Reliance	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		S.Tel		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	39.0	57.6
18	Bihar	Bharti	6.2	3.0	9.2
		Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		Reliance	6.2	1.8	8.0
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		ABTL		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		S.Tel		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		Allianz		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	48.2	66.8
19	Orissa	Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		Reliance	6.2	0.0	6.2
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Dishnet		4.4	4.4
		Bharti	6.2	1.8	8.0
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		S.Tel		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		TTSL		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	40.8	59.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Assam	Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		Bharti	1.8	4.4	6.2
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Reliance	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Dishnet	4.4	1.8	6.2
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		S.Tel		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	36.4	55.0
21	NE	Bharti	4.4	1.8	6.2
		BSNL	6.2	3.8	10.0
		Reliance	4.4	1.8	6.2
		Dishnet	4.4	0.0	4.4
		Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		S.Tel		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	19.4	33.8	53.2
22	J&K	Vodafone		4.4	4.4
		Reliance		4.4	4.4
		BSNL	8.0	0.0	8.0
		Dishnet	4.4	0.0	4.4
		Bharti	6.2	0.0	6.2
		Datacom		4.4	4.4
		Idea		4.4	4.4
		Unitech		4.4	4.4
		Loop		4.4	4.4
		S.Tel		4.4	4.4
		TOTAL	18.6	30.8	49.4

BSNL Revenues

1533. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently called for a meeting to review the performance of BSNL in view of steep fall in revenues;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and details of discussions held in the meeting and outcome thereof,

(c) whether the factors responsible for steep fall in BSNL's revenues has since been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps Government propose to take to check revenue losses in BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, a communication from Prime Minister Office has been received recently, in Department of Telecommunications to review the functioning of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with respect to operational aspects, particularly the financial health and role of BSNL in the current and emerging economic scenario.

(c) and (d) The fall in BSNL's revenue is mainly due to:

- The reduction in tariff due to fierce competition among the existing and new operators.
- Churning of PCO operators to other service providers.
- Reduction in call rates especially in STD call rates in the market.

The steps proposed to check revenue losses in BSNL are given below:

- The tariffs are being rationalized so that there are suitable plans for every segment of society and to increase demand.
- Increase in sale outlets and marketing efforts.
- Broadband services are being provided aggressively even through bundled Broadband plus PCs taking help of PC manufacturers like HCL etc.
- Various Value Added Services on Broadband like IPTV, Games on demand, entertainment portal, web-hosting, web-conferencing, VPN over broadband etc. are being progressively launched and popularized.
- Revenue generation from educational institutions, State Government centres and panchayats are being explored.

To further increase its revenue, BSNL has taken several new initiatives. These are as follows:-

- BSNL has engaged M/s Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for advising and providing handholding support in identifying problems and developing strategy keeping in view the changed market conditions.
- Leasing of BSNL's Passive Infrastructure to other service providers.
- Enterprise Business.
- Commercial utilization of fixed assets.
- Exploring international business.
- Introduction of NGN framework to increase revenue streams.
- Introducing Fixed Mobile Convergence to add value to landlines.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

1534. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Telecom Ministry is planning to amend the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) rules to make it easier for telecoms to access over Rs. 11,000 crore corpus lying with Government to push rural telephony;

(b) whether an amendment is being done to remove rigidity in USOF rules and make it more flexible, and

(c) if so, the other steps being considered to push rural telephony and by what time these measures are likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The existing Rules of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) already have the provisions to provide subsidy support for public telecom and information services in rural and remote areas of the country. These Rules are being amended from time to time to expand the scope of rural telecom connectivity. Last such amendments were carried out in 17.11.2006 and 18.07.2008 to enable support for mobile services & broadband connectivity in rural & remote areas and for providing subsidy support to eligible operators for operational sustainability of Rural wire line Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) installed prior to 01.04.2002.

Various schemes being undertaken/considered for expansion of telecom network in rural and remote areas are provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the uncovered villages, replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based VPTs, support for RDELs, setting up of shared mobile towers, provision of wire line/wireless broadband connectivity in rural areas, creation of general infrastructure in rural areas etc.

Broadband connectivity

1535. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the State of Andhra Pradesh provided with broadband connectivity;
- (b) by when all the Gram Panchayats will be provided with broadband connectivity;
- (c) whether it is true that Universal Service Obligation Fund also planned to provide some funds for broadband connectivity in villages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Out of 21,870 Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh, 10,862 are already enabled with broadband through wireline technology.

(b) It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats by May, 2012.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing subsidy support of Rs. 1500 crore for rural wire-line broadband connections to individual users and Government institutions like Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools and Public Health Centres. The subsidy is being provided for broadband connections, Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), computer/computing devices and setting up of kiosks for public access to broadband services.

Ban on equipments at Chinese vendors

†1536. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has warned telecom operators not to make use of such equipments and network in 20 sensitive States, which are supplied by Chinese vendors;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has made a contract with a Chinese company Huawei to supply 2.5 crores of lines in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether the above eight States are not sensitive;
- (d) whether Government would make strict rules relating to the security for telecommunication sector keeping in view the national security interests; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The Government has directed Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) that resources should not be procured from the Chinese vendors for deployment in the sensitive regions of Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra. BSNL has reported that it had not made a contract with the Chinese company Huawei to supply 2.5 crores of lines in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(d) and (e) Review of rules in the interest of national security is a continuous process.

3G frequency band

1537. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is tussle between his Ministry and the Defence Ministry with regard to the release of 3G frequency band to be released for auction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is asking to release frequency bands between 1920 Mhz and 1980 Mhz and the Defence Ministry is prepared to release only between 1950 Mhz and 1970 Mhz;

(c) whether there is any clause with regard to release of frequency band in the agreement between his Ministry and Defence Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what would be its impact on the proposed auction of 3G fixed on 7 December, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and Ministry of Defence on 22nd May 2009, regarding the release of 3G spectrum in 1920-1980 MHz band out of Defence usage for auction.

(b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is asking to release 5 blocks of 5MHz in the band 1920-1980 MHz, which includes the band 1950-1970 MHz also.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Armed Forces will release the spectrum out of Defence usage, in a time bound manner as per the triggers of MoU As per the clause in MoU, Ministry of Defence has already released 10 MHz.

(e) As per the decisions of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), DoT has decided to auction upto 20 MHz of paired 3G spectrum in the 2.1 GHz band in the telecom service areas where 25 MHz or more paired spectrum is available. In telecom service areas where less than 25 MHz paired spectrum is available in the 2.1 GHz band, the actual amount of available spectrum in blocks of 2X5 MHz would be auctioned. Auction would be conducted according to the Revised Information memorandum issued on 23/10/2009 and published on Department of Telecommunications (DoT) website.

Kudumbini project

1538. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has submitted a proposal to set up a project entitled "Kudumbini" to provide BPO facility for women at home on a pilot basis in Kozhikode district of Kerala with a total project cost of Rs.575 lakh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Government of Kerala vide its letter - DO NO.4332/B1/2008/ITD dated 27.09.2008 has submitted a proposal for "Kudumbini Women BPO".

(b) This project proposal was for utilizing the power of ICT to distribute work spatially and provide supplementary income to women who are otherwise unable to go out for work. The Department has decided not to provide any financial support for the project.

Special data infrastructure

1539. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether Government provides financial assistance to the States to set up special data infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether Government has provided financial assistance to the State of Kerala in this regard; and

(c) whether any steps had been taken by Government in this direction?

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

(b) and (c) Government has approved a project for setting up of "State Data Center" for the State of Kerala in March 2008 with a total outlay of Rs.55.68 crores to meet the capital and operational expenses over a period of 5 years. An amount of Rs.11.63 crores has been released so far in this regard.

Surplus staff with BSNL/MTNL

1540. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether a large number of officers working with BSNL and MTNL on deputation have been repatriated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL and BSNL are presently overloaded with the staff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the surplus staff with MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, no mass repatriation of officers working with BSNL and MTNL have taken place in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The expenditure of BSNL on manpower is about 33% of its total income as compared to 5-8% in case of its competitors. BSNL has engaged M/s 'Boston Consulting Group (BCG)' for advising and providing handholding support in identifying problems and developing strategy keeping in view the changed market conditions.

The expenditure of MTNL on manpower is about 45% of its total income. In order to rationalize manpower, MTNL has introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 for different groups of employees. The details are as below :

Scheme	No. of employees who accepted VRS
VRS-2004 (Non Executives)	1951
VRS-2005 (Executives Grp.B only)	604
VRS-2006 (Non Executives)	1382
TOTAL :	3947

Unwanted calls/SMSs and tele shopping messages

1541. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that consumers are being flooded with unwanted calls, SMSs and tele shopping messages from different agencies;

(b) if so, what Government has done to advise mobile service providers to block such unwanted calls and messages;

(c) whether Government will propose to bring any law restricting tele shopping, online shopping and bring all persons doing tele shopping business under some regulations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Considering the growing dissatisfaction among the consumers, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, acting in the consumer interest, had issued the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations 2007 on 5th June 2007. Consequently, the National Do not Call (NDNC) Registry had been established, which is primarily a national database containing list of telephone numbers of all such subscribers, who do not want to receive the Unsolicited Commercial Communications. Further, Government has also advised all Mobile Service Providers to increase the public awareness regarding registration of their telephone numbers in NDNC registry to avoid unwanted telemarketing calls.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The tele shopping/online shopping is a process which is initiated by the subscriber/consumer himself and does not fall within the ambit of Unsolicited Communications.

Project arrow

1542. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Project Arrow;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts proposed to extend 'Project Arrow' scheme to 500 post offices across the country during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details of post offices identified for this purpose in the State of West Bengal; and

(d) in what manner the Project Arrow strengthen the core business of the Department of Posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The aims and objectives of Project Arrow is:

- To make a visible, tangible and noteworthy difference in service delivery to the common man by post offices;
- Verify and certify progress on ongoing basis using clearly defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each improvement area *e.g.* Mail delivery, Money Order payment and Savings Bank operation;
- Set the foundation for a comprehensive transformation of India post.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The list of Post Offices covered under Project Arrow in the State of West Bengal is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Project Arrow has helped to improve the core operations of Department of Posts *viz.* Mail processing and delivery, Money remittance. Savings Bank operations and quality of Customer Service. Intensive training has been given to officials working in Project Arrow offices to raise the level of services in these offices. A Web based monitoring tool has been designed whereby day-to-day monitoring of 1,000 Post Offices covered till now under Project Arrow is done at Circle level. Through fortnightly video conference the performance of Project Arrow Post Offices is monitored at the Directorate level and directions to bridge the gaps are given. Project Arrow has significantly improved services in the post offices and the response of both customers and staff to the same has been overwhelming.

Statement

The name of Post Offices in the State of West Bengal covered under Project Arrow

S.No.	Name of PO
1	2
1	Alipore Head Post Office
2	Barabazar Head Post Office
3	Behrampore Head Post Office
4	Kolkata GPO
5	Park Street Head Post Office
6	Tollgunge Head Post Office
7	Bolpur Sub Post Office
8	S.B. Road Sub Post Office
9	New Alipore Sub Post Office
10	Kakdwip Sub Post Office

1	2
11	Ballygunge Mukhya Dak Ghar
12	Bidhan Nagar CC Block Sub Post Office
13	Alipurduar Mukhya Dak Ghar
14	Kalimpong Mukhya Dak Ghar
15	Darjeeling Head Post Office
16	Siliguri Head Post Office
17	Maynaguri Sub Post Office
18	Asansol Head Post Office
19	Burdwan Head Post Office
20	Durgapur Head Post Office
21	Howrah Head Post Office
22	Midnapore Head Post Office
23	Singur Sub Post Office
24	Bagnan Sub Post Office
25	Dainhat Sub Post Office
26	Egra Sub Post Office

Financial assistance to indigenous companies

†1543. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any policy to provide some sort of financial assistance to the indigenous companies, manufacturing the mobile appliances; and

(b) whether Government proposes to provide any assistance to local Indian companies on the lines of Chinese companies viz; HU and ZTE provided with financial assistance as well as enabled to enter into the deals with other countries by their Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to make India a telecom manufacturing hub. Department of Telecommunications has constituted a Committee on 'Enhancing the Indigenous Capabilities in Telecom Manufacturing and R&D'. This Committee is considering all the measures required including rationalization of taxes, instituting a system of facilitators, skill development, incentivizing R&D and IPR, for making India a telecom manufacturing hub.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Guidelines to telecom operators

1544. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI has issued guidelines to telecom operators to maintain transparency in the Telecom services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many telecom operators are violating these guidelines and misleading the subscribers; and
- (d) if so, the number of cases so far reported to TRAI against such operators and the action taken by Government on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Transparency in the provision of telecom services and marketing thereof by the companies has been an issue of high priority to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). A number of measures have been taken by the TRAI since its inception to promote transparency in the offer of services in the interest of protecting consumers. These include the issue of Regulations, Directions, Orders and Advisories from time to time and this is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Compliance with the Regulations, Directions, Orders mandated by the TRAI are closely monitored. All tariff schemes implemented by the operators are reported to TRAI within seven days from the date of launch as per the provisions of Telecommunication Tariff Order. These tariff schemes/packages are subjected to scrutiny. Tariff Plans/Packages that are found to be potentially misleading and/or lacking in transparency are intervened and the service providers are asked to re-structure the same in line with the existing regulatory mandates. In addition, as and when instances of deviations from the prescribed guidelines on transparency are brought to the notice of TRAI by way of complaints, media reports etc., the matter is taken up with the concerned service providers for remedial action. The service providers have promptly responded to these interventions of the TRAI and have made necessary amends.

Grant-in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala

1545. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had taken any measures to provide grant-in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala to setup a working women hostel and day care centre; and
- (b) if so, the steps that had been initiated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology have no proposal to provide grant-in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala to set up a Working Women Hostel and day

care centre. However, as per the information from the State Government of Kerala, the proposal for providing Grant-in-aid of Rs.500 lakhs was forwarded to the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development for placing before the project Sanctioning Committee for financial assistance vide letter No.10503/83/09/SWD dated 20.11.2009.

3G spectrum allocations

1546. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of investigations into the 3G spectrum allocations;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 60,000 crore loss has been caused to the country's exchequer due to the malpractices in the spectrum allocation; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and the action being taken against those involved in the scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) There is no investigation into 3G spectrum allocation.

(b) and (c) Since the 3G spectrum is yet to be auctioned, as per the guidelines dated 1st August 2008 and certain amendments dated 11th September 2008, BSNL/MTNL have been allotted 3G; spectrum on the condition that they have to pay the price equal to the highest bid in the respective service area.

However, on allegation of irregularities in the award of UAS Licenses to private companies, CBI registered a case on 21.10.2009 and conducted a search on 22.10.2009 in some offices of DOT and has taken custody of certain files relating to policy, issuance of UAS licenses and spectrum.

Number portability

1547. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any decision regarding number has been taken; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government has decided to introduce Mobile Number Portability in the country. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) allows subscribers to retain their existing telephone number in the same service area when they switch from one access service provider to another irrespective of mobile technology or from one technology to another of the same or any other access service provider. Necessary Licence Agreements for MNP Services have been signed in April 2009.

Post office saving schemes

1548. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Post Office Saving Schemes are not popular in public now-a-days;
- (b) if so, the details of share invested in the Post Office Saving Schemes in proportion to other financial institutions; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to attract more and more people to invest in the post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The popularity of savings schemes of post offices is a function of the choices available to an investor at any given time.

(b) The information is not maintained by this Ministry. This is being collected from the concerned ministry and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The Central and State Governments take various measures from time to time to promote and popularize small saving schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars, meetings and providing training to various agencies involved in mobilizing deposits under the schemes. As part of this ongoing exercise, Government has taken following steps to make the small savings schemes more attractive and investor friendly:-

(i) The restriction on opening of more than one account during a calendar month under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been removed with effect from 24th May, 2007.

(ii) All categories of pensioners have been allowed to open and maintain 'Pension Account' under Post Office Savings Account Rules, with effect from 11th July, 2007.

(iii) The penalty on pre-mature withdrawal of deposits under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) scheme has been rationalized from 3.5% to 2% on withdrawal on or before expiry of three years and 1% on withdrawal after expiry of three years.

(iv) The maximum deposit ceiling of Rs. 3.00 lakh and Rs. 6.00 lakh under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme has been raised to Rs. 4.50 lakh and Rs. 9.00 lakh in respect of single and joint accounts respectively.

(v) Bonus at the rate of 5% on the deposits made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December, 2007 upon the maturity of the deposit, has been reintroduced.

(vi) The benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits Account and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, with effect from 01.04.2007.

(vii) Measures are also taken to promote and popularize these schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing collection in Small Savings Schemes etc.

(viii) A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investor's grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

Bifurcation of BSNL

1549. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing to bifurcate BSNL to form another company;
- (b) if so, the proposals thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) in what manner it will affect the executive and non-executive employees; and
- (e) whether the recognized union/s have been consulted in this matter and if so, what is their opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, there is no proposal to bifurcate BSNL as on date.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

SIM on fake identity

1550. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a research by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has revealed that about one in six SIMs is procured on the basis of fake IDs;
- (b) whether DoT has slapped Rs. 58 crores in penalties on various operators who issued SIMs on fake identity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that verification of 35 lakh customer application forms in the last two years revealed as accuracy rate for top six telecom operators between 60 per cent and 89 per cent;

(e) whether some operators have raised the issue of different parameters followed by TRAI and DoT and possibility of variations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Based on the monthly subscriber verification audit conducted by Telecom Enforcement & Resource Monitoring Cells of Department of Telecommunications, the average percentage of subscriber verification failure detected for the period from April 2007 to March 2009 is 14.43% with respect to 13 telecom access service providers.

(b) and (c) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has imposed penalty of Rs. 5034.81 lakh on the various telecom access service providers for unverified subscribers detected based on the monthly audit by Telecom Enforcement & Resource Monitoring Cells of DoT for the period from April 2007 to March 2009.

(d) The average accuracy rate of correct subscriber verification of six top market share holding telecom access service providers in mobile service for the period from April 2007 to March 2009 varies from 74.64% to 92.07%.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of the (e) above.

Allotment of 2G Spectrum

1551. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI's have raised objections against dubious first-come-first-served basis allotment of 2G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details of TRAI's objections;

(c) whether 2G spectrum granted on the above basis have resulted into loss of revenue to public exchequer; and

(d) if so, the details of estimated loss on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No Sir, as per the guidelines for issue of license for basic services dated 25.01.2001, which clearly specify that the spectrum for basic services shall be allotted to any basic service operator including the existing ones on first come first served basis and same principle of allotment of spectrum on first come first served basis is followed for all spectrum allotments.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

Indian BPOs

1552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of an investigation launched by UK law enforcement authorities on the alleged sale of medical records sent for computerization by Indian BPOs;

(b) whether the investigation by the UK police have revealed that private patient's medical records including sensitive personnel information held by Indian BPOs for transcription are sold by BPO staffers in India;

(c) whether such incidences involving Indian BPOs lead to substantial public opinion building in the western world against outsourcing; and

(d) whether Government has assessed the extent of potential damage such incidents would cause for Indian BPO industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per the records available with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), there is no information regarding formal investigation by UK Law Enforcement Authorities. As per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), formal investigation into the case have been launched by the Pune Police based on a complaint lodged by NASSCOM-Data Security Council of India (DSCI).

(c) and (d) Such incidents have the potential to temporarily create concerns regarding data security in India. However, creating a deterrent would have a salutary effect in containing such incidents. In order to deal with such incidents effectively, the Government has strengthened the legal framework to deal with cyber crimes involving privacy of information held in computer systems and networks.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 along with the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 (ITAA) provides for privacy of information held in the computer systems and networks. Section 43, Section 43A, Section 72 and Section 72A of the Act address the issue of breach of confidentiality and privacy. Section 43A fixes the responsibility on the body corporate and companies to adequately protect the sensitive data of information, which they own, possess, control or operate. Section 72A provides for breach of lawful contract which will prevent any intermediary and service provider, who has secured any material or information from a user, from passing it on to other persons, without the consent of the user.

Delivery of mails and money orders

1553. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in postal services such as delivery of ordinary and money orders etc. so much so that large quantity of ordinary mail goes undelivered and the money orders etc., get delayed not only for weeks but months;

(b) whether Government would appoint special overseers to ensure proper delivery of the ordinary mail as also timely delivery of money order etc. after fixing reasonable normal time for their delivery; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government would ensure to remove all round degradation in the postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. The Department has fixed norms for delivery of mail across the country, and delivery of mail including money orders, is done within these norms. A few cases of delay in delivery of mail are reported and remedial action is taken to eliminate the delay in future. This position is also borne by the percentage of complaints received vis-a-vis total traffic of ordinary mail and money orders is 0.0001% and 0.03% respectively.

(b) There is no proposal to appoint special overseers. A copy of the norms for delivery of mail is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(c) In order to improve the quality of mail transmission and delivery services, an initiative has been taken to optimize mail office network, enhance efficiency of network and reduce cost of operations.

Other measures taken by the Department of Posts to improve mail transmission and delivery services are follows.

1. Three freighter aircraft have been inducted for carriage of mail between major metro cities and the North East region.

2. Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery is undertaken by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards.

3. Surprise checks on delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.

4. Live mail survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the mail transmission and delivery system.

5. To cope up with the seasonal mails, separate centres with adequate manpower are opened to give expeditious handling to such mail.

6. Enhanced use of Pin Code and its popularization.

Statement

Norms for Delivery of Mail

Category of Mail	Norms for delivery
Local	D+1 Next day after day of posting.
Within the district	D+2 Within 48 hrs after day of posting
Within the State	D+2 to D+3 Within 48 to 72 hrs after the day of posting
Mail for other States	D+3 to D+5 Depending on the distance involved and transport link available. Mail to from branch post offices take a day more.
First class mail between metro cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangaluru)	D+2 to D+3 Within 48 to 72 hrs after the day of posting
First class mail between State Capitals and Delhi	D+2 to D+3 Within 48 to 72 hrs after the day of posting
Registered mail	1 to 2 days more than ordinary mail, depending on the distance and number of points of handling en route.
Money Order	1 to 2 days more than ordinary mail, depending on the distance and number of points of handling en route.

- These norms apply to normal areas. Mails relating to hilly, tribal and remote areas will take longer, depending on local conditions of specific areas. These broad norms are subject to transport, mail carrying trains, aeroplanes, buses and other means of transmission maintaining their prescribed schedules. Also, the time indicated does not include holiday/Sunday.
- These norms apply to mails that are booked at counters before cut-off timing or are posted in letter boxes before the last hour of clearance for the day. The cut-off timing are fixed in a manner that all the articles booked till the final cut-off time is included in the last dispatch. Cut-off time indicates that articles booked upto that time only can be included in the current day's dispatch. Articles can still be booked after the cut-off time, but would be included in the next day's dispatch.

Proposal received from Government of Madhya Pradesh

†1554. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether proposal for Direct Archaeological Museum, Shahdol; Mella, Rani Durgawati Museum, Jabalpur, Yashodharaman Museum, Mandsoor, and Central Museum, Indore, has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action being taken thereon and until when it should be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals for financial assistance in respect of District Archaeological Museum at Shahdol, District Archaeological Museum at Mandla, Rani Durgawati Museum at Jabalpur, Yashodharaman Archaeology Museum at Mandsoor and Central Museum, of Indore under the scheme for 'Setting Up, Promotion & Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums'. Upon scrutiny, the applications were found to be deficient with respect to certain mandatory requirements. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to furnish the same.

Smuggling of Indian artefacts

1555. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of Indian artefacts, which are mostly stolen from archaeological sites, have been increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to set up antiques data base in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set up any Committee of experts of Culture and Archaeology for preparation of antiques data base in the country;

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

(f) the time fixed by the Government to complete the said project in the country?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has launched 'National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities' (NMMA) on 19th March, 2007 which has the mandate of documenting archaeological resources, including antiquities, throughout the country.

(d) and (e) The NMMA has set up State Level Implementation Committees (SLIC) in about 20 States and in the remaining setting up of SLICs is in the Government officials. They, with the help of a large number of documentation centres across the country are required to prepare data base of monuments and antiquities.

- (f) The NMMA is given 5 years time-frame ending in March 2012 to accomplish the task.

Development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial

1556. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give corpus fund for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Government proposes to start the work regarding development/maintenance of the said memorial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A decision has been taken by the Government to sanction a one time capital grant of Rs.3 crore and an appropriate annual maintenance grant to Sardar Patel Trust for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - Veer Vithalbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat. The Trust will undertake the development and maintenance of the memorial.

Records in National Archives

1557. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite rules on the same Ministries don't transfer records to National Archives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when post 1947 Government records would be available in National Archives?

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

(b) With increasing pressure of work; Ministries are reportedly unable to give adequate attention to the classification of old files for the purpose of sending them to the National Archives. Another reason may be that in the last four decades, several ministries and departments have reorganized and their parts relocated, while newer ministries set up, all of which may have caused some breaks *vis-a-vis* the custody and classification of old records.

(c) The Cabinet Secretary has also reviewed the matter on 31st October, 2009 and laid down a plan of action.

Endangered heritage sites

1558. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 16th century castle in Kargil, a 17th century monastery in Ladakh, a historic civic centre in Shimla and a palace in UP figure in the list of 93 endangered heritage sites across 47 countries compiled by World Monument Fund;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether these monuments are in Government's list for heritage monuments; and

(d) if so, how the Government propose to protect and preserve these sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The World Monument Fund (WMF) is private trust based at New York (USA). It has no connection with UNESCO. It funds conservation, restoration and development of monuments worldwide. In its publication "2010 World Monument Watch", it has indicated that the following 4 sites in India are at risk out of 93 such sites identified by the Fund across 47 countries:

(i) Chiktan castle, Kargil (Ladakh)

(ii) Dechen Namgyal Gonpa, Nyoma (Ladakh)

(iii) Historic Civic Centre, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)

(iv) Kothi, Qila Mahamudabad.

None of the above sites are under ASI protection.

(d) Does not arise.

Change in monsoon

1559. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state whether there has been significant change in the pattern of the monsoon in the last decade, in any of the Meteorological divisions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): The rainfall pattern of the monsoon, both at the country level and meteorological sub-division scale, generally shows great deal of year to year variation of the total seasonal quantum and active/weak spells (duration and frequency) of rainfall within the season. Analysis of the rainfall data for the recent 10-year period 2000-2009 does not signify any major characteristic change for any of the meteorological sub-divisions.

However, a marginal decreasing trend in monsoon rainfall over Himachal Pradesh (-3.7%) and small increasing trend over Saurashtra and Kutch (7%) and Lakshdweep (4.3%) are observed.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

1560. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Australia has recently, paid a visit to India and held discussion with his counterpart and other leaders on several issues;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with the Prime Minister of Australia with various leaders and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Australian Prime Minister has urged Government of India to upgrade 'strategic partnership' and to expand the bilateral relationship; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on such views of the Australian Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia visited India from 11 to 13 November, 2009. During his visit, he met the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister to discuss bilateral, regional, international and economic issues of mutual interest. External Affairs Minister, Minister for Human Resource Development and Minister for Commerce and Industry were present during the talks held between the two Prime Ministers. Minister of State(IC) Environment & Forests called on the Australian Prime Minister. A Joint Statement between India and Australia and a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation were issued at the conclusion of the visit.

(c) and (d) The two Prime Ministers upgraded the relationship to a strategic partnership and affirmed their desire to intensify bilateral contacts. They emphasized the need to reinvigorate bilateral parliamentary exchanges and welcomed the proposal to establish a new Young Political Leaders Exchange Programme. The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the signing of a MOU on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources. The recent agreement on India and Australia holding an Annual Ministerial Dialogue on Education, was yet another important decision. Australian Prime Minister reiterated Australia's support for India's candidature for a permanent seat of a reformed UNSC.

Meeting with special representative of China

†1561. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that just after a few hours of completion of 13th round of talks between the special representative of India and China in New Delhi to settle the border dispute between the two countries the military analyst of main think tank of China advised the Chinese Government to work on the strategy of dividing India into 20 to 30 independent countries;

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

(c) whether Government has registered its objection with the Chinese Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Civil nuclear deal with Canada

1562. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a civil nuclear deal has been lately signed between India and Canada during the recent visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India;

(b) if so, the terms of the deal and the details of the nuclear material and know how to be supplied by Canada; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

US support for representation in UNSC

1563. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has also indicated its support to India's claim to represent at the UN Security Council (UNSC);

(b) whether the US had earlier in 2006 itself indicated its willingness to extend support to this claim of India;

(c) the big powers which have so far have indicated their support to India's membership of the UNSC; and

(d) the steps that have been and are being taken to have India's claim materialized?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) There has been a steady accretion of support to India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council since it was announced in 1994. Several countries have extended support to India's claim for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council. This has been expressed in various forms and fora including in bilateral discussions with Government of India.

(d) Government continues to vigorously mobilize support for India's permanent membership of an expanded United Nation Security Council. For this purpose, India remains fully engaged, bilaterally as well as in collaboration with the G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan), with other member states. In the inter-governmental negotiations at the United Nations General Assembly, India along with like-minded countries has pressed for an expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

1564. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of China has requested the Government of India to restrain from permitting Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Leader from visiting Arunachal Pradesh and has warned that this Dalai Lama's visit would spoil Indo-Chinese relations;

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

(c) the reply, if any, given to China on this demand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The Chinese side expressed their concern on the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh which they claim is a "disputed area". Government's clear and consistent position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that Dalai Lama is free to visit any part of India, has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

Chinese view on Jammu and Kashmir

1565. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether designs of China for projecting Jammu and Kashmir as an independent country under their self-proclaimed notion of Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory which is an integral part of India has been effectively countered;

(b) whether China has created corroboratory evidence through the "Media Kits" providing basic information depicting "Tibet bordering with India, denuded of Kashmir, Nepal, Myanmar and Kashmir areas"; and

(c) if so, the bilateral steps and global diplomatic steps that have been taken to counter this contention and further mobilize opinion in world bodies like UNO, UNESCO, ASEAN, G-20, G-8, etc?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) China regards State of Jammu and Kashmir as a dispute that should be settled properly through dialogue between India and Pakistan. Government has taken up the depiction of India in Chinese maps with the Chinese side and conveyed Government's clear and consistent position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Government considers Kashmir to be a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan. Government does not encourage discussion on this matter with other countries or by multilateral bodies or forum.

Commercial wings of embassies

1566. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken to improve the effectiveness of the commercial wings of our Embassies; and

(b) the additional business for Indian industry the Ministry created each year during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) The Government has taken several steps to improve the effectiveness of the commercial wings of our embassies with a view to making them more responsive to the growing demands and expectations of business and industry. Additional funds have been placed at their disposal through various schemes such as the Market Expansion Activities budget and the Challenge Fund to enable them to undertake various promotional activities such as market surveys, seminars, workshops, buyer-seller meets, media campaigns, outreach activities, etc. with the aim of promoting trade and investment, expanding markets for Indian products and projecting brand India. Necessary support to commercial wings is also provided through information dissemination in the form of booklets and CD-ROMs containing updated data on various sectors of the Indian economy and Government policies, weekly and monthly bulletins, setting up of websites, etc.

(b) As trade promotion depends on a number of factors, it is difficult to quantify the additional business for Indian industry the Ministry created. However Indian Missions and Posts have contributed significantly to the growth of India's exports of goods and services. Indian industries have benefited from the activity of commercial wings in many ways including through dissemination of information related to export promotion and investment activities, market information, trade facilitation of visiting businessmen and delegations and help in resolving trade disputes.

Maritime boundary dispute with Bangladesh

†1567. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of maritime boundary dispute with Bangladesh has reached in United Nations; and

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to solve the problems with neighbouring country through talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Two rounds of bilateral talks on the demarcation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh were held in September, 2008 and March, 2009. These were technical-level talks and the Indian delegation was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

led by Chief Hydrographer. However, the Government of Bangladesh has gone in for arbitration as provided under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea with respect to the demarcation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh.

Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh

1568. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has expressed concern over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) in what manner it affects China if any Spiritual Figure visit any of the regions of Indian soil; and
- (c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The Chinese side expressed their concern on the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh which they claim is a [disputed area]. Government's clear and consistent position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that Dalai Lama is free to visit any part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

Selection of Haj pilgrims

1569. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by Government for selection of Haj pilgrims through Government quota; and
- (b) the numbers of pilgrims selected by the Union Government, State-wise, during the current year particularly from Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The distribution of government quota and additional quota was released for the following categories:

- (i) Khadim-ul-Hujaj selected by the State Haj Committees;
- (ii) Mehram of female pilgrims, who by Saudi law, need to be accompanied by a male relative viz. father, husband, brother, son;
- (iii) States on special political considerations and receiving excess applications *e.g.* J&K/Lakshadweep etc;
- (iv) Individual applicants who did not get selected in the qurrah but have an objective reason to perform Haj *i.e.* family obligation, age, health and have been recommended by MPs, Ministers and other eminent persons;

(b) State-wise distribution of quota allotted through the Haj Committee of India during the current year is given in the Statement. The State of Tamil Nadu was allotted a quota of 3800.

Statement

Statewise distribution of quota allotted through Haj Committee

Sl. No.	Name of States/Union Territory	Quota allotted	Govt. quota/ addl. quota	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andman & Nicobar (UT)	118	0	118
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6223	916	7139
3.	Assam	3504	7	3511
4.	Bihar	6499	14	6513
5.	Jharkhand	2975	4	2979
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	78	187	265
7.	Chhattisgarh	365	0	365
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli (UT)	103	0	103
9.	Daman & Diu (UT)	55	0	55
10.	Delhi (NCT)	1446	742	2188
11.	Goa	374	0	374
12.	Gujarat	4091	3291	7382
13.	Himachal Pradesh	149	8	157
14.	Haryana	1089	125	1214
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6051	1652	7703
16.	Karnataka	5757	1475	7232
17.	Kerala	7004	1580	8584
18.	Lakshadweep (UT)	52	242	294
19.	Madhya Pradesh	3422	743	4165
20.	Maharashtra	9149	1830	10979
21.	Manipur	329	0	329
22.	Orissa	678	58	736
23.	Pondicherry (UT)	371	0	371

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Punjab	341	136	477
25.	Rajasthan	4265	895	5160
26.	Tamil Nadu	3091	709	3800
27.	Tripura	72	0	72
28.	Uttar Pradesh	27381	1723	29104
29.	Uttaranchal	902	63	965
30.	West Bengal	8067	5	8072
TOTAL :		104,000	16405	120405

Note: Balance 95 seats were kept for Khadimul Hujjaj.

Misery of Hindu Pakistani Nationals

1570. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindu Pakistani nationals who came to India over the last few years and not returned to Pakistan for fear of persecution are languishing in border areas and leading a life of misery;

(b) if so, whether this case has been discussed with Government of Pakistan, as persecution of minorities in two countries violates the Nehru-Liyaquat pact;

(c) if so, details of protest lodged with Pakistan and their reaction thereto; and

(d) whether international forums like UN Commission for Refugees have been apprised about their plight, if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) There have been instances of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan. However, the precise reason for overstay in India of those individuals who came from Pakistan to India over the last few years is not established.

The Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan specifically made provision for non-interference in each other's internal affairs. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its obligations towards its citizens. However, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government had separately taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.

(d) No.

Military help for Sri Lanka

1571. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received a specific request from the Sri Lankan Government for military help in the second week of October, 2009;
- (b) if so, the response of Government to this request;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Indian Army went on a high alert after this request; and
- (d) the details of this request and Governments' response?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Transit journey across Bangladesh

1572. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of development that Government has made in achieving positive results for evolving an agreement between Bangladesh and India on transit journey across Bangladesh;
- (b) by when it is likely that the system would come into force; and
- (c) the status of mutual discussion in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) During the visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh in September, 2009, both sides discussed issues relating to connectivity. In this context, both sides discussed designating Ashuganj as a new port of call under Article-23 of the Inland Water Transit and Trade Agreement as well as the use of Chittagong port by India. Bangladesh agreed to provide access to Ashuganj Port to facilitate the transportation of the Over Dimensional Consignments for the Palatana Power Project in Tripura.

Haj pilgrims using MP quota

1573. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Haj pilgrims that used the special quota of MPs in the year 2009;
- (b) whether there is any discrimination in that quota; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) A total number of 6014 seats have been allotted to Hon'ble Members of Parliament for Haj 2009. Efforts are made to allocate seats to each Member of Parliament requesting for the

same, provided the recommendations have been received and quota is available at that time. A minimum of two seats per MP is held in reserve for such requests.

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

Relevance of NAM

1574. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) to what extent NAM is powerful in today's world; and
- (b) the steps Government is taking to make it more strong and powerful?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), with a membership of 118 nations, is the largest group of developing countries. It plays an important role in articulating an independent point of view of developing countries on international issues and as a custodian for South-South cooperation.

(b) India, as one of the founders of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), remains strongly committed to the principles and objectives guiding NAM. On its part, India remains strongly committed to the principles of the NAM and contributes actively to its deliberations, including at the Summit level.

Resuming dialogue with Pakistan

†1575. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of State for External Affairs insisted on resuming the dialogue between India and Pakistan;
- (b) if not, whether it has also been stated that the will of Kashmiri people would be taken care of during the dialogue;
- (c) if so, whether it is indicative of seeking referendum; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) to (d) The entire state of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have freely and on several occasions exercised their democratic rights through numerous representative elections. Under the Simla Agreement, Government is committed to resolving all bilateral issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral dialogue.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Visit of PM to Arunachal Pradesh

1576. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China had protested in strongest terms to register its objections to the visits of Indian political leaders to Arunachal Pradesh, including the Prime Minister to Arunachal Pradesh on October 3, 2009 warning Indian of 'triggering disturbances in the disputed region';

(b) if so, whether Government gave a befitting reply to warning thereto; and

(c) if so, in what terms?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) China has objected to the visit of Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh, including Prime Minister's visit in October, 2009. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that it is well established practice in our democratic system, that our leaders visit States where elections to Parliament and to the State Assemblies are taking place, has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

Meeting with Foreign Minister of Nepal

1577. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese Foreign Minister met the External Affairs Minister;

(b) if so, the details of discussion which took place;

(c) whether the matter relating to the recent spurt in the cross-border infiltration by Pakistan was also brought to his notice; and

(d) if so, his reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The Nepalese Foreign Minister Ms. Sujata Koirala visited India from August 10 to 14, 2009 and met the Minister of External Affairs. During the visit, issues of mutual interest, including border management were discussed. Both sides agreed to resolve border related issues through existing bilateral mechanisms and not allow the open border to be misused. Nepal assured that it will not allow its territory to be used against India. India expressed full support for the successful completion of the peace process and for Nepal's efforts for its economic development. The visit was a preparatory one preceding the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, to India from August 18-22, 2009.

Integrated low cost sanitation programme

1578. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) the target fixed for the conversion of dry latrines into water-seal units in 2009-10 under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme; and

(b) the achievement and the present status of such conversion?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the revised guidelines of ILCS the target for conversion of dry latrines into twin pit pour latrines is by March 2010.

(b) Under the revised guidelines proposals received from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir were approved for conversion of 2,49,035 dry latrines in to twin pit pour flush latrines during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 and funds were released. States of Assam and Nagaland have reported that they do not have dry latrines. As per the progress report received from the State of Bihar, 342 units are completed and 341 units are in progress and in the State of Uttar Pradesh 17583 units are completed and 12003 units are in progress.

Urban poverty in India

1579. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that urban poverty in India remains high, at over 25 percent with over 80 million poor people living in the cities and towns of India;

(b) whether Government is also aware that Urban poverty poses the problems of housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health, education, social security and livelihoods along with special needs of vulnerable groups like women, children and aged people;

(c) if so, what efforts have been made by Government during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the latest such estimates of NSSO (61st Round) for the year 2004-05, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the estimated number of urban poor is 80.8 million which is 25.7%, of the urban population.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has revamped the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), with effect from 1st April 2009. The objective of the scheme of SJSRY is to provide

gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The revised SJSRY has following five major components:-

(i) Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)-Targeting individual urban poor for setting up of micro-enterprises.

(ii) Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP)-Targeting urban poor women self-help groups for setting up of group-enterprises and providing them assistance through a revolving fund for thrift & credit activities.

(iii) Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP)-Targeting urban poor for imparting quality training so as to enhance their employability for self-employment or better salaried employment.

(iv) Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) -Assisting urban poor by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets, in towns having population less than 5 lakhs as per 1991 census.

(v) Urban Community Development Network (UCDN)-Assisting the urban poor in organizing themselves in self- managed community structures so as to gain collective strength to address the issues of poverty facing them and participate in the effective implementation of urban poverty alleviation programmes.

Further, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is being implemented with effect from 3rd December 2005, with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing houses and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers of the identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs for taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 65 select cities under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). For other cities/towns, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has been introduced. Objectives of the Mission are provision of Basic Services to Urban Poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, sanitation, education, health and social security.

Slow progress under BSUP and IHSD

1580. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state that in view of the slow progress under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development (IHSD) Project, what steps have been taken to achieve the targets in time?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): The steps include: (i) Persuasion with lagging State Governments at the highest level to execute projects and seek release of second and subsequent installments for projects already sanctioned and send new projects for sanction against the Additional Central Assistance yet to be committed against the Mission period allocation; (ii) Regular reviews with State and Urban Local Body Officials and visits to States and Cities, (iii) Provision of Central support for Programme Implementation Unit (PMU) at the State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) level and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at the City/Implementation Agency Level and (iv) Undertaking Capacity Building Programmes in Project Preparation, Implementation, Monitoring and Quality Assurance to address the constraints of capacity at various levels. So far more than 100 capacity building/handholding programmes have been conducted across the country covering all States and a large number of Urban Local Bodies and more than 12,000 State/parastatal/loal body officials have been trained.

Slum population

1581. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

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

(a) whether as per 2001 census report the slum population of India in cities and towns with a population of 50,000 and above was 42.6 million, which is 22.6 percent of the urban population of the States/Union Territories reporting slums;

(b) how much growth in slum population has been recorded during the current years, State-wise details;

(c) whether the poor people living in slums which are overcrowded, polluted and lack basic civic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation and health facilities; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government during last three years to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Census of India, 2001 conducted the enumeration of slum population of 640 cities/towns with a population of 50,000 or more spread across 26 States/ Union Territories. This enumeration reported slum population of 42.6 million constituting 23.1 percent of the population of 640 cities/towns.

(b) 2001 Census conducted enumeration of slum population for the first time in the country. In the absence of a second enumeration, State-wise data on growth in slum population are not available.

(c) The people living in slums are subject to Inadequate access to basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation and health facilities.

(d) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) since December 3, 2005 to address the issues of provision of housing and basic civic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation and health facilities to urban poor/slum dwellers, in addition to city-wide infrastructure facilities. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme under JNNURM addresses housing and civic amenities in 65 Mission cities. Similar problems of Non-Mission cities are addressed through the scheme of Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Mission period is 2005-2012.

Survey or census of Jhuggis

1582. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey or census of Jhuggis through NSO and NGOs throughout the country;

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

(c) the facilities Government propose to provide to the Jhuggi dwellers in the country within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has not conducted any survey or census of jhuggis through NSO & NGOs throughout the country. Urban development and land being State subjects, State Governments conduct survey for slums in their respective States from time to time.

The 2001 Census conducted slum survey for 640 towns with more than 50,000 population. Subsequently, at the request of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, enumeration was done for 1103 towns with population between 20,000 and 50,000.

These 1743 towns reported a slum population of about 52 million i.e. 23.5 per cent of population. The detail showing State-wise slum population is given in the Statement.

(c) The Government has announced a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for the slum dwellers and urban poor. This scheme aims at providing support to States that are willing to provide property right to slum dwellers. The Government's effort would be to create a slum free India through the implementation of RAY at the earliest, at the pace set by individual States.

Statement

*Total urban population, population of cities/towns reporting slums and slum population - India, States, Union Territories - 2001
(cities/towns having population 20,000 and above in 2001 Census)*

Sl. No.	State/ Union Territory	No. of cities/ towns reporting slums	Total Urban population of State/UT	Population of cities/towns reporting slums	Total slum population	Percentage of slum population to total Urban population of State /UT	Population of cities/towns reporting slums
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	India**	1,743*	286,119,689	222,957,784	52,371,589	18.5	23.5
1	Jammu & Kashmir	12	2,516,638	1,677,549	373,898	14.9	22.3
2	Punjab	59	8,262,511	6,685,183	1,483,574	18.0	22.2
3	Chandigarh	1	808,515	808,515	107,125	13.2	13.2
4	Uttranchal	19	2,179,074	1,465,610	350,038	16.1	23.9
5	Haryana	49	6,115,304	5,213,913	1,681,117	27.5	32.2
6	Delhi	16	12,905,780	11,277,586	2,029,755	15.7	18.0
7	Rajasthan	93	13,214,375	9,966,057	1,563,063	11.8	15.7
8	Uttar Pradesh	238	34,539,582	26,711,243	5,756,004	16.7	21.5
9	Bihar	92	8,681,800	7,148,152	818,332	9.4	11.4
10	Tripura	4	545,750	262,832	47,645	8.7	18.1
11	Meghalaya	4	454,111	240,008	109,271	24.1	45.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Assam	12	3,439,240	1,591,703	89,962	2.6	5.7
13	West Bengal	89	22,427,251	16,199,327	4,663,806	20.8	28.8
14	Jharkhand	23	5,993,741	2,908,552	340,915	5.7	11.7
15	Orissa	57	5,517,238	4,358,521	1,089,302	19.7	25.0
16	Chhatisgarh	34	4,185,747	3,178,335	1,097,211	26.2	34.5
17	Madhya Pradesh	142	15,967,145	12,685,621	3,776,731	23.7	29.8
18	Gujarat	79	18,930,250	14,029,468	1,975,853	10.4	14.1
19	Maharashtra	176	41,100,980	37,807,986	11,975,943	29.1	31.7
20	Andhra Pradesh	118	20,808,940	18,215,536	6,268,945	30.1	34.4
21	Karnataka	154	17,961,529	15,980,763	2,330,592	13.0	14.6
22	Goa	3	670,577	216,023	18,372	2.7	8.5
23	Kerala	21	8,266,925	3,524,479	74,865	0.9	2.1
24	Tamil Nadu	242	27,483,998	20,123,606	4,240,931	15.4	21.1
25	Pondicherry	5	648,619	581,232	92,095	14.2	15.8
26	Andaman & Nicobar	1	116,198	99,984	16,244	14.0	16.2

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

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

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

Source: 'Census of India 2001'

Schemes under implementation for making India slum free

1583. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the various schemes under implementation aiming at making India slum-free in the next five years;
- (b) the estimated slum population in the country as per latest data available;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted to know the percentage of urban population living in slums; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government has announced the launching of a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. The goal of the scheme is to create Slum-free Urban India. It envisaged dovetailing the following schemes under implementation: Affordable Housing in Partnership and Interest Subsidy for Housing the Urban Poor and extending support under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas. JNNURM is under implementation since 3rd December 2005. The components of Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under JNNURM, address the provision of land tenure, affordable housing, water, sanitation and other basic amenities to the urban poor, especially slum-dwellers.

(b) to (d) The 2001 Census conducted Slum survey for 640 Towns with more than 50,000 Population. Subsequently, at the request of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, enumeration was done for 1103 Towns with population between 20,000 and 50,000. These 1743 Towns reported a slum population of about 52 million, i.e. 23.5 percent of population.

Deadline for abolishing scavenging

1584. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has further extended the deadline for abolishing manual scavenging to March, 2010;
- (b) if so, whether Government has also proposed to create a database of 1,15,000 scavengers identified for rehabilitation schemes; and
- (c) the proposed incentives in terms of loans and vocational training envisaged under the rehabilitation scheme for scavengers?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Scheme of Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Scheme started in January,

2007, aimed at rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in a time bound manner, by March, 2009. In view of the substantial number of beneficiaries remained to be rehabilitated as on 31.3.2009, the target of rehabilitation of the work has been extended upto 31st March, 2010.

(b) The implementing agencies have been requested by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to prepare a detailed database of all the beneficiaries under the scheme.

(c) Assistance to beneficiaries for their rehabilitation under the Scheme, include mainly three components:-

(i) Training:- Scheme covers cost of training to beneficiaries for a period upto one year. Trainees are also provided stipend @ Rs.1000 per month during the entire period of training.

(ii) Capital Subsidy:- 50% capital subsidy is provided for projects upto Rs.25,000, For projects above 25,000, capital subsidy @ 25% is provided subject to minimum of Rs. 12,500 and maximum of Rs.20,000.

(iii) Interest Subsidy:- Interest Subsidy is provided to meet the difference between the rate of interest charged by the Bank and the rates of interest under the scheme (4% to 6% per annum) to reduce the interest liability of beneficiaries.

Increase in population in cities

†1585. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population has increased rapidly in cities in the country during recent years but the fundamental and infrastructural facilities have not developed proportionately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the schemes undertaken to provide basic facilities to slum dwellers of the cities especially in metropolitan cities of the country have been successful and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of Slums Act, 2001 and whether there is any need to make amendments in it and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the Census of India data, the trend in urban population in the country is as under:

Year	Population
1981	159.72 million
1991	217.63 million
2001	286.15 million

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Infrastructure facilities in cities and towns have not kept pace with the increase in the urban population.

(c) The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from December 3, 2005 to address the issues of provision of housing and civic amenities to urban poor/slum dwellers, in addition to city-wide infrastructure facilities. The Mission includes all metropolitan cities. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme under JNNURM addresses housing and civic amenities in 65 Mission cities. Similar problems of Non-Mission cities are addressed through the scheme of Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Mission period is 2005-2012. Achievements made so far under JNNURM (BSUP & IHSDP) are:

Number of Projects Approved	1304
Number of Houses for the Poor Approved	14.59 Lakh
Number of Houses Completed	1.80 Lakh
Number of Houses in Progress	4.38 Lakh
Total Project Cost Approved	Rs.33860 Crore
Additional Central Assistance Committed	Rs.18141 Crore
Additional Central Assistance Released	Rs.7204.7 Crore

(d) Urban development and land being State subjects, slum development falls within the purview of the State Governments. Slum Acts are enacted by the States and as and when a need arises, amendments to these Acts are carried out by them suiting their local needs.

Steep rise in prices of building material in the capital

†1586. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices .of building material, especially in Capital have risen steeply;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would be able to help common man to achieve their dreams of having their houses built in metropolitan cities including the capital?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) As per the information given by the Construction Industry Development Council, the average price of construction material has been rising at a normal pace of 5% to 6% per annum during the last two months.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for some of the materials generally used in the construction of building is given below:

Commodities	Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base year: 1993-94=100)						
	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09
Building Bricks	398.6	403.5	403.5	403.5	403.5	403.5	403.5
Ceramic tiles	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1
Cement	227.9	228.1	229.9	230.8	229.6	228.1	225.8
Asbestos cement corrugated sheets	119.5	119.5	119.5	119.5	116.7	118.1	116.7
Iron & Steel	285.8	286.3	286.4	286.5	293.9	294.4	289.9
Foundry pig iron	271.6	275.6	278.3	280.9	277.9	280.1	281.7
Pipes Wires	229.0	229.7	229.4	229.9	233.6	232.7	234.5
Drawing & Others							

(Figures of Sep-09 and Oct-09 are provisional)

(c) 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to provide for adequate Shelter. However, the Union Government has taken following steps:

1. Formulated the first urban area focused National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 with the objective of providing 'Affordable Housing for All', particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG). This policy intends to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society.
2. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched in 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in sixty five specified cities through its Sub-Mission 'Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP)', and in other cities and towns through Sub Mission 'Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)'.

3. A new scheme, namely, Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) has been launched for providing interest subsidy on housing urban poor to make the housing affordable and within the repaying capacity of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/ Low Income Group (LIG). The scheme encourages poor sections to avail of loan facilities through Commercial Banks/Housing Finance Companies for the purposes of construction/acquisition of houses and avail 5% subsidy in interest payment for loans up to Rs. 1 lakh.
4. Under another newly launched Scheme, namely 'Affordable Housing in Partnership', with a view to encourage allotment of land for EWS, Central Government assistance will be provided on a progressive scale vis-a-vis built up area earmarked for EWS/LIG as a percentage of total constructed area. The assistance would be available for the provision of civic services such as water supply including ground level/overhead service reservoirs, storm water drainage, solid waste management, sewerage including common sewerage treatment facilities, rain water harvesting, approach roads, electricity lines etc.

Housing shortage in the country

†1587. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the shortage of houses in the urban areas of the country is rising by the day;
- (b) if so, the expected shortage of houses in the country during the year 2008 and 2009 as of now;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any housing policy to remove the shortage of houses in the urban areas of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for the implementation of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Technical Group constituted by the Ministry in 2006 to assess the urban housing shortage has estimated that at the end of the 10th Five Year Plan (2007-08), the total housing shortage in the country was 24.71 million. Further, an additional requirement of 1.82 million dwelling units has been projected for the 11th Plan, bringing the total housing requirement during the 11th Plan Period to 26.53 Million dwelling units.

(c) and (d) The Union Government has formulated the first urban area focused National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 to set in motion a process in providing 'Affordable Housing for All' particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

The Policy seeks to bridge the gap between need and supply of housing and infrastructure; and inter-alia provides for accelerating the pace of development of housing and related infrastructure; creating an adequate and affordable housing stock both on rental and ownership basis. The policy also seeks to promote the use of proven and cost effective building materials and technologies. Further, the policy encourages State Governments/Development Authorities to periodically review their master plans and zonal plans and facilitate accelerated supply of serviced land for housing with particular focus on Economically Weaker Section (EWS) the Lower Income Group (LIG) and also make special provisions for Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes(ST)/Other Backward Classes(OBC)/Minorities/Disabled and empowerment of women. This policy intends to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society.

The Policy has been widely circulated among States/Union Territories and other stakeholders. However, 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to follow up on the initiatives propounded in the Policy.

Additional houses under BSUP and IHSDP in Andhra Pradesh

1588. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state the details of the request made to her Ministry by Andhra Pradesh Government to sanction additional houses under the Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) during the last three years and the number of houses sanctioned/constructed so far against this request, year-wise and district-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for sanction of additional projects in cities and towns under the Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) over and above the Mission Period Allocation. So far about Rs.3010 Crores worth of projects under BSUP covering all the three BSUP cities and about Rs.1139 Crores worth of projects covering 57 Towns/Urban Local Bodies under IHSDP have been approved. As the allocation originally indicated by the Planning Commission for Andhra Pradesh and the enhancement made subsequently has nearly exhausted, additional projects are not being sanctioned for the State. While District-wise data are not maintained by the JNNURM Mission Directorate, the city/town wise details of houses sanctioned and being executed are given in the Statement.

Statement

Projects approved under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in Andhra Pradesh during (2006-07)

Status as on 16.11.2009

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Mission Cities	Project Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (New + Upgradation)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Rehabilitation of flood vicious of river Krishna and Budameru Vagu in Vijayawada	258.74	15000
2	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Detail designs and estimation for basic service to urban poor (BSUP), Circle-I area, Vijayawada, A. P.	3.81	0
3	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Detail designs and estimation for basic service to urbanpoor (BSUP), (Circle II)	59.83	0
4	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Detail designs and estimation for basic service to urban poor in Circle-II & III area	26.48	0
5	Andhra Pradesh	Viskhapatnam	Providing 7352 DU and basic infrastructure in 2.2 urban poor settlements in Viskhapatnam	90.99	7352
6	Andhra Pradesh	Viskhapatnam	Providing 7968 DU and basic infrastructure in 06 urban poor settlements inViskhapatnam	96.86	7968
7	Andhra Pradesh	Viskhapatnam	Basic infrastructure facilities at Yathapalem in Viskhapatnam, A.P.	5.50	0
8	Andhra Pradesh	Viskhapatnam	Basic infrastructure facilities at Srinagar in Viskhapatnam	2.40	0
9	Andhra Pradesh	Viskhapatnam	DPR on basic services to Urban poor in steel plant rehabilitation colony at Vadlapudi, Viskhapatnam	28.00	0
Total Project for AP (2006-2007)			9 Projects	572.61	30320

Projects approved under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in Andhra Pradesh during (2007-08)

Status as on 16.11.2009

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Mission Cities	Project Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (New + Upgradation)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP Project for construction of 4550 Houses and provision of Infrastructural facilities in (GHMC), Hyderabad	120.33	4550
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Detailed Project Report for providing G+3 Group Housing and Basic Services for Urban Poor in slums located in Circle-I of VMC INNURM RSUP	190.88	6752
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Details Project Report Repairs to dwelling units constructed under the VAMBAY in Ajit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada	7.74	3373
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Providing infrastructure facilities to Pedagantyada, Gangavaram, Bhanujithaora TGR Nagar, Sebastian Colony, Chakirevulkonda, Sivasakthingagar, Siddardha nagar, AK & AS colony, Agampurdi (UPG) and Rasamma colony poor settlements in GVMC area.	95.12	0
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Providing infrastructure facilities to Aganampudi, Duvvada, Sr. No. 179 and VAMBAY colony Madhuwada poor settlements in GVMC area.		
Total Project for AP (2007-2008)			5 Projects	511.27	14675

Projects approved under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in Andhra Pradesh during (2008-09)

Status as on 16.11.2009

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Mission Cities	Project Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (New + Upgradation)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (Ranga Reddy)	Provision of Housing & Infrastructure facilities under BSUP at Jawaharnagar 7 Gachi Bowli of GHMC, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	95.35	2800
2	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (Ranga Reddy)	Provision of Housing & Infrastructure facilities under BSUP at Abdullapurment of GHMC, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	95.58	2800
3	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (Ranga Reddy)	Provision of Housing & Infrastructure facilities under BSUP at Jagatgirigutta & Kothwalguda of GHMC, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	97.40	2800
4	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP scheme for Hyderabad (Phase-I) for the construction of 1976 dwelling units, AP	69.32	1976
5	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP scheme for Hyderabad (Phase-II) for the construction of 1942 dwelling units, AP	68.91	1942
6	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP scheme for Hyderabad (Phase-II) for the construction of 1856 dwelling units, AP	65.41	1856
7	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP scheme for Hyderabad (Phase-II) for the construction of 1856 dwelling units, AP	95.31	2624
8	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP project phase-V for construction of 2784 houses and provision of infrastructural facilities in GHMC area, Hyderabad	96.26	2784

9	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP project phase-VI for construction of 2814 houses and provision of infrastructural facilities in GHMC area, Hyderabad	95.95	2814
10	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	BSUP project phase -VII for construction of 2800 houses and provision of infrastructural facilities in GHMC area, Hyderabad	97.12	2800
11	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Housing and infrastructural facilities for 3200 housing units in 100 blocks for the poor, opp. Alankar Industries at Jakkampudi Village in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (Andhra Pradesh) under JNNURM Ph.II.	97.97	3200
12	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Housing and infrastructural facilities for 3200 housing units in 100 blocks for the poor at Gollapudi, Jakkampudi Village in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (Andhra Pradesh) under JNNURM Ph. 1.	97.98	3200
13	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	For providing 3616 houses with infrastructure facilities in Aganampudi, in GVMC area.	90.71	3616
14	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	For providing 1024 houses with infrastructure facilities in Kommadi, in GVMC area.	27.68	1024
15	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	For providing 2080 houses with infrastructure facilities in PARADESIPALEMIN SY. No. 178 Poor settlement in GVMC area.	48.79	2080
16	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	For providing 544 houses with infrastructure facilities in PARADESIPALEMIN SY. No. 179 Poor settlement in GVMC area.	13.80	544
17	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	For providing 1839 houses with infrastructure facilities in Parwada in GVMC area.	48.88	1839
Total project for AP (2008-2009)			17 projects	1302.40	40699

Statement

Projects approved under integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) in Andhra Pradesh during (2006-07)

Status as on 16.11.2009

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of towns/ULBs	Total No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total number of dwelling units Approved (new+upgradation)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	Anakapalle (Phase-I)	1	1.54	384
2	Andhra Pradesh	Bugga Vanka at Kadapa (Phase-I)	1	7.07	600
3	Andhra Pradesh	Mtuyhunjayakunta Colony, Kadapa (Phase-II)	1	7.63	434
4	Andhra Pradesh	Gadwal (Phase-I)	1	6.53	513
5	Andhra Pradesh	Gudur	1	12.01	1559
6	Andhra Pradesh	Indira priyadarshinin colony, Rajampet	1	4.21	263
7	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada (Dummutapeta) (Phase-I)	1	10.52	720
8	Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	1	33.63	2304
9	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam (Polepally)	1	8.60	725
10	Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudem	1	11.26	938
11	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool (Phase-I)	1	25.46	2112
12	Andhra Pradesh	Mahaboobnagar (Phase-I)	1	9.65	525

13	Andhra Pradesh	Miryalguda (Phase-I)	1	7.89	986
14	Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda (Phase-I)	1	3.37	378
15	Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	1	10.46	1020
14	Andhra Pradesh	Proddatur, Kadapa	1	19.07	1500
17	Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry (Phase-I)	1	41.63	3192
18	Andhra Pradesh	Ramchandra puram	1	9.96	768
19	Andhra Pradesh	Rayachoti	1	16.72	1272
20	Andhra Pradesh	Samalkota	1	13.51	912
21	Andhra Pradesh	Sangareddy, Distt. Medak	1	6.80	559
22	Andhra Pradesh	Sricilla	1	7.22	766
23	Andhra Pradesh	Surya Peta (Phase-I)	1	12.45	1556
24	Andhra Pradesh	Wanaparthy (Phase-I)	1	3.57	384
25	Andhra Pradesh	Zahirabad, Medak	1	11.20	800
TOTAL			25	301.92	25170

Projects approved under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) in Andhra Pradesh during (2007-08)

Status as on 16.11.2009

(Rs. in Crores)

1	Andhra Pradesh	Adoni	1	4.95	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	Anakapalle (Phase-II)	1	3.50	0
3	Andhra Pradesh	Bapatla-Infrastructure	1	7.62	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Andhra Pradesh	Beemunipatnam	1	3.39	0
5	Andhra Pradesh	Buvangiri-Infrastructure	1	11.10	0
6	Andhra Pradesh	Chilakaluripet	1	15.00	0
7	Andhra Pradesh	Chirala	1	3.52	0
8	Andhra Pradesh	Chittor	1	4.22	0
9	Andhra Pradesh	Gadwal -Infrastructure (Phase-II)	1	3.55	0
10	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur-infrastructure (Phase-I)	1	19.83	0
11	Andhra Pradesh	Jangaon	1	16.00	0
12	Andhra Pradesh	Kadappa-Infrastructure (Phase-III)	1	11.19	0
13	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada, Nellore (Phase-II)	1	10.64	0
14	Andhra Pradesh	Kavali (Phase-I)	1	1.53	0
15	Andhra Pradesh	Kavali (Phase-II)	1	4.33	0
16	Andhra Pradesh	Macherla	1	14.99	0
17	Andhra Pradesh	Madanapalle	1	4.74	0
18	Andhra Pradesh	Mahaboobnagar-Infrastructure (Phase-II)	1	13.54	0
19	Andhra Pradesh	Mancherla-Infrastructure	1	16.89	0
20	Andhra Pradesh	Miryalaguda-Infrastructure (Phase-II)	1	14.50	0
21	Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda-Infrastructure (Phase-II)	1	13.59	0

22	Andhra Pradesh	Narasaraopet-Infrastructure	1	19.79	0
23	Andhra Pradesh	Narayanpet	1	12.58	0
24	Andhra Pradesh	Ongole	1	2.84	0
25	Andhra Pradesh	Pulivendula	1	14.69	0
26	Andhra Pradesh	Sattenapalli	1	13.93	0
27	Andhra Pradesh	Siddipet	1	3.97	0
28	Andhra Pradesh	Suryapet-Infrastructure (Phase-II)	1	23.27	0
29	Andhra Pradesh	Tanduru	1	13.82	0
30	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupathi (Phase-I)	1	55.36	4087
31	Andhra Pradesh	Vinukonda	1	14.68	0
32	Andhra Pradesh	Wanapathy-Infrastructure (Phase-II)	1	11.74	0
TOTAL			32	385.30	4087

Projects approved under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) in Andhra pradesh during (2008-09)

Status as on 16.11.2009

(Rs. in Crores)

1	Andhra Pradesh	Azad Nagar Colony Kadapa, (Phase-IV)	1	2.61	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	Bodhan, Distt Adilabad	1	6.25	0
3	Andhra Pradesh	Dhone, Distt. Kurnool	1	2.24	0
4	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur City (Phase-II)	1	33.56	1792

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada City (Phase-III)	1	54.50	3120
6	Andhra Pradesh	Kornool (Phase-III)	1	19.76	0
7	Andhra Pradesh	Machilipatnam	1	9.63	0
8	Andhra Pradesh	Mamilapalli housing Colony in Kadapa (Phase-V)	1	6.25	0
9	Andhra Pradesh	Nirmal	1	11.25	0
10	Andhra Pradesh	Palwancha town, Distt. Khammam	1	6.25	0
11	Andhra Pradesh	Peddapuram	1	34.50	1831
12	Andhra Pradesh	Ponnur	1	13.81	0
13	Andhra Pradesh	Rajhundry City (Phase-II)	1	55.68	2832
14	Andhra Pradesh	Repalle, Distt- Guntur	1	6.25	0
15	Andhra Pradesh	Samlkota town	1	36.61	2008
16	Andhra Pradesh	Tenali, distt. Guntur	1	5.36	0
18	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati (Phase-II)	1	45.41	2136
19	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati (Phase-III)	1	32.72	1560
17	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati (Padipeta & Avilala) (Phase-IV)	1	66.35	3360
20	Andhra Pradesh	Yellandu, Distt. Khammam	1	2.86	0
TOTAL			20	451.87	18639

Radiation emergency response centres

1589. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up a network of radiation emergency response centres in various parts of the country to deal with nuclear emergency situations;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the extent to which such centres has been able to obtain its objectives so far;
- (d) whether Government proposes to set up some more such centres during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ERCs are developed for preparedness of response to any nuclear and radiological emergencies affecting the public domain, The ERCs will also provide appropriate advice to the administration/local security agencies regarding; the counter/rescue measures etc., required in the presence of any radiation field/contamination in public domain either due to any accident or by deliberate acts.

The emergency response centres are having various radiation monitoring systems for the quick assessment of the radiological status by the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) comprising of radiation safety experts of DAE.

Additionally these centres are being utilized for training of the First responders from NDRF (National Disaster Response Force).

(c) The Centres are kept in readiness with systems for response. Though there was no radiation emergency situation, the emergency response teams (ERTs) from Mumbai ERC, Jaipur ERC, Kolkata ERC, Chennai ERC, Hyderabad ERC have responded for monitoring and advised for suspected presence of radioactivity in public domain.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Department of Atomic Energy is planning to setup another four centres during XI Five Year Plan at the following locations:

1. Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM), Orissa.
2. Indian Rare Earths Limited, Manavalakurichi
3. Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad
4. Naval Base, Visakhapatnam.

Apart from these, training centres of NDRFs and Defence Forces are being considered for expansion of this network.

Entry of professionals in U.K.

1590. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government of UK has, recently, decided to curb the entry of doctors and other professionals from outside Europe;
- (b) if so, whether such a decision of the UK Government would have an adverse impact on thousands of Indians;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to take up the matter with the UK Government and to protect the interest of Indian Doctors/Engineers in UK; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The UK has amended their immigration laws and has launched a Point- Based System (PBS) in 2008 to streamline the entry of non EU workers into UK. Under the new PBS, there will be a five-tier framework, through which non-EU nationals could come to gain entry into UK for work, study or training on fulfilment of prescribed conditions. The five tiers have different conditions, privileges and entry clearance checks. Tier-1 of PBS for highly skilled workers has replaced the erstwhile Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP), and has been implemented by UK for India from 1st April 2008. Indian professionals who wish to come to UK for work may do so under Tier 1 (highly skilled individuals like doctors and engineers) without any specific job offer but the individual should get the minimum points needed to become eligible for entry under this Tier. Tier 2 for skilled workers has been implemented for India from November 27, 2008 and is meant for skilled professionals. Indian professionals can come to UK under Tier 2 through two separate routes - those outside the shortage occupation list may be directly recruited by the UK companies under Points Based System on fulfilling certain conditions, and those within the shortage occupation list can come to UK if they have a specific job offer. The revision of the shortage occupation list drawn up by the UK government is in progress. The last revision made in October 2009, dropped certain categories while adding several other disciplines to the shortage occupation list.

(d) and (e) The issue has been taken up with the Government of UK in bilateral meetings, urging them to ensure that the new system does not pose hurdles for Indian professionals to enter or stay in the UK.

Welfare of people returning from abroad

1591. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Commission for the welfare of people returning from abroad after termination of their work contract or who have been dismissed from service due to any reason or harassed by their employer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Prominent Indians abroad

1592. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has ever invited prominent Indians settled abroad to India, if so, the names of the persons;

(b) whether his Ministry has prepared a list of people of Indian origin who have attained high position in Government, Legislature and in public life in each country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of Pravasi Bhartiya Award as it is given to only 10 persons; and

(d) whether Government has at any time published any literature about the achievements of NRIs and order to further encourage them and create goodwill of India abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The Ministry has been inviting prominent overseas Indians settled abroad to inter-alia, participate in the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conventions, held since 2003. The list of dignitaries and speakers invited for PBD-2009 is attached as Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The maximum number of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) conferred every year is 15, as prescribed in the guidelines governing PBSA. There is no proposal to increase them.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

*List of Overseas Indians Dignitaries invited for Pravasi Bharatiya
Divas Convention 2009*

Sl. No.	Name	Country
1	2	3
1.	Mr. Brian Robert Hayes	Australia
2.	Dr. Ravi Filial	Bahrain
3.	Ms. Meera Ravi	Bahrain

1	2	3
4.	Mr. Soman Baby	Bahrain
5.	Dr. Philomena Ann Mohini Harris	Barbados
6.	Dr. Ruby Dhalla	Canada
7.	Mr. Hari Panday	Canada
8.	Mr. Kasi V.P. Rao	Canada
9.	Dr. Ravi Seethapathy	Canada
10.	Mr. Shan Chandrasekar	Canada
11.	Mr. Deepak Obhari	Canada
12.	Ambassador K.K. Bhargava	Canada
13.	Ms. Jaya Subramaniam	Canada
14.	Mr. HarinderTakhar	Canada
15.	Dr. Alok Mukherjee	Canada
16.	Ms. Asha Luthra	Canada
17.	Prof. Rajesh Chandra	Fiji
18.	Mr. Mahendra Chaudhury	Fiji
19.	Mr. Ranvir Nayar	France
20.	Mr. Kiran Malhotra	Germany
21.	Dr. Prem Misir	Guyana
22.	Mr. Mathunny (Sunny) Mathew	Kuwait
23.	Dato ' Seri S. Samy Vellu	Malaysia
24.	Dato Dr. S. Subramaniam	Malaysia
25.	Mr. P. Ramasamy	Malaysia
26.	Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria	Malaysia
27.	Ms. Leela Gujadhur Sarup	Mauritius
28.	Mr. Mahyendra Utchanah	Mauritius
29.	Mr. Jose Parayanken	Mozambique
30.	Mr. R.L. Lakhina	Netherlands
31.	Dr. M.K. Gautam	Netherlands
32.	Mr. Wahid Saleh	Netherlands

1	2	3
33.	Mr. Venkat Raman	New Zealand
34.	Mr. S.K. Virmani	Oman
35.	Prof. Narana Sinai Coissoro	Portugal
36.	Mr. R. Seetharaman	Qatar
37.	Mr. Jean Regis Ramsamy	Reunion Island
38.	Mr. Sat Pal Khattar	Singapore
39.	Mr. Gopinath Pillai	Singapore
40.	Mr. K. Shanmugam	Singapore
41.	Mr. Vijay Iyengar	Singapore
42.	Mr. Vavakunju Shihabudeen	Saudi Arabia
43.	Prof. Dasarath Chetty	South Africa
44.	Mr. Loganathan Naidoo	South Africa
45.	Justice Mohini Murugesan	South Africa
46.	Ms. Shireen Sarojini Mudali Munsamy	South Africa
47.	Mr. Amichand Rajbansi	South Africa
48.	Dr. T.P. Naidoo	South Africa
49.	Mr. Arumugam Thondaman	Sri Lanka
50.	Mr. P. Chandrasekaran	Sri Lanka
51.	H. E. Mr. Ramdien Sardjoe	Suriname
52.	Mr. Arun Amirtham	Switzerland
53.	Dr. Rajni Kanabar	Tanzania
54.	Dato Satish Sehgal	Thailand
55.	Mr. Anand Ramlogan	Trinidad & Tobago
56.	Yusuffali M.A.	UAE
57.	Mr. Rajinder Paul Loomba	UK
58.	Lord Diljit Singh Rana, MBE	United Kingdom
59.	Dr. Ramesh Mehta	UK
60.	Baroness Shreela Flather	UK
61.	Mr. Sam G. Pitroda	USA

1	2	3
62.	Prof. Sugata Bose	USA
63.	Prof. C.K. Prahalad	USA
64.	Mr. Inder Singh	USA
65.	Ms. Renu Khator	USA
66.,	Mr. Prakash M. Swamy	USA
67.	Mr. Ashook Ramsaran	USA
68.	Mr. Thomas Abraham	USA
69.	Dr. Sanku S. Rao	USA
70.	Dr. M. Anirudhan	USA
71.	Mr. Ashwin Patel	USA
72.	Justice A.M. Ebrahim	Zimbabwe

Racial attack in Melbourne

1593. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an unfortunate incident of racist attack on Indian where a 22 year old Sikh was assaulted and his turban was also removed by a group of teenagers while he was sleeping in a bus stop near railway station in Epping in Melbourne, suburb that has seen a spate of racist attacks on Indians;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to put an end to such attacks and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The High Commissioner of India had specifically taken up the issue of this attack in Epping which took place on 12 September 2009 with the Premier of Victoria himself. The Premier had responded by reiterating that it was regrettable that incidents of violence were still occurring in Victoria and that he considered any act of racially motivated violence or racism as completely unacceptable.

As a result of a series of high-level discussions and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks have decreased.

Indian students in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore

1594. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian students in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore;
- (b) that States from where the students go to these countries, each year;
- (c) the total number of incidents like attacks, misbehaviors and discrimination against Indians in last one year;
- (d) the steps taken by Government for security of Indian students after such incidents; and
- (e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per reports received from Indian Missions in these countries, there are about 1,21,000 Indian students in Australia and about 6,861 Indian students in New Zealand. Figures of the number of Indian students pursuing studies in Singapore is not available.

(b) Data regarding states from where students go to these countries is not available. However, in Australia the students are predominantly from Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana.

(c) No reports of attacks misbehavior and discrimination against Indian students have been reported from New Zealand and Singapore. A total of 100 attacks on Indians, including students, have been reported from Australia during the last one year.

(d) and (e) The matter has been taken up at the highest level by our Prime Minister with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia during their visits to India. As a result of a series of high-level discussions and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms. Julia Gillard introduced in the Parliament, a bill to amend the Education Services for Overseas Students Act, 2000, under which all educational institutions will now be required to re-register under new and tighter criteria by 31 December, 2010. Similarly rapid audit of service providers is being undertaken by the Australian authorities, as a result of which some colleges have already been de-registered and shut down. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

Attack on Indian students

†1595. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of attacks on Indian students in foreign countries especially in Australia are increasing;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government for protection of Indian students, keeping in view increasing incidents of attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether victim students are being provided any economic assistance by Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir. However, a few cases of attacks on Indian students in Australia have been reported.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The issue of attack on Indian students has been taken up with the Australian Government at the highest level. As a result of a series of discussions with visiting high level Australian delegations and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps, which have resulted in decrease of such attacks. To address the problems faced by Indian students in Australia and to recommend measures for enhancing their safety and wellbeing, the Government has set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) with the Australian side on student mobility. The JWG held its first meeting on 6th October, 2009.

Detailed advisory for Indian students who plan to study in Australia has been placed on the websites of MEA, MOIA and the Indian Mission and Consulates in Australia. Advisory to students who wish to study in certain other countries, have been placed on the website of MOIA.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Problem of CIC

1596. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently held fourth anniversary convention of the Central and State Information Commissioners, has highlighted the problems faced by the CIC and its State units in terms of sparse office premises, lack of basic office equipments/furniture and manpower including low budgetary provisions; and

(b) considering the laudable role played by the Central Information Commission (CIC) as a window between Government and the citizenry, whether Government would ensure that the offices of the CIC and its State units are provided with basic amenities and manpower commensurate with the increasing volume of complaints/applications they handle daily under RTI Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has sanctioned 116 posts for the Central Information Commission. The Commission has constituted a Committee to assess its staff requirement. The Government shall examine the report of the Committee as and when received. The Commission has been allotted space in Delhi. A plot of land has also been allotted for construction of a building of the Commission. Staffing and providing accommodation and other facilities to the State Information Commissions are the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government is providing some assistance to the State Information Commissions under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Information received under RTI

1597. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 27 per cent RTI applicants get the required information;
- (b) if so, the action being taken to increase this level substantially;
- (c) the details of Information Commissioners who have been ranked as best, average and bad in the field of RTI;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that most of the Information Commissioners are exbureaucrats; and
- (e) if so, the plan to bring about balance in that field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) The Government, through a media report, has come to know that a study has been conducted by the Public Cause Research Foundation about functioning of the Information Commissioners. The Study, according to the media report, concludes that a person filing an appeal with an Information Commission has 27% chance of getting information. However, as per the Annual Report of the Central Information Commission for the year 2006-2007, on an average, public authorities under different Ministries received 171,404 information requests, and rejected only 15,388 requests under the RTI Act. The Central Information Commission disposed off 68.45% of the appeals according to the CIC Annual Report. The Act has an inbuilt system of ensuring that the applicants get the requisite information. It provides that if a public information officer, without any reasonable cause, refuses to accept the application or does not furnish information within the prescribed time or knowingly give incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroys the information, the Information Commission may impose penalty on him. It may also recommend disciplinary action against the public information officer. The Commission may also require the concerned public authority to compensate the complainant.

(c) The Government does not rank statutory bodies such as the Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions.

(d) and (e) Information about State Information Commissioners is not centrally maintained. However, out of eight Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, five are former civil servants. The Central Information Commissioners are appointed on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. The Committee selects the best possible candidates for the post.

IAS Officer posted in Jharkhand

1598. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the numbers of IAS Cadre officers posted at the time of formation of the State of Jharkhand and at present;
- (b) whether there is considerable reduction in these officers in Jharkhand;
- (c) if so, the present strength of IAS Cadre officers excluding those on deputation/long leave; and
- (d) whether this has not hampered proper and timely implementation of schemes/projects in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (c) The Government of India in consultation with State Governments determines the strength and composition of each of the cadres of IAS and also makes such alterations ordinarily at the interval of every five years as it deems fit. The total authorized strength of IAS cadre of Jharkhand has been increased from 129 in 2001 to 143 in 2005. As per information received from the Government of Jharkhand at the time of formation of the State, 120 IAS cadre officers including 32 officers on central deputation were allocated to the State of Jharkhand and at present 77 IAS cadre officers excluding those on central deputation are in position in the State.

(d) It is for the Government of Jharkhand to ensure that at any given point of time adequate number of IAS officers against the authorized sanctioned strength are posted in the State Government for proper and timely implementation of schemes/projects in Jharkhand. In so far as Government of India is concerned it has been decided to give 04 direct recruit IAS officers to Jharkhand on the basis of CSE 2008. In addition, 24 vacancies in promotion quota of IAS cadre of Jharkhand have already been determined in consultation with the State Government.

Change in pattern of civil service exam

1599. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that UPSC has proposed to replace the current method of examination for Civil Services, both preliminary and mains;

- (b) if so, the full details thereof alongwith the details of proposed pattern and syllabus and the rationale for changing the existing pattern;
- (c) by when it would be implemented;
- (d) whether advance information/notice would be given to aspirants of Civil Services;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) to (f) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Shortage of staff in CBI

†1600. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of about 50 per cent employees in the prime intelligence institution like Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government admits the deficiency in vigilance work due to shortage of employees; and
- (c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to meet this shortage and by when this shortage would be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) No, Sir. As on 31.10.2009, out of 5961 sanctioned strength, 721 i.e. 12% posts in various grades are vacant in the CBI.

(b) No, Sir. With effective use and deployment of existing personnel, the vacancies have not affected the performance of the CBI adversely. Occurrence of vacancies and their filling up is an ongoing process.

(c) Government has recently decided to create 284 posts in the grades of Public Prosecutor, Inspector, Head Constable and Steno Clerks for Additional Special Courts for trial CBI cases. 62 posts that were lying vacant in various grades and were deemed to have been abolished, have also been revived. Government has taken the following steps, *inter-alia*, to ensure filling up of vacancies in time:

- Grant of Special Incentive Allowance @ 25% of Pay-Dearness Allowance upto the level of Senior Superintendent of Police and @ 15% for officers above that rank to attract officers on deputation.
- Amendment of recruitment rules for various posts from time to time to meet the requirements of the CBI.
- Decentralization of induction of Inspector on deputation in order to ensure speedy and smooth recruitment process.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

IAS/IPS Officers in Sikkim

1601. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of officers of All India Services particularly IAS and IPS who are posted in Sikkim at present;
- (b) the number out of these officers who are from Sikkim and the number from outside the State;
- (c) the number out of these officers who are on deputation outside Sikkim and since when; and
- (d) the number out of these officers who have completed their tenure and have not come back, name-wise details in all the above parts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) There are 31 IAS officers and 32 IPS officers presently appointed to the Sikkim Cadre.
- (b) Out of these officers, 10 officers each from IAS and IPS are from Sikkim and 21 IAS officers and 22 IPS officers are from outside the State.
- (c) and (d) There are 10 IAS officers and 6 IPS officers currently on deputation outside Sikkim and are serving within their approved tenure. The details in this regard are given in the Statement.

Statement

List of IAS/IPS Officers of Sikkim Cadre on deputation outside the State

Sl. No	Name of the officer	Batch	Post and Organization to which deputed	Date of deputation
1	2	3	4	5
IAS				
1.	Shri Alok Rawat	1977	Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi	17.03.08
2.	Shri Suresh Chandra Gupta	1986	On compulsory wait, Department of Women & Child Development, Government of India, New Delhi	17.10.07
3.	Shri Gyan Prakash Upadhyaya	1987	Secretary General, Federation of Indian Export Organization, New Delhi	23.09.08

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Shri Arun Kumar Yadav	1987	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi	23.01.06
5.	Dr. K. Jaya Kumar	1987	Joint Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, New Delhi	20.05.09
6.	Ms. Upma Srivastava	1988	Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India, New Delhi	20.11.06
7.	Shri Govind Mohan	1989	Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi	09.01.06
8.	Shri K. Sreenivasulu	1994	Inter Cadre Deputation to Chhattisgarh	04.01.07
9.	Shri Puneet Kansal	1996	Director (Finance), National Aids Control Organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi	23.02.09
10.	Shri Saroj Kumar Jha	1997	Private Secretary to Minister, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi	25.06.08
IPS				
1.	Shri Avinash Mohananey	1985	Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau	13.06.91
2.	Shri N.K. Mishra	1988	Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau	28.08.95
3.	Shri N. Sridhar Rao	1994	Superintendent of Police, Central Bureau of Investigation.	01.02.08
4.	Shri Vineet Vinayak	1995	Inter Cadre Deputation to Bihar	02.12.06
5.	Avichal	1996	Asst. Inspector General, Special Protection Group	10.06.02
6.	Mrinalini Srivastava	2002	Asst. Director, Intelligence Bureau	20.11.08

Excluding notings from RTI purview

1602. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry proposes to amend the RTI Act with a view to exclude notings and consultation process from the purview of the Act;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is strong public opinion against this amendment; and
- (d) if so, the stand of the Ministry in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. Government have received representations expressing concerns about the proposed amendments. NGOs and Civil Society Organisations will be consulted on the proposed amendments before any final decision about amendments is taken.

State Government not implementing RTI Act

1603. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State Governments are not serious enough in implementing the Right to Information Act; and
- (b) if so, the steps that are required on the part of the Central Government for redressing the genuine grievances of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) The Act casts statutory obligation on the States to implement the Right to Information Act. In order to ensure that the provisions of the Act are implemented in the States, State Information Commissions have been constituted by all the States to which the Act applies. The Information Commissions have power to impose penalty on the defaulting public information officers and to require the concerned public authority to compensate the complainant.

Human development index

1604. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India ranked 134th out of 182 countries on the Human Development Index which was developed jointly by Amartya Sen and Mahbule-UI-Haq in 1990; and
- (b) if so, the reasons of such poor ranking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Though, there is no change in India's ranking in the UNDP's Human Development Index, 2009 (based on data up to 2007) as compared to previous year's ranking, however, there has been a consistent improvement in the HDI value from 0.427 in 1980 to 0.612 in 2007.

Special grant to Madhya Pradesh Government

†1605. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh Government has made a demand of special grant to bring the State in the category of leading State from the category of backward States;
- (b) if so, the action being considered by Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether any time limit has been fixed to sanctioned the grant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) Planning Commission has not received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh for special grant to bring the State in the category of leading State from the category of backward States.

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

Food security scheme

1606. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) 2004-05, the BPL families are estimated to be 301.7 million which is 27.5 per cent of the total population which came down from 320 million i.e. 36 per cent of corresponding figure of 1993-94 thus the number of BPL people came down by 18.3 million or 8.5 per cent;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that at the recent meeting held with States, the States have given a figure of 8 million of BPL people; and
- (c) if so, in what manner Government will reconcile both the figures and implement the Food Security Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) The Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution data of the 61st Round of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) yields 301.7 million persons are living below the poverty line, which is 27.5 per cent of population of the country as a whole in 2004-05 as against the poverty ratio of 36% in 1993-94.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Department of Food and Public Distribution had convened a meeting of State Secretaries of Department of Food and Civil Supplies on 7th August, 2009 followed by meeting with State Ministers for Food and Civil Supplies on 17.08.2009 to discuss various issues related to production and procurement of foodgrains in view of the deficient rainfall during 2009. Various issues relating to the proposed National Food Security Act were discussed including the issue that some of the State Governments have indicated that the numbers of below poverty line families in their respective States are higher than the accepted number of BPL families for allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System.

Constitution of National Social Security Board

†1607. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to constitute “ National Social Security Board” for successful operation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Scheme, National Health Insurance Scheme, Old Age Pension Scheme, Swarna Jayanti Rojgar Yojana and Aam Admi Bima Yojana running under the social security;

(b) whether Government is aware of the irregularities prevailing in the implementation of these schemes; and

(c) the amount spent on social security schemes per year?

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

(a) The Government has constituted a National Social Security Board headed by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment under the Unorganized Sector Workers’ Social Security Act, 2008. The functions of the Board, include, *inter-alia*;

i) recommend to the Central Government suitable schemes for different sections of unorganized workers;

ii) advice the Central Government on such matters arising out of the administration of this Act and

iii) monitor such social welfare schemes for unorganized workers as are administered by the Central Government.

(b) Whenever irregularities in the administration of the above mentioned schemes are brought to the notice of the Government, appropriate action is taken.

(c) The expenditure on the schemes in the year 2008-09 are as follows:

	(Rs Crores)
1. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	27137.88
2. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	3860.08
3. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)	2290.14

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

4.	Rastriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY)	101.00
5.	Swarnajayanti Sahari RojgarYojana (SJSRY) (Releases to State Governments)	540.67
6.	Aam Admi BimaYojana	30.50

Employment generation target

†1608. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the target set for employment generation in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) the share of the private, public and unorganized sector to be therein;
- (c) total employment generated in all the three sectors during the last two years of the plan and the estimates thereof for next three years;
- (d) total reduction in employment as a result of global slowdown;
- (e) the plan to rehabilitate those rendered unemployed; and
- (f) whether it is a fact that there is a mismatch in demand and supply of employment and the plan to rectify that?

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

(a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan set a target of creating 58 million new work opportunities. The sectoral break-up of targets of employment projected for the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) is as follows:

(Current Daily Status Basis)		
Sl.No.	Sector	Target (in million for 2007-12)
1	Agriculture	0.00
2	Mining and quarrying	0.00
3	Manufacturing	11.94
4	Electricity, water etc.	0.02
5	Construction	11.92
6	Trade, hotel and restaurants	17.40
7	Transport, storage and common services	9.02
8	Financial, insurance, real estate and business services	3.43
9	Community, social and personal services	4.34
TOTAL :		58.07

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The recent experience on employment is captured by the results of 61st round of NSS, which gives the data for the year 2004-05. According to the results of the Survey, Employment growth in the 10th plan was somewhat better compared to the previous period during 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 when about 47 million work opportunities were created as compared to only 24 million in the previous period 1993-94 to 1999-2000. The information for 2009-10 is likely to be released by 2011 through next quinquennial survey.

(d) The results of the Surveys conducted by Labour Bureau are as follows :

- i) Decline by 4.91 lakh during the quarter October-December 2008.
- ii) Increased by 2.76 lakh during Jan-March, 2009.
- iii) Decline by 1.31 lakh during April-June 2009 probably due to seasonality.
- iv) Increased by 4.97 lakh during the July-September, 2009.

(e) The Government is concerned about the possible impact of global financial crisis on the Indian economy, including employment, and several measures, have been taken to help the industry in general and more affected labour intensive export sector in particular .

(f) The Eleventh Five Year Plan mentions that it is essential to produce a growth process in which employment would be available not only for new entrants to the labour force but also in the non-agricultural sector for workers leaving agriculture.

Involvement of private entities evaluation

1609. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has decided to rope in private entities involvement while evaluating of Tenth Plan process;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister has given a go ahead to rope in credible private think tank to help planning in carrying out mid-term appraisal of progress made during Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether Planning Commission has linked mid-term appraisal of various programmes especially social sector schemes to three tier 57 year old Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO); and

(d) if so, the final decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) and (b) Yes, sir. Planning Commission has initiated Mid Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. As part of this exercise, it has been decided to take inputs from independent reputed research institutions regarding the performance of the Plan. Based on these inputs, Planning Commission is

making a comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the performance of the Eleventh Five Year Plan in terms of major achievements/shortfalls and make necessary recommendations for mid course correction.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Additional funds for Bihar

1610. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Bihar has demanded a special package for the uplift of the State and additional funds for rehabilitation of people affected by last year's Kosi floods;
- (b) if so, whether Government has agreed to provide a meagre Rs.117 crore for the Kosi flood victims whereas the State Government have demanded Rs. 14000 crore as a rehabilitation package;
- (c) if so, to what extent the package given by the Government is justified; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to reconsider their decision and to provide additional help to Bihar as a special case?

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

(a) At the time of division of the State, Government of Bihar had requested for a special economic package. Accordingly, after wide ranging consultations, the Special Plan for Bihar was initiated in 2003-04. Further, in the wake of Kosi flood of 2008, Government of Bihar, in their revised requirements, had sought financial assistance of Rs. 11683.11 crore, in three parts, viz. (i) as per Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) norms (Rs. 3394.43 crore), (ii) as per CRF norms on higher scale (Rs. 4717.73 crore), and (iii) assistance required for items not covered under CRF norms (Rs. 3570.95 crore).

(b) to (d) After following the laid procedure, an amount of Rs. 497.35 crore was approved from National Calamity Contingency Fund subject to the adjustment of 75% balance available in the CRF account of the State for the instant calamity and the cost of charges of deployment of IAF for airdropping of essential supplies, based on actuals. Further, an amount of Rs. 117.21 crore was also approved by the Government of India, over and above the extant norms for providing assistance to the families in dire need of immediate sustenance as well as operation of relief camps for the period over and above the CRF norms. In addition, approximately an amount of Rs. 2273.15 crore for rehabilitation/reconstruction were allocated by various Central Ministries/ Departments in their respective sectors to supplement the efforts of the State Government to meet the entire situation effectively.

Hunger syndrome

1611. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) declared during 2007 that 854 million people go hungry around the world and also predicted worse position during 2008;

(b) if so, whether this particular aspect has been kept in view in the perspective planning for Twelfth and Thirteenth Five Year Plans; and

(c) in what manner we can tackle this 'hunger syndrome' while expecting a four per cent agricultural growth and simultaneously, enormous growth in population?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) Global Hunger Index for the year 2007, it was estimated that 854 million people go hungry around the world. Food security considerations remain an area of priority in the process of perspective planning. The National Food Security Mission which has been set up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, aims at increasing the food grains production by 20 Million Tonnes by the end of the Plan. A new Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched to provide additional financial resources to state governments to finance agriculture development programmes emerging from district level agriculture plans which take into account district specific agro-climatic constraints. In addition, expansion of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and a renewed thrust at watershed development has been planned. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) gives the priority to the projects aimed at water conservation, and effective convergence of resources available under National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (NREGS) with ultimately serving the larger objective of enhancing agriculture productivity.

Bringing common man to mainstream

†1612. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether our first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said that the objective of independence cannot be fulfilled until the weakest person of the society is not brought into the mainstream;

(b) whether this statement is not true, today; and

(c) the policy of Government to make this statement true?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in his speech on the eve of India's Independence elaborated the meaning of freedom by committing ourselves for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

service of India which means ending of poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity. The above ambition set by our first Prime Minister is still relevant in the present situation.

(c) After Independence, India has resorted to a planned development primarily to guide the direction of development. The alleviation of poverty, disease, illiteracy and development of social and economic infrastructure has been the priority areas of the various Five Years Plans. As a result of the above strategy, there has been a significant reduction in poverty ratio which has come down from 54.9 per cent in 1973-74 to 27.5 per cent 2004-05. Similarly, in the health and education sectors, there has been a significant achievements in terms of increased expectancy of life, reduction in infant morality rate and significant improvement in the literacy rate etc. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points for which various programmes including programmes for generating wage and self-employment are being implemented. To achieve the objective of inclusive growth, some of the major initiatives taken include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) etc.

India's rank in human development report

†1613. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been placed at 138th rank in Human Development Report of United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether development of India seems quite slow in comparison to the other developing countries in terms of level of basic human amenities; and

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

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

(a) and (b) India has been placed at 134th rank in Human Development Report (HDR) of UNDP 2009 (based on data up to 2007). The HDR 2009 includes the data for 192 UN member States. India with Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.612 reflects an improvement over the previous report which indicated the HDI value of 0.604.

(c) and (d) India has registered a consistent improvement in HDI value which was 0.427 in 1980 and improved to 0.612 in 2007. The HDR 2009 also reveals that average annual growth rate in HDI value in respect of India has been 1.36 per cent during the period 2000-07 which is significant as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

compared to many other developing countries. The HDI is based on parameters such as life expectancy at birth, adult literacy ratio, combined gross enrolment ratio in education and GDP per capita. The Government strategy of strengthening social infrastructure has a positive impact in improving the living conditions of the people. The implementation of flagship programmes such as National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) and poverty alleviation by providing wage and self employment, providing safe drinking water and effective implementation of sanitation campaign etc. are expected to further improve the India's ranking in HDI.

Special status to Bihar

†1614. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Bihar for giving special status to the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the former Government prior to the constitution of present Government had intended that Bihar be made resourceful by according it special status to eradicate its backwardness; and
- (d) if so, whether Government will give special status to Bihar by taking action according to its earlier expressed intentions?

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

(a) to (d) A proposal regarding special category status has been received from the State Government of Bihar and Government of India is seized of the matter.

Gross State Domestic Product

1615. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the real growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 1999-2000 prices, national *vis-a-vis* State-wise, during the Tenth Five Year Plan and targeted in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) what has been the GSDP for 2007-08 and 2008-09;
- (c) the reasons for which Jharkhand has a low growth rate in GSDP, in spite of being rich in mineral resources; and
- (d) the details of the measures taken to accelerate the growth in Jharkhand?

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

(a) and (b) The State wise details of real growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 1999-2000 prices, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, Eleventh Five Year Plan and for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The state of Jharkhand had registered 11.1% growth rate of GSDP as against the target of 6.9% during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The target of GSDP growth rate for the Eleventh Five Year Plan in respect of Jharkhand is 9.8%. Despite being rich in mineral resources, Jharkhand has registered low growth rate in GSDP as compared to the growth rate at the National level during 2007-08 and 2008-09. The main reasons for low growth rate of GSDP are such as lack of basic infrastructure facilities, low tax-GSDP rate resulting in resource constraints for meeting higher development needs and issues relating to governance etc. The Central Government has been taking several measures to improve the growth rate across the country in a balanced manner. The policy instruments in this regard, among others, include plan and non-plan transfer of resources from the Centre to States favouring less developed States. In addition, all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) including Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) are expected to yield results, in terms of achieving the target growth rate for Jharkhand.

Statement

Growth Rates in Gross State Domestic Product

(% per annum)

Sl.No.	States	Tenth Plan		Eleventh Plan	2007-08	2008-09
		Target	Actuals	Target	Achievements	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.8	6.7	9.5	10.6	5.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.0	5.8	6.4	3.7	N.A
3	Assam	6.2	6.1	6.5	6.1	6.0
4	Bihar	6.2	4.7	7.6	8.0	11.4
5	Jharkhand	6.9	11.1	9.8	6.2	5.5
6	Goa	9.2	7.8	12.1	11.1	N.A
7	Gujarat	10.2	10.6	11.2	12.8	N.A
8	Haryana	7.9	7.6	11.0	9.4	8.0
9	Himachal Pradesh	8.9	7.3	9.5	8.6	N.A
10	J & K	6.3	5.2	6.4	6.3	N.A
11	Karnataka	10.1	7.0	11.2	12.9	5.1
12	Kerala	6.5	7.2	9.5	10.4	N.A
13	Madhya Pradesh	7.0	4.3	6.7	5.3	N.A
14	Chhattisgarh	6.1	9.2	8.6	8.6	7.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	Maharashtra	7.4	7.9	9.1	9.2	N.A
16	Manipur	6.5	11.6	5.9	6.8	7.1
17	Meghalaya	6.3	5.6	7.3	5.2	N.A
18	Mizoram	5.3	5.9	7.1	5.5	6.4
19	Nagaland	5.6	8.3	9.3	N.A	N.A
20	Orissa	6.2	9.1	8.8	5.9	6.7
21	Punjab	6.4	4.5	5.9	6.5	6.3
22	Rajasthan	8.3	5.0	7.4	7.3	7.1
23	Sikkim	7.9	7.7	6.7	7.4	8.0
24	Tamil Nadu	8.0	6.6	8.5	4.4	4.6
25	Tripura	7.3	8.7	6.9	N.A	N.A
26	Uttar Pradesh	7.6	4.6	6.1	7.2	6.5
27	Uttarakhand	6.8	8.8	9.9	9.4	8.7
28	West Bengal	8.8	6.1	9.7	7.7	N.A
	All India	7.9	7.7	9.0	9.0	6.7

Source: Eleventh Five Year Plan, Vol.1 and CSO (Central Statistical Organisation)

As on 12-11-2009

India's rank in Human Development Report

1616. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Human Development Report (HDR) released by UNDP on 5 October, 2009, India's ranking has remained unchanged from what it was two years ago; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Though, there is no change in India's ranking in the UNDP's Human Development Index, 2009 (based on data up to 2007) as compared to previous year's ranking, however, there has been a consistent improvement in the HDI value since 1980. The Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.612 in respect of India indicated in HDR 2009 also reflects an improvement over previous report which indicated the HDI value of 0.604. Moreover, the Human Development Report (HDR), 2009 includes the data for 192 UN member States whereas the HDR 2007-08 was based on data for 175 countries.

DNA profiling data bank

1617. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Department of Biotechnology to set up DNA profiling Data Bank in the State for its approval and sanction of the necessary funds; and

(b) if so, the details of the project proposal and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala has not submitted any formal proposal to the Department of Biotechnology to set up DNA profiling Data Bank.

Development of organic agriculture

†1618. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Madhya Pradesh for the development of organic agriculture, the amount thereof and action taken thereon, so far; and

(b) by when sanction will be accorded them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. No proposals have been received from Madhya Pradesh for the development of organic agriculture.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal for including Khardayat and Mohalayak in OBC list

1619. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa State Government has recommended any proposals for including Khardayat and Mohalayak in OBC or Government of India has directly received any petition or proposal in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) received a proposal from the Government of Orissa for inclusion of Khandayat and Mahalayak castes in the Central List of OBCs for Orissa. The NCBC, after considering all the materials and evidences produced, had advised not to include the above mentioned two castes and the same has been accepted by the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Menace of Begging

1620. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the report in the Asian Age of November 5, 2009 captioned "Nanny hired out baby for begging" revealing the fate of number of children handed out on hire by Nanny's who themselves are hired by parents of children for begging on public places by gang of beggars in Bangaluru and other tourists destinations including the capital territory of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps that are taken and contemplated to prevent such exploitation of children being inducted into begging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The incident of Bangaluru has come to light through the Newspaper. No information is available in the Ministry about any such incidence occurring/taking place in other states.

(b) In Karnataka, the Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary Act, 1975 is implemented under which begging is prohibited in the State. Other details are being collected which would be tabled in due course.

Working conditions of safai karamcharis in corporations, PSUs and local bodies

1621. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out the working conditions of safai karamcharis in corporation, PSUs and local bodies;

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

(c) whether the wages, employment and recruitment, benefits, medical care, children's education, housing, promotions etc. are being taken care of by these organizations; and

(d) if so, the report of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) studies and evaluates the implementation of the programmes and schemes relating to the social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and gives Report to the Central Government. Main recommendations of NCSK, contained in its reports on the issues of wages, employment and recruitment, medical care, children's education, housing, promotions etc., concerning Safai Karamcharis are given below:

- (i) State Governments should accord priority to identification of the school-going children of scavengers.
- (ii) Children of Safai Karamcharis generally remain deprived of quality education, therefore municipal corporations should run schools for such children.
- (iii) The rate of scholarship to the children of Safai Karamcharis should be increased.
- (iv) Special schemes should be prepared to tackle the housing problems of Safai Karamcharis.
- (v) Municipal bodies should construct new colonies for their Safai Karamcharis with adequate facilities. Each colony of Safai Karamcharis must be provided with a creche.
- (vi) Adequate promotional avenues ensuring at least three vertical promotion be created based on experience, technical or other qualifications of Safai Karamcharis.
- (vii) All local bodies should provide primary, secondary and tertiary medical facilities to Safai Karamcharis and their families, with in-built mechanism for quarterly check up, and adequate insurance cover.
- (viii) Safai Karamcharis should be provided additional allowances equal to 10% of their basic pay as risk allowance to compensate them for the risk they are constantly exposed to.

Atrocities on SCs, STs and minorities

†1622. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cases of injustice and atrocities against SC/ST and minorities in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the State-wise and year-wise details thereof;
- (c) the total number of arrests made and convictions in this regard so far;
- (d) State-wise and year-wise details of these arrests and convictions; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by government to check these atrocities, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Number of cases registered in regard to crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, (during the years 2006 to 2008) is indicated as under:-

Year	Number of cases registered
2006	32861
2007	35563
2008	39225

*Source:- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

*Data for 2008 is provisional

*Similar information in regard to minorities is not maintained by NCRB.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The State/UT and year wise, details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Number of persons arrested by police and convicted by Courts, during 2006 to 2008, is as under:-

Year	Number of persons arrested	Number of cases ended in conviction
2006	56209	15812
2007	64628	16054
2008	70020	17944

*Source:- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

*Data for 2008 is provisional

*Data for 2009 is compiled calendar year-wise, and is, therefore, not available for 2009

*Similar information in regard to minorities is not maintained by NCRB.

(d) The States/UT and year wise details are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was brought into force on 31.01.1990, with a view to preventing "atrocities against members of SCs and STs, to provide for Special Courts for the trial of such offences, and for relief and rehabilitation of the victims" of atrocities. Implementation of the said Act is the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They are addressed from time to time at the highest level, to implement it, in letter and spirit. Its implementation is also reviewed in high level meetings with them, A high powered Committee, under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, held eight meetings between 2006 to 2009, where implementation of the Act was reviewed in 25 States and 4 Union Territories.

With a view to ensure effective implementation of the Act, central assistance is also provided to States/Union Territories, for inter-alia, strengthening their enforcement machinery, incentive for inter-caste marriages and awareness generation.

National Awards for outstanding fieldwork in the area of eradicating untouchability and in combating offences of atrocities have also been instituted in 2006.

Statement-I

State/Union Territory-wise and year-wise number of cases registered in regard to crime against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, during 2006 to 2008.

Number of cases registered in regard to crime against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

States/ UTs	2006	2007	2008
1	2	3	4
States			
Andhra Pradesh	4684	4136	4748
Arunachal Pradesh	27	32	63

1	2	3	4
Assam	526	175	234
Bihar	2099	2851	3716
Chhattisgarh	1027	1126	1214
Goa	4	0	5
Gujarat	1159	1196	1454
Haryana	283	227	341
Himachal Pradesh	109	93	71
Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	0
Jharkhand	665	806	829
Karnataka	1944	2049	2761
Kerala	439	565	625
Madhya Pradesh	5712	5607	4036
Maharashtra	1320	1405	1460
Manipur	26	1	1
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0
Nagaland	114	0	26
Orissa	1502	1749	2344
Punjab	184	177	101
Rajasthan	4877	5284	5340
Sikkim	2	23	29
Tamil Nadu	1015	1760	1632
Tripura	23	14	18
Uttar Pradesh	4971	6148	8018
Uttarakhand	69	72	42
West Bengal	20	9	36
UTs			
A & N Islands	17	1	3
Chandigarh	2	0	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	3	11

1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	1	3	2
Delhi	21	24	34
Lakshadweep	0	1	0
Puducherry	14	25	29
TOTAL	32861	35563	39225

Source: - National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs

Data for 2008 is provisional

Similar information in regard to minorities is not maintained by NCRB

Statement-II

State/Union Territory-wise number of persons arrested and convicted in regard to crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 2006 to 2008.

States/ UTs	Number of persons arrested			Number of cases ended in conviction		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
States						
Andhra Pradesh	5163	5084	5579	574	522	453
Arunachal Pradesh	18	21	52	2	0	0
Assam	665	218	273	44	88	30
Bihar	3539	4707	5386	315	272	374
Chhattisgarh	1675	2004	2210	394	659	461
Goa	1	0	12	0	0	0
Gujarat	2871	3176	3646	122	132	107
Haryana	420	354	649	35	88	36
Himachal Pradesh	144	106	72	19	2	5
Jammu & Kashmir	6	3	0	9	1	0
Jharkhand	805	786	851	92	81	108
Karnataka	5330	4870	6228	99	132	155
Kerala	436	602	727	113	62	18
Madhya Pradesh	11039	11735	8610	4339	4428	4011
Maharashtra	3548	4233	4315	96	76	169
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	40	0	0	17	28	0
Orissa	1918	3050	2466	318	202	183
Punjab	293	313	219	14	28	31
Rajasthan	4813	4547	4787	2541	1630	1664
Sikkim	1	34	35	0	15	16
Tamil Nadu	2079	2616	2153	359	330	311
Tripura	31	13	14	0	15	3
Uttar Pradesh	11127	15932	21541	6225	7190	9685
Uttarakhand	125	130	60	78	67	121
West Bengal	25	15	40	2	0	1
UTs						
A & N Islands	60	1	9	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	3	0	0	0
D & N Haveli	4	5	28	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	10	2	0	0	0	0
Delhi	11	16	14	3	5	2
Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	12	54	41	2	1	0
TOTAL	56209	64628	70020	15812	16054	17944

Source:- National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB)

Data for 2008 is provisional

Data for 2009 is compiled calendar year-wise, and is, therefore, not available for 2009

Similar information in regard to minorities is not maintained by NCRB

Implementation of programmes

1623. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Ministry is ensuring that the programmes being implemented by his Ministry are reaching to the needy;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted by his Ministry with regard to the reach of the above programme in West Bengal and other parts of the country;

- (c) if so, the details of such survey; and
- (d) if not, how the Ministry will ensure that the benefits are reaching to the needy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Ministry release Central Assistance to States/UT Administrations and grants-in-aid to Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as to other implementing agencies under various schemes/programmes to assist its target groups. The Ministry ensure the effectiveness of its various schemes/programmes in the following ways:

- (i) Fresh/subsequent releases of grants to State Governments/NGOs during a year made only on receipt of audited Utilization Certificates in respect of previous grants sanctioned which have become due.
- (ii) Review of schemes/programmes by the officers of the Ministry during their tours to States.
- (iii) Nodal Officer has been appointed for each State to regularly interact with State Governments, and review the progress of programmes.
- (iv) The Ministry also sponsors evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies to check whether their benefits reach the target groups.
- (v) The scheme/programmes implemented through NGOs are also expected to be monitored by respective State Governments/UT Administrations.
- (vi) In the event of proven misappropriation of funds by an NGO, the Ministry initiates action to blacklist the NGOs.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has sponsored a number of evaluation studies in recent past covering various states including West Bengal in respect of various schemes/programmes viz. Schemes of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids & Appliances, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and its Impact on Eradication of Untouchability. These studies brought out, inter alia, that while many improvements are needed, these schemes are generally effective and benefits are reaching the target groups.

Action plan for District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs)

1624. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether any time-bound action plan has been prepared for the setting up of DRCs in every district of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The details of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres functioning in the country is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) to (d) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are set up primarily in the unserved districts of the country. So far 199 DDRCs have been sanctioned, out of which 179 DDRCs have been set up. The State-wise list of these DDRCs is given in the Statement [Refer statement-I part (a)]. No time frame has been fixed for setting up of DDRCs in the every district of the country.

Statement-I

List of DDRCs functioning in the country

State	S.No	Name of DDRC
1	2	3
Bihar	1	DDRC Darbhanga
	2	DDRC Gaya
	3	DDRC Banka
	4	DDRC Muzaffarpur
	5	DDRC Chapra
	6	DDRC Kishanganj
	7	DDRC Nawada
	8	DDRC Jehanabad
	9	DDRC Samastipur
	10	DDRC Begusarai
	11	East Champaran
	12	Kaimur
	13	Madhubani
	14	Bhojpur
	15	Araria
Chhattisgarh	16	DDRC Raipur
	17	DDRC Raigarh
	18	DDRC Durg

1	2	3
	19	DDRC Rajnandgaon
	20	DDRC Jashpur
	21	DDRC Bastar
Jharkhand	22	DDRC Ranchi
	23	DDRC Hazaribag
	24	DDRC Dumka
	25	DDRC Jamshedpur
	26	Dhanbad
Orissa	27	DDRC Kalahandi
	28	DDRC Sambalpur
	29	DDRC Mayurbhanj
	30	DDRC Koraput
	31	DDRC Phulbani
	32	DDRC Ganjam
	33	DDRC Nabrangpur
	34	Keonjhar
West Bengal	35	DDRC Jalpaigudi
	36	DDRC Murshidabad
	37	DDRC Dakshin Dinajpur
	38	DDRC 24 Parganas North
	39	Birbhum
Arunachal Pradesh	40	DDRC Itanagar
	41	Tawang
	42	East Kamang
Assam	43	DDRC Tezpur
	44	DDRC Dibrugarh
	45	DDRC Silchar
	46	DDRC Karimganj
	47	Dhubri
	48	Nagaon

1	2	3
	49	Jorhat
	50	Barpeta
Manipur	51	DDRC Imphal
	52	Thoubal
	53	Churachandpur
Meghalaya	54	DDRC Shillong
	55	East Garo Hills
	56	Jantia Hills
Mizoram	57	DDRC Aizwal
	58	DDRC Lunglei+Lunglit
	59	DDRC Kolasib+Mamit
Nagaland	60	DDRC Dimapur
Sikkim	61	DDRC Gangtok
Tripura	62	DDRC Agartala
	63	DDRC Dhalai
	64	DDRC North Tripura
Haryana	65	DDRC Rohtak
	66	DDRC Kurukshetra
	67	DDRC Sonapat
	68	DDRC Hissar
	69	DDRC Fatehabad
Himachal Pradesh	70	DDRC Shimla
	71	DDRC Dharamsala
	72	DDRC Kinnaur
	73	DDRC Udhampur
Jammu & Kashmir	74	DDRC Leh
	75	DDRC Anantnag
	76	Doda
	77	Baramuilla
Madhya Pradesh	78	DDRC Balaghat

1	2	3
	79	DDRC Rewa
	80	DDRC Sagar
	81	DDRC Indore
	82	DDRC Jhabua
	83	DDRC Gwalior
	84	DDRC Rajgarh
	85	DDRC Ujjain
	86	DDRC Satna
	87	DDRC Khargaon
	88	DDRC Khandwa
	89	DDRC Agar
	90	DDRC Alote (Ratlam)
	91	DDRC Jawad
	92	DDRC Dewas
	93	DDRC Mandsaur
	94	DDRC Damoh
	95	DDRC Shivpuri
	96	Chindwara
	97	Guna
	98	Vidisha
	99	Sehore
Punjab	100	DDRC Patiala
	101	DDRC Sangrur
	102	DDRC Ferozepur
	103	DDRC Bhatinda
	104	DDRC Hoshiarpur
	105	DDRC Moga
	106	DDRC Nawanshahr
Uttar Pradesh	107	DDRC Gorakhpur
	108	DDRC Mau

1	2	3
	109	DDRC Gonda
	110	DDRC Varanasi
	111	DDRC Agra
	112	DDRC Meerut
	113	DDRC Allahabad
	114	DDRC Balia
	115	DDRC Jhansi
	116	DDRC Farrukhabad
	117	DDRC Pilibhit
	118	DDRC Ambedkar Nagar
	119	DDRC Raibarielly
	120	Muzaffarnagar
	121	Mathura
Uttarakhand	122	DDRC Tehri Garwal
	123	DDRC Haridwar
	124	DDRC Almorah
	125	DDRC Bageshwar
	126	Nainital
Andhra Pradesh	127	DDRC Vishakapatnam
	128	DDRC Anantpur
	129	DDRC Karimnagar
Karnataka	130	DDRC Bellary
	131	DDRC Belgaum
	132	DDRC Mangalore
	133	DDRC Tumkur
	134	DDRC Gulbarga
	135	DDRC Mandya
	136	DDRC Bidar
Kerela	137	DDRC Kozhikode
	138	DDRC Thrissur

1	2	3
	139	DRC Thiruvananthapuram
Tamil Nadu	140	DDRC Vellore
	141	DDRC Thoothukudi
	142	DDRC Madurai
	143	DDRC Salem
	144	DDRC Virudhunagar
	145	DDRC Kanyakumari
	146	DDRC Perambalur
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	147	DDRC Silvassa
Daman & Diu	148	DDRC Diu
Pondicherry	149	DDRC pondicherry
	150	Karaikal
Andaman & Nicobar	151	DDRC Port Blair
	152	Nicobar
Goa	153	DDRC Panaji
Gujarat	154	DDRC Surat
	155	DDRC Jamnagar
	156	DDRC Ahmedabad
	157	DDRC Vadodara
	158	DDRC Rajkot
	159	DDRC Bhavnagar
	160	DDRC Surendranagar
	161	DDRC Nadiad
	162	DDRC Junagarh
Maharashtra	163	DDRC Kolhapur
	164	DDRC Buldana
	165	DDRC Wardha
	166	DDRC Latur
	167	DDRC Aurangabad
	168	DDRC Sindhudurg

1	2	3
	169	DDRC Dadar/Mahim
	170	Gondia
Rajasthan	171	DDRC Ajmer
	172	DDRC Jodhpur
	173	DDRC Udaipur
	174	DDRC Jhunjhnu
	175	DDRC Bikaner
	176	DDRC Jaselmer
	177	DDRC Tonk
	178	Jalore
	179	Pali

Scheduled caste status to dalit Christians and dalit Muslims

1625. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to grant Scheduled Caste Status to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when this will be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The matter is presently sub-judice.

Discovery of water on moon

†1626. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the truth about the discovery of water on the moon by ISRO;
- (b) the project under which this discovery has been made and the broad objectives of this project;
- (c) the planned expenditure on this project; and
- (d) the other areas of research to be explored in the coming ten years and the benefits which the practical world is going to have from this research?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The analysis of the data collected by one of the scientific instruments on-board the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, namely the Moon Mineralogy Mapper, has shown the presence of water (H₂O) and Hydroxyl (OH) molecules on the lunar surface.

(b) This discovery has been made under the Chandrayaan-I project of India. The broad objectives of the Chandrayaan-I project have been:-

- to carry out high resolution imaging/mapping of the lunar surface;
- to study the broad mineralogical composition of the moon, including detection of water if present; and
- contributing to understanding the evolution of the moon.

(c) The expenditure of the Chandrayaan-I project was Rs. 386.00 Crores, which includes the cost of associated ground infrastructure.

(d) In the coming ten years, further mapping of the lunar surface, in-situ experiments over selected areas of the lunar surface and further planetary explorations are being considered. These researches will benefit the practical world by way of providing scientific understanding on the evolution of the Earth and the solar system and also indicating the possible avenues for planetary exploitation.

Termination of Chandrayaan-I

1627. SHRI ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for early termination of the Chandrayaan-I mission;
- (b) whether error in moon temperature circulation led to failure as the scientists assumed the temperature at 100 km above the moon surface would be around 75 degree Celsius but it was much more the 75 degree Celsius; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The termination of the Chandrayaan-I mission was due to the failure of certain critical components onboard the spacecraft.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The spacecraft subsystems were designed to withstand a maximum temperature of 75 degree Celsius, specifically considering the lunar environment. However, the temperature inside the spacecraft had supposedly exceeded beyond this limit, leading to failure of certain critical components. Consequent upon this, the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft lost communication link with the ground control centre, resulting in the termination of the mission.

Success of Chandrayaan-I

1628. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether International scientist community including NASA, have confirmed the success of Chandrayaan-I space mission;

(b) if so, the Indian scientists' study report about the success of Chandrayaan-I; and

(c) the further space plans that are contemplated in the light of success of Chandrayaan-I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The results of the study and detailed analysis of variety of data collected through the different scientific instruments carried by the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft are being studied by scientists from India and abroad. The findings are being revealed by them in different scientific forums and through publications.

(c) In the light of the success of Chandrayaan-I, Chandrayaan-II mission is planned for launch during 2012-13.

Second moon mission

1629. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner the successes of Chandrayan-I builds up interest in the second ISRO's Moon Mission in 2013;

(b) whether the Chandrayan-II plans to probe deep into the lunar surface than Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3);

(c) whether there is any possibility to drill the lunar surface so as to collect samples for analysis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The success of Chandrayaan-I has been mainly in terms of:

- building the spacecraft with multiple sensor systems;
- launching the spacecraft with India's own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and precisely inserting the same into the lunar orbit in the first attempt itself;
- imaging up to 95% of the lunar surface at high-resolution;
- broad assessment of the mineralogical composition of certain parts of the lunar surface;
- finding hydroxyl and water molecules on the lunar surface;

- dropping the insignia of the Indian tri-colour on the lunar surface; and
- establishing the Indian Deep Space Network and Indian Space Science Data Centre.

These successes, combined also with the current global trends of planetary study, build up interest in the ISRO's second Moon Mission.

(b) to (d) The configuration of the instruments to be carried onboard the Chandrayaan-II are currently being worked out. Carrying a probe to collect and analyze the samples from the lunar surface is also being considered.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

†1630. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the project-wise details of different projects pending for approval with the Government for the development and enhancement of tourism in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of projects proposed by Rajasthan Government that have been sanctioned by the Government in this year's budget and by when it has been targeted to commence and to complete these projects; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by Government to the State towards these approved projects during the current year and the details of these projects alongwith the amounts allocated to them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance under the scheme of Product Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them which are complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines, inter-se priority and subject to availability of funds.

Implementation of tourism projects is the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Ministry of Tourism also monitors the progress of implementation through regular site visits & review meetings with the State Government officials.

(c) Rs.9.82 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to the State Government of Rajasthan for the tourism infrastructure projects during the current financial year as per the following details:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Infrastructure Development of Destination Salgaon Mount Abu, Rajasthan	2.31
2.	Development of Keoldev Park, Bharatpur in Rajasthan	2.66
3.	Conservation and Development of Amer Palace Jaipur	4.85
Total :		9.82

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Cracks in Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha

1631. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sun Temple structure at Konark in Odisha has developed cracks;
- (b) the amount spent by the Government in the last three years for the repair and protection of this prized monument; and
- (c) the funds spent for the repair of Taj Mahal at Agra vis-a-vis Konark temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The conservation experts and scientists of the Archaeological Survey of India alongwith the concerned officers of the State Government of Orissa have recently conducted a detailed survey of the Sun Temple, Konark and found that no cracks are developing in the monument. The monument is well conserved and preserved.

(b) Expenditure incurred on Sun Temple, Konark during last three years is as detailed below:

(Amount in Rupees)		
Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure
1.	2006-07	81,10,790
2.	2007-08	77,83,463
3.	2008-09	72,10,971

(c) The expenditure incurred on Taj Mahal, Agra and Sun Temple, Konark during the current financial year till 31st October, 2009 is as detailed below:

(Amount in Rupees)	
	Expenditure
Taj Mahal	66,37,360
Konark Temple	29,80,230

Potential of tourism in the country

1632. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the immense tourism potential of the country remains untapped because the development of tourism has been entrusted to the Governments of the States; and
- (b) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take to ensure that the potentials are tapped to the extent possible for the tourism boom in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. The Ministry of Tourism also monitors the physical and financial progress of the projects through site visits and review meetings/conferences. The Ministry of Tourism has taken steps to achieve synergy for development and promotion of tourism in the country among the Central Ministries, States/Union Territories and other Stakeholders.

Developing coastal cities as cruise hub of the region

1633. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether we are planning to develop Mumbai, Kolkata or any other coastal city as the cruise hub of the region, leveraging on our excellent air, land and sea connectivity, thereby attracting more travellers from the Middle-East, Gulf, etc;

(b) if so, has any study been undertaken to find out the number of foreign tourists who combined land tourism with cruise facilities being provided either of our own or on code-sharing basis with foreign cruise infrastructure; and

(c) will special campaigns be launched by our foreign-based tourist offices or through print and media mode to popularize our varied landscapes, warm hospitality and multi-cultural shining and tempting ambience?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government has approved the cruise shipping policy to develop and promote Cruise Tourism in India. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 1450.00 lakh to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi in 2008-09 for development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala.

(b) No study has been undertaken by this Ministry to find out the number of foreign tourists who combined land tourism with cruise facilities being provided either of our own or on code-sharing basis with foreign cruise infrastructure. However, Ministry of Tourism in the year 2005 had undertaken a study on "Cruise Tourism Potential & Strategy Study".

(c) Ministry of Tourism promotes cruise tourism through brochures, Compact Discs and publicity materials distributed through its Indiatourism offices in the country and abroad.

Selection of more tourist spots in the country

1634. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to promote the growth of tourism in the country, the Union Government propose to select more tourist spots particularly coastline areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government had discussions with the States having coastline to promote tourism spots; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Identification and development of tourist spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. During the current financial year 106 projects for Rs. 398.33 crore have been sanctioned upto September, 2009 for development and promotion of tourism in the country, including the Coastal States.

Konark temple, Odisha

†1635. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his ministry is aware that stones are coming off from famous Konark Temple of Odisha on a large scale;
- (b) if so, measures adopted by Government to protect it;
- (c) whether State Government has drawn the attention of Central Government towards this serious issue; and
- (d) whether Government have any plan to reintroduce the practice of regular sun worship by making foolproof arrangements of security of famous and sacred Sun Temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A high level Technical Committee of Archaeological Survey of India has recently visited the Sun Temple Konark and found that there were no such instances of stones falling. The temple is well protected and conserved.

- (d) No, Sir.

Decline of tourists to India

1636. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of tourist to India has been reduced substantially in 2008 and 2009 in comparison to 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, if so, the reasons thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during the years 2004 to 2008 and January-October 2009 and the growth rate in FTAs over the corresponding period of previous year are given below:-

Year	FTAs (in million)	Growth Rate over previous year
2004	3.46	-
2005	3.92	13.3
2006	4.45	13.5
2007	5.08	14.3
2008 *	5.37	5.6
January-October 2009 *	4.02	-7.0

* Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2004 to 2008 show an increasing trend, there has been a decline in FTAs during the period January-October 2009. This decline may be due to various reasons including H1N1 pandemic, global slowdown, etc.

Domestic and foreign tourists in India and Rajasthan

1637. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) tourist (domestic/foreign) arrivals during the last three years in India and Rajasthan;
- (b) percentage share of Rajasthan thereof;
- (c) whether tourist traffic in Rajasthan declined after 13th May, 2008 serial blasts in Jaipur;
- (d) whether tourist traffic in India, particularly Maharashtra, declined after 26th November, 2008 attacks in Mumbai;
- (e) whether in view of Rajasthan having largest chunk of Thar desert, mountainous sand dunes, which have distinct ecology, flora and fauna, there is great scope for desert tourism (safari, camel ride, adventure tour, etc.); and
- (f) if so, whether her Ministry contemplates any scheme for developing a Desert-Circuit in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to Rajasthan and for all India as well as the share of Rajasthan during 2006, 2007 and 2008 are given below:-

	2006	2007	2008
Number of domestic tourist visits in Rajasthan (million)	23.5	25.9	28.4
Number of foreign tourist visits in Rajasthan (million)	1.2	1.4	1.5
Number of domestic tourist visits in India (million)	462.3	526.6	562.9
Number of foreign tourist visits in India (million)	11.7	13.3	14.1
Share of Rajasthan in domestic tourist visits in India	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%
Share of Rajasthan in foreign tourist visits in India	10.4%	10.6%	10.5%

(c) and (d) The growth rate of domestic and foreign tourist visits in 2008 over 2007 for Maharashtra and Rajasthan are given below:-

State	Growth rate (percentage) in 2008 over 2007	
	Domestic Tourist Visits	Foreign Tourist Visits
Maharashtra	6.9	6.4
Rajasthan	9.4	5.5

(e) and (f) Identification and development of tourist spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects under the scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure development of tourism destinations/circuits' on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. Ministry of Tourism has also identified the desert circuit of Jodhpur- Bikaner- Jaisalmer in Rajasthan for development as a mega tourism project. During 2007-08 and 2008-09, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 57.44 crore to Rajasthan for development of 10 tourism projects.

National urban transport policy

1638. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on the National Urban Transport Policy with the emphasis on integrating transport modes in the million-plus cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objectives of such policy worked out so far; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the States especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated a National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006 which envisages safe, affordable, quick, comfortable, reliable and sustainable urban transport systems, establishment of quality focused multi-modal public transport systems that are well integrated, providing seamless travel across modes, land use transport integration, introducing intelligent transport systems for traffic management etc.

(d) No funds are earmarked under the National Urban Transport Policy.

JNNURM and UIDSSMT

1639. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to provide adequate funds to develop small and medium towns under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT);

(b) if so, complete details thereof with the names of cities/towns selected for development; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked for each city/towns for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) The 7 years' Mission allocation under Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for the Mission cities is Rs.25,500.00 crore. This original allocation of fund was not earmarked city-wise. However, the Planning Commission vide its O.M. dated 24.12.2008 made additional allocation of Rs.100 crore for million plus cities & capital cities and Rs.50 crore for the remaining Mission cities.

The original 7 years' Mission allocation under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) of JNNURM is Rs.6400.00 crore. In addition, the Planning Commission vide its O.M. dated 24.12.2008 made additional allocation of Rs.5000.00 crore for funding the pending projects approved by the State level Steering Committee (SLSC) up to December, 2008. However, the allocation of fund was not earmarked city-wise.

65 cities have been covered under UIG of JNNURM. Details are given in the Statement. All other cities and towns are covered under UIDSSMT of JNNURM.

Statement

List of cities included in JNNURM

Sl. No.	City/Urban Agglomeration	Name of the State
1	2	3
a) Mega Cities		
1.	Delhi	Delhi
2.	Greater Mumbai	Maharashtra
3.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
6.	Kolkata	West Bengal
7.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
b) Million Plus Cities		
1.	Patna	Bihar
2.	Faridabad	Haryana
3.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Ludhiana	Punjab
5.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
6.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
8.	Nashik	Maharashtra
9.	Pune	Maharashtra
10.	Cochin	Kerala
11.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
12.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
13.	Amritsar	Punjab
14.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Vadodara	Gujarat
16.	Surat	Gujarat
17.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
18.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
19.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
20.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
21.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
22.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
23.	Asansol	West Bengal
24.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
25.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
26.	Rajkot	Gujarat
27.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand
28.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3
c) Identified cities/UAs with less than one million population		
1.	Guwahati	Assam
2.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir
4.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
5.	Panaji	Goa
6.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
7.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
8.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
9.	Imphal	Manipur
10.	Shillong	Meghalaya
11.	Aizawal	Mizoram
12.	Kohima	Nagaland
13.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
14.	Gangtok	Sikkim
15.	Agartala	Tripura
16.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal
17.	Bodh Gaya	Bihar
18.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
19.	Puri	Orissa
20.	Ajmer -Pushkar	Rajasthan
21.	Nainital	Uttaranchal
22.	Mysore	Karnataka
23.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
24.	Chandigarh	Punjab & Haryana
25.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
26.	Mathura	Utter Pradesh
27.	Hardwar	Uttaranchal
28.	Nanded	Maharashtra
29.	Porbunder	Gujarat
30.	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh

Mobile phone towers

1640. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that illegal cell phone towers have been set up without mandatory clearance from civil agencies throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has formulated any policy regarding setting up of mobile towers on the ground and roof tops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) Erection of cell phone towers in cities and towns is regulated by the urban local bodies. Ministry of Urban Development does not maintain data regarding clearances issued by these bodies for setting up of cell phone towers or unauthorized towers. Only Siting clearances for installation of antenna towers are issued by SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation) from the point of view of flying hazards and obstruction to any microwave link. The Ministry of Urban Development has not formulated any policy regarding setting up of mobile towers on ground and roof-tops.

Rohini 1981 scheme of DDA

1641. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that DDA has not been able to allot plots to even priority categories like defence personnel, SC/ST, retired or retiring personnel etc. to Rohini 1981 scheme Registrants despite Government promise to liquidate waiting list by 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of plots allotted in different categories since 1st April, 2006; and
- (d) the target set to liquidate the pending list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) and (b) DDA has stated that there is no backlog in allotment of plots to reserved category registrants such as the widows of defence personnel killed in action, and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Rohini Residential Scheme, 1981 and there are 25,298 registrants waiting for allotment as given below:

Category	Number of registrants
General	24696
Ex-serviceman	150
Retired/retiring Personnel	452
TOTAL	25298

DDA has also informed that allotment to the balance registrants could not be made due to non-acquisition of land/non-possession of land and ongoing litigation.

(c) DDA has further informed that the number of plots allotted since 1st April, 2006 to different categories of Registrants is 462.

(d) No such time-frame can be indicated, in view of the shortage of availability of land for allotment and difficulties involved in getting land for allotment.

JNNURM in Punjab

1642. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance so far given for the development of infrastructure in the towns and cities in the State of Punjab under JNNURM;

(b) the extent to which the Central assistance has been utilized by the towns, cities and local bodies for the purpose; and

(c) whether there is any further demand by the local bodies in the State for the purpose, if so, the details thereof, town-city-wise and Central Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) and (b) Under Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission(JNNURM) a total of 5 projects have been sanctioned for the two Mission cities viz. Amritsar and Ludhiana in the State of Punjab for an approved cost of Rs.679.61 crore with Additional Central Assistance (ACA) commitment of Rs.339.81 crore. An amount of Rs. 141.00 crore has been released as ACA so far.

Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) of JNNURM, 17 projects for 14 cities of Punjab (Jalandhar, Bathinda, Malout, Majitha, Pathankot, Zirakpur, Adampur, FatehgarhChurrai, Ferozpur, Kapurthala, Patiala, Sunam, TalwandiSabab and Muktasar) have been sanctioned for an approved cost of Rs.395.77 crore with ACA commitment of Rs.316.62 crore. An amount of Rs. 159.54 crore has been released as ACA so far.

(c) State of Punjab has exhausted the seven year allocation under UIDSSMT. Seven year balance of Rs.367.95 crore exists under UIG. JNNURM is a demand driven programme under which Projects in conformity with the guidelines and emanating from the City Development Plan (CDP) and submitted by the State as per the prioritization are eligible for funding subject to their technical appraisal and availability of funds.

Rajiv Gandhi Shehri Vikas Yojana in Punjab and Haryana

1643. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in Punjab and Haryana which have been covered under Rajiv Gandhi Shehri Vikas Yojana during last two years, names of the cities and amount sanctioned by Ministry may be mentioned;

(b) whether Government has taken special consideration for the cities known as historic religious destinations; such as Sultanpur Lodhi (Punjab), Goindwal (Punjab), Kahdoor Sahib (Punjab); and

(c) the number of applications from both the States that are pending for grant from the Ministry in both States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) There is no such scheme, under implementation by the Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of road by DDA

1644. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2597 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th September, 2007, Starred Question 305 given in Rajya Sabha on the 6th September, 2007 and Starred Question 289 given in Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 2009 and state:

(a) the names of the agency (DDA/PWD/MCD) which has been assigned the work of construction of this link road;

(b) if not, whether Government is aware that over ten lakh families are going to be displaced by this road;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any fresh survey in 2009 in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) DDA.

(b) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) which acquired the land for construction of the road has informed that a total of 529 claims have been received against the land acquisition.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 award has been announced.

UIDSMT scheme in Madhya Pradesh

†1645. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been sent to the Central Government by State level empowered committee after accepting the proposal amount involving Rs.6377.55 lakhs under UIDSMT scheme of Madhya Pradesh relating to urban renovation and road construction of Gwalior;

(b) if so, the date on which Central Government has received this proposal and the amount released by the Central Government till now in this regard; and

(c) if the amount is not released after receiving the proposal, by when it will be released and the reasons behind the delay in proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Level Sanctioning Committee of Madhya Pradesh in its meeting held on 27.9.2007 approved 3 projects at Gwalior namely Sewerage at Rs. 66.50 crore, Road at Rs. 46.47 crore and Urban Renewal at Rs.17.30 crore.

(c) During 2008-09, Planning Commission provided additional allocation of Rs.5000.00 crore for clearing the pending projects approved up to December 2008 on one town - one project basis. On the basis of the priority provided by the State of Madhya Pradesh, the Sewerage Project out of the three projects at Gwalior was taken up for release against this additional allocation and 1st installment of ACA amounting to Rs.31.39 crore was released. As the State has already exhausted its 7 year Mission allocation, funds for the remaining project cannot be released.

Proposals for new metro rail networks

1646. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals for new Metro rail networks received from State Governments;

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

(c) whether necessary clearances have been given to each of these projects; project-wise details; and

(d) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (d) The Central Government have received two Detailed Project Reports from State Governments viz Extension of Delhi Metro Rail from Mundka to Bahadurgarh from Government of Haryana and Kochi Metro Rail Project from Government of Kerala. The details are given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of proposals for new metro rail networks

State/ Project	Length in km.	Cost Rs. in crore	Funding Pattern	Present Status
Haryana: Extension of Delhi Metro to Bahadurgarh	11.781	1432	No firm proposal received from State Government.	Government of Haryana has forwarded Detailed Project Report to Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) on 10.3.2009 for approval. GNCTD has not accorded its approval. The Government of Haryana has not yet submitted firm proposal with cost estimates, cost sharing and firm commitment to meet its share of the cost, etc. to the Central Government. As such, proposal is presently pre- mature
Kerala: Kochi Metro Rail Project	25.3	2991.5	Joint Ownership Special Purpose Vehicle of Government of India and Government of Kerala on 50:50 equity sharing basis.	The Planning Commission has supported the proposal and the final Cabinet Note for Kochi Metro Rail Project has been sent to the Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of the Cabinet.

New deal for urban transport

1647. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any new deal for urban transport;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far for each State especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the funds released/to be released so far for this purpose; and
- (d) whether Government has failed in providing urban transport in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh despite spending lakhs of rupees in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) No Sir.

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

Inter-linking of rivers

1648. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal of inter-linking of rivers in the country has been put off;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have spent huge amount in the past five years on the inter-linking of rivers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the views of other Ministries have been sought on this issue; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) An expenditure of Rs. 109.44 crore was incurred by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) during the past five years (2004-05 to 2008-09) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) / Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of river link proposals under National Perspective Plan, preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports/FRs of Intra-State links proposed by the states and other studies in this regard. The Government has provided a budget outlay of Rs. 182.80 crore for above works by NWDA during XI Plan (2007-12). The Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance has concurred the above outlay.

Area irrigated by canals

1649. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has spent several crores on various irrigation projects across the country in the past one decade or so but not a single hectare has been added to the total area irrigated by canals;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has ascertained the exact cause of failure to add a single hectares of land for irrigation purposes in the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategies to be adopted to make the goods use of canals for irrigation purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Expenditure incurred by States for major & medium irrigation projects during the IXth and Xth Plan is reported to be about Rs 1,33,000 crores with creation of additional irrigation potential of about 9.4 million hectare.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) With a view to fully utilize the created facilities, due emphasis has been laid on command area development and water management programme. Government of India provides assistance to States under the scheme "Command Area Development & Water Management". Further, the extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) are also considered for support under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as per approved guidelines.

Dugwells scheme

1650. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Dugwells Scheme;

(b) the funds allocated and spent and targets achieved so far, in various States;

(c) in what manner Rajasthan has implemented this Scheme so far, achievements thereof;

and

(d) the funds allotted to Rajasthan for Dugwells Scheme, in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) The scheme on 'Artificial Recharge of Groundwater through Dugwells' has been launched in the year 2008 with a total outlay of Rs. 1798.71 crore in 1180 Blocks/Talukas/Mandals in seven States including the State of Rajasthan. The objectives of the scheme include, recharge of existing dugwells, improvement of ground water situation, increase in sustainability of ground water during lean period and improvement in the overall agricultural productivity.

204 assessment units (Over-exploited, critical and semi-critical) in 33 districts of Rajasthan, which are predominantly underlain by hard rocks are covered under the scheme. 1065051 dugwells have been identified for coverage under the scheme. An amount of Rs. 34.082 crore has been allocated for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and Rs. 283.070 crore has been allocated as subsidy for beneficiary farmers in the State. The funds allocated and spent under the scheme are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of funds allocated, subsidy/IEC released and recharge structures completed during the XI Plan under the scheme for 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells'

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Fund allocation including subsidy to beneficiaries and for EC to State agencies	Subsidy released	Funds released towards IEC activities	Recharge structures completed
1	Andhra Pradesh	327.34	0.000	0	0
2	Gujarat	208.49	40.123	3.25	4088
3	Karnataka	58.69	24.674	2.00	508
4	Madhya Pradesh	136.92	0.000	2.00	0
5	Maharashtra	110.14	13.839	2.00	28254
6	Rajasthan	317.15	16.913	2.00	21
7	Tamil Nadu	490.23	98.042	5.75	14980
TOTAL :		1648.96	191.591	17.00	47851

Crisis of drinking water

†1651. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crisis of drinking water has raised due to shortage of water in many rivers and their tributary rivers of the country because of scanty rainfall;

(b) whether it is also a fact that wastage and poisonous chemicals are falling in rivers like before as a result water is not being cleaned completely even by the water treatment and drinking water is becoming poisonous; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to solve the crisis of drinking water which is becoming critical?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The water availability in many of the reservoirs is relatively lesser during the year 2009-10 due to deficient rainfall in the country as a whole. However, report of major crisis of drinking water has not been received by the Department of Drinking Water Supply from States.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Specific reports about water not being completely cleaned even by the water treatment and drinking water becoming poisonous, have not been received from States.

(c) Water is a State subject. With 73rd Amendment of the constitution, rural water supply has been placed in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution to be devolved to Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial and technical assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). To tackle water quality problems for potable drinking water in quality-affected rural habitations, States can utilize up to 20% of their allocation under NRDWP. Further, up to 2% of the NRDWP allocation can be used for various support activities which inter alia includes awareness campaign, water quality monitoring & surveillance, capacity building training of village level workers, setting of water quality testing laboratories, etc. Last year Government also started 'Jalmani' programme by providing 100% assistance to States for providing safe and clean drinking water in rural schools for children by installing standalone water purification systems in rural schools. Under 'Bharat Nirman-rural drinking water component', all uncovered, slipped back and quality affected habitations are to be covered with provision of water supply infrastructure for potable water to all. Powers to plan, sanction, implement and monitor rural water supply schemes rest with the States.

Rain water that seeps underground

1652. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of rain water that seeps underground in monsoon season;
- (b) the percentage of rain water harvested out of total rain fall in monsoon season;
- (c) the per cent of underground water used for irrigation purposes; and
- (d) the current stock of ground water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) As per the assessment carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations in 2004, the total Annual Replenishable Ground Water Resources of the country have been estimated as 433 billion cubic metres (bcm). Keeping 34 bcm for natural discharge, the Net Annual Ground Water Availability is estimated as 399 bcm. Ground water draft for all uses as on March, 2004 is estimated as 231 bcm per year. Out of that, the ground water draft for irrigation is estimated as 212 bcm.

Total annual precipitation in the country has been estimated as 4000 bcm. The water resource harvested in the reservoirs in the country is about 225 bcm. Another 248 bcm is estimated as seepage to ground water aquifers.

Hathni kund barrage

†1653. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for construction of a canal from Hathni Kund barrage to Narayan Garh, District Ambala has been received by Government from Haryana Government;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal;
- (c) the present status of the proposal; and
- (d) the time likely to be taken to get approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a proposal namely Ambala-Naraingarh Irrigation Scheme has been received in Central Water Commission (CWC) from Government of Haryana in November, 2007.

(b) CWC has informed that the proposal consists construction of a lined branch canal (sides lined and bed unlined) for ground water recharge off-taking from Western Jamuna Canal near Hathni Kund Barrage with a designed discharge of 84 cubic feet per second (cusec). The distribution system shall cover a gross culturable area of 1,35,627.7 hectare (ha.) and cultivable command area of 1,08,502.2 ha. of Yamuna Nagar, Ambala and Panchkula districts of Haryana.

(c) As per CWC, the proposal has been examined and CWC's observations on various aspects such as irrigation planning, inter-state issues, hydrology, design aspect, cost aspect etc. have been sent to the project authorities for their responses.

(d) The time likely to be taken to get approval will depend upon the State Government's responses on CWC's observations.

Detection of underground water

1654. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of the mission for detection of underground water source of disappeared mythological river Saraswati;
- (b) whether it is true that the satellite images have conclusively established the underground track of Saraswati; and
- (c) if so, through how many States it is passing and why should the precious water resources, not be exploited to meet the growing demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has not launched any Mission for detection of underground water sources of disappeared mythological river Saraswati.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) A study has been carried out jointly by the Scientists of Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation, Jodhpur and Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jodhpur. The results of the study have been presented in the article titled “New Findings of the Course of River Sarasvati,”, published in the Journal of Indian Society of Remote Sensing. The authors have concluded as under.

“Clear signatures of palaeo channels on the satellite imagery in the form of a strong and powerful continuous drainage system in the NW region and occurrence of archaeological sites of Pre-Harappan, Harappan and Post Harappan age, beyond doubt indicate the existence of a mighty palaeo drainage system of Vedic Sarasvati river in this region. As observed from satellite imagery river Sarasvati flowed eastward more or less parallel to the river Indus and shifted its course within a .much narrower zone of less than 40 km. The major (western most) channel of river Sarasvati remained more or less constant and unchanged and is considered to be the actual Rig Vedic Sarasvati river. The description and magnanimity of these channels also matches with the River Sarasvati described in the Vedic literature. From the prominence and width of the palaeo channels on the satellite data, supported with data from archaeological finds, age and quality of ground water, sediment type, etc., it is confirmed that river Sarasvati had its major course through present day river Ghaggar and further passing through parts of Jaisalmer and adjoining region in Pakistan and finally discharging into the Rann of Kachchh. A major palaeo channel of the river passes through Jaisalmer district while a considerable part of the river drained further, inside Pakistan.”

Pachnada dam

†1655. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has turned down project for construction of Pachnada dam in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the details regarding the budget sanctioned so far for this project and the time by which this project is going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The proposed Panchnad Dam is located below the confluence of 5 rivers viz. Yamuna Chambal, Kunwari, Sindh and Pahuj. The catchment area of Chambal, Kunwari and Sindh lies in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Apart from Uttar Pradesh, the scheme involves submergence of .land in Madhya Pradesh. Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) took an inter-state meeting with the officials of the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 13.06.2007 in respect of Panchnad project. CWC requested Uttar Pradesh to provide a copy of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of this project to all concerned States/Departments. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan States were requested to give their comments on the DPR within a month. Subsequently, the Government of Madhya Pradesh intimated CWC in December, 2008 that they do

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

not agree to the above project proposal. Therefore, it has not been possible to take up this project for appraisal. Further, irrigation is a state subject and irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the concerned State Governments from their own resources as per their own priorities.

Rehabilitation of people

1656. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat have submitted their requisite action taken report to the Government for rehabilitation of the people affected by Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the NCA for granting permission for building piers of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh (GOMP) and Gujarat (GOG) had submitted the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) for the present Sardar Sarovar Dam height i.e., EL 121.92m related to the building of the piers of dam. However, the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has yet not submitted the ATRs concerning completion of resettlement works related to building of the piers of the dam.

(b) The proposal of GOG and GOMP for the construction of spillway piers to their full height and bridge and installation of gates (to be kept in raised position) was discussed in 73rd meeting of the Resettlement & Rehabilitation Sub-Group of NCA held on 9.2.2009 wherein, the sub-group has decided that the Committee constituted for the consultation with Grievance Redressal Authorities (GRAs) may expeditiously undertake consultation with the GRAs on the above proposal. The State Governments were also requested to submit requisite facts and data related to the present proposal alongwith the status of R&R at present level of dam i.e., EL 121.92 m to their GRAs and also to the NCA Secretariat.

Meanwhile, on the request of GOMP and GOG, the above proposal was further discussed in the 81st meeting of NCA held on 16.3.2009, wherein, it was decided by the Authority to obtain legal opinion of the Attorney General for India on whether permission for construction can be given by NCA without following the procedure given in the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 18.10.2000 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994. In compliance to the decision of the NCA, the Ministry of Water Resources has submitted proposal to the Ministry of Law for soliciting opinion of Learned Attorney General for India in the matter.

The Ministry of Water Resources has received "Opinion" of the Attorney General for India in the second week of November 2009. The same is being placed in the next meeting of the NCA for deciding further course of action.

Ken and Betwa rivers

†1657. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by Government on the project of interlinking of rivers Ken and Betwa in Uttar Pradesh and the details thereof;

(b) the budget allocated for this project by Government so far and the time by which this project is going to begin and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has given up the idea of interlinking of rivers and if not, the names of the rivers which are proposed to be interlinked and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken - Betwa link was taken up by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005 and the same has been completed on 31.12.2008. The implementation of the project depends upon consensus of the two states on the DPR. Water being a State subject under the constitution of India, concerned State Governments take up the works of the river inter-linking projects after obtaining the techno-economic clearance from the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources and investment clearance from the Planning Commission. Ken-Betwa project has been included in the list of National projects and is eligible for 90% Central Assistance.

(c) No Sir.

The names of the link proposals under National Perspective Plan (NPP) and their present status is given in the Statement.

Statement

List of water transfer links identified under NPP and their status

Peninsular Rivers Development Component

1.	Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	- FR completed
2.	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link *	- FR completed
3.	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	- FR completed
4.	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	- FR completed
5.	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	- FR completed
6.	Krishna (Srisailem) - Pennar link	- FR completed
7.	Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link	- FR completed
8.	Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	- FR completed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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|--|-------------------------------|
| 9. Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link | - FR completed |
| 10. Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal link * | - FR completed |
| 11. Damanganga - Pinjal link * | - FR completed & DPR taken up |
| 12. Par - Tapi - Narmada link * | - FR completed & DPR taken up |
| 13. Ken - Betwa link * | - DPR Completed |
| 14. Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link | - FR completed. |
| 15. Netravati - Hemavati Link | - PFR completed |
| 16. Bedti - Varda link | - FR taken up |

Himalayan Rivers Development Component

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Kosi-Mechi link | - Entirely lies in Nepal |
| 2. Kosi-Ghaghra link | - FR taken up |
| 3. Gandak-Ganga link | - FR taken up |
| 4. Ghaghra- Yamuna link | - FR completed (for Indian portion) |
| 5. Sarda-Yamuna link | - FR completed (for Indian portion) |
| 6. Yamuna-Rajasthan link | - S&I Works completed |
| 7. Rajasthan-Sabarmati link | - FR taken up |
| 8. Chunar (at Ganga)-Sone Barrage link | - S&I Works completed |
| 9. Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link | - FR taken up |
| 10. Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link | - FR taken up |
| 11. Jogighopa (at Brahmaputra) -Tista
(Alternate to M-S-T-G) link | -Ganga at Farakka
- FR taken up |
| 12. Ganga (Farakka)-Sunderbans link | - S&I Works completed |
| 13. Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha link | - S&I Works completed |
| 14. Subernarekha-Mahanadi link | - S&I Works completed |

*Priority links

PFR- Pre-Feasibility Report; FR- Feasibility Report; DPR- Detailed Project Report

S&I - Survey & Investigation.

Decline in major rivers water level

1658. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a gradual decline in the water level of the major river basins in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate availability of water in major water basins and reservoirs;
- (d) whether Government has launched a scheme for 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through Dugwells' during the Eleventh Plan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated to State Governments including Himachal Pradesh under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The analysis of the flow data carried out by Central Water Commission indicates that the flow in the river vary from year to year primarily due to variation in the rainfall in the catchment area. The analysis of long term data of major rivers do not indicate significant declining trend.

(c) Various measures for conservation of water through reservoirs and water bodies are undertaken by respective State Governments. Measures for rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge have also been undertaken by several State Governments. Storage Capacity of about 225 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 64 BCM.

Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM.

(d) and (e) Government of India has approved a scheme for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks of seven States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu during XI Plan. The fund allocated under the Scheme for the seven States are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	Fund allocation including subsidy to beneficiaries and for IEC to State agencies
1.	Andhra Pradesh	327.34
2.	Gujarat	208.49
3.	Karnataka	58.69
4.	Madhya Pradesh	136.92
5.	Maharashtra	110.14
6.	Rajasthan	317.15
7.	Tamil Nadu	490.23

Himachal Pradesh is not included in the scheme.

Indira Sagar (Polavaram) Project

1659. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made so far on Indira Sagar (Polavaram) project indicating the total areas being irrigated under it in Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasham districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount earmarked and spent so far to rehabilitate the families displaced for this project and the number of such families rehabilitated so far; and

(c) the additional irrigation potential created by it and quantum of power generated by it against the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) Irrigation is a state subject and planning, execution, funding including resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected families is within the purview of the concerned state government. In order to expedite completion of the project, the project was included in Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during 2008-09, Physical progress on important items of works on the project up to July 2009 is given in the following table:

Sl.No.	Description	Unit	Total estimated quantity	Quantity completed up to 3/08	Physical progress from 4/08 to 7/09	Total physical progress up to 7/09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I Unit-I (Headworks)						
1.	Dam/Barrage					
i	Land acquisition	ha	918.13	685.59	-	685.59
ii	Earthwork					
	Excavation	1000 m ³	62038.34	4655.86	10638.40	15294.26
	Embankment	1000m ³	18204.52	.	-	-
iii	Masonry work	1000m ³	28.13	-	-	-
iv	Concrete work	1000m ³	2670.72	14.00	-	14.00
v	Gates (Stoplogs)	No.	44	-	-	-
vi	Rehabilitation	No. of villages	276	3	-	3
II Unit II						
1	Main/Branches canals	Km	355.50	50	182.50	232.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i	Land acquisition	Ha	5845	4104	560	4664
ii	Earthwork	1000m ³	189982	102880	38942	141822
iii	Lining	1000m ²	25998	3061	7562	10623
iv	Structures	No.	459	14	45	59

Up to July 2009, no work has been taken up on distributaries, Minors and Water Courses. No irrigation potential is created and no power generation started from the project.

There are about 44574 project affected families out of which, 277 project affected families are rehabilitated up to the reporting period.

Ground water storage

1660. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any directions to the State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve the ground water storage against its unlimited exploitation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereon;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to introduce any special scheme to minimize the use of ground water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the average rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) Central Ground Water Authority issued direction to States having 'over-exploited' areas to take necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and also to include roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws. As per available information, 18 States and 4 UTs have amended building bye-laws incorporating mandatory adoption of roof top rain water harvesting in existing/new buildings in their respective States/UTs.

The Ministry of Water Resources also circulated to the States/UTs a Model Bill on regulation of ground water. 11 States/UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have enacted the ground water legislation for this purpose.

- (e) The rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture varies from place to place depending upon the cropping pattern, rainfall intensity, etc. However, the net annual ground water withdrawal for irrigation is estimated as 212 billion cubic metres (bcm), which is 92% of the total ground water draft.

Irrigation by canals

1661. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a staggering amount of funds to the tune of Rs. 1,30,000 crores spent on irrigation in the last decade or so, not a single hectare has been added to the total area irrigated by canals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this conclusion has emerged on the basis of a study based on official data furnished under the RTI Act and reports of the Agriculture and Water Resources Ministries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The expenditure incurred by States for major and medium irrigation projects during the IX and X Plan is reported to be about Rs. 1,33,000 crore. During the same period, creation of additional irrigation potential of 9.4 million hectares has been reported by the States. The State Governments have further reported about utilization of additional 5.98 million hectare of the irrigation potential during this period.

(b) and (c) A news report in the "Mail Today" dated 1st October 2009 which refers to "the conclusion of a study based on official data obtained under the Right to Information Act and the reports of Agriculture and Water Resources Ministries". No such study has been carried out by the Ministry of Water Resources and no conclusion has been drawn. The news report refers to study carried out by South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People. However, as per the information provided by the States to the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Five year Plan, a total of 235 major and medium irrigation projects have been reported as completed during IX Plan and X Plan period. In addition to 9.4 million hectare of created irrigation potential during IX and X Plan through major and medium projects, creation of irrigation potential of 1.25 million hectare has also been reported by the States during the first two years of XI Plan.

Irrigation and flood protection embankment

1662. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has received any proposal from Orissa Government regarding the irrigation and flood protection embankment in Bramhan, Birapa and Kelve project and it is pending at the level of Government for years together;

(b) the total and catchment area and total cost of the project; and

(c) by when Government could approve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) Central Water Commission (CWC) had earlier received a proposal for "Flood Protection to Brahmani-Birupa-Kelua Doad of Brahmani System" with an estimated cost of Rs.25.40 crores in March, 2003 from Orissa for examination. Upon examination, the CWC conveyed its comments to State Government of Orissa in October, 2003 and September, 2005 for compliance. The State Government of Orissa submitted a modified proposal for an estimated cost of Rs. 35.45 crores in October, 2006 and subsequently revised it to Rs.59.13 crores in May, 2008 for examination. The proposals were again examined in the CWC and comments sent. In the meantime, the Government of Orissa again modified the proposal at an estimated cost to Rs.64.58 crores covering the total catchment area of Brahmani River System of 36260 sq. km. and submitted to CWC in August, 2009. The latest modified proposal has also been examined in CWC and the comments sent to State Government of Orissa in November, 2009. The Government of Orissa has complied with CWC observations partially. Upon satisfactory compliance to the observations of CWC by the State Government, the aforesaid scheme would be placed before the Advisory Committee of MoWR for approval.

Problems of Sea Erosion

1663. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several coastal areas of Tamil Nadu are facing the problems of sea erosion which has become critical in certain areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether works for anti sea erosion measures have been taken up in these coastal areas of the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the coastal length of 641 km was affected by the sea-erosion; out of which 40 km length of coastline has been protected by the State Government.

The anti-sea erosion works are generally planned and executed by the respective State Government from own resources. Government of India also provides central assistance for undertaking such works in critical reaches. During X Plan period, central assistance amounting to Rs. 2.32 crore was provided to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for "Construction of groyne (400 m) at Periyathalai village in Tiruchendur Taluk of Thoothukudi District.

- (e) Does not arise.

Pending irrigation projects

1664. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of pending irrigation projects with his Ministry as on date; and
- (b) the details of each such proposal projects indicating the latest status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Regulatory Commission Bill, 2009

1665. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware about the passing of Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Regulatory Commission Bill, 2009 in August, 2009 in Andhra Pradesh Assembly which gives control of water resources in Andhra Pradesh to private bodies and thereby reducing water as a 'commodity';
- (b) whether it would not lead to monopoly and control on water by a few selected companies thereby create problems for poor, small and marginal farmers;
- (c) if so, whether his Ministry has thought of advising Government of Andhra Pradesh to withdraw the above Bill which is against the interest of the people;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has enacted Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Regulatory Commission Act (Act 15 of 2009) and published in the gazette on 9.9.2009. The Act does not give control to water bodies to private persons and also does not reduce the water to a "commodity".

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Sports infrastructure for North-East Region

1666. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of sports infrastructure being created and institutions being established in the North East Region for promotion of sports under the 10 per cent budgetary provision; and
- (b) specific plan, if any, taken up for execution during Eleventh plan period under 10 percent budgetary provision for promotion of sports of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Government has allowed 20% annual coverage of panchayats in respect of North-Eastern States as compared to 10% for the rest of the country under the Scheme of Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA). Under the Scheme, village/block panchayats receive one-time seed capital grant of Rs.1 lakh/Rs.5 lakh each, for establishing a playing field with basic facilities. The state share in this is 25 per cent for normal states and 10 per cent for special category states, including North-Eastern states. In addition, village panchayats are given annual acquisition grant for procurement of sports equipment and annual operational grant to meet the operational expenses of non-competition nature @ Rs.10,000 and Rs.12,000 per annum, respectively, and block panchayats are @ Rs.20,000 and 24,000, respectively. The scheme farther provides 100% central assistance for holding annual rural sports competitions at block, district and state level. The assistance given for holding annual block level competition is Rs.95,000/- (including prize money); Rs.3.9 lakh for district level (including inter-school competitions and prize money); Rs.10 lakh for state level; and Rs.70 lakh at national level @Rs.3.5 lakh per discipline (including prize money).

Details regarding financial assistance for infrastructure development sanctioned and released to the North -Eastern States during 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the Statement (see below).

(b) Under the ten percent budgetary allocation for north-eastern region, funds have been earmarked to Sports Authority of India, which is entrusted with the responsibility of identification, nurturing and training of talented athletes, PYKKA for creation of basic sports facilities in village panchayats and block panchayats, Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons, Special Awards to winners of medals in international sports events and their coaches, National Sports Development Fund for providing assistance to elite athletes for their specialized training etc.

Statement

*Funds sanctioned/released to North Eastern States under PYKKA
during 2008-09 and 2009-10*

Amount sanctioned /released during 2008-09 (Rupees in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Village Panchayat approved	No. of Block Panchayat approved	Total Amount Sanctioned	Funds released during 2008-09	Funds released during 2009- 10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Assam	333	22	4.81		3.85
2.	Manipur	79	4	1.08	0.87	
3.	Mizoram	82	3	1.07	0.85	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Nagaland	no	5	1.48	1.18	
5.	Sikkim	16	10	0.67	0.54	0.14
6.	Tripura	104	4	1.36	1.09	
	TOTAL	724	48	10.47	4.53	3.99

Amount sanctioned during 2009-10 (Rupees in Crore)					
Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Village Panchayat s approved	No. of Block Panchayats approved	Total Amount Sanctioned	Funds released during 2009- 10
1.	Meghalaya	83	8	1.32	-
2.	Mizoram	164	5	2.08	-
TOTAL		247	13	3.40	-

Project works on eve of Commonwealth Games

1667. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) how the project works are going on at Nehru Stadium and the Swimming Pool Complex in New Delhi on the eve of Commonwealth Games;

(b) is there any move to curtail the participation of our weightlifters in Commonwealth Games; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The project works at Nehru Stadium and the Swimming Pool Complex in New Delhi, are going on at a rapid pace. It is expected that these sports infrastructure projects will be completed by the target dates before the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Preparation for Commonwealth Games Project

1668. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 40 per cent of the preparations of Commonwealth Games is completed now;

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

(c) the amount spent for each purpose like the construction and training purpose for SC/ST people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No separate allocation is made for the construction and training purpose for SC/ST people in the budget of the Commonwealth Games.

Sports Federations in Rajasthan

†1669. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that almost all of the Sports Federations presently functioning in Rajasthan are entangled in the disputes and the same are pending in the courts and the Government administrators have been appointed in these federations;

(b) whether Government has no such policy through which it could have direct control over these federations and the sports could be saved from running; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any such scheme under which the rein of these sports federations could be handed over to retired senior players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Sports is a state subject and as such state sports federations do not come within the purview of the Central government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Queens Baton Relay

1670. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not including the Delhi Mayor in the delegation that has gone to London to received the Queen's Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the Games are always allotted to the cities and therefor the non-inclusion of Mayor of host city smacked of politicisation of the event;

(c) the reasons of not inviting the Mayor to the historical event whereas the Members of Organisation Committee and Government officials were present at the function; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) the details of the expenditure on the travelling of the invitees from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) The Government of India, Government of Delhi, Commonwealth Games Federation, Indian Olympic Association and the Organising Committee are the signatories to the Host City contract by which the XIX Commonwealth Games were allotted to Delhi. Invitations were extended to representatives of these organizations. Representatives of these organizations and those responsible for conduct and delivery of the Queens Baton Relay (QBR) and persons concerned with sports, irrespective of their party affiliations participated in the ceremony.

- (d) The cost of travel of the participants was borne by their various organizations. In case of sports persons and representatives of IOA, OC, Air India provided free air travel under value in kind scheme.

Committee to oversee preparation of Commonwealth Games

1671. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government has set up any Committee to oversee the financial matters related to progress of the Commonwealth Games 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the budget released by the Centre for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) a (b) The Government has constituted a Financial Sub-Committee with Government nominees of the Executive Board of the Organizing Committee (OC) comprising Secretary (Urban Development), Secretary (Sports), Additional Secretary/Special Secretary (Expenditure) of the Ministry of Finance and Chief Executive Officer, OC as Member-Convenor. The Committee will scrutinize in particular, all the financial proposals that are to be placed before the Executive Board of the OC for approval.

- (c) No separate budget has been sanctioned/released by the Government for the purpose.

Dissatisfaction expressed by President, Commonwealth Games Federation

†1672. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mike Fennel, the President of Commonwealth Games Federation has expressed dissatisfaction with the preparations of Organising Committee;
- (b) if so, the issues on which there is dissatisfaction and disagreement;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Commonwealth Organising Committee have written a letter to Mike Fennel to call back the CEO of Commonwealth Games Federation; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to complete preparations for games on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During his visit to Delhi for participating in the Executive Board Meeting of OC, CWG held on 10th September, 2009, he had expressed some concerns related to the capacity of the Organising Committee to deliver operationally.

(c) No, Sir. The Organising Committee has not written to Mr. Mike Fennel to call back the CEO of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

(d) All necessary steps are being taken to complete the preparations for the games in time including completion of sports infrastructure and the strengthening of the management and administration within the OC. The Group of Minister (GOM) and the Committee of Secretaries (COS) is monitoring all aspects of the preparation every week.

Expenditure on Common Wealth Games

†1673. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure likely to be incurred upon the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in India has exceeded the expenditure incurred on Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Monitoring Committee has been constituted by the Government for reviewing and proper arrangement of commonwealth games; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A Group of Ministers and Committee of Secretaries reviews the progress of all activities related to with the Commonwealth Games 2010 every week.

Steps taken to monitor construction works on eve of Commonwealth Games

1674. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the steps taken to curb the terrorist activities, Swine Flu danger and environment pollution during the Commonwealth Games in India in 2010;

(b) whether there is any proposal to appoint an all party Members of Parliament Committee to monitor the ongoing constructional works on the eve of 2010 Commonwealth Games; and

(c) the steps taken so far to improve sanitation conditions in New Delhi to cope up with the crowd that is likely to come and witness the games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) For providing security including, against terrorist activity, the Government has prepared a Comprehensive Security Plan, in consultation with the Central Security Agencies and Delhi Police. For prevention of the Swine Flu, Hindu Rao Hospital in Delhi has been made the nodal Hospital with the following facilities:

- i) Screening of suspected cases and collection of samples for Laboratory Diagnosis;
- ii) Isolation of cases in isolation wards;
- iii) Treatment including Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities.

Two Control Rooms have also been established in different parts of Delhi to keep quick vigil on the spread of the disease. Various steps have also been taken to control environmental pollution which inter-alia include plantation of ten lakh plants, provision for greenery on the roads en-route to venues of the Commonwealth Games, effective supervision of solid waste management, prevention of burning of dry leaves & garbage etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Several steps have also been taken to improve the sanitation condition in the Capital Territory of Delhi. These include Door-to Door Garbage collection, removal of Garbage Collection Centres from the city, use of mechanical sweepers, upgradation/renovation of toilet blocks, provisioning of adequate number of safai karamcharis for cleaning and sweeping in different parts of the city.

Setting up of sports training centre

1675. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up a sports science centre to revive training;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such centre would be set up in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Training to participants in Commonwealth Games

1676. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving any training to the participation in the Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent, so far; and

(c) the present status thereof and the funds allocated for Commonwealth Games purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To improve the performance of the Indian contingent in the Commonwealth Games, 2010, a Scheme with allocation of Rs.678.00 crore (2008-09 to 2010-11) is being implemented for providing training to the elite sportspersons in all the disciplines of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, These disciplines will be Archery, Athletics, Aquatics, Badminton, Boxing(M), Cycling, Gymnastics, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball (W), Rugby 7s (M) Shooting, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Elite Athletes with Disability (Athletics, Power lifting, Table Tennis and Swimming). Against allocation of Rs.678.00 crore, expenditure of Rs.232.56 crores has been incurred so far (as on 30.11.2009).

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Urban Development.**

II. **Report and Accounts (2008-09) of the DUAC, New Delhi and related papers.**

III. **Report and Accounts (2008-09) of the NCRPB, New Delhi and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- I (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Urban Development Notification G.S.R. 137, dated the 19 September, 2009, publishing the Delhi Urban Art Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 26 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 961/15/09]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Urban Development, under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 :
 - (1) G.S.R. 590 (E), dated the 20th August, 2009, publishing the Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Amendment Rules, 2009.
 - (2) G.S.R. 105, dated the 18th July, 2009, publishing the Delhi Development Authority Engineer Member Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 960/15/09]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 19 and sub-section (4) of Section 20 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973 :
 - (a) Annual Report of the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09., and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 959/15/09]
- III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts, under Section 26 of the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 956/15/09]

MoU (2009-10) between Government of India and HPL

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, on behalf of Kumari Selja, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation) and the Hindustan Prefab Limited (HPL), for the year 2009-10. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 263/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training), under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:-

- (1) G.S.R. 541 (E), dated the 21st July, 2009, publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 542 (E), dated the 21st July, 2009, publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 770 (E), dated the 20th October, 2009, publishing the Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2009.
- (4) G.S.R. 771 (E), dated the 20 October, 2009, publishing the Indian Police Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (5) G.S.R. 819 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2009.
- (6) G.S.R. 820 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. For (1) to (6) See No. L.T. 888/15/09]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training), under clause (5) of article 320 of the Constitution of India:
 - (1) G.S.R. 544 (E), dated the 22nd July, 2009, publishing the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2009.
 - (2) G.S.R. 727 (E), dated the 7th October, 2009, publishing the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2009. [Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 889/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 37 of the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. 116-4/2009-MN (Vol. II), dated the 24th September, 2009, publishing the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Regulations, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 862/15/09]

Reports and Accounts (2007-08) of various hotels and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- (1) 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) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1034/15/09]
- (ii) (a) Twenty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1037/15/09]
- (iii) (a) Twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1035/15/09]
- (iv) (a) Twenty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1036/15/09]
- (v) (a) Sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, 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. 1034/15/09]
- (vi) (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1038/15/09]

Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Centres and related papers

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: 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 Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1069/15/09]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1068/15/09]
- (iii) (a) Fourteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the DOEACC Society, 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 Society. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1070/15/09]

Report and Accounts (2004-05) of the Haj Committee of India,

Mumbai and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (i) Annual Accounts of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2004-05, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 34 of the Haj Committee Act, 2002.
- (ii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1147/15/09]

**Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on External Affairs**

DR. KARAN SINGH (National Capital Territory of Delhi): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs (2009-10):-

- (i) First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs; and
 - (ii) Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of External Affairs.
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Repors of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA (Orissa): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways:

- (i) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Railways;
- (ii) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Fortieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Review of Plan Performance and 11th Five Year Plan Projections; and
- (iii) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in their Forty-first Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Review of Special Railway Safety Fund.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Mass rally by bank employees in protest against the banking reform policies of Government

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for allowing me. Today, the national capital is witnessing a massive demonstration of thousands of bank employees and bank officers who have come from different parts of the country under the banner of All-India Bank Employees Association and All-India Bank Officers Association. These employees and officers have come to Delhi with several meaningful suggestions to the Government. They have come with meaningful suggestions on various policy matters as far as banking industry is concerned. We all know the impact of global financial crisis. The Wall Street crisis has become an 'all street' crisis. Despite all this, our economy has not been completely shattered because of our banking industry which is overwhelmingly public sector industry.

These bank employees and bank officers have come with several suggestions which I would like the Government to take note of. Nationalised banks are being advised to go in for mergers and consolidations. These employees and officers have reservations on this issue. They think the public sector banks have been uniquely placed in the global banking scenario and have greatly contributed for our country's economic development in the last four decades since nationalisation. Their role in social lending on priority basis is phenomenal. If the banks are consolidated and made as huge financial institutions for the sake of financing the corporate needs, the social lending will become a casualty which our country can ill-afford.

These officers and employees are of the view that the banks will become more monopolistic and consequently, more towards pro big business and less accessible to common masses. Even today only 50 per cent of our people have bank accounts. Today we need more branches in the country, not the closure of branches. Again, Sir, these employees and officers have a great concern with regard to the State Bank of India taking over the associate banks such as the State Bank of Indore and these employees and officers have very sincere concern about the loan being taken from World Bank. It is learnt that Government has decided to avail two billion dollars loan from World Bank to be subscribed as capital in the public sector banks and we all know the World Bank assistance would be invariably accompanied by diverse conditionalities. These bank employees and officers have got really meaningful suggestions. The Government should take note of it and consider their decisions.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Relations of India with Iran

श्री साबिर अली (बिहार) : सर, मैं बहुत कम समय लूंगा।

अभी कुछ दिन पहले हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अमेरिका के साथ जब ईरान का मसला आया तो उसके खिलाफ हस्ताक्षर किये। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि ईरान के साथ भारत का बहुत पुराना रिश्ता रहा है और वह रिश्ता बहुत मजबूत भी रहा है। ईरान ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमारे साथ रहा, जब अमेरिका हमारे देश के साथ दूर-दूर तक दिखाई नहीं देता था।

सर, मैं इस इश्यू को इसलिए कहना चाहता हूँ कि अमेरिका एक ऐसा देश है, जिसका इतिहास अगर देखा जाए तो उस पर भरोसा नहीं किया जा सकता। चूंकि जब भी अमेरिका का कोई बड़ा डेलिगेट या वहां के प्रेसिडेंट इधर आते हैं, तो उनका जो रूटीन लगता है या उनका जो रूट तय किया जाता है, तब पहले भारत और उसके बाद पाकिस्तान में होता है। यहां वे एक स्टेटमेंट देते हैं और दूसरे दिन पाकिस्तान में जाकर उसके बिल्कुल विपरीत, अपने उस स्टेटमेंट को बदल कर, देते हैं। इस प्रकार एक ऐसा देश जो पूरी दुनिया में आतंक की एक बहुत बड़ी जड़ है; एक ऐसा देश जो जिसके साथ रहा उसी की थाली में छेद कर दिया; एक ऐसा देश जो अपनी बादशाहत पूरी दुनिया में कायम रखना चाहता है; एक ऐसा देश जो अपनी हुकूमत की बर्बरियत पर, अपनी ताकत पर पूरी दुनिया को नचाना चाहता है, उसके इशारे पर हमारे जैसा देश जो हमेशा एक-दूसरे की मदद करने वाला देश है तथा अपने साथियों को और अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ लेकर चलने वाला देश है, उसके कहने पर या उसके इशारे पर, उसका ईरान के साथ इतना पुराना रिश्ता कमजोर होता दिखाई दे रहा है।

सर, मैं आपके जरिए यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि ईरान के साथ हिन्दुस्तान का यह जो मैसेज गया है, उसके खिलाफ जो हम लोगों ने वोटिंग की है, यह बहुत बड़ा मैसेज है। लोग यह समझने लगेंगे कि इसके साथ हमारा रिश्ता अगर मधुर भी रहा, जितना भी मधुर रहा, तो यह कभी-भी पलटा जाएंगे। यह सिग्नल नहीं जाना चाहिए। यह इस देश के लिए घातक है। ऐसा देश जो हर क्रिटिकल सिचुएशन में हमारे साथ रहा है, उसके साथ इस तरह का धोखा देना हमारे देश के लिए अच्छा नहीं है। इसलिए मैं आपके जरिए बहुत कुछ नहीं कह के सिर्फ इतना कहना

चाहता हूँ कि उस रिश्ते को, चाहे वह रशिया हो या जो हमारे पुराने मित्र हैं, उनके साथ हमारे रिश्ते और मजबूत होने चाहिए न कि उनको कमजोर बनाने की कोशिश होनी चाहिए। चूँकि हमारा संदेश - हमारा जो रिश्ता रहे, पूरी दुनिया यह जाने ...**(समय की घंटी)**... रहता है, वह मजबूती के साथ निभाना चाहते हैं। उनकी क्रिटिकल सिचुएशन में हमें उनका साथ देना चाहिए। ईरान एक ऐसा देश है, जिसके साथ हमारा निर्यात-आयात चालू है। उसको और मजबूत करने की जरूरत है न कि कमजोर करने की। मैं सिर्फ एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

श्री उपसभापति : आपका टाइम पूरा हो गया है।

श्री साबिर अली : हमको अमेरिका के दबाव में न आकर ईरान के साथ ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमें उसका साथ देना चाहिए।

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MANGALA KISAN (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next, Shri Sitaram Yechury.

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise today, in this august House, to mention the 25th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. It is one of the worst man-made industrial accidents that the world has witnessed. Yesterday, the hon. Chairman made a reference to it with which we all had associated. So, I do not wish to repeat those points of conveying our homage and sympathies to those who died and those who are suffering with various deformities as a result of leakage of toxic materials and also the issue of criminal negligence of compensation still not being paid to these victims even after 25 years. The hon. Chairman has raised that yesterday. We all associated. I do not want to repeat those issues. But, at the same time, there are three other important issues which, I think, on the occasion of this anniversary, we must take note of.

The first one is, the toxic waste is still lying around the Carbide Plant. The waste is discharged into the solar evaporation pond and is contaminating the soil and ground water in approximately 5 sq. km. area around the plant. Both, the Central and the concerned State Government, displayed a total

neglect to the needs of the affected people and environment cleansing. This is something which needs to be taken into account.

The second issue is connected with the workplace safety of the employers. The disaster exposed the criminal negligence to workplace safety on the part of the employers' class. And, through the passage of last 25 years, such neglect to workplace safety has increased manifold and only the workers fell victim by way of increasing fatalities, injuries and physical disablement. During a span of one year, around 127 workers lost their lives in 11 workplace accidents at 10 locations owing to same criminal negligence in preventive safety despite there being couple of safety-related laws in vogue and, on none of these events of accident, not a single person has been punished for violation of these safety laws.

But, ironically, the most important thing is, in today's List of Business, there is a piece of legislation amending the labour laws which only increase the vulnerability. The most important issue is, instead of insulating ourselves from such accidents, reportedly, the Government is considering finalising the Nuclear Liability Bill which seeks to cap the compensation amount to be paid in case of an accident in a nuclear facility in keeping with the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage. The amount of US \$ 450 million i.e., Rs. 2,000 crores, at which the compensation is likely to be capped, is exceedingly low when compared to the likely scale of losses in case of a nuclear accident. It is noteworthy that around the same amount was paid as compensation by the Union Carbide following the Bhopal Gas disaster, which, when divided among 6 lakh victims, amounted to only US \$ 500 i.e., less than Rs. 23,000 per head. The proposed Bill is reported to have provisions whereby the liability in the case of accident would lie with the operator i.e., the Nuclear Power Corporation and not the supplier companies. This is something which is not acceptable to us. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Yechury. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. The entire House is associated with it. Now, Dr. Najma Heptulla.

RE. INTERNATIONAL DISABLED DAY

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, today is the International Disabled Day. I have given a notice for permitting me to raise this issue. But, it has not been accepted. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have given a notice on the International Disabled Day. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please, Mr. Rudy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It is very serious in India. But, we cannot raise that issue in this House! Sir, it is a social issue to which the Parliament should respond. On this International Disabled Day, 80 million people have been deprived of their opportunities. Anyway, Sir, if you do not permit, I will sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : सर, अगर इन्होंने बोल दिया है तो उसे रिकॉर्ड करा दीजिए।

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it is an important and social issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... It should be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will tell you ...*(Interruptions)*... It is very difficult. When notice is given, it is the prerogative of the hon. Chairman either to allow it or reject it. I agree that today is the International Disability Day. I also agree that this day has social relevance. But, is not a matter of urgent public importance ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कमल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं-नहीं, आप बैठिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने किसी और का नाम बुलाया है, प्लीज आप बैठिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इनके बाद आप बोलिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री कमल अख्तर : सर, मैं आपसे यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग इस सदन में क्यों हैं? क्या जब कोई इंटरनेशनल मुद्दा होगा तभी आप हमें उसे उठाने के लिए परमिशन देंगे? मेरे क्षेत्र में एक नौजवान को पुलिस ने गोली मार कर हत्या कर दी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आज तक पुलिस की गिरफ्तारी नहीं हुई। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : इसका जवाब मैं चेयर से नहीं दे पाऊंगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... देखिए, आप जो सवाल उठा रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं आपसे गुजारिश कर रहा हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसका जवाब आपको चेयर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री कुमार दीपक दास (असम) : सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्यों खड़े हो गये? आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... आप इनके वकील नहीं हैं, आप बैठिए। You are not his advocate. Please sit down. आप बैठिए! ...(व्यवधान)...I appeal to the hon. Members, please sit down ...(Interruptions)... It is not the way to support. Each Member is important. It is the duty of the Chair to protect everybody's interest. It is the duty of the Chair to run the House according to the rules and procedure which you have laid down, not the Chair has laid down. So, accordingly, when you give a notice, it is examined and decisions are taken according to the rules. Now, if you start questioning and asking answers from the Chair every time, it is not possible. There are other ways to mitigate your grievances. You meet the Chairman, you meet the officers, then, it will be done. But in the House, if you ask me why your Notice was not admitted, what can I say? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री कमाल अख्तर : मैं दो दिन से लगातार नोटिस दे रहा हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप मिलिए चेयरमैन साहब से। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमाल अख्तर : आपने आश्वासन दिया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने आश्वासन नहीं दिया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमाल अख्तर : सर, आप बताइए किसी आदमी की जान ...(व्यवधान)... किसी आदमी को पुलिस गोली मार देती है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : मैं चेयर से जवाब देने के लिए नहीं हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमाल अख्तर : मैं जवाब नहीं मांग रहा। मैं सरकार का और देश के लोगों का इस ओर ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं, वह नहीं जाएगा। Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions) मैं आपसे गुजारिश करूंगा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमाल अख्तर : *

श्री उपसभापति : आप मुझसे पूछ नहीं सकते हैं। प्लीज, बैठिए।

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION - Contd.

Issuance of identity cards to the people living in high security areas around Prime Minister's residence

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : सर, कल बड़े विस्तार से हाऊस में हम लोगों ने देश की इंटरनल सिक्युरिटी के बारे में डिस्कशन किया। हमारा सारा देश इस बारे में परेशान है और पार्लियामेंट ने भी इस बारे में बहुत गंभीरता से बात की कि टेरेरिज्म है और दूसरी इंसरजेंसी है, जिससे हमारा देश जूझ रहा है।

मैं दिल्ली, जो हमारी राजधानी है और जिसपर हमें बहुत फ़ख़ है, उसके बारे में कहना चाहती हूँ और खास तौर से इस ओर ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि यहां जो हाई सिक्युरिटी एरिया है, जहां प्रधान मंत्री जी का निवास है, उनके आसपास मंत्रियों के बंगले हैं, वहां पर मैम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट रहते हैं, हमारी आर्म्ड फोर्सिज़ के लोग रहते

* Not recorded.

हैं, उस एरिया में बंगलों के साथ में जो सर्वेड्स क्वार्टर्ज हैं, उनमें कौन लोग रहते हैं। मैं मानती हूँ कि बहुत सा बोनाफाइड स्टाफ भी होगा, जो मेम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट्स, मंत्रियों और दूसरे लोगों का है, मगर आज तक यह पता नहीं लगा कि कितने अनअथराइज्ड लोग वहां रह रहे हैं - साउथ एवेन्यु, नार्थ एवेन्यु और खास तौर से प्रधान मंत्री जी के घर के आसपास।

मैं होम मिनिस्ट्री से आपके जरिए यह आग्रह करना चाहती हूँ कि वहां पर एक सर्वे कराना चाहिए और जो ऑथराइज्ड लोग वहां रहते हैं, उनको आइडेंटिटी कार्ड दिया जाना चाहिए, इसलिए कि किसी को मालूम नहीं होता कि उस एरिया में कौन आता है, कौन जाता है, कौन रहता है। मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी को भी इस सिलसिले में विट्ठी लिखूंगी, मगर इस सदन के जरिए मैं आप तक यह बात पहुंचाना चाहती हूँ।

Agitation in Andhra Pradesh for formation of Telengana State

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर ध्यान आकृष्ट कराने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

महोदय, आज तेलंगाना में बहुत जबर्दस्त तरीके से आन्दोलन चल रहा है। वहां कालेज, विश्वविद्यालय, स्कूल बंद हैं, व्यापार और किसान सड़क पर आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं, समाज के दूसरे सारे तबके तथा इम्लाइज और वहां जो बुद्धिजीवी हैं, वे भी सड़क पर आए हैं एक ही मांग को लेकर कि पृथक तेलंगाना होना चाहिए। पृथक तेलंगाना की बात कोई आज तैयार नहीं हुई है। उपसभापति महोदय, लगभग 50 साल से यह मांग चल रही है और लगातार इसके साथ * हो रहा है और इस * से आहत होकर वे लोग आज सड़क पर उतर आए हैं और यह आन्दोलन चल रहा है। अगर हम अभी-अभी का इतिहास देखेंगे, तो 2004 के इलेक्शन में सत्तारुढ़ दल कांग्रेस ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि तेलंगाना का निर्माण होगा और उसी के आधार पर उनको वोट भी मिला, सत्ता में आने का चांस भी मिला। उस समय TDP ने इसका विरोध किया था और इसलिए यह एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा बन गया और वे लोग सत्ता में आ गए। लेकिन, सत्ता में आने के बाद वे तेलंगाना निर्माण के लिए कोई बिल नहीं लाए। एक प्रणव मुखर्जी कमिटी बनाई गई और पांच साल वह कमिटी क्या कर रही थी, किसी को पता नहीं चला, वह भंग हो गई। सरकार ने किसी को नियुक्त नहीं किया था, उन्हें तो पार्टी ने नियुक्त किया था और इसलिए लगातार तेलंगाना के साथ * हुआ है। इनके साथ जो allies थे - TRS, वे भी यही बताते रहे कि कुछ करेंगे, कुछ करेंगे, लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ। इसलिए आज तेलंगाना की जनता को लगता है कि अगर हमारा विकास होना है, अगर वहां का पानी खेती को मिलना है, अगर वहां के लोगों को equitable justice मिलना है, तो सैपरेट तेलंगाना का निर्माण होना चाहिए। आज सबसे ज्यादा आत्महत्याएं भी उसी रीजन में हो रही हैं। इसलिए मैं यह विषय उठा रहा हूँ कि अब तो यह * की नीति समाप्त करो। बीच में बहुत पानी बह गया है। अब तेलंगाना के लिए TDP भी राजी हो गई है, बहुत सारे दूसरे दल भी राजी हो गए हैं। भारतीय जनता पार्टी ही एकमात्र राष्ट्रीय दल है, जिसने पहले ही कहा है कि अगर सरकार इस विषय में बिल लाती है, तो हम उसे समर्थन देंगे, पृथक तेलंगाना का निर्माण होना ही चाहिए, यह हमने कहा है। जब सभी लोग तैयार हैं, तो केवल lip sympathy दिखाकर तेलंगाना के साथ * करके, केवल वोटों की राजनीति मत करिए। हम आपके माध्यम से अपील करना चाहते हैं कि सरकार को चाहिए कि वह तुरंत पृथक तेलंगाना के निर्माण का बिल लाए, हम उस बिल को समर्थन देंगे तथा तेलंगाना के साथ * सहन नहीं करेंगे।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा) : मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री भारत कुमार राऊत (महाराष्ट्र) : मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to give special package to people coming back to the country after Dubai economic crisis

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the present economic crisis in Dubai and its impacts on Kerala's economy. It was reported that the economic meltdown has shaken all sections of the United Arab Emirates. Actually, it is an impact of global economic crisis.

Lakhs of people from India, especially, from Kerala are working in different kinds of industries in Dubai. Now, the companies have started to retrench the workforce at all levels. Lakhs and lakhs of people are compelled to comeback due to loss of jobs.

Kerala is a State where the remittance of Non-Resident Keralites account for nearly 1/4th of the State Domestic Product. The new situation will seriously affect the State's financial position also.

Most of them who are compelled to come back from Dubai may not be in a position of having a better livelihood. The initial response of the Government to this issue is not found satisfactory.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take this issue very seriously and declare a Special Package for those returning from Gulf due to economic crisis.

Sir, the Minister is here. I hope ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ram Prakash. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; okay. Dr. Ram Prakash.

Need to ban the auctioning of memorabilia associated with Gandhiji

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी जी के स्मृति चिह्नों की बिक्री व नीलामी के समय-समय पर छपते समाचार भारतीय जनमानस को आंदोलित करते रहते हैं। संभवतः कुछ लोग गांधी जी के स्मृति चिह्नों को खोजकर उन्हें नीलाम करने का धंधा करते रहते हैं। इससे समस्त राष्ट्र की किरकिरी होती है। मेरा संस्कृति मंत्रालय से अनुरोध है कि वह बापू के स्मृति चिह्नों के व्यावसायिक दोहन को

रोकने का प्रभावी ढंग तलाश करे। इस प्रसंग में प्राचीन वस्तु व कला संग्रह कानून, 1972 में समुचित संशोधन कर गांधी जी के स्मृति चिह्नों की बिक्री पर रोक लगाई जाए। जिन व्यक्तियों के पास बापू जी से संबंधित ऐसी सामग्री हो, उनके लिए उसका पंजीकरण करवाना अनिवार्य बनाया जाए और उसकी नीलामी पर रोक लगाई जाए।

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा) : मैं अपने को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

**Demand to provide a railway rack point at Rairangpur or Badam Pahar
railway station in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa**

SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI (Orissa): Sir, through this House, I request, on behalf of all the farmers of district Mayurbhanj of Orissa State, to the Railway Minister to provide a railway rack point at Rairangpur or Badam Pahar Railway Station for fertilizer storage facilities since at present these storage facilities are located far away at Balasore (150 KM) at Jajpur Road (200 KM) Railway Station which is increasing the cost of fertilizer due to transportation charges being taken by the dealers and distributors. If a railway rack point is built up at Rairangpur or Badam Pahar Railway Station, it will be great help to the farmers since it will reduce the cost of the fertilizer for the Mayurbhanj and surrounding district farmers also.

Kindly do the needful by looking into the matter. Thank you.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Pathetic condition of Bell Metal Industry in Assam

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, the famous bell metal industry of Assam is one of the oldest cottage industries, but it is yet to get due recognition. In Sarthebari, Assam, there are 280 such bell metal industries. One unit needs 20 to 25 kg of raw bell metal everyday. Artisans have formed cooperatives, but due to lack of regular supply of raw materials and financial crunch, societies have failed to supply the material regularly. Bell metal is a chemical compound of Zinc and Copper since Government is the controlling authority, it may provide these at subsidised rates along with some kind of a one-time ad hoc grant to these societies. Lack of regular supply of charcoal is a big problem; non-availability of requisite quantity is a big problem. Heavy financial input is necessary for its transportation from different places in the State. Therefore, Government's special attention is very much needed here. The living conditions of artisans are very pathetic. They need well-equipped and proper industrial sheds along with dwelling houses of requisite standard. Sympathetic consideration of the Government is also needed for waiver of all small bank loans which individual artisans had taken keeping in view their economic hardship.

Therefore, it is requested that Government of India may declare a special economic package for the upliftment and encouragement of such traditional cottage industries of bell metal which is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the region.

SHRI MANGALA KISAN (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Need to take suitable steps to deal with the problems of
Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India**

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, since 1983, a large number of Sri Lankan Tamils affected by the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka have arrived on the Indian shores as refugees. At present, around 73,074 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are staying in 114 settlements across the State of Tamil Nadu. Besides, 32,240 Sri Lankan Tamils are residing in Tamil Nadu as non-camp refugees. The Tamil Nadu Government has been providing all necessary assistance for their livelihood, cash doles, food etc. with the aid of the Centre.

As India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and there is no specific law for refugees in India, their entry, stay and departure are regulated under the Foreigners Act, 1946. The Government of India has issued directions to deal with the categories of Sri Lankan Tamils who arrived in India under Order 370 dated 10.09.1996, which says that the Sri Lankans who arrived in India from January 1993 onwards may be dealt with in accordance with the existing legal provisions as applicable to any other foreigner. Sri Lankan Tamils poured into Tamil Nadu even after 1993 and it continues till date. The people who have come here after 1993 also have to be registered as refugees.

Hence, I request the Government of India to suitably bring in necessary directives to deal with the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees to avoid legal complications. This can be done by extending the deadline date so that it includes continual arrival of Sri Lankan Tamils till otherwise provided for. I would also request the Central Government to extend citizenship to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, as requested by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Many of them have lived in Tamil Nadu for more number of years than they have lived in their own soil.

....(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI A.A. JINNAH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need to bring reforms in the policy on fertilizer subsidy in the country

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान) : महोदय, भारत सरकार ने अपने बजट 2009-10 में 49,980 करोड़ रुपये उर्वरक सब्सिडी के लिए रखे हैं। यह सब्सिडी चाहे किसान को सीधे उर्वरक खरीद पर दी जाए, चाहे सीधे उर्वरक उत्पादकों को दी जाए, अन्ततोगत्वा यह उत्पादक के पास जायेगी और उसका मुनाफा बढ़ाने के काम आयेगी। इस सब्सिडी का फायदा अधिकांशतः बड़े किसानों को होता है और लघु एवं सीमान्त कृषक या कृषि मजदूर इसका सीमित लाभ उठा पाते हैं। सब्सिडी और अधिक उत्पादन के लोभ में अधिक रासायनिक उर्वरकों के उपयोग में जमीन में क्षार बढ़ने, उसके ऊसर होने के प्रमाण अब सरकार भी मानने लगी है, किंतु अफसोस इस बात का है कि मर्ज बढ़ता गया, ज्यों-ज्यों दवा की।

महोदय, इस देश का किसान जैविक खाद का प्रयोग सदियों से करता आया है और इस मामले में वह आत्मनिर्भर रहा है। गांधी जी के ग्राम स्वराज में कृषि का मुख्य आधार जैविक खाद रहा है। पूंजीवाद के परिपोषक सरकारी अमले ने रासायनिक उर्वरकों के पक्ष में ऐसा ब्रेन वॉश किया है कि खेती के विकास का एकमात्र आधार रासायनिक नज़र आने लगे हैं, चाहे उससे पानी की मात्रा कई गुणा बढ़ानी पड़े, चाहे निरंतर उपयोग से भूमि ऊसर हो जाये। रासायनिक उर्वरकों के स्थान पर यदि जैविक खाद को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए, तो इससे कृषि नीति एवं नियति में पैराडिगम शिफ्ट हो जायेगा। अतः मैं मांग करता हूँ कि सरकार एक वैकल्पिक सब्सिडी प्रणाली की खोज करे, जिससे पारिस्थितिकीय कृषि एवं जैविक मृदा संशोधनों में वृद्धि हो और रासायनिक उर्वरकों के लिए नियत सब्सिडी का 20 प्रतिशत पारिस्थितिकीय कृषि और जैविक खाद के लिए दिया जाए।

Inadequate Allocation of money under special component plan for scheduled castes

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों के साथ हो रहे भेदभाव की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। एक पत्रिका ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में यह खुलासा किया है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र की मानवाधिकार कमेटी ने भारत सरकार से देश में अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों पर हो रहे अत्याचारों और भेदभाव पर जानकारी मांगी है। अनुसूचित जाति के विकास के लिए स्पेशल कंपोनेंट प्लान (एससीपी) के तहत मिलने वाली राशि उन्हें नहीं मिल रही है और जिन राज्यों में उन्हें यह रकम मिल भी रही है, वहां वह किसी और मद में खर्च की जा रही है।

सन् 1979 में केंद्र सरकार ने यह निर्धारित किया था कि अनुसूचित जाति समुदाय के लिए एससीपी के तहत कुछ राशि आबंटित की जाएगी। इसके अनुसार अनुसूचित जाति के लिए विकास योजनाओं पर कुल केंद्रीय बजट में से 16.23 प्रतिशत और कुल राज्य बजट में से अनुसूचित जाति जनसंख्या के आधार पर रकम खर्च करने का प्रावधान था, लेकिन यह योजना सिर्फ कागजों पर है। वर्ष 2008-09 में एससीपी के तहत केंद्रीय बजट में 33,737.15 करोड़ रुपये की जगह सरकार ने मात्र 14,681.86 करोड़ रुपये दिए, यानी 16.23 प्रतिशत की जगह मात्र 7.05 प्रतिशत। इसी प्रकार वर्ष 2009-10 में 39,510.5 करोड़ रुपये की जगह मात्र 15,683.94 करोड़ रुपये आबंटित किये गये, यानी मात्र 6.43 प्रतिशत।

अतः मैं सरकार से यह मांग करता हूँ कि इसके बारे में हमें विस्तृत जानकारी दे और यह सुनिश्चित करे कि अनुसूचित जाति के विकास के लिए जो राशि निर्धारित की गई है, वह उसी मद में खर्च हो।

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Bill, 1988

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Bill, 1988.

The question was proposed.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I have no objection. The hon. Minister may withdraw this Bill. I just want to make a brief intervention which I also have orally communicated to him.

This Bill to amend the Constitution is pending for the last twenty years. It is pending since 1988. And, since then, almost every Minister of Sports has been complaining that he needs to amend the Constitution and bring 'sports' under the Concurrent List because the Central Government has no power.

Sir, sports is a State subject. It is a State subject to the extent that it is sports within the geographical territory of a State. The national federations and representation of India internationally, is not sports within a State, and, therefore, it is already a Central subject under your residuary powers.

For some erroneous reasons, the Ministry of Sports for the last twenty-one years is repeatedly saying, please put it under the Concurrent List because we have no power. In fact, this Bill, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, also says, "as mentioned above, in view of the existing provisions of the Constitution, the Central Government presently has no *locus standi* in the matter of promotion of sports." The Government is consistently moving on this erroneous impression that it has no such power as far as sports is concerned, whereas the fact of the matter is that even under the present Constitutional scheme, it is effectively under the Concurrent List except that it is divided to the extent that sports within the territory of a State is a State subject but representation of India internationally and national federations, which is not sports inside a State, is already a Central subject. I do not know why this confusion is continuing and why the Central Government feels helpless in doing anything in the matter because of this erroneous opinion that they have.

I had also requested his predecessor, Mr. Aiyar, and acquainted him with the position. If you check up, now the courts have also recognized this position through their judgements. Therefore, please change your view as far as this subject is concerned, and, have it examined. This kind of legislation, any erroneous follow up of that, and, feelings that we are helpless in the matter should now come to an end.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बिल वापस करने के लिए कहा है और माननीय नेता विपक्ष ने भी अपनी बात रखी है। सचमुच में हमारे लिए भी यह एक नई खबर है क्योंकि हम लोग, और मुझे

लगता है सदन में सभी लोग यह समझते हैं कि खेलों के मामले में पूरा अधिकार राज्य सरकारों का है और उसमें राज्य सरकारों के अलावा भारत सरकार कुछ नहीं कर सकती है। जब इस कानून के अंदर गए तो यह पता चला कि जो All India bodies हैं, जितनी federations हैं, उसमें अगर भारत सरकार कुछ करना चाहे तो उसको पूरा अधिकार है। अब जब यह बात पता चल गई है तो मुझे नहीं लगता कि इस तरह के विधेयक की कोई जरूरत है। इसलिए यह विधेयक वापस लिया जा सकता है, हम इसका समर्थन करते हैं। यह एक नई सूचना है, यह सारे federations के लिए एक अच्छी बात है क्योंकि कई जगह राज्यों में ऐसा होता है कि खेल विभाग को कोई महत्व नहीं दिया जाता है। जो सबसे कमजोर अफसर होता है और जब उस अफसर को उन्हें punishment देनी होती है तो उसे Sports Secretary बनाया जाता है। जिस मंत्री को मुख्य मंत्री कुछ नहीं समझता है, उसे खेल मंत्री बना दिया जाता है। इसलिए यह जो स्थिति राज्यों में है, उसको देखते हुए सबको यह लगता था कि राज्यों से लेकर केन्द्र सरकार के पास आए। लेकिन जैसा कि नेता विपक्ष ने कहा और मंत्री जी भी कह रहे हैं कि इसमें भारत सरकार का पूरा अधिकार है। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है। मुझे लगता है कि इस विधेयक की कोई जरूरत नहीं है, हम इसका समर्थन करते हैं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): With what authority, we are holding this Commonwealth Games here; who negotiated with other countries? It is the Central Government. Without any legislation, without putting this subject under the Concurrent List, you are doing that. Why don't you continue to do this? Why do you want to take away the State power? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Constitution confers it on the Central Government. What else they want? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please. Mr. Rangarajan, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, the hon. Minister.

DR. M.S. GILL : Sir, I am not as learned as the Leader of Opposition in the law. But, precisely, why I came to the House is because I applied simple common sense to this file, when I read it. First of all, on the Constitution itself, I personally -- do not agree that we have to go on amending it, sometimes to cover our administrative failings or short comings. America has hardly any amendments in 200 years and all of you know we have about a hundred. In this case, yes, it was not necessary ever. The power existed with the Government of India under the Constitution, which is very wisely framed and worded to take whatever legal steps they wanted to take, to pass law on matters pertaining to the whole of India. And States, as the hon. Member has said, of course, have power for the State. I do not believe that States of India, for even little things should be pulled up here. As it happens, the law was clear. The Attorney General has sent it to us and the hon. Members have supported it. Sir, I beg your permission to withdraw the Bill.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House stands adjourned up to 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at forty-one minute past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at two of the clock,

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Achievements and problems of women self-help groups comprising mainly poor rural women

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, you are looking at me with some suspicion or apprehension that I may overstep my time.

Sir, I would like to thank Mr. Chairman and you for having given me this opportunity to raise this important issue in the House. I think the national recognition which is required for the lakhs and crores ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, when talking is going on, it is very difficult to speak. Please remove this time from my time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will give you one minute's grace.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I was saying that we require concerted national recognition of the tremendous contribution made by rural women, primarily poor rural women, to this unique movement called the Self-help Group movement in India. I say it is unique although Bangladesh has been recognised, Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh has been recognised for the Grameen Bank experiment and given the Nobel Prize for it. The difference between the Grameen Bank model and the Indian SHG model is that that is basically loan-based and this is savings-based. Here we have a combination of savings plus credit and there it is basically bank-based and loan-based. This is the difference in these two models. This is my experience based on my study of these two models, although advantages and disadvantages are on both sides. But the basic difference in these two models is that this model of ours gives a capacity which goes beyond just thrift and credit.

Here we are talking about the achievements of poor rural women. Here you have an effort by women themselves in saving their own money and trying to get loans from banks both for immediate consumption purposes plus for enhancement of income. And within that process what we see is challenging of existing patriarchal notions of what a woman's role should be. So, within itself, the positive aspect of this programme is the kind of opportunity it gives us in a cultural sense to smash the stereotype of women as subordinate citizens or subordinate beings, and encourage women to go into these non-traditional roles, which, in fact, in any case, they are fulfilling.

And yet, that recognition is not there. The SHG movement provides that platform and when we talk about the achievements of the SHG movement, Sir, I would like to stress that a large part of that

movement is also self-driven. We must not forget the huge sacrifices made by rural women to save in a situation where acute agrarian distress prevails and surplus income in the family is totally non-existent. If they are part of this movement, we must be very clear that they are cutting down part of their minimum needs even to save Rs.30/-, Rs.40/-, Rs.50/- a month. And when we talk of the high repayment rates up to 90-95 per cent of woman SHGs in contrast to the NPAs of the corporate sector of India, you have this tremendous record of woman SHGs who are repaying their loans from 90-95 per cent. We must also recognise that that contribution is not stress-free. I know, from my own personal experience of working with SHGs in several States, the tension that a woman faces every month when that money has to be given into the common kitty and when the loan she has taken also has to be repaid. Very often, it is happening that women, when they are repaying that loan, do not have the money. Sometimes, they have to take a loan from a private money lender at a higher rate of interest to give back the loan of SHG; otherwise she will be considered a defaulter and she will be dropped out. The reason why I bring this up is that the achievements of women are basically on the basis of a tremendous sacrifice that the poor rural women are making, and if anyone is to get a Nobel Prize, I think, it has to be through the recognition of the contribution of these women.

The other great achievement. Many States have different models. We know that the Southern States have done a tremendous work in this. One is Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh, of course, is a lead in building up in the Self Help Woman Group movement. But, now, in Kerala, we have a new experiment, but it is not really new. It is a 'Kudumbashri' movement, and that is seen as a sub-sect of a wider mobilisation under the people's plan of the 'Neighbourhood Group' concept', which means the entire poor in that area are linked together through various Governments and social initiatives and, therefore, a cohesive, comprehensive approach is taken of development of all families living in that area with a specific emphasis on the Woman SHGs. This comprehensive approach that we have seen in the Kerala experiment has shown tremendous dividends and today, Kerala State has achieved one of the highest income-generating models that we have of SH Groups in the country and, therefore, I believe that we can learn something from this just as we can learn from other States. Therefore, the achievements of SHGs, to sum up, one the contribution of the women themselves to the various experiments which have been undertaken by the State Governments, while point to the necessity for a comprehensive approach. This brings me to the question of the actual concept of the whole SHG movement. If we look at the SHGs primarily only as an anti-poverty alleviation programme, we are going to have a very limited success. 'Self Employment' is recognised the world

over through the experience of poor people that Self Employment' is the most vulnerable form of employment. It has no guarantee. It is entirely dependent on the market and in a situation where the market is dominated by big players, the efforts of tiny enterprises as are those run by the Self Help Groups cannot exist in the present situation unless they are very strongly backed by infrastructure and Government support. Therefore, the concept of SHG movement itself, I believe, requires some reconsideration, if not a shift. SHGs and the work that they do have to be seen primarily as two instruments - (i) to empower women to break out of traditional roles and to help them supplement whatever work they are doing and (ii) what it requires is a much more planned out Government intervention at various levels to provide the infrastructure, to provide the marketing and to provide the training without which the Self Help Group movement cannot be sustained.

So these achievements are conditional on the aspects which I have mentioned.

Now coming to the problems which we face there are two aspects to the problem. One is the structural problem and the other is practical day-to-day problems. Looking at the structural problems what do we find? Today, we have a multiplicity of agencies who are actually involved in the S' HGs of women. Shrimati Krishna Tirath is here today because, I assume, she is going to answer to the debate. Am I right, Sir? It is the Minister of Women and Child Development who has been called upon to listen and answer the debate. In fact, the Women and Child Development Ministry has very little rights in its intervention on the SHG movement. That is precisely my point. What is the structure of SHGs? You have multiple agencies. You have the NABARD, You have the SGSY which is under the Ministry of Rural Development. You have the cooperative banks which are under the State Governments. You have the NGOs. I don't know under who they are. You have donor agencies. I don't know under who they are. So you have a plethora of agencies which are involved in promoting SHGs, and precisely because you have a plethora of agencies you have a plethora of confusion also as to what the benefits are, what the rights are. Most important of all, the lack of a redressal mechanism for women who are facing problems is one of the crucial weaknesses of the present structure. Therefore, we want a sustained comprehensive SHG movement. Let the present multiplicity of agencies involved in this whole SHG promotion continue, but, I believe, there has to be some nodal Ministry or agency which can bring all those experiences together and be able to have a uniform policy to guide the SHG movement throughout the country. I can ask about SGSY today. I have got many points on SGSY. Who is here to answer those points? Madam would say that it is not under her Ministry and it is under the Rural Development Ministry. I have so many points on banks. You would say that it has nothing to do with the SHGs and I should ask the Finance Ministry. If we

are facing this situation in this discussion in the Parliament today, you can imagine the difficulty the woman, who is saving her money with so much difficulty, is facing. Therefore, please consider having a nodal Ministry to look after all these issues of SHGs and then that nodal Ministry should at all levels institutionalise redressal mechanisms for women so that they can have some of their problems solved.

Coming to the crucial issue and the crucial problem which, I think, anybody who is involved with SHGs will know, is the issue of banks. After women save a certain amount under the SGSY they get revolving fund. After the revolving fund which they get on the basis of the money they save, if they have a project, they are eligible for a loan from the bank. If you look at the figures, you will find that approximately 40 per cent of the Groups in this country which have saved their money and are eligible for bank credit are being denied that bank credit. Why are they being denied the bank credit? They have the most ridiculous system of grading. I agree that grading may be necessary at different levels of experience. But you have put in place a system of grading and you are trying to include more and more women into the credit-linked system. It is such a difficult iron bar protected area. Therefore, to get rid of this iron bar, I don't know what she has to face. Please dismantle this iron bar system that you have today, make credit easily accessible, give up the grading system and give up the arbitrary nature of the grading system so that the gap between saving-linked SHGs and credit-linked SHGs can be narrowed substantially. This is one point.

The second point is access to bank. This is supposed to be a programme for BPL. Any of you who have gone to the Adivasi areas will know what the position of the SHGs in the Adivasi areas is. What is the position of SHGs in remote areas of this country? What is the position of the SHGs in the North-East? It is because the banking system is not there. In the absence of a banking system, the bank credit is becoming extremely inaccessible to women.

Therefore, this is a very important issue which has to be looked into. The second aspect is the interest rates at which the banks are giving loans to women and also the amount of money being given. We have got norms for priority sector lending. The largest number of women in the SHGs are the poorest of the poor. Yet, you are giving loans to women at 11 per cent or 12 per cent interest. It is true that under SGSY, you give around one-third loan subsidy. But if the interest itself is brought down to 4 per cent and then you give a subsidy on that, it will make a substantial difference to poor women. There are two programmes. One is the NABARD programme and the other is the SGSY programme. They have different rules. Those SHGs organised under SGSY, they get a loan subsidy

and a revolving fund. Everybody knows that. Practically speaking, there are a lot of difficulties about it. But if you look at NABARD and if you look at the direct banking system, NABARD is promoting banks to give loans directly to SHGs. Those banks, in the direct linkage system, are giving loans at 11 per cent to 12 per cent interest with no subsidy to women. The women who are directly getting it, not through the SGSY, but through the banks, they have to pay 11 per cent to 12 per cent interest. On the other hand, NABARD is subsidising those loans by refinancing the banks at a lower rate of interest. For example, if I give Rs. 100, through a bank, to SHGs, I will charge 12 per cent interest, but NABARD is giving me Rs. 100 at only 5 per cent interest. Banks are earning profit by giving money to the SHGs. This is called 'incentives to banks'. I do not know since when our public sector banks have to be incentivised to help the poor women. What is the whole concept, then, of the public sector? The public sector is for the people to help the people. Today we have to incentivise the banks to give loans. But the incentives that the banks get to give loan, not even a portion of it is passed on to the women who are in the Self Help Groups.

Therefore, I believe, Sir, the entire question of rate of interest has to be uniform in the country. It has to be reduced to 4 per cent. This is a demand, I think, across political parties. Some of the States are already doing it. I know Andhra Pradesh is doing it. Tamil Nadu has got a subsidy scheme. West Bengal has started this from the last March or April. Kerala has, of course, got a much wider subsidy across sectors. The point is it should be a national policy that interest rate for SHGs run by women must be just 4 per cent. This is a very crucial demand. The amount of money loaned has to be four times. That is the RBI guideline. If I save Rs. 10, I have to get minimum Rs. 40. But today that four time more amount thing is just not there. That also has to be properly implemented.

I would like to state one more thing here. Today we are in a situation of drought, of floods and of national calamity. I want to know from the Government. We can write off loans given to richer people for various reasons. We can give them incentives. We can give them subsidy to help them get over the recession. But what about the poor women in the SHGs, one who is working in Andhra Pradesh, for example, one who is working in Sundarban in West Bengal? Therefore, in all such areas of national calamities, I would like the Government to come up clearly with a policy which says that all the loans taken by SHGs, within a particular period, are going to be written off. Take for example, animal husbandry. What is happening to the cattle in these areas? There is no fodder for them. Many of the cattle are dying and many of them have to be sold out. In such a situation, you must reschedule future loans and write off previous loans. This is a very important demand.

Sir, a very disturbing feature of this entire programme is a large section of the poorest women belongs to SC and ST. We have done various surveys. In Andhra Pradesh, our women's organisation, called the All India Democratic Women Association did a survey of DWCRA Groups.

This was three or four years ago, and we found disturbingly that in the SHGs, 20-25 per cent drop-outs were there, and all the drop-outs were from the SC and ST community. So, what it really shows is that in a situation of agrarian distress, where there is lack of work in rural areas, where the resources are being squeezed, in such a situation, these are the sections which drop out. Now, today, our SHG Programme has, absolutely, no component which will help these women to stay. In Kerala, we do it under Ashraya, to a certain extent, because we pool subsidies. But, as a policy, we do not have any programme for the poorer sections of women who are dropping out. Therefore, I think, it is very, very crucial that added, affirmative action, for all these marginalised women, particularly, belonging to the SC and ST communities, is taken. In this, I would also like to state that, unfortunately, what we have found, again through our empirical studies and work is that -- I am sorry to be saying this -- there is discrimination amongst many groups which belong to the minority community. We have found, for example, in Assam in the weaving trade where a large number of women are involved, in many areas where there is domination of Muslim women, that their access to bank loans is coincidentally much lower than it is for other communities. We have found that in other States as well. Now, I would like to bring this to the attention of the Government because when we frame policies, we have to look at socially marginalised sections along with economically marginalised sections. Mostly they coincide. And that is also the focus which we require.

My last point is that today, I think, the SHG Movement is at the, sort of, crossroads. How are we going to move forward? Now, the World Bank is urging India to go for a different type of model. It is a micro finance model. What does this model say? The World Bank believes that micro finance has a huge market. There is a huge demand. People want to get out of the usurious interest rates which they have to pay the moneylenders. Definitely, the SHG Movement has helped them counter that. What does the World Bank model say? They say that the scale of projected demand in the micro finance system, which was around 2.5 billion dollars, in 1995, is expected to grow over 90-100 billion dollars in 2025. This is the scale of the global demand for micro finance. Now, in India, we have seen that it is with Government intervention and support that the SHGs have been able to reach where they have, on the basis of their own contributions. If we shift to the World Bank model, then, it is going to be disastrous for us. And the reason, I would like to alert this House, through you, is because the Government is planning a Bill on Micro Finance, and the basis of this Bill is exactly what

the World Bank's understanding of the Self-help Group Movement is, which is, to open it out to the private sector, to allow private players to take over banking responsibilities. The crux of that model is that there can be no cap on interest rates. And, in the Bill, which is being placed, there is no cap on interest rates. The thrift, which the women have under their control, is their autonomy; that is their strength. Poor women, sitting together decide what they want to do collectively with the collective amount of money. What a huge advance it is, in their own lives! How much it empowers them in their villages? Sometimes, they give loans to other families who are not there. So, it is an empowering process, and you want to take away that process. You want to take it away and give it to private financiers, who will have full control of the saving, which, I believe, is going to be disastrous for the achievements which we have had. Therefore, the SHGs are at the crossroads. Don't go the World Bank way. And, I would appeal to this House, through you, to be, absolutely, alert about this, to support the women in their demands. There is a Charter of Demands, which has been given to the Government by the Women's Organisations which relates to the demands which I have raised. I hope, Sir, that this debate will serve to highlight some of the demands and to bring the issues of the lakhs and crores of poor rural women on to the centre stage of political agenda. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan, not here. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, this is a discussion on this issue, perhaps, for the first time, in this House because this concept is being developed in recent times. In fact, when exactly the concept of Self-help Group developed in this country is very difficult to say. It is very difficult to say in the sense, although we say it is Self-help Group, it is basically linked with micro finances, right from the beginning, when this concept was conceived by the NABARD. But, today, that concept has not remained linked only with finances. I would like, first of all, to appreciate the entire movement in the country which is going on in the name of Self-help Groups. I even feel if Mahatma Gandhi was alive today he would have been very, very happy to see the functioning of Self-help Groups in the country. In fact, his concepts and his ideas are being carried forward by the Self-help Groups. Sir, the term is not defined anywhere, but the definition which I came across recently is this. A Self-help Group is a registered or unregistered group of micro entrepreneurs, having homogenous social and economic background, voluntarily coming together to save small amounts regularly through mutually agreeing to contribute to a common fund to meet their emergency needs on mutual help basis. This has been broadly defined in this manner. And, unfortunately, the Self-help Group is linked, as I said, only to micro finances, only to banking system and only to take loans. It is

true that Self-help Groups take loans, they do some sort of small business, like in Goa, they make papad, pickles and small things and like that. And these groups earn quite well, at least, in my State. I am not aware of other States. They are functioning very well in my State. So, they become, in a way, self-employed groups, I don't know why this term 'Self-help Group' is given to them. In fact, they do not help themselves. They help the society, at large. In fact, they are a sort of a social working group, and, therefore, the definition, or, the term used in connection with the Self-help Groups is very narrow. Therefore, all those agencies which are concerned with it have to find a common terminology or a common word or a definition for this Group. I don't know how it is translated in other languages. स्वयंसेवी संस्था or some other terms are used.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : स्व-सहायता समूह।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Yes, स्व-सहायता समूह or whatever it is. But a proper term fitting to the work which they do should be found out. Now, Sir, the main concept is this. Today, through the Self-help Groups a lot of fund of the Government is generated, whether it is State Government's funds, whether it is banks' funds or Central Government's funds. All these groups come to an institution or to a banking agency asking for funds. When they come, they are not registered. I am saying this in order to have a future awareness or future vigilance of it. Today, it must go to their credit that despite the fact that they are not registered, despite the fact that there is no binding in writing like agreement etc., the percentage of payment of loans by this Group is almost like 70 per cent, I am told by the bankers. So, they have shown that they can take loan and pay it. Therefore, there is no problem. But, today, lakhs of rupees are given through this Self-help Group. Tomorrow, it would be crores. Crores and crores of rupees will be generated throughout the country through Self-help Groups. In such circumstances, anti-social elements are likely to get into the Self-help Groups. Therefore, although some people do not like they should be secularised, it is my personal view that some sort of legislation of very minimum requirement of registration should be enacted to regulate the Self-help Groups, because they are not registered under the Societies Registration Act. Some people register under the Societies Registration Act, but some just do not. Just on a note book, their names are written. Many a time, their addresses are not written, the telephone numbers are not written; they mention just name of the leader and twenty others. In such circumstances, if anti-social elements get included and take money and default on repayment, it would be very, very difficult to recover this money. I asked one banker: Suppose some five lakhs rupees is taken by a group of 20 persons; if they default, how are you going to recover? Against

whom you would file the case? If you say 'leader', the leader is not a secretary of a company or anything. You cannot file a case against that leader. Because, you have not given any legal status to the leader. You have to file that case against all those 20 persons wherever they are! It is very difficult for any banking concern to recover that amount. Today, as I said, it goes to the credit of the Self-help Groups because they are paying in time. But, we have to be very careful.

Therefore, for any State Government, it would be in their interest, to enact some sort of legislation for the purpose of regulating. As this chain develops, now there are federations of Self-help Groups. Federations come. Again, we require some sort of regulation. A federation without any sort of regulation will be a non-entity. Therefore, if money generates within the membership of federation without any regulation, you can imagine, Sir, what sort of havoc it can create in future.

Then, I would like to say, Sir, that the Self-help Groups was the concept initially by NABARD. But, Self-help Groups are recognised in each and every department of the Government, because they have not restricted today to a banking system alone. Every department recognises; with regard to every department, they have got a different role to play. Therefore, I am saying that some sort of common regulation is required. These restrictions should not be linked, again, only to taking loan and starting a business. Among these Self-help Groups, as I learnt, those who have contested, having worked as a member of the Self-help Groups, almost 60-70 per cent are successful; because, Self-help Groups give training of leadership. Women may be ignorant and illiterate; they would learn the basic principles of economics and banking through Self-help Groups. Therefore, this will give them the quality of leadership. Therefore, their roles would not be restricted.

Again, Self-help Groups can be used for the purpose of carrying forward the Government programme of literacy. Today, it is done by sophisticated or elite NGOs, I would say. The literacy programme is carried forward through villages through elite NGOs. But if common Self-help Groups of small people go to the villages and they carry forward the literacy programme, then they would be far more convincing than the NGOs which are duly registered or they are Trusts.

Therefore, the Government should lay stress on carrying forward the literacy programme through Self-Help Groups. Therefore, their role again, I should say that, should not be restricted to those business type of things but they should also be asked to carry this. Again, we should not leave all the health related programmes to be implemented only through NGOs which are registered under the Society's Act. Health-related programmes can be carried forward better by such groups because

when they come together for the purpose of carrying their small business, it is these people who have got better access to villages whereby they can propagate Self-Help Programme. Sir, lastly, I would like to say that these Self-Help Groups have brought a mini revolution in the country. In future, a part of Government functions are going to be carried forward through Self-Help Groups. In future, they may not remain in the form they are today but they will be much more recognised in the society and therefore, they should be encouraged to all extent. Thank you very much.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : सर, मैं आपसे एक रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहती हूँ कि हमारी मंत्री, श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ, जो इस चर्चा का जवाब देने वाली हैं, वे थोड़ा आगे की सीट पर आकर बैठ जाएं ताकि visibility थोड़ी ज्यादा हो जाए। अभी थोड़ी देर पहले यहां हमारी दो महिला मंत्री बैठी थीं। कुमारी शैलजा जी, जो आवास और शहरी गरीबी उपशमन मंत्री हैं, वे यहां रहती तो अच्छा रहता। कृष्णा जी, कभी-कभी तो महिलाओं को फ्रंट सीट पर बैठने का मौका मिलता है, आप आगे आइए न।

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ) : आपके कहने से मैं आगे आ जाती हूँ लेकिन आपकी फोटो मुझे नहीं देकर गए हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : मैं आपको फोटो भिजवा दूंगी, बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट फोटो है, मगर आप आगे बैठेंगी तो शायद सरकार का ध्यान इस पर इस होगा कि महिलाएं जो काम करती हैं, उसकी visibility इन Self-help Groups से बहुत बढ़ गई है। मुझसे पहले श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी ने debate initiate किया, वे बहुत अच्छे तरीके से बोलीं। Empowerment of women पर नायक साहब ने भी बोला, जहां मैं उनकी बहुत सी बातों को मानती हूँ, कहीं-कहीं उनकी कुछ बातों से मुझे थोड़ा इखिलाफ भी है, थोड़ी समस्या भी है। सर, जब भी हम इस हाऊस में खड़े होते हैं और आप उसके witness हैं, जब से मैं यहां हूँ या जब मैं वहां थी, जब हम empowerment की बात करते हैं तो शायद हमारे भाई लोग समझते हैं हम सिर्फ 33% reservation की बात कर रहे हैं, हम political empowerment की बात कर रहे हैं, हम सत्ता में भागीदारी की बात कर रहे हैं। जहां तक सत्ता में भागीदारी की बात है, उसकी अपनी एक अहमियत है, वह होनी चाहिए। आज मैं एक दूसरे सब्जेक्ट पर बोलने वाली हूँ, वह भी महिलाओं के empowerment से ताल्लुक रखता है, मगर उनके आर्थिक empowerment से ताल्लुक रखता है। मैं अपनी उस बात से पीछे नहीं हटूंगी और मैं समझती हूँ कि सब लोग, वृंदा जी, आप खुद मंत्री जी और जो हमारे पुरुष भाई यहां बैठे हैं, वे सपोर्ट करेंगे कि economic empowerment और political empowerment दोनों एक दूसरे से जुड़े हुए हैं, इनको हम अलग-अलग नहीं कर सकते। इसी हाऊस में, डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, आपने भी देखा है कि political empowerment का 73rd, 74th Amendment एक बार पास नहीं हुआ और दूसरी बार वह सबकी मदद से पारित हुआ और उससे देश में एक silent revolution आया और उस silent revolution की वजह यह थी, शैलजा जी, आप आ गईं, हम आपको याद कर रहे थे। आप आगे आइए, पीछे मत बैठिए।

श्री उपसभापति : शैलजा जी सुन नहीं रही हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : शैलजा जी, आप आगे बैठिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आप सबको आगे बुला रही हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : मैं हर जगह महिलाओं को आगे बिठाना चाहती हूँ।

मेरा बस चले, तो पूरी बेंचेज़ पर महिलाएं ही बैठें।

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ : पुरुष नाराज़ हो जाएंगे।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : वे तो वैसे ही नाराज़ होते हैं।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : नहीं, ऐसी बात नहीं है. पुरुष नाराज़ नहीं होते हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : मेरा यह भाई तो बिल्कुल नाराज़ नहीं होता है।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : गृह-सुख और शांति के लिए यह जरूरी है।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : उपसभापति जी, मैं बात कर रही थी कि इस देश में 73rd, 74th Amendment से एक political revolution, silent revolution आया, जब एक मिलियन महिलाएं सत्ता में भागीदार हुईं। मैं वृंदा जी का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि जो हमारे Self Help Groups हैं, जिनको आज शुरू हुए कम से कम 3 दशक हो गए हैं, यदि उनको अगर हम देखें, तो उन Self Help Groups की जो महिलाएं हैं, वे बहुत ही visible हैं, दिखाई देती हैं और वे अपनी पंचायतों और Local Bodies में active हैं। उनको एक ताकत मिली और उनको पंचायतों में active होने की ताकत इसलिए मिली, क्योंकि वे आर्थिक तौर पर मजबूत हो गईं। जब तक आर्थिक मजबूती नहीं आती, तब तक कोई महिला आगे नहीं बढ़ सकती है और जो silent revolution हुआ, उसमें वह हिस्सा नहीं ले सकती।

उपसभापति जी, मेरा इन ग्रुप्स के साथ काफी ताल्लुक रहा है। गुजरात में SEWA का आंदोलन हुआ और आपने देखा कि किस तरह से गुजरात में महिलाएं एक साथ जुड़ीं, चाहे वह AMUL का आंदोलन हो या SEWA का आंदोलन हो। इसी तरह एक और भी आर्गनाइजेशन है, हमारी एक पुरानी साथी, मेंबर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट - हामिदा हबीबुल्लाह, इस हाऊस की मेंबर थीं, उन्होंने लखनऊ में चिकन का काम करने वाली महिलाओं की एक संस्था बनाई, उसका नाम भी "सेवा" है, जो बहुत अच्छी embroidery करने वाली महिलाओं के काम की exhibition करती हैं और उनकी दुकान चलाती हैं, जिससे बहुत सी ऐसी महिलाएं, जो घरों में बैठकर कुछ काम कर सकती थीं, उन्हें भी मौका मिला कि वे अपनी आर्थिक स्थिति को दुरुस्त कर सकें। हमारे देश में एक और बहुत बड़ी मूवमेंट हुई Self-Help Groups की और वह मूवमेंट महिला गृह उद्योग, लिज्जत पापड़ की है। जब मैं मुंबई में काम करती थी, उन दिनों मेरा बहुत लंबा समय महिला गृह उद्योग, लिज्जत पापड़ के साथ गुजरा, क्योंकि उस संस्था से मैं डॉयरेक्टर के तौर पर जुड़ी हुई थी और मैंने देखा कि slums में रहने वाली, बिल्कुल गरीब महिलाएं किस तरह से मेहनत करके उस उद्योग को चलाती हैं। मैं आपको बताऊं कि जिस तरीके से महिला गृह उद्योग, लिज्जत पापड़ ने आज तरक्की की है, न सिर्फ भारत में, बल्कि बाहर भी...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : वह शायद Self-Help Group नहीं था, वह शायद कोई रजिस्टर्ड बॉडी थी ... (व्यवधान)...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : आपको शायद पता नहीं है, 7 महिलाएं थीं, जिन्होंने उसे शुरू किया था। कोऑपरेटिव मूवमेंट था, सेल्फ-हैल्प ही हुआ, आप सैल्फ-हैल्प को कोऑपरेटिव का नाम दीजिए या आप उसको

सेल्फ-हैल्प करिए, उन्होंने एक-दूसरे के साथ कोऑपरेट किया, तो आपने कोऑपरेटिव मूवमेंट नाम रख दिया, अगर वे किसी कोऑपरेटिव मूवमेंट से जुड़े हुए नहीं होंगे, रजिस्टर नहीं करेंगे, तो आप उन्हें खाली सेल्फ-हैल्प ग्रुप कह देंगे। सवाल एक ही है कि केवल 7 महिलाएं थीं, जिन्होंने आगे बढ़कर slums की महिलाओं को काम दिलाने के लिए कोशिश की और इनको इतना आगे बढ़ाया कि आज लिज्जत पापड़ न सिर्फ भारत में, बल्कि भारत की सरहदों के बाहर आप किसी भी मुल्क में जाइए, आपको लिज्जत पापड़ और उनके द्वारा बनाई हुई दूसरी चीजें मिलती हैं।

जहां तक हमारे Millennium Goals का सवाल है, उनमें भी महिलाओं की सत्ता में भागीदारी के साथ-साथ, महिलाओं की आर्थिक स्थिति को दुरुस्त करने का कमिटमेंट भारत सरकार का है, और 2015 तक हम उसको पूरा कर देंगे। मैं अपनी माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि क्या आप यह समझती हैं कि 2015 तक जो आपके Millennium Goals हैं, वे पूरे हो पाएंगे या नहीं हो पाएंगे? आज वृंदा जी ने बहुत ही विस्तार के साथ यह बताया कि Self Help Groups की जो सफलताएं हैं और उनके बीच में जो road blocks हैं, वे क्या हैं।

उन्होंने यहां पर यह जानकारी दी है कि वे लोग बैंक से जो लोन लेते हैं, तो वे लोग 95 परसेंट रिटर्न करते हैं, सिर्फ पांच परसेंट के रिटर्न में default आता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहती हूं। आपने ठीक कहा कि यह सेल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप्स का मसला है, यह उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति सुधारने के लिए है, दलितों में जो दलित है, तो वह महिला है, गरीबों में जो सबसे गरीब है, तो वह महिला है, दुखित में जो सबसे ज्यादा दुखित है, तो वह महिला है, शोषित, पीड़ित जो है, तो वह महिला है। गांव में रहने वाली महिलाओं को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अगर कुछ काम किए गए हैं, तो वे हमारे सेल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप्स की तरफ से हुए हैं। रिजर्व बैंक ने आम्बुड्समैन की स्कीम निकाली थी, तो हमारी कमिटी अलग-अलग बैंकों के चेयरमैन से बात कर रही थी, तो उसमें मैंने पूछा कि आपका लोन रिकवरी defaulter कौन-कौन है, उसमें मैंने सेल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप्स की महिलाओं के बारे में भी पूछा, तो यह पता लगा कि 95 परसेंट सेल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप्स की रिकवरी होती है। मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूं, अगर आज यहां वित्त मंत्री होते, तो मैं उनसे पूछती कि बड़े-बड़े मल्टीनेशनल जो बड़े-बड़े लोन लेते हैं, वे छोटे-छोटे लोन नहीं लेते हैं, अगर इनका लोन एक लाख, दो लाख या दस लाख के अंदर होता है, तो उनके सैंकड़ों करोड़ों के लोन होते हैं, तो उनके default का क्या percent है और उस default का effect हमारी economy पर क्या पड़ता है? इन सभी सवालों का जवाब आप नहीं दे पाएंगी, मगर मैं यह हाऊस को बताने के लिए चाहूंगी कि यह बताया जाए कि बड़े defaulter की वजह से जो होता है और छोटे defaulter की वजह से जो होता है, इसके अंदर उसका अंतर क्या है?

महोदय, इससे हमें बहुत फायदे हुए हैं, मगर कहीं-कहीं जो problems हैं, उनके बारे में आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करूंगी। इसमें एक जो सबसे बड़ी बात हुई है, वह यह कि जो महिलाएं बिल्कुल एक ही स्तर की होती हैं, वही अपना एक सेल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप बनाती है। वृंदा जी ने कहा कि जो minority की और दूसरे पिछड़े वर्ग की महिलाएं हैं, अगर एक नेशनल इंटिग्रिटी की भावना होती, जैसे राजस्थान में यह देखा गया कि एक ही family के रिश्तेदार लोगों ने अपना एक सेल्फ हैल्प ग्रुप बनाया, जैसे आज हम across the party line इस विषय को सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं, अगर across the caste, across the religion, across जगह तो मैं नहीं कह सकती, क्योंकि वह तो कोई रीजन होना चाहिए, कोई गांव होना चाहिए, कोई शहर होना चाहिए, अगर सरकार across the caste encourage करेगी, तो मुझे लगता है कि इसके अंदर हमें नेशनल इंटिग्रिटी की भी भावना मिल सकती है। यह भी देखने में आया

है कि जो महिलाएं सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप से जुड़ी हुई हैं, उन्होंने न सिर्फ अपनी आर्थिक स्थिति दुरुस्त की है, जिसमें आमतौर से उन्हें एक हजार से तीन हजार रुपए महीने की आमदनी होती है, बल्कि यह भी देखा है कि जो गरीब पिछड़ी हुई महिलाएं हैं, वे सात-सात साल से सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप से जुड़ी हुई हैं, मगर वे आज भी गरीब हैं। क्या सरकार इस बात का पता लगाएगी कि क्यों उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति में परिवर्तन नहीं आया, जब कि दूसरी जगह पर आया है?

दूसरी बात यह है कि इसमें जो सबसे बड़ा सवाल पैदा होता है, वह एजुकेशन का है। चूंकि यह भी देखा गया है कि जो बुक कीपिंग होता है, आप तो बुक कीपिंग के बारे में जानते हैं, बैंक चलाते हैं, book-keeping is a very professional job. I am educated. I have done Ph.D., but in Science. I cannot do book-keeping. I will have to employ somebody to do book-keeping for myself. इनके account के लिए knowledge नहीं होती है, बहुत जगह तो ऐसा देखा गया है कि इनकी accounting बराबर नहीं होती है। हमारे नायक साहब ने कहा कि वह सरकारी प्रोग्राम को implement करें, मैं उनसे सहमत नहीं हूँ, चूंकि यह सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप्स सरकारी प्रोग्राम को implement करने के लिए नहीं है। यह सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप्स अपने काम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए है। यह सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि इन सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप्स को मदद करे, जहां-जहां उनको कमी पैदा होती है, जहां उनको मुश्किलें होती हैं, जैसे accounting है, audit है, इसमें आप उनकी जरूर मदद कीजिए, ताकि वे जो काम कर रहे हैं, उसमें उनको मुश्किलें न आएँ। मैं बहुत ज्यादा तो ...सर, मेरा कितना टाइम और है?

श्री उपसभापति : अभी है, पांच मिनट हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी और सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगी कि उनकी capacity building की जरूरत है। जो महिलाएं इससे जुड़ी हैं या हमारी जो पंचायत की महिलाएं elect होती हैं, वे भी इन Self-Help Groups से जुड़ी हुई हैं, इसलिए उनकी capacity building की जरूरत है। मैंने एक पार्लियामेंटरी फोरम फॉर ह्यूमन डेवलपमेंट UNDP के साथ शुरू किया था, जिसके अंतर्गत हम लोगों ने अलग-अलग गांवों में जाकर, जो हमारी पंचायत की महिलाएं जीतकर आई थीं, उनकी capacity building के लिए काम किया था, ताकि उनको मालूम हो कि जो पैसा पंचायत के लिए दिया जाता है, उसको किस तरीके से खर्च करना है और उसकी accountability क्या होगी। एक चीज और है कि सरकार के काम में transparency होनी चाहिए कि उनके बारे में वे transparently क्या कर रहे हैं?

महोदय, अभी वृंदा जी ने केरल की मिसाल दी, मगर आंध्र प्रदेश में इस क्षेत्र में सबसे ज्यादा काम हुआ है। आज भारत ने जितने भी Self-Help Groups काम कर रहे हैं, उनमें आधे से ज्यादा आंध्र प्रदेश में काम कर रहे हैं और युनाइटेड नेशन्स ने भी उनको recognise किया है कि इन्होंने काम किया है। यहां तक कि World Bank ने भी यह कहा है कि न सिर्फ भारत में, बल्कि भारत के बाहर भी यह जो Self-Help Groups का इम्प्लिमेंटेशन का प्रोग्राम है, वह जिस तरीके से आंध्र प्रदेश में बढ़ा है, इसको और दूसरे स्टेट्स में देंगे। मैं यहां सरकार से कहूंगी कि अगर आपको इसे popularise कराना है, तो हमारे जो बीमार स्टेट्स कहलाते हैं - बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा और जो दूसरे पिछड़े स्टेट्स हैं, झारखंड वगैरह, अगर आप Self-Help Groups की इस भावना को ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, please ask the House to pay some attention. This is important.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, we are discussing a very important subject.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: They are talking among themselves.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : महिलाओं का मामला है, अफसोस की बात यह है कि महिलाओं का मामला आज महिलाओं का मामला नहीं रहा है। यह समाज का मामला हो गया है। हम मैम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट खुशकिस्मत लोग हैं कि हम ऐसे वर्ग से आते हैं, जहां हमें अपनी economic condition सुधारने के लिए Self-Help Groups नहीं बनाने पड़ते हैं, हमें तनखाहें मिलती हैं, मगर आज हम ऐसे लोगों के लिए बात कर रहे हैं, जिनकी आवाज़ पार्लियामेंट में नहीं आती, जिनके बारे में हम लोग इक्का-दुक्का बार गांवों में जाकर काम करते हैं। इसलिए अगर उनके बारे में यहां कोई बात उठाई जा रही है, तो मैं समझती हूँ कि मंत्री जी तो बहुत ध्यान से सुन रही हैं, लेकिन बाकी लोग भी सुनें तो ज्यादा बेहतर होगा, क्योंकि जब तक हमारे समाज के सभी वर्गों की तरक्की नहीं होगी, तो ज़ाहिर बात है कि यह lopsided development होगा। इसमें inclusiveness नहीं होगी और जब economic inclusiveness की हम बात करते हैं या political inclusiveness की बात करते हैं, तो वह नहीं होगी।

महोदय, मैं यू.एन. से आए हुए हमारे माननीय सदस्य का भी ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी, अभी अहलुवालिया जी ने भी कहा कि मैंने यू.एन. की बात की, तो शशि थरूर जी तो उस ज़माने में यू.एन. के मैम्बर थे देखिए. वे सुन भी नहीं रहे हैं।

श्री उपसभापति : शशि थरूर जी...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : देखिए, यह हालत है इस सरकार की! इस सरकार की यही हालत है कि हम लोग यहां * की तरह आवाज़ उठाते हैं, रिकॉर्ड पर चला जाता है, हमारे पार्लियामेंट के ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : * लफ्ज़ unparliamentary है, वह निकाल दिया जाएगा।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, मैं वह अपने लिए कह रही हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : यह शब्द अपने लिए भी सही नहीं है।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, मैं तैयार हूँ। आप मुझे * रिपोर्ट करा दीजिए, मुझे परवाह नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, इनका यह कहना था कि शशि थरूर जी का बहुत experience है, इन्होंने युनाइटेड नेशन्स में इतने साल काम किया, तो Self-Help Groups के बारे में तो उनको सबसे ज्यादा knowledge है। उनको सुनना चाहिए, लेकिन वे मशगूल हैं।

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शशि थरूर) : मैं सुन रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल) : वे मुझे समझा रहे थे Self Help Groups के बारे में। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : आपको समझा रहे थे? ...(व्यवधान).... आपको समझा रहे थे? ...(व्यवधान)...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार) : ताकि प्लेन ठीक से उड़े? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती वृन्दा कारत : सर, ये दोनों मंत्री Self help में बहुत आगे हैं इसलिए वे नजमा हेपतुल्ला जी की बात को नहीं सुन रहे हैं।

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I needed some expert advice on the issue that is being discussed!

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: You can give some advice in self-help which you excel in. We have no problem with that!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us get educated. ...**(Interruptions)**...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, हम लोगों को इस बात से कोई एतराज नहीं है ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर मंत्री लोग अपनी self help करें तो हमें कोई एतराज नहीं है, आप जरूर self help करिए। मगर थोड़ा सा ध्यान उन लोगों की तरफ भी दीजिए, जिनको आपकी help की जरूरत है। शशि थरूर साहब, आप यहां मौजूद नहीं थे, जिस स्टेट को आप represent करते हैं, जहां से जीतकर आए हैं, उसके बारे में वृन्दा कारत जी ने बड़े विस्तार से बताया कि वहां grassroots level पर जो काम हो रहा है - महिलाओं के self-help groups का - और उसमें उनको जो तरक्की मिली है, मेरी आपसे गुजारिश है कि... I think I should speak in English because you are from Kerala. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He understands Hindi.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: You should discuss it with Shrimati Brinda Karat and others who come from Kerala, look at these self-help groups and, as a Minister, if you could get it implemented, not only in India but at the UN level, you would be doing a great service to the women of this world.

सर, मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि education की बहुत जरूरत है - न सिर्फ़ उनको समझने के लिए, बैंक में जाने में उनको जो मुश्किल होती है, अलग-अलग लोगों से उनको जो डील करना पड़ता है, उसमें उनकी capacity build करने के लिए शिक्षा बहुत जरूरी है। आज मैं पार्लियामेंट में मैंबर नहीं होती, बोल नहीं पाती, अगर मेरे background में शिक्षा नहीं होती, तालीम नहीं होती, education नहीं होती। इसलिए सरकार को चाहिए कि वह शिक्षा के बारे में सोचे। दूसरी जो बहुत महत्वपूर्ण चीज़ है, वह यह है कि कहीं-कहीं ये self-help groups फेल क्यों हो जाते हैं? उसका कारण यह है कि सरकार उनको कोई मदद नहीं देती है, वे market study नहीं करते हैं कि जो चीज़ें वे बनाएं, उनकी marketability क्या है? Market study करनी चाहिए कि वहां पर जो raw material अवेलेबल है - जिस गांव में वे रहते हैं, जिस इलाके में रहते हैं, वहां पर जो raw material है - उससे क्या-क्या चीज़ें बन सकती हैं और किस तरीके से वे उसकी marketing कर सकते हैं। आज के competitive ज़माने में, जब कि बड़े-बड़े multinationals छोटे-छोटे कारोबार करने लगे हैं, ऐसे में किस तरीके से आप उनकी मदद कर सकती हैं, आपके मंत्रालय से कहें या शैलजा जी का मंत्रालय हो या श्रम मंत्रालय हो - जो भी मंत्रालय इसमें आ सकता है, उसे join करके उनकी मदद करें क्योंकि marketability बहुत जरूरी है। एक स्टडी के मुताबिक एक एनजीओ ने कुछ लोगों से अचार और चटनी बनवाई और उनके अच्छे से लेबल लगवाए, लेकिन आज भी जो उनका कम्युनिटी हॉल है, उसकी शेल्फ पर वह सामान पड़ा है क्योंकि उसकी कोई marketability नहीं थी। यहां सवाल उठता है कि वे कुछ बनाएं, कुछ करें, वहां उसकी marketability is very important. I think the government can think about it.

3.00 P.M.

एक आखिरी बात कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगी। आज महंगाई बहुत बढ़ गई है। वृंदा कारत जी ने भी इस बात पर जोर दिया। सब लोग इस बात को मानते हैं। आज सुबह पार्लियामेंट में हमारे Urban Development के मंत्री जी ने इस संबंध में जवाब भी दिया। महंगाई की वजह से जो poverty है, inclusiveness नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)... आप उस वक्त नहीं थीं। Urban poverty की बात थी। जहां urban poverty होती है, वहां rural poverty उससे ज्यादा भयानक होती है। जब महंगाई बढ़ रही है तो जाहिर बात है, कि यह directly proportionate है;

(उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए)

अगर महंगाई बढ़गी तो poverty बढ़ेगी ही और गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे लोग चले जाएंगे। जब तक सरकार महंगाई पर कंट्रोल नहीं करेगी, आप जितने भी self-help groups बनाओ, आप कितनी भी मेहनत करो, वे महिलाएं, वे पुरुष गरीबी की रेखा से ऊपर नहीं आएंगे और पीछे ही जाते चले जाएंगे। आज मंत्री जी ने admit किया कि urban poverty की रेखा में बहुत से लोग आ गए हैं, जो पहले कम थे। अब 76 परसेंट लोग उसके अंदर आ गए हैं। डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब चले गए हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे यहां बोलने का टाइम दिया, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मगर मैं कोशिश यह करूंगी कि आप इस मामले में सरकार के through ध्यान से लोगों को आगे बढ़ाने की कोशिश करें और जो self-help groups हैं, पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में - खास तौर पर मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार, उड़ीसा, छत्तीसगढ़ में भी ऐसी branches खोलें। उसमें आप स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से और बैंकों के जरिए उनकी जो मदद कर सकते हैं, वह जरूर करिए। धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the SHGs are a success story and, everybody, who has spoken here, has mentioned about it. We are very proud of it. Especially in India, it is a point which we can showcase all over the world, how successful we are with our SHGs. Especially in the case of Tamil Nadu, in 1989, the SHGs were started in a very small way in Dharmapuri District. Today, it has become a vibrant movement spread across the State Around 59 lakh woman members are part of the SHGs and today, we have 3,65,709 SHGs and the savings, we are proud to say, is around Rs. 1,737 crores as on 31.03.2008. The SHGs have gone a long way in skill development and imparting entrepreneurial expertise to the women. It enhances leadership qualities, team spirit, capacity to maintain account books, and it has helped to build self-confidence, greater mobility. Today, when you go to these villages, you can see women walking up to the banks, walking up to the officials to talk about their problems, taking the issues they have in village communities and speak to the officers. The confidence level has increased to a great extent. And, one thing, which is very important, is that it has created a habit of systematic savings among our women in rural areas. It has

also made them economically independent. Many woman leaders, especially woman leaders from the self-help groups, have taken to public life and politics. Nearly one leader out of five groups, has become part of the Panchayat. I mean, they have contested elections and won. In many cases, we have been able to see that economic independence has translated into social empowerment. Today, the women, who are part of self-help groups, have better say when it comes to family decision-making processes. The family health has improved; children's education has improved; and, overall health of women themselves has improved. There was a time when they were not concerned about even their own health problems. Today, the women, who are in these SHGs, are more aware about their health and their rights. So, that has changed to a large extent. And, they are also getting involved in community activities, and they have acted on social justice issues. We have heard of so many groups which have fought against domestic violence, child marriages, and alcoholism. It is a great success story. We are all proud of it. But, there are some doubts and questions which are unanswered. Statistics show that only 24 per cent of the women, who belong to these self-help groups and who take loans, are allowed to take a decision on what to do with the money they borrow. Apart from this 24 per cent, in the case of rest of the women, it is controlled either by the husbands or the families. In most cases, the male members of families decide as to what to do with these loans. And, most of these loans go in repaying of debts borrowed by the male members of the family, or to help them with their needs, or for some domestic expenses, or to help them to better their own profession or occupation. And, as usual as in a typical Indian society, when it is a woman's initiative, it is always given the second place within the family. So the problem is that they do not give much importance to pay back the loans borrowed by the woman members. They think that they themselves have to deal with the issue. They just take the money away from these women and they do not bother about giving it back to them. But, when a woman does not pay back the loan in her SHG, she becomes a defaulter and it creates a lot of pressure on her within that group because the whole group suffers when one particular member does not pay back the loan.

There are different kinds of pressures within the whole group. Sometimes, it even resorts to violence. We have heard stories of women even being locked in their own houses. Sometimes other members walk into the houses of defaulters take away the jewellery or articles, pledge them, and repay these loans because the whole group suffers if one particular member does not pay back. We have replaced some of the moneylenders with these Self Help Groups in certain areas. So, this has to be sorted out. Women have to be protected.

We just cannot let them form groups without any guidance. We have to make sure that the money reaches the women. They must have proper guidance so that they can use it for improving their lives and for pursuing their interests.

In a social setup like ours, where a woman is a homemaker, and, her foremost role is of a homemaker, this becomes a double burden because she has to take care of manufacturing and marketing the product apart from playing her traditional role as a wife or as a mother and taking other responsibilities at home. Actually, this becomes empowerment only when men start sharing responsibilities, within the family, within the society, which have been considered traditionally as women's responsibilities. Only then, it can be called a true empowerment, otherwise, it will continue to be a double burden on the women.

Another thing is that a lot of these Self Help Groups are controlled by community leaders. As has been mentioned it is a very positive thing that, at least, one-third of these Self Help Groups have been formed with members from different communities like SCs, STs and communities which are considered to be of upper caste. But nearly two-thirds of these Self Help Groups are groups which have been formed within the same community. In the latter case, these Self Help Groups are mostly controlled by the community leaders, it does not give any right to independent decision-making or improve the lives of its members.

I would like to ask one question as to why the majority of these Self Help Groups concentrate only on pickle making, papad making, other small things like beading things together or embroidery, and, maybe, animal husbandry; they don't go beyond that. We have to start concentrating on bringing these groups together in order to train them. There is so much more other than all this in this world which can be done; there are so many avenues which are open. We have to train them to do other things. When the NGOs are paid, we should make on the payment; based on the training more than just the groups.

Book-keeping and account keeping is not easy. As Dr. Heptulla said, it is not very easy for many people. We have to simplify it and we have to make it more practical to these groups. If there is an external audit, it will help to a great extent in keeping their books, or, accounts in a better state, and, banks have to be made friendlier.

I would like to give here an example of the State of Tamil Nadu. Mrs. Brinda Karat also said so. The State of Tamil Nadu has subsidised it to a large extent. Around ten thousand of rupees are given as a grant without interest to the Self Help Groups, which have been functioning for six months. This encourages these Self Help Groups to a great extent in the State. Apart from this, federations of Self Help Groups are formed at village panchayat level, called Panchayat-level Federations. These

federations, by pooling in talent and resources, and, exploiting economies of scale in production and marketing, can benefit members of Self Help Groups to a large extent. This also helps in monitoring these Self Help Groups at all village panchayat levels, These Self Help Groups are successful only in States where the State takes a particular interest in it.

In Tamil Nadu, the Deputy Minister himself heads this Department. Hence there is more interest taken in the SHGs and, therefore, they are really doing well. In States where the State is not that keenly interested, it is not doing well. This kind of disparity, this kind of difference within the country is not right. I agree, as it was said here, that there should be one nodal agency or Ministry which have a definite policy to run these SHGs. We should really have a proper stock taking. We do say that SHGs have empowered women. It is true. We do see cases where it has empowered women. But where is the proof? I mean what kind of statistics do we have to back this up? Except for some outside agencies which have done some study, there is no Government statistics saying how it has changed their health, status, how it has changed their education levels and how it has changed their lives. So, the Government should have some way of stock taking to find out what are the changes which have come about in the lives of the women and what are the problems faced by them and whether the money is really used by them because, as usual, whatever money a woman makes, whatever income she generates, in our society, finally this converted as assets in the name of the man only. So, whatever the women in SHGs make, whatever they save, finally it does not come to them; it is not under their control; it finally goes to the male members of the family. All over the World, only 1 per cent of the assets are in the name of women. So, we have to make sure that what she makes, what efforts she puts in, her hard work should empower her. Thank you.

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी (असम) : महोदय, आज सदन में बहुत ही अच्छे विषय पर बहस हो रही है और यह हमारे देश का और समाज का ही विषय है, यह सिर्फ महिलाओं का विषय नहीं है, क्योंकि महिलाओं के साथ हम सब जुड़े हुए हैं। आज यहां पर हमारी सम्मानित सदस्या श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी, नजमा हेपतुल्ला जी और अभी-अभी जो बोली हैं, सभी ने विस्तार से बोला है। आज तक इसका क्या एचीवमेंट हुआ है, उनको क्या प्रॉब्लम्स हैं, यह स्पष्ट हो पाया है। मैं गांव के इलाके से आता हूं और सभी माननीय सदस्यों को भी इस बात की जानकारी है। आज का विषय भी यही है कि जो गांव की गरीब महिलाएं हैं, उनका self-help groups बनाकर काम करने से कुछ हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है, इसी विषय पर हम बात कर रहे हैं। हमारे असम में यह स्थिति थोड़ी अलग है। वहां पर यह पहले से ही गुप्त था। जो किसी महिला समिति या गांव की समिति के नाम से था, लेकिन वह Self-help Groups के नाम से नहीं जाना जाता था। उस समय हमारे वहां बहुत जमीन-वारी थी। गांव की महिलाएं इकट्ठी होकर, चंदा

इकट्ठा करके किसी भी जमीन को लीज पर ले लेती थीं। वे उस जमीन में धान पैदा करती थीं। कुछ महिलाएं बकरियां पालती थीं, कुछ सुअर पालती थीं और कुछ मुर्गियां पालती थीं। इस प्रकार से वे महिलाएं पैसा कमाती थीं। उन महिलाओं से लोन भी दिया जाता था और उधार भी दिया जाता था। वहां पर इसी तरह का सिस्टम था, लेकिन जब वहां पर स्टूडेंट मूवमेंट हुआ, विदेशी आंदोलन हुआ और उसके बाद बोडालैंड आंदोलन हुआ था इस प्रकार के आंदोलन शुरू हो गए और तब इन महिलाओं के गुप्स टूटने लगे। अब फिर गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से यह Self-help Groups का कार्यक्रम शुरू हो गया है, तो फिर से वहां पर यह महिलाओं का काम शुरू हो गया है। उनके लिए कोई यह नया कार्यक्रम नहीं है। मैं तो सोचता हूं कि असम की यह व्यवस्था देखकर किसी ने यह एडवाइज किया है कि इसको सरकार के कार्यक्रम में लिया जाए, तो जो देश के गरीब और दुखी लोग हैं, उनको ऊपर ला सकते हैं। जो भी हो, यह एचिवमेंट बहुत अच्छा है। अब देखा जाए, तो गांव में हर जगह महिलाएं कुछ न कुछ तो कर रही हैं।

यह सरकार के हिसाब से रजिस्टर हो या न हो, लेकिन वे लोग Self-help Groups बनाकर काम कर रहे हैं। आज गांव की महिलाएं भी भाषण दे सकती हैं। हमारे यहां जो निर्वासन होता है, इसमें भी उनकी कोई निर्णायक भूमिका रहती है। यह सब हो गया है। ये महिलाएं कुछ न कुछ काम करती हैं, घर चलाने में सहायता भी करती हैं। इस तरह से, यदि वहां की achievement बोलें, तो यही है। इसमें थोड़ी सी यह problem हो रही है कि इन लोगों के लिए सरकार की तरफ से जितनी भी सुविधाएं दी गई हैं, वह गांव के इलाके में, उन Self-help Groups के बीच में पहुंचती नहीं है। सर, इसमें यह समस्या हो रही है कि वहां के जो Self-help Groups हैं, उन लोगों के साथ बात करने के लिए, काम करने के लिए वहां पर कोई डायरेक्ट एजेंसी नहीं है। यह एक समस्या है। Government की तरफ से, विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से जो subsidy दी गई है, पैसा दिया गया है, यह पैसा जाता ही नहीं है। उसका ज्यादातर फायदा बैंक वाले उठा रहे हैं। अगर एक bank ने, एक इलाके में पांच सौ Self-help Groups को सब्सिडी देनी है तो केवल सौ को ही देते हैं, बाकी चार सौ Self-help Groups की सब्सिडी का पैसा, जो केंद्रीय सरकार से जाता है, वे लोग उसको बैंक में रोक लेते हैं और जो बाकी applications देने वाले Self-help Groups होते हैं, उनको वोटिंग लिस्ट में दिखा देते हैं। इस तरह से वे लोग अपने interest में व्यवहार कर रहे हैं। इसके लिए हमारे मंत्रालय की तरफ से आप क्या व्यवस्था लेंगे कि जिसके लिए यह पैसा जाता है, उसी जगह पर यह पैसा कैसे पहुंच सके इसके लिए काम करना है? मैं समझता हूं कि इसकी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। जहां तक ट्रेनिंग वगैरह की बात है, जैसे capacity building की बात बोल रहे हैं, उसके लिए आज Centre for National Integrated Rural Development, SIRD, NIRD है। SIRD जो ट्रेनिंग सेंटर है, यह टाऊन में, अरबन में, सिटी में बनाया गया है। गांव की महिलाएं वहां तक नहीं पहुंच पाती हैं, उनको कोई खबर नहीं मिलती है। जब यहां पर ट्रेनिंग का प्रोग्राम होता है, तब एन.जी.ओ.ज. यह करते हैं कि जो Self-help Group का नहीं है और जो ग्रामीण महिला भी नहीं है, वहां कोई पढ़ाई कर रहा है, कुछ काम कर रहा है, उन लोगों को लाकर ही Self-help Group के लिए जो ट्रेनिंग प्रोग्राम करना था, उस प्रोग्राम को वे लोग कर लेते हैं। इससे जिस तरह से कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग करनी थी, वह नहीं हो पा रही है। इसको किस तरह से ठीक किया जाए, इसको देखना बहुत जरूरी है। गांव में बैंक नहीं है, यह भी एक समस्या है।

सारा काम बैंक के जरिए हो रहा है। आप नाबार्ड की बात बोल रहे हैं, गांव के लोगों को नाबार्ड का पता ही नहीं है। जो एन.जी.ओज. हैं, उनमें धनवान, बड़े-बड़े, पैसे वाले लोग होते हैं। वे दो-तीन आदमियों के नाम पर अपने सारे relatives का नाम देकर registered एन.जी.ओ. बनाकर काम रहे हैं। यह समस्या भी हमें मुश्किल में डाल रही है। इसके कारण हमारे Self-help Groups विपत्ति में पड़ रहे हैं। ये एन.जी.ओज. NABARD से या कहीं और से लोगों लेकर, उन लोगों से डबल सूद लेकर पैसा उधार में दे रहे हैं। इस वजह से वे लोग successful नहीं हो रहे हैं। इसकी वजह से कभी-कभी Self-help Group बनाने में महिलाएं discourage भी हो जाती हैं। सर, आप इसको देखिए। मैं ज्यादा नहीं बोलना चाहता हूं, परंतु मैं आशा करता हूं कि इन सारी चीजों को देखने के बाद, हमारे मंत्रालय की तरफ से काम करेंगे तो हमारे Self-help Groups के लिए जिस तरह से समस्याएं आ रही हैं, उन समस्याओं का समाधान कर सकेंगे, अच्छी तरह से अचीव कर पाएंगे। यह कहकर मैं अपनी स्पीच समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती विप्रव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज एक ऐसा विषय लाया गया है, जिसमें महिलाओं के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं। आज सबसे ज्यादा जरूरत यह है कि हम गांव में रहती हुई एक गरीब औरत, एक गरीब बहिन, गरीब पत्नी और गरीब मां को किस तरह से उसका हक दिलवा सकते हैं, उसको आर्थिक तौर पर कैसे empower कर सकते हैं। श्री राजीव गांधी जी, जो हमारे पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री थे, वह यह विचार लाए थे कि जब तक महिलाओं को पोलिटिकल empowerment नहीं देंगे, वे आगे नहीं हो पाएंगी, उनको आर्थिक empowerment नहीं मिल पाएगी। इसी उद्देश्य के लिए पंचायती राज local self Government में तैत्तिशत प्रतिशत आरक्षण रखा गया था, जो कि आज पचास प्रतिशत होने जा रहा है।

यह उन्हीं की देन थी, यह उन्हीं की सोच थी। उसी के साथ-साथ 9वीं योजना में भी यह सोचा गया कि जहां हम राजनीतिक empowerment दे रहे हैं, वहां आर्थिक empowerment देना भी उतना ही जरूरी है। जब तक महिला अपने पैरों पर खड़ी नहीं होगी, जब तक उसको इस बात का एहसास नहीं होगा कि वह चार रुपए किसी को दे सकती है, वह अपने बाप के ऊपर, अपने भाई के ऊपर या अपने पति के ऊपर निर्भर नहीं है, जब तक वह आर्थिक तौर पर खुद स्वतंत्र नहीं होगी, तब तक उसमें यह आत्मविश्वास नहीं आ सकता था। इसी सोच के साथ यह Self Help Group scheme बनाई गई थी, जिसने पूरे भारत में एक तरह की क्रांति ला दी है। आज गांव-गांव में एक गरीब महिला भी अपने आपमें सोचती है कि वह इतनी स्वावलंबी हो गई है कि वह अपनी बेटी को, अपनी बहू को कुछ दे सकती है, अपने घर की मदद कर सकती है। अब उसको केवल आभूषणों के ऊपर ही निर्भर नहीं रहना पड़ता। पहले यही कहा जाता था कि आभूषण स्त्री का धन है और मुसीबत के समय में वह काम आता है। लेकिन आज इन Self Help Groups ने यह साबित कर दिया है कि एक महिला अपने आपकी और अपने परिवार की मदद कर सकती है और स्त्री-धन के साथ और भी तरीके हैं, जिनसे वह खुद कमा कर, खुद आत्मनिर्भर होकर अपने परिवार को भी आगे ले जा सकती है। इसके लिए मैं यह कहूंगी कि यह एक बहुत अच्छी स्कीम है और पूरे भारत में हर पंचायत में, हर ब्लॉक में ये Self Help Groups जरूर बने हुए हैं, जिनका महिलाएं पूरा फायदा उठा रही हैं। लेकिन फिर भी बहुत कमी है। मैं उनकी ओर भी ध्यान दिलवाना चाहूंगी। कई-कई जगह ऐसा है कि एक ही परिवार की सदस्य Self Help Group की मैम्बर बन जाती हैं और वे किसी को लेती भी नहीं है। इस तरह से वह पैसा उसी

परिवार में revolve करता रहता है। मेरे ध्यान में ऐसे cases लाए गए हैं, जहां पर पुरुष उन्हें कहते हैं कि आप मैम्बर बनो और वे पैसे लेकर अपने बिजनेस में लगाते हैं। चाहे वे उसका interest देते रहते हैं, लेकिन उन महिलाओं को फायदा नहीं मिल पाता। इसके बारे में भी मिनिस्ट्री को ध्यान देना चाहिए कि जो Self Help Groups हैं, वे केवल महिलाओं के लिए ही काम आएंगे। उनके लिए ही जो छोटी स्कीमें हैं, उनको खोला जाए, उनको रखा जाए।

आज भारत में 6 लाख से ज्यादा Self Help Groups हैं, जिनसे महिलाएं फायदा उठा रही हैं। लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ ही हमारी बहुत सीनियर मैम्बर ने marketing की बात कही। Marketing बहुत जरूरी है। ठीक है, इसी Self Help Group के द्वारा जो हमारी traditional चीजें थीं, वे भी उभर कर आई हैं, जैसे पापड़, आचार, बड़ियां। यहां तक कि गलीचे बनाने का भी काम हो रहा है, ये दरियां बनाने का भी काम ले रही हैं और हमारा जो हुनर खत्म होता जा रहा था, इन Self Help Groups की वजह से वह दोबारा revive हो रहा है, लेकिन उनको marketing नहीं मिल रही है। Marketing का जो प्रबन्ध है, मैं यह कहूंगी कि वह मंत्रालय को करना चाहिए या जो भी वहां industry के हैं, चाहे export houses हैं, not for export, लेकिन अपने प्रदेश से बाहर ले जाने के लिए या गांव से शहर तक ले जाने के लिए, ऐसे shops के साथ, ऐसे बड़े-बड़े departmental stores के साथ उनका कहीं-न-कहीं तालमेल होना चाहिए, जिससे वे अपनी चीजें वहां बेच सकें और उनको ऑर्डर मिल सके। अब जैसे हिमाचल प्रदेश है। वहां पर ऊन का बहुत ज्यादा काम होता है, स्वेटर बनाए जाते हैं, गलीचे बनाये जाते हैं, शालें बनती हैं और उनमें Self Help Groups लगे हुए हैं। उनको ट्रेनिंग दी जा रही है, लेकिन उनको मार्केट न मिलने की वजह से उन लोगों को middlemen के ऊपर निर्भर होना पड़ता है। इस बात को भी देखना चाहिए। अगर हम सही मायने में उनकी empowerment चाहते हैं, तो इन बातों का भी ध्यान रखना बहुत जरूरी है।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं एक बात और कहूंगी कि कहीं-कहीं पर ऐसा भी देखने में आया है कि सभी महिलाओं को Self Help Groups में नहीं लिया जाता और कहीं पर target को पूरा करने के लिए ऐसे लोगों को भी जोड़ दिया जाता है, जिनको उसकी जरूरत नहीं होती और जो जरूरतमंद महिलाएं हैं, वे रह जाती हैं। इसलिए इनके जो कार्यकर्ता या मुख्य सेविकाएं वहां जाती हैं, जो BDOs या CDPOs के माध्यम से उन तक संदेश पहुंचाती हैं, उनको यह चाहिए कि वे जाकर यह भी देखें कि कौन-सी ऐसी महिलाएं हैं, जिनको इसमें लाने की जरूरत है। जिन महिलाओं को भी empowerment की जरूरत है, उनको वे encourage करें और उन्हें समझा कर इसमें लाएं। हालांकि इसके बारे में बहुत अवेयरनेस आ गई है, लेकिन फिर भी कुछ इलाके ऐसे हैं, जहां पर अवेयरनेस की जरूरत है कि Self Help Groups कैसे बनाए जाएं।

मैं जब भी गांवों में जाती हूं, तो उनसे इस बारे में पूछती हूं, क्योंकि पहले हमारे यहां जो महिला मंडलों की स्कीम थी। वही महिला मंडल अब Self Help Groups में परिवर्तित हो रहे हैं। लेकिन यह भी देखने में आया है कि उनको सही ढंग से गाइडेंस नहीं मिल रही है। उनको इसकी गाइडेंस सही तरीके से मिलनी चाहिए, जिससे कि वे पूरी तरह से इसका लाभ उठा सकें।

वृंदा जी ने अभी interest की बात की है, मैं भी उनसे बिलकुल सहमत हूँ और यह कहती हूँ कि महिलाएं चाहे कोई भी काम करना चाहती हों, उन्हें हर एक काम के लिए interest में रिबेट मिलना चाहिए, जिससे वे अपने पैरों पर खड़ी हो सकें और सही ढंग से अपनी किश्त का पैसा वापिस कर सकें। यह तथ्य सामने आया है कि Self Help Groups में 90% पैसे का भुगतान होता है। बड़े लोग तो दे देते हैं, लेकिन छोटे लोग नहीं दे पाते, लेकिन अगर इंटरस्ट उनकी सीमा में होगा, तो वे महिलाएं भी बड़े काम शुरू कर सकेंगी और आगे बढ़ सकेंगी।

एक चीज़ इसमें मैं और कहूंगी कि Self-help Groups की जो स्कीम है, इसमें micro-financing है, इसलिए मैं चाहूंगी कि इसके लिए एक कमेटी बने, जिसमें Ministry of Women and Child Development के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ ही साथ Ministry of Finance के प्रतिनिधियों का होना भी बहुत जरूरी है। NABARD या अन्य किसी की मदद से Finance Ministry इसमें मदद कर सकती है, इसलिए Ministry of Women and Child Development के साथ ही साथ इसमें Ministry of Finance के representative को भी शामिल होना चाहिए, जिससे कि इनका काम smoothly हो सके और ये Self-help Groups और अधिक ताकतवर बन सकें। अगर हम बांग्लादेश की बात करते हैं, तो अपने भारत में ऐसा क्यों नहीं हो सकता? इसके लिए Finance Ministry के representative का इसमें होना बहुत जरूरी है, जिससे कि इसको ठीक ढंग से आगे चलाया जा सके। इसके साथ ही मैं आपका धन्यवाद करती हूँ कि आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए टाइम दिया। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री किशोर कुमार मोहन्ती (उड़ीसा) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया धन्यवाद। मैं यहां पर उड़ीसा को represent कर रहा हूँ और आज सदन में अपना पहला वक्तव्य आपके सम्मुख रख रहा हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...। पहले भी मैं महिलाओं के विषय पर बोला हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**... आज भी महिलाओं के ऊपर जो सब्जेक्ट आया है, उसके ऊपर मैं बोलने जा रहा हूँ। जिस चीज़ पर आज यहां चर्चा हो रही है, मुझे गर्व है कि हमारे उड़ीसा में 3,87,325 Self-help Groups बने हुए हैं, जिनमें से 2,18,016 केवल Rural-belt में बने हुए हैं। हर साल हमारी उड़ीसा की सरकार 50 करोड़ रुपये प्रति वर्ष इन self-help Groups को देती है, ताकि जो गांवों की महिलाएं हैं, उनकी तरक्की हो। यही कारण है कि वहां पर Self-help Groups का यह जो संगठन है, बहुत अच्छी तरह से पनप रहा है। यह जो revolution आया है उससे आगे चल कर निश्चित तौर पर महिलाओं में बहुत परिवर्तन आएगा और हम सभी लोग उसे देखेंगे।

इसमें कुछ अड़चनें भी हैं। हमने एपीएल और बीपीएल, ये दो गुप्स बना रखे हैं। बीपीएल के Self Help Group को हम 25% सब्सिडी देते हैं, लेकिन अगर वह एपीएल का Self Help Group होता है, तो उसको हम कोई भी सब्सिडी नहीं देते हैं। ऐसा क्यों है? ये जो गांव की महिलाएं हैं, उन महिलाओं के बीच में यह अंतर क्यों है? अगर हम सब्सिडी देकर Self Help Groups को मदद देना चाहते हैं, तो गांव की महिलाओं में यह एपीएल या बीपीएल का सवाल क्यों आना चाहिए? अगर हम चाहते हैं कि महिलाओं का कुछ सुधार हो और इसके लिए ही हम उनको सब्सिडी देना चाहते हैं, तो सबके साथ एक जैसा व्यवहार किया जाए, ताकि आगे चल कर उन सभी की कुछ financial capacity बढ़ाई जा सके।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पहले केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से "स्वयंसिद्धि" नाम से एक कार्यक्रम लाया गया था। इस कार्यक्रम में केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को कुछ रुपए दिए जाते रहे, ताकि वहां पर self help groups को कार्यान्वित किया जा सके, मगर पिछले तीन सालों से यह कार्यक्रम बन्द है। मैं यह चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इस बात को ध्यान में रखें। अगर वह चाहती हैं कि ये स्वयं सहायक गोष्ठियां महिलाओं की हैल्प करें, भारत के रूरल बैल्ट को अच्छा बनाने के लिए वे आगे चल कर तैयार हों, तो केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से जो हैल्प उनको मिलती रही है, वह हैल्प उनको निश्चित तौर पर दी जाए।

महोदय, गांव में जो federation बना है या पंचायत में जो स्वयं सहायक गोष्ठी बनी है या जो self help group बना है, अगर उनके पास बैठने की जगह नहीं होगी, तो वे लोग कहां पर बैठेंगे? अगर वे लोग ब्लॉक में आते हैं, तो वहां पर लोग चिंता व्यक्त करते हैं कि किसे बोलेंगे, क्या project लेंगे। अगर उनके पास बैठने की जगह नहीं होगी, तो वे कहां पर बैठेंगे, वे क्या निष्पत्ति लेंगे तथा उनके जो इतने कार्यक्रम हैं, उन्हें वे कैसे लागू करेंगे? अगर उन सबों को बैठ कर निष्पत्ति लेने की जगह कहीं नहीं होगी, तो वे लोग कहां पर निष्पत्ति लेंगे? इसीलिए वे लोग ब्लॉक में आकर ऑफिस में या यह-वहां बैठते हैं, घूमते रहते हैं। जो महिलाएं होती हैं, उनका बहुत उत्पीड़न होता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से चाहूंगा कि सभी स्टेट्स को पंचायत स्तर पर एवं ब्लॉक में उन लोगों के बैठने के स्थान के लिए और उनके कार्यालय के लिए sufficient रुपए भेजे जाएं, ताकि वहां पर महिलाएं बैठकर अपने कार्यों पर निष्पत्ति ले सकें। इस बारे में उड़ीसा के हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने भी जो यहां पर आपका कांफेरेंस हुआ था शायद उसमें यह बात रखी थी, ताकि वह स्वयंसिद्धि कार्यक्रम जिसे आपने बंद कर दिया है या केन्द्र सरकार ने जिसे पिछले तीन सालों से बंद कर रखा है, इसे फिर चालू किया जाए, जाकि इससे वहां पर आगे चल कर हमारी महिलाओं की उन्नति हो सके।

महोदय, मैं एक बात पर सांसद श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी से सहमत हूँ कि यह जो micro finance company है, अगर इसे हम लोग इसमें involve करेंगे, तो naturally ये धीरे-धीरे हमारे जो सारे self help groups हैं, इनको occupy कर लेंगे। इसका कारण यह है कि ये एक परसेंट पर लोन लेते हैं और ये हां पर self help groups को हर महीने 10 परसेंट पर लोन का लालच दिखा कर उन्हें अपने under में करना चाह रहे हैं। इस तरह धीरे-धीरे वहां पर जो महिलाएं self help group में हैं, वे उसमें corrupt practice में चली जा रही हैं। अगर यह practice रहेगी, तो इसका जो उचित मूल्य है, जो कि हम देख रहे हैं कि गांव की महिलाओं को तैयार करके हम भारत को सुधार सकेंगे, जो सबसे पिछड़े क्षेत्र में रहती है, जहां आदिवासी या अनुसूचित जाति की महिलाएं रहती हैं, अगर इस किस्म से हम उनकी हैल्प करना चाहते हैं, तो गांव की महिलाओं की उन्नति नहीं हो सकेगी।

महोदय, मैं एक और बात यहां पर कहना चाहता हूँ। Central Budget में हमारे स्टेट को जो पैसा दिया जाता है, यह बहुत नगण्य हो जाता है। अगर उड़ीसा में मात्र दो लाख से ज्यादा self help groups हैं, तो उनको जो दरकार है, उनको जो ट्रेनिंग दरकार है या गांव में जो महिलाएं रहती हैं, उनको ट्रेनिंग जो दरकार है, वह proper professional training नहीं होने के कारण जो business वे कर रही हैं, उसमें वे loss कर रही हैं। मैं आपको इसका एक example देना चाहूंगा।

हमरा एक कंधमाल district है। वृंदा कारत जी बहुत बार भुवनेश्वर गई हैं। वहां पर उन्होंने देखा होगा कि जो हल्दी हम लोग खाते हैं, वहां जो हल्दी कंधमाल से आती है वह सबसे अच्छी हल्दी होती है। वहां पर जो आदिवासी self help groups हैं, वे उसे वहां लाकर भुवनेश्वर में बेचते रहे और बहुत फायदा उठाते रहे। लाखों रुपए का फायदा वहां के self help groups ने वहां पर उठाया। मगर बाद में tradition कुछ ऐसा आ गया कि जिसे हम micro finance company बोलते हैं, व्यापारी लोग बोलते हैं, वे खुद उस self help groups से हल्दी खरीदकर भुवनेश्वर में लाकर, 5-7 सौ किलोमीटर दूर लाकर, बेचने लगीं और उसका फायदा व्यापारी लोग उठाने लगे। इस प्रकार जो self help groups वहां पर थे, वे धीरे-धीरे अब loss avail कर रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं यह चाहता हूं कि अगर उनको proper training दी जाए, उनको गांव में training दी जाए और उनका मार्केट तैयार किया जाए तो ऐसे बहुत से self help groups आ सकेंगे तथा इससे हमारी महिलाओं की आर्थिक स्थिति धीरे-धीरे ऊपर आ सकेगी।

सर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी उड़ीसा सरकार द्वारा आज mid day meal का काम self help groups को दिया गया है। हमारे गांवों के स्कूलों में जो mid day meal दिया जाता है, जो बच्चे mid day meal खाते हैं, दिन में जो खाना खाते हैं, जिसे सरकार की तरफ से, केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से, दिया जाता है, वह काम हमारे यहां self help groups को दिया गया है। आज वहां पर self help groups को और भी कई तरीके से, जैसे हमारा जो Public Distribution System है, उसमें उन्हें अवसर दिया गया है ताकि वे लोग कुछ रोजगार कर सकें, उनकी आर्थिक उन्नति हो सके, ने समाज की मुख्य धारा में आ सकें और उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति में परिवर्तन हो सके। हमारे उड़ीसा में इस सिस्टम में परिवर्तन लाने के बाद भी अगर उन्हें properly trained नहीं करेंगे तो कुछ दिनों के बाद उन्हें जो loss होगा, उससे उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति धीरे-धीरे गिर जाएगी। इसके कारण कई महिलाएं suicide भी करने लग गई हैं, क्योंकि वे जो लोन Self-Help Groups से लेती हैं, उनका समय पर repayment नहीं कर पाती हैं। इसलिए मेरा विचार है कि महिलाओं को बैंक से जो हम finance करते हैं, उसे 3% के interest rate पर finance किया जाए ताकि उनकी आर्थिक उन्नति हो सके। अभी हमारे उड़ीसा में co-operative banks से सबको 5% पर लोन दिया जा रहा है। इसलिए मैं यह चाहूंगा कि अगर केन्द्र सरकार यह चाहती है कि rural belt में महिलाओं की आर्थिक उन्नति हो तो वह इसके लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाये।

श्री के.बी. शणप्पा (कर्नाटक) : कर्नाटक में यह 4% से नीचे है।...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. URIEN) : Kindly don't interrupt. It is his maiden speech.

श्री किशोर कुमार मोहन्ती : जी, इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि केन्द्र सरकार इस संबंध में निर्देश दे ताकि हमारी महिलाएं जो Self-Help Groups के माध्यम से लोन उठाती हैं, वह उन्हें 3% पर या lowest rate पर finance किया जाए। इससे आने वाले दिनों में निश्चित तौर पर यह Self-Help Group programme धीरे-धीरे ऐसे आंदोलन का रूप लेगा, जिससे हमारी महिलाओं की उन्नति हो सकती है। आज हम naturally यह देख रहे हैं कि जहां Self Help Groups हैं, वहां महिलाएं काम करने और कुछ बात कहने की स्थिति में आयी हैं। जिस गांव में वे लोग घरों से नहीं निकलती थीं, आज वहां Self Help Groups के जरिये उनकी जुबान में बोलने की ताकत आई है। आज

उन्होंने काम करने और बिजनेस करने की शक्ति प्राप्त की है। अगर आने वाले कल में Self-help Groups में कुछ सुधार लाया जा सकता है तो यह हमारे देश की महिलाओं के लिए बहुत अच्छी चीज होगी। इतना कहकर मैं अपना वक्तव्य यहीं समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, so far as the Self-Help Group Movement is concerned, we have a 500-year old history in Assam. My friend, Shri Biswajit Daimary, has already given some glimpses in his speech. In Barpeta, this was advocated by Vaishnava Pandit Mathura Das Burahata. A great Vaishnavite Centre is Barpeta in the North-Eastern Region. This Self Help group and microfinancing movement was started nearly 500 years ago. It was participated all the men and women. It is still in practice. It is operated by various Hatia (i.e. centre) through Hatia Ghar, that is, the community hall, under Barpeta Satra, the great Vaishnava Shrine in Assam, The promoter of this concept of micro finance and Self-Help Group system in India, 500 years ago, Mathura Das Burahata has not been recognised so far at the national or the international level. Pandit Mathura Das Burah is widely known for this concept of micro-finance and Self-Help Group movement in Assam. I am feeling proud to glorify this saint, Pandit Mathura Das Burahata in this Upper House, with reference to the discussion on achievements and problems of the Self-Help Group Movement today.

Sir, the Self-Help Group Movement is a popular and a successful movement in India. I must congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government of India. Now, the Government is pumping crores of rupees through these Self-Help Groups. I want to urge upon the Government that they should be careful because some miscreants are trying to frustrate this Movement because it is dealing with lots of money. In Assam, the Government may initiated a giant steps for promotion of weaving industry there. Shrimati Brinda Karat has rightly pointed out about the problem of female weavers of my State. In Assam, every woman of every indigenous family, whether tribal or non-tribal, is expert in weaving.

It is also a means of livelihood of the women of Assam. What is important is that these products of Assam and North-East have a good market within the country and also in the international market. It will boost the economic upliftment of women of our North-Eastern Region. I hope the hon. Minister will take special interest on this issue. There is a demand for training of SHG for capacity-building, accounts maintenance, etc. There is also need for development of market for SHG. So, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards these issues. With these few words, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this issue.

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ : सर, मुझे बहुत खुशी हुई है कि आज इस सदन में Self Help Groups जो महिलाओं के लिए, महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के लिए हैं, उस पर बहुत सारे सदस्य, करीब-करीब 9 सदस्य बोले हैं।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी ने इसे शुरू किया, डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला जी ने उसे और प्रोत्साहित किया और साथ में जो हमारे तमाम male-female members इस पर बोले हैं। मुझे भी बहुत खुशी हुई कि महिलाएं जब-जब अपने पैरों पर खड़ी हुई हैं, तब-तब उन्होंने हर फील्ड को सशक्त किया है। लेकिन, आज हम बात कर रहे हैं कि महिलाओं को खुद सशक्त करने के बारे में। चाहे वह झांसी की रानी हो, चाहे वह रज़िया सुल्तान हो, जब-जब उन पर कोई परेशानी आई, उन्होंने अपने आपको सशक्त करने के लिए सिर उठाया है और आज Self-help Groups बनाकर जिन महिलाओं ने भारत में, जो विकासशील भारत है, उसको विकसित करने के लिए कदम बढ़ाए है, तो सदन की चिंता और बढ़ी है और मैं समझती हूँ कि इसमें Women & Child Development के साथ-साथ हमारे और मंत्रालय भी शामिल हैं, जो इन self-help groups में मदद करते हैं - Rural Development Ministry है, Agriculture है, Finance है, जो NABARD और Banks के माध्यम से काम करते हैं। श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी ने बहुत विस्तार से कहा कि कृष्णा जी के विभाग में तो बहुत कम है, लेकिन यदि महिलाओं का बोझ मैंने लिया है, तो मैंने इस बोझ को सहने का कदम भी बढ़ाया है और साहस से मैंने बात की है ...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : आपको अधिकार भी मिलना चाहिए।

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ : मैं चाहती हूँ कि इस बात को जिस तरह से यहां बात रखा गया, हर राज्य की बात अपने आपमें आई। तमाम महिलाएं जो भारत में, प्रोड्यूसर्स, इंटरप्रिन्सोर्स, वर्कर्स, कंज्यूमर्स, सिटिजन के रूप में जानी जाती हैं, देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही हैं, छोटी-छोटी जगहों पर Self-help Groups बनाकर अपने आपको आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की कोशिश कर रही हैं और आत्मनिर्भर बनना खासतौर से महिलाओं के लिए इसलिए जरूरी है कि महिलाओं में बहुत शक्ति है। वे घर के भीतर, घर के बाहर, चाहे वह राजनीतिक फील्ड हो या सामाजिक फील्ड हो, चाहे वह बच्चों को संभालने की बात हो, चाहे देश को आगे ले जाने की बात हो, देश की आजादी से लेकर आज तक महिलाओं ने देश को आगे बढ़ाया है और इस देश को आगे बढ़ाने के साथ जब हम सोचते हैं कि उन्हें कैसे सशक्त करें, तो हम चाहते हैं कि उन्हें बहुमुखी सशक्त करना चाहिए। उन्हें शारीरिक रूप से, मानसिक रूप से, आर्थिक रूप से, शैक्षणिक रूप से और फिर राजनीतिक रूप से सशक्त करना हम तमाम महिलाएं चाहती हैं और इसमें पुरुष भी, इसको सशक्त करने के लिए, आज अपना पूरा साहस और शक्ति दे रहे हैं। मुझे लगता है कि भारत अब आगे बढ़ेगा और विश्व में उसका नाम सबसे ऊपर स्वर्ण अक्षरों में लिखा जाएगा। विकासशील भारत को विकसित बनाने के लिए तमाम महिलाएं काम करेंगी। मैं इसी बारे में बताना चाहती हूँ कि मेरे मंत्रालय से जो काम चल रहे हैं, इसमें तीन कार्यक्रम योजनाओं के रूप में चले - इंदिरा महिला योजना, स्वयं शक्ति योजना, स्वयं सिद्धा स्कीम, जिसके लिए उड़ीसा के भाई ने बताया कि इसमें हमारा एक सैकिंड प्लान चल रहा है - स्वयं सिद्धा-2, जिसके बारे में हम अभी प्लानिंग कमीशन से बातचीत कर रहे हैं और उसके बारे में अभी भी आगे बताऊंगी। जो हमारी इंदिरा महिला योजना, स्वयं शक्ति योजना और स्वयं सिद्धा स्कीम है, इसके अंतर्गत लगभग 1,30,000 Self Help Groups बनाए गए और अब RMK, राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष, द्वारा 31.10.2009 तक 66,000 Self Help Groups को लाभ पहुंचाया गया। स्वयं सिद्धा स्कीम के तहत पहले 116.30 करोड़ रुपए का बजट था, जिसको राज्यों की सरकारों द्वारा चलाया गया, तमाम राज्यों को इसमें से बजट दिया गया।

उन्होंने इसमें मदद की, सैल्फ-हैल्प ग्रुप्स बने और उन राज्यों में महिलाओं ने जो काम किए, चाहे वे काम उनके क्षेत्र के हिसाब से हों, अच्छे किए। अभी विप्लव ठाकुर जी ने बताया कि उनके यहां उन का काम होता है, कारपेट बनते हैं, शॉलें बनती हैं, स्वेटर्स बनते हैं, कहीं पापड़ बनते हैं। नजमा जी ने बताया कि लखनऊ में चिकन का कम होता है और लिज्जत पापड़ की बात कही, कहीं अचार-चटनी की बात कही गई, कहीं ज्वैलरी डिजाइनिंग की बात कही गई। मैं समझती हूं कि आज तो महिलाओं ने काफी तरक्की की है और वे ब्यूटी-कल्चर के क्षेत्र में भी आगे बढ़ रही हैं। देश के पांच सितारा होटलों में भी उन्होंने उन सैल्फ-हैल्प ग्रुप्स के माध्यम से ट्रेड होकर, जगह-जगह रोजगार पाया है और उससे उनको सशक्त होने का रास्ता मिला है। इसके साथ ही "स्वयंसिद्धा" स्कीम के तहत जो पैसा राज्यों के द्वारा मिला, उससे विभिन्न काम किए गए, उससे 5,424 सामुदायिक परिसंपत्तियों का सृजन किया गया - इनमें ट्यूबवैल लगाना, मीटिंग हॉल बनाना शामिल हैं, ताकि राज्य के जितने सैल्फ-हैल्प ग्रुप्स हैं, वे वहां जाकर उसका उपयोग कर सकें और अपनी सुविधा के लिए वहां बैठकर बात कर सकें। "स्वयंसिद्धा" स्कीम के अंतर्गत जो 59,803 SHGs गठित किए गए हैं, इनके अंतर्गत भी 10 लाख से अधिक महिलाओं को लाभ पहुंचा है तथा SHGs इन के लिए 168.84 करोड़ रुपए की राशि उन्होंने बचाई है। यानी महिलाओं ने स्वयं अपने आप में empower होकर जो 168.84 करोड़ रुपए की बचत की है, इससे लगता है कि महिलाएं सशक्त हुई हैं और जो आपकी चिंता है, वह उन तक पहुंची है। मुझे पता है कि हम लोग जो पब्लिक फील्ड के लोग हैं, पब्लिक को जानते हैं, उनकी मदद करते हैं, चाहे देश के आदिवासी इलाके हैं, चाहे दलित महिलाएं हैं, अनुसूचित जाति-जनजाति की महिलाएं हैं, हमें उनमें जाकर काम करने का मौका मिला है। नजमा जी ने बताया कि हम ऐसी फैमिलीज से आते हैं कि हमें economic empowerment तो नहीं चाहिए, लेकिन economic empowerment करने के लिए, दूसरी महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के लिए, उनको उनके पैरों पर खड़ा करने के लिए एक मार्गदर्शन जरूर चाहिए। हमें एक रोशनी जरूर दिखानी है, वह रोशनी, जिसके तहत चलकर वह आगे बढ़ सके और गर्व से कहे कि मैं भी भारतीय महिला हूं, भारत के संविधान ने जब मुझे बराबरी का अधिकार दिया है, तो कौन सी ऐसी ताकत है, जो मुझे रोक सके? सरकार के तमाम कानून और कायदे, महिलाओं की रक्षा के लिए बने हैं, महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के लिए बने हैं, तो वह चीज वहां तक न पहुंचे, यह हो नहीं सकता, इसके लिए जरूर कोई न कोई चैनल बनता है। हर राज्य में चाहे वह पुरुष हो या महिला हो, जब वह जीतकर आती है, तो अपने राज्य के लिए अधिकार मांगती है और उस राज्य के अधिकार के तहत, हम महिलाओं के लिए जो बात कर रहे हैं, जो-जो अधिकार उनको दिए जाते हैं, उनको वहां तक पहुंचाना हमारा काम बनता है।

सभी सैल्फ-हैल्प ग्रुप्स ने बैंकों में खाते खोले हैं और जो 113.20 करोड़ रुपए की राशि बैंकों में जमा कराई गई, इससे पता चलता है कि विकासशील भारत में महिलाएं अति जागरूक हुई हैं। हमारी सरकार का प्रयास है कि उनको इस पथ पर और आगे बढ़ाए। हम जो तरह-तरह की योजनाएं लाते हैं, उनके तहत हम महिलाओं को सशक्त करें और सशक्त भारत जब आगे बढ़ेगा, तो उसका सिर विश्व में और ऊपर उठेगा, जिससे वह महिला कह सकेगी कि मैं भारतीय नारी हूं और भारत में जिन बड़ी-बड़ी महान हस्तियों ने जन्म लिया है, उनके नाम को आगे बढ़ाना हम सबका और महिलाओं का काम है।

मैं जानती हूँ कि महिलाओं की कितनी जबर्दस्त ड्यूटी है, कभी-कभी छोटी उम्र की महिलाएं SHGs में काम नहीं कर पातीं, क्योंकि उन्हें अपने घर में बच्चों का ख्याल रखना है, घर-परिवार को देखना है, पति को कब ऑफिस जाना है, यह देखना है, जो बुजुर्ग हैं, उनकी सेवा करनी है, उनके लिए दवाई लानी है, उनके लिए भोजन का इंतजाम करना है, ये तमाम चीजें महिलाएं करती हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद वे चाहती हैं कि वे अपने पैरों पर खड़ी होकर सशक्त बनें। जब वे इस तरह सशक्त होती हैं, तो घर में उनका मान-सम्मान बढ़ता है और domestic violence में भी कमी आती है। घर के सदस्य उससे प्यार करने लगते हैं, क्योंकि जब वह पैसा लेकर आती है, तो उस पैसे को चलाना सीखती है, उसे बैंक में कैसे जमा करना है, किसी और जगह पर उसे कैसे खर्च करना है, यह ट्रेनिंग भी सरकार के इन्हीं SHGs के माध्यम से दी जाती है। इससे एक और फायदा है कि जब महिला पैसे कमाती है, तो उसको अच्छी जगह पर लगाती है। आज हम पूरे भारत में कहते हैं कि यहां की महिलाएं और बच्चे undernourished हैं, mal-nourished हैं। जब महिलाओं के पास पैसा आता है, तो इन समस्याओं का निदान हमें महिलाओं के उस पैसे से मिलता है, क्योंकि वे बच्चों को अच्छा खाना खिलाती हैं, अच्छी शिक्षा देती हैं, अच्छे कपड़े पहनाती हैं, उनका standard of living अच्छा बनता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज मुझे बहुत अच्छा लगा जब वृंदा कारत जी ने और तमाम साथियों ने इस बात को रखा और मुझे इस सदन में बोलने का मौका मिला। इस प्रकार हम स्वयंसेवी महिलाओं के skill upgradation कराने का काम भी "सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप्स" में कराते हैं। सरकार उनको जो मदद करती है, वह मदद अलग-अलग राज्यों में विभिन्न स्कीम्स के तहत दी जाती है। राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष के अंतर्गत अभी 31 अक्टूबर, 2009 तक अण्डमान निकोबार द्वीप सहित 27 राज्यों में 66 हजार SHGs के लिए 234 करोड़ रुपए के लोन दिए गए हैं। आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, उड़ीसा में आरएमके की सहायता से पता चला है कि वहां की महिलाओं के जीवन स्तर में बहुत सुधार आया है। यहां पर एक साथी ने बताया कि इस कार्यक्रम से हमारी महिलाओं तक वह लाभ पहुंचा है। महिलाओं के जीवन स्तर को सुधारने के लिए अन्य मंत्रालय भी प्रयासरत हैं, जैसे मैंने बताया कि ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय, Finance Ministry, Agriculture Ministry, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत एक बड़ी स्कीम है, जिसका नाम है "स्वर्ण जयंती स्वरोजगार योजना"। यह 1 अप्रैल, 1999 से चलाई गई है। चूंकि यह एक अप्रैल को चलाई गई थी, इसलिए मुझे लगा कि लोग इसे "अप्रैल फूल" की तरह न मानें। 1 अप्रैल, 1999 से यह योजना चलाई जा रही है, जिसमें SHG का गठन, ट्रेनिंग, लोन देना, credit linkage, subsidy, Technology input, Infrastructural marketing support दी जाती है। यह कार्यक्रम District Rural Development Agencies द्वारा चलाया जा रहा है। इस स्वर्ण जयंती स्वरोजगार योजना के तहत 35 लाख SHGs बनी हैं, जिनमें से 23 लाख SHGs महिलाओं की हैं। महिलाओं के SHGs के लिए 13,500 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश किया गया है। वित्त मंत्रालय के तहत "जनश्री बीमा योजना" के तहत गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले या गरीबी रेखा से थोड़ा सा ऊपर जीवन यापन करने वाले ग्रामीण और शहरी लोगों, दोनों के जीवन में सुधार करने के लिए "जनश्री बीमा योजना" शुरू की गई है। इस योजना में 18 से 59 साल तक के सभी लोगों को शामिल किया गया है। केन्द्र सरकार ने इसमें 500 करोड़ रुपए का contribution किया है, जो एलआईसी के माध्यम से social security के रूप में दिया जाता है। नाबार्ड तथा दूसरे बैंकों की

सहायता से भी लगभग 13.47 लाख महिला SHGs के 10,527 करोड़ रुपए के बैंक लोन दिए गए हैं और उन्हें कार्य करने और आत्म निर्भर बनाने के लिए जो काम किया गया है, इससे मुझे लगता है कि महिलाएं अपने आप में गौरवान्वित महसूस करती हैं। कृषि मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत 1982 से लेकर 2005 तक महिलाओं को external assistance दी गई, जिसमें 1984 से 2003 तक दक्ष सहायता से एक चरणबद्ध तरीके से परियोजना शुरू की गई। इन सभी कार्यक्रमों में चर्चा मंडल, खेतीहर महिला मंडल जैसे अनौपचारिक दलों का गठन किया गया है, जिनका उद्देश्य महिलाओं को ट्रेनिंग देना, आपस में बातचीत करने के लिए उन्हें इकट्ठा करना, एक मंच प्रदान करना, जिनसे वे अपने दुख-दर्द या रास्ते चुन सकें, एक-दूसरे की बात से जान सकें कि किस रास्ते पर चल कर उन्हें अपने आप को सशक्त करना है, अपने पैरों पर कैसे खड़ा होना है, income generation कैसे होगी, income generation का कौन सा रास्ता अपनाएंगी, इस तरह के कार्यक्रम चलाए जाते हैं। इसके लिए उन सभी को इस तरह के अवसर देना कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा दिया गया है। इसके अंतर्गत आन्ध्र प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश, उड़ीसा में कृषि में महिलाओं के लिए "कृषि महिला" नामक केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की स्कीम है। यूएनडीपी की मदद से खाद्य सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम 1999 में शुरू किया गया। किसान महिलाओं को ट्रेनिंग देना और उन्हें सशक्त करना, इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य रहा है। जो किसान महिलाएं हैं, कभी-कभी विपरीत स्थिति में उनके लिए भी परेशानियां आती हैं। वृंदा जी ने कहा था कि जब ऐसी calamity आ जाए, इस तरह की परेशानियां आ जाएं, तो उस समय उनका लोन माफ किया जाना चाहिए। इसके लिए मैं जरूर बात करूंगी कि कहीं-कहीं जब महिलाएं लोन लेती हैं और ऐसी आपत्ति आ जाती है, जैसे उसकी खेती है और सूखा पड़ गया या बाढ़ आ गई, तो ऐसी स्थिति में लोन कैसे माफ किया जा सकता है, इसके लिए मैं जरूर प्रयास करूंगी। तीन कार्यक्रमों के तहत National Watershed Development for rainfed access areas हैं।

इसमें Soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley, Flood Prone Rivers and National Watershed Development Programme हैं। इनके अंतर्गत SHGs को उपभोक्ता दलों के साथ-साथ व्यवस्था का इस्तेमाल किया गया है। इसमें गरीब, छोटे किसान परिवार, भूमिहीन गरीब कृषकों के लिए, महिला चरवाहों तथा एस.सी./एस.टी. के लोगों को संगठित रूप में बढ़ाया जाता है। उनके संगठन बनाए जाते हैं और हर SHG को maximum 50,000 रुपए की मदद दी जाती है, जिससे वे अपने इस काम को चला सकें। मैं समझती हूँ कि इन थोड़े से रुपयों से - पन्द्रह, बीस, पच्चीस हजार या तीस हजार से जब ये महिला ग्रुप काम करते हैं, तो उनसे छोटी-छोटी चटाई बनाना, चादर बनाना, शॉल बनाना, पापड़ बनाना - इस तरह के काम वे करते हैं, पर उनका वह माल कैसे बिकेगा, किस जगह पर उसकी हाट होगी, कहां जाकर वे बेचेंगी, उनको प्रॉफिट कितना होगा, कितना उन्होंने लोन लिया है, कितना पैसा लोन का उनको वापस लौटाना है... पर मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि SHGs में ये महिलाएं जो लोन लेती हैं, उसमें 98 परसेंट तक लोन बैंकों में वापस जमा होते हैं, जिससे यह लाभ महिलाओं को ही नहीं, बल्कि बैंकों को भी मिला है। बैंकों को एक आधार मिला है, यह conduit है कि SHGs या NGOs के द्वारा सरकारी काम आम जनता तक पहुंचे। यह एक ऐसा अच्छा काम है कि इससे बैंकों को भी लाभ मिला है, क्योंकि बैंक का जो पैसा जाता है, उन्हें रिकवरी की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ती। महिलाएं बहुत सच्चाई और ईमानदारी से काम करती हैं और बैंक का लोन वापस बैंक को दे देती हैं।

4.00 P.M.

नॉर्थ ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में सिक्किम, जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में बागवानी के विकास हेतु प्रौद्योगिकी मिशन के अंतर्गत फूलों की खेती करने के लिए महिलाओं के SHG कार्यरत हैं। इसमें अच्छे स्तर के बीज का उत्पादन करना, उनका मूल्य अच्छा मिल सके - उसके लिए उन्हें ट्रेनिंग देना, दूसरे कमा जैसे पशु-पालन, टोकरियां बनाना, कशीदाकारी करना, सिलाई करना, honey-bee पालना - जिससे वे शहद तैयार कर सकें और उस शहद को मार्केट में बेच सकें, रेशमी धागा तैयार करना आदि income generation के कार्यक्रम इन Self-Help Groups द्वारा किए जाते हैं। इस क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को मदद पहुंचाने के लिए कुछ समस्याओं का सामना भी करना पड़ता है, जैसे कहीं-कहीं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बैंक नहीं हैं, तो वे लोन कहाँ से लेंगी? दूसरे लोग जो लोन देते हैं, उसका परसेंटेज जो होता है, वह 24-25 परसेंट से ज्यादा होता है। उसके ऊपर लगाम नहीं लग सकती है, इसलिए हमारे बैंक हर गांव में, हर आदिवासी तक पहुंचें, मैं समझती हूँ कि ऐसा होना चाहिए। जो अभी आर.एम.के. खोला है, राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष - उसको भी strengthen करना है। पिछले कई वर्षों में इन्होंने awareness programme भी दिए हैं और Exposure visits, Skill Development Programmes का आयोजन किया है। हाल ही में उन्होंने Jewellery Designing, Modern Dairy प्रबंधन तथा Non-conventional Energy, Solar Cooker जैसे आधुनिक व्यवसाय के प्रशिक्षण का भी आयोजन किया है और Self-Help Groups के माध्यम से वे इस काम को आगे बढ़ा सकते हैं।

एक नहीं अनेकों स्कीमें, जैसे स्वयं सिद्धा - आपने स्वयं सिद्धा की बात की, इसका पार्ट-2 शुरू होने वाला है in consultation with the Planning Commission और गवर्नमेंट इसको तैयार कर रही है, जिसको 1500 ब्लॉक्स में जल्दी launch किया जाएगा। 600 ब्लॉक्स में, इसका जो end हुआ था 2008 में, अब आर.एम.के. के तहत इस स्वयं सिद्धा की स्कीम को लाया जाएगा और मुझे लगता है कि जो चिंता यहां हमारे मैम्बर्स की रही है, उन चिंताओं के निदान के लिए, जो विभिन्न मंत्रालयों में Self-Help Groups हैं, उन मंत्रालयों के तहत उनको ट्रेनिंग देना, उनकी मार्केटिंग करना, उन्हें लोन कितना दिया जाना चाहिए, लोन कैसे वापस होगा और अगर कहीं उनकी कठिनाइयां भी हैं, तो उनका समाधान करने के लिए सरकार प्रयासरत है और सरकार अपने कार्यक्रम में आगे बढ़ेगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ धन्यवाद, जय हिन्द !

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : सर, मैं कृष्णा जी की बहुत इज्जत करती हूँ। इन्होंने जिस तरह से जवाब दिया है, वह बहुत ही सराहनीय है और बहुत सारे मुद्दों को उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया है, लेकिन व्यवस्था का एक सवाल है, जो मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहती हूँ। हम लोगों ने SHGs के बारे में Short Duration Discussion किया। पचास लाख SHGs में से Ministry of Women and Child Development में कृष्णा जी के तहत डेढ़ लाख के करीब SHGs हैं। पचास लाख में से डेढ़ लाख! बाकी Finance Ministry और Rural Development के अंतर्गत हैं, तो naturally जब Short Duration Discussion होता है, तो ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे, जो उन मंत्रालयों के तहत मुख्यतः चल रहे हैं...

Naturally, कृष्णा जी उनका जवाब नहीं दे सकतीं। मेरा आपके सामने यह सवाल है कि जो हम लोगों ने मुद्दे रखे हैं - बैंक रेट के बारे में, banking structure के बारे में आदि - मैं उन तमाम मुद्दों को फिर से नहीं दोहराना

चाहती हूँ, लेकिन एक मुख्य सवाल nodal agency के बारे में है, जो इन तमाम चीजों को coordinate करे क्योंकि multiplicity of agencies में बहुत सारी problems इकट्ठी हुई। यह जो हम लोगों की बहस से निकला है, वह यह है कि सरकार उसके ऊपर थोड़ी बहस करके कुछ निष्कर्ष निकालकर हाऊस में आकर उसके बारे में बोले।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Madam, would you like to react on that?

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ : महोदय, वृंदा जी ने जो बात कही, आपने ठीक कहा कि ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Najmaji, do you want to say something?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, मैंने बहस में हिस्सा लिया है। मैं वृंदा जी की बात से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ कि जितना आपको जवाब देना था, उससे ज्यादा जवाब आपने दिया क्योंकि आपने दूसरे इश्यूज के ऊपर, जो आपके मंत्रालय से जुड़े हुए नहीं हैं, उनका भी आपने जवाब दिया, इसके लिए हमारी तरफ से आपको बधाई। मगर जैसा वृंदा जी ने कहा कि इसमें तीन-चार मिनिस्ट्रीज हैं। आपने इसमें एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री का भी जिक्र किया है, रूरल एरिया के अंदर, रूरल डेवलपमेंट और एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री का भी इसके अंदर हिस्सा आता है।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ : फाइनेंस और नाबार्ड का भी है। ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : फाइनेंस का भी आता है। मैंने आपसे ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे यह कहना है कि बार-बार यह कहा जाता है कि जो छोटे गरीब लोग हैं, किसान लोग हैं, वे अपना कर्जा नहीं दे सकते, वे खुदकुशी कर लेते हैं, आत्महत्या कर लेते हैं। मैंने बहुत सिम्पल सवाल किया था। मैं आपसे इसका जवाब नहीं मांग रही हूँ, लेकिन आपसे आग्रह कर रही हूँ कि आप फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से जवाब लेकर, बैंकों से जवाब लेकर कम से कम हाउस को बता सकें कि जो गरीब लोग पैसा लेते हैं या defaulter होते हैं, उनसे बैंकों को कितना नुकसान होता है? दूसरी ओर जो मल्टीनेशनल्स करोड़ों रुपये लेते हैं और अगर वे एक दिन लोन वापस नहीं करते हैं तो कितना परसेंट नुकसान सरकार को होता है? यह comparison आप बता दीजिए कि एक दिन के delay से कितना फर्क पड़ता है? दूसरी ओर किसान खुदकुशी कर लेता है, सरकार को उनका लोन माफ करना पड़ता है। इसके अलावा जो भी सवाल हमने ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोगों का तो साढ़े चार बजे तक का टाइम है, मैं क्या, दो-चार और लोग इतने समय में सवाल कर सकते हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I only said okay. I was approving.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : हमारे पीएमओ के मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, उनके पास बहुत सारे मंत्रालय हैं। पता नहीं इसका भी कोई हिस्सा आपके अंतर्गत आता है या नहीं। सवाल यहां पर यह है, जैसे वृंदा जी ने कहा और मैं भी कहना चाहती हूँ कि एक जगह होनी चाहिए, there should be, at least, one window where

women can go and have their grievances redressed. At one window, they should be able to tell us what is being done in this regard. There is no spread over. सारे लोगों ने अपनी-अपनी जिम्मेदारी - जो प्रोग्राम चलाते हैं, उन लोगों ने सारी जिम्मेदारी कृष्णा तीरथ जी पर डाल दी कि आप जाकर महिलाओं के बारे में अच्छा बोलो, बुरा बोलो, जो आपका जी चाहे, बोलो। क्या यहां पर दूसरे मंत्रियों को नहीं रहना चाहिए था? सर, मैं आपसे पूछना चाहती हूँ कि when you accept something for discussion, what directions does the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs give? The direction is that who should be answerable. The major part of the answer should have come from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Rural Development. Why should it be the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Women and Child Development? Just because this issue relates to women ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Najmaji, number one, it is the collective responsibility. Number two, whatever issues do not come under her Ministry, she can take them up with the other Ministries. Now, Madam, would you like to react on this?

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ : सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से नजमा जी को बताना चाहती हूँ कि यह बात ठीक है कि मैंने सभी मंत्रालयों से बात की, लेकिन मैं एक बात और कहना चाहती हूँ। जो हम महिला मिशन बनाने जा रहे हैं, जहां convergence की बात है, उसमें एक window service हम बनाना चाह रहे हैं और बहुत जल्दी उसमें तमाम मंत्रालयों के जितने कार्यक्रम महिलाओं के प्रति है, उन्हें aware करना, उन्हें कहां से क्या लाभ पहुंचेगा, दूर-दूर तक, गांव-गांव तक - बल्कि मैं चाहती हूँ कि पंचायत तक, ब्लॉक तक, डिस्ट्रिक्ट तक, राज्य तक और फिर केन्द्र तक पूरी एक presence उनकी रहनी चाहिए। तमाम मंत्रालयों में convergence की जो बात हो रही है - महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने जो कहा है, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी जो कहा है, उसको महिला मिशन के माध्यम से देश के कोने-कोने तक पहुंचाने का मेरा अपना कार्यक्रम जारी है।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: That is not the point, Madam. We are talking about nodal agencies, specifically for SHGs. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, please let the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office answer.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): The only thing is that some specific questions were raised. The questions which you cannot answer, you refer them to the other Ministries.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, very important suggestions have

been made during the debate. We appreciate that there are more than one Ministries which are responsible for this very large and very important area and the Finance Ministry is very important among them.

While who should have intervened and all that is a question that I leave to you, Sir, but I will certainly carry all the suggestions to the Prime Minister. There was a suggestion to restructure the Women's Mission and a suggestion to evolve some kind of a mechanism where all Ministries should sit together and work out together to resolve the inter-ministerial issues. These are very important suggestions. We will really take them into account.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we shall take up the Statement. Mr. Prithviraj Chavan.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Radioactive contamination of drinking water at Kaiga Atomic Power Station.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the Kaiga incident.

Kaiga Atomic Power Station near Karwar in Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka has got 3 nuclear power reactors and fourth one is under construction. Service building for the Reactor Units-I & II is a combined building. The service building is separate from the reactor building and consists of electrical/mechanical/instrumentation shops, chemical labs, health physics unit, decontamination centre, clothing cribs, change rooms, etc. The radioactivity levels are regularly monitored even in the service building as part of the normal safety procedures. Urine samples of the employees are also routinely tested as a part of this. On 24th November, the results showed [higher than the normal] traces of tritium, which is a heavier isotope of hydrogen, in the urine samples of some of the personnel working in the service building. Following this, checks were made on all plant systems of the Reactors and radiation levels were found to be normal. There was no radioactivity release to the environment or public. The search for source of contamination zeroed in on a water cooler located in the service building. The water cooler was found to have contaminated water. It was immediately sealed and put out of service.

Urine samples of about 800 personnel working in the area were analysed and 92 were found to have tritium content "higher than normal". In the event of uptake of tritium by the human body the

flushing processes of the body like urination, perspiration, and excretion, brings down the excess tritium. The process can be hastened through medication. Immediate medical attention was given to the affected people and the workers are now attending to their normal duties and no one is hospitalized. At this stage, two persons are having tritium in their bodies that can cause their extrapolated annual radiation exposure to marginally exceed the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board specified limit of 30 millisievert per year. However, even in the case of these two persons further medical management will bring down their potential radiation exposure to less than the AERB specified limit in a short time. (The limit specified by the International Commission on Radiation Protection is 50 mSv per year, whereas the AERB has prescribed a lower limit of 30 mSv per year as a matter of abundant caution.)

The NPCIL, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, constituted a committee under the Chief Superintendent to go into the details to identify the cause and come out with reasons and remedial actions. The interim report of the committee indicates that some heavy water containing tritium was deliberately added to the drinking water cooler with malafide intent.

As regards the investigation, the local and central agencies are at work and the evidence like log books, close circuit TV footage, analysis of water samples, etc., are being used to ascertain the facts. In view of the initial conclusion regarding the possibility of mischief by an insider, an FIR has been filed on 1st December at local Mallapur Police Station. Action would be taken against those found responsible for the incident.

In summary, Sir, all the Plant systems are operating safely. There is no damage to the Plant whatsoever. There is no release of radioactivity to the environment. There is no effect on the health and safety of the public. There is no breach of security of the Plant. The limits of exposure of radiation workers in India are specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, AERB. The AERB limit itself is more stringent than the limits specified by most countries. The exposure of the two radiation workers is currently assessed to be marginally above the AERB limit. However, as the normal biological processes continue to discharge the tritiated water from the body regularly, the final exposure will get reduced with time. All workers continue to be on their regular jobs. Help of local and Central agencies has been taken and the evidence available — log books, CCTV footage, analyses of water samples, etc. — would be used to identify the culprits. An FIR has been filed on 1st December, 2009 at the local police station. All processes, procedures and human performance aspects of all stations of NPCIL are being reviewed again to carry out reinforcement as appropriate.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, when this news appeared in the newspapers, it was very alarming. Later on, when investigation was done, it was reported that some disgruntled person who had access to Heavy Water with the higher Hydrogen isotope, Tritium, in it, mixed it in the water cooler from where the workers drank water. That is what the investigation says and you have reported to the Parliament.

Sir, it is a very serious matter. Whatever atomic energy generating installations we have, they are all under Government domain. Government has access to everything and they keep a complete, regular check on all the people working over there. I believe, there are those showers, not with water but rays, which remove the level of radioactivity in people who work over there. Also, a complete medical check is done with their urine samples in which traces of the higher isotope could be found. But, Sir, my concern today is this. I believe, now the Minister for External Affairs is going to make a statement about the Prime Minister's visit to the United States of America. We read in the newspapers that further development is taking place in the Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation for Peaceful Development of Power, etc. All the nuclear installations are definitely not going to be in the Government domain, as we have understood, and some of them are going to be in the private domain. Sir, the country is faced with terrorism. Your enquiry says that it was a disgruntled person who did it. It is very dangerous. It is like poisoning people who are working. Have you found out who this disgruntled person was? What was his grievance, to think of killing his own colleagues? Are you sure that he was a disgruntled person and not somebody who had a connection with some terrorist organisation, or used by some people? Now, these are very serious issues. Today it is happening when everything is under Government control and domain. What will be the Government's strategy to look after the safety and security of all the installations? There are going to be a large number of installations in our country. How are you going to keep the safety and security intact, especially in the light of terrorism, which is growing in our country? Yesterday, we had a very serious discussion on the internal security of the country. I would like the hon. Minister to kindly throw some light on steps for the future, and about the present situation.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, naturally, the entire country was extremely concerned when we heard this report about the incident which occurred in the Kaiga Atomic Power Station. Looking at the statement of the Minister, he has said, in his statement, that an inquiry has been ordered. At the same time, the Minister's statement has already concluded that there is no breach of security at the plant. If you mean that no outsider has come on the prima facie evidence, what are the contacts between the insider and the outsiders, etc.? These things, obviously, have to

be left to the inquiry. So, I think, it would be better if you could omit this specific sentence in the Minister's statement that there is no security breach in the plant. It would be better to await the full findings of the inquiry before coming to such a conclusion.

Second point is that given the importance that the Government of India is laying on nuclear energy, this incident is also a red alert for the Government because, I believe, this is a breach of security, whether it is internal security or external. This is clearly a breach of security and if this can happen to the extent that heavy water is mixed with drinking water, it should certainly lead to a little more concern on the part of the Government of India than what is expressed in the statement that the hon. Minister has made. Therefore, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister that in the wake of this incident, what are the lessons which the Government has learnt, as far as the security measures are concerned; and, can the Minister give some concrete assurance to the House that there will be no such incidents in future? What are the measures that the Government is planning to take to ensure that they do not recur?

The last point is that there can be long-term impact of radiation and, therefore, I think, it is also necessary for the hon. Minister to ensure that the health of the workers, who may not be immediately affected, should be monitored by a responsible health agency. Please, give us an assurance on that.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it goes without saying that atomic power stations are sensitive locations where the authorities have to be extra cautious. Though, nothing much serious has taken place in the Kaiga Atomic Power Station, it is, of course, an alarming one. As per the statement of the hon. Minister, the mischief is done by an insider. What is the question of an insider or outsider? The person who knows something about heavy water, or he is an ordinary person, and if he is a person in a responsible position, what is the action taken? And, I think, while seconding the point made by Shrimati Brinda Karat, I would like to know that learning from this experience, what are the precautions that the Government intend to take to avoid such incidents in future? Though the diagnosis of the people, who have been affected, is not of much botheration, yet they have to be very closely monitored. I hope the Government will take it very seriously.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, there is another important aspect which I am trying to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. Just 40 kilometres away from this Kaiga Power Station, there is the Seabird Project belonging to the Naval defence. If any radioactive radiation is released, there will be a big disaster. Even at the time when Kaiga Power Station was

being constructed, there was opposition because just 40 kilometres away, there was the Seabird Project. Therefore, in case of any sabotage and radioactive radiation, it would become a very big national disaster. So, what preventive action is the Government taking to ensure the safety of Seabird Project?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Although Brinda ji has said about it, it strikes me, and, I think that it is exception. The interim report of the committee, in point no. 3, says that some heavy water containing tritium was deliberately mixed with the drinking water with malafide intention. It is very serious that it was 'deliberately' done, and, that in this age of safety and security, it could have been done. So, it is the high magnitude of mismanagement. I would like to know what steps have been taken.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I just wish to supplement what some of my colleagues have said. Obviously, access into the atomic power station is very strictly regulated. Therefore, when the statement says that it is an insider's job, it is obvious that nobody from outside came and mixed the heavy water with the normal drinking water. It had to be an outsider's job. If the quantum were very high, then, perhaps, the casualties could have been there. Is the Government seized of the fact that this could be a serious case of an internal sabotage; even though an insider does it, the links of that insider need not necessarily be because of any individual grievance or disgruntlement; it could be at the behest of certain outsider, and, therefore, this acquires greater seriousness.

Secondly, Sir, with regard to the internal security mechanism, the access is restricted but the movement of people inside the power plant has to be strictly regulated so that if somebody with access to the heavy water, gets hold of it and mixes it with drinking water, some apparatus for surveillance has to catch that; otherwise, activities can go on unrestricted with such radio active material and can have disastrous consequences, and, then, you are only in the realm of possibilities or probabilities as the statement of the Minister today indicates.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Another aspect is, was the drinking water in a pot that somebody went and mixed it; was it in a container that somebody went and mixed it; or, was it a tap connected to the drinking water? We have to see from where the access could have been there, or, where the person could contaminate the drinking water.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): With the help of the CCTV, you can catch it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, very important points have been raised. I share the hon. Members' concerns with regard to this incident. Of whatever magnitude it is, we have to be extremely careful when we are dealing with the nuclear installations.

First of all, Najma ji enquired about the consequences of Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation. She indicated that we are expanding on nuclear programmes, and, maybe in future, the nuclear installations need not be only nationally-owned, or, say, Government-owned but could be in the private sector. I would like to very categorically state that as per the present Atomic Energy Act, no private sector can operate a nuclear power plant in India. A company which operates a nuclear power plant in India has to be a Central Government company. I am stressing the word, 'Central' because it cannot even be a State Government company. There could be, theoretically, minority participation of somebody but it has to be run by the Central Government. That is as per the present Act unless this hon'ble House changes the Act.

I would like to definitely assert that this is precisely the reason why we do not contemplate, at this stage, any private sector for running the nuclear power plants. Secondly, yes, the fingers are pointed at somebody inside, which is obvious because I can assure you that no outsider can enter this restricted area. There is a biometric check, there is a card-swipe check, and, at the multiple entry points, video-recording is done. So, the question of any outsider coming in, is just totally ruled out. It has to be somebody insider. What happens there? Heavy water is an important component of the reactor. It is used for cooling, heat exchange and also for moderation. Now, periodically, a very small quantity of heavy water is taken out of the system. It is taken to a chemical lab in an outside area which we called service area. It is checked for amount of tritium that is created. Heavy water itself is quite normal; it is not harmful. But when it gets converted into a heavier isotope of tritium, it becomes critical. Tritium also is a strategic material. So, that routine check is there. How much material we draw out? We draw out in a small vial of about 5 to 10 milliliters. Small vials are taken routinely to just check the physics of the reactor. Therefore, it is taken out of the reactor building into another security area which is called service area, and that is where the chemistry lab is located along with other labs as I indicated in my statement like the mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, etc. There are not common facilities like drinking water facility. So, therefore, it has to be somebody who is working inside. Now, why did he do it? It is a question which is being asked now. Hon. Leader of Opposition also mentioned whether a disgruntled inside element has done that with some other outside support. That is a very important aspect to be inquired, and it has been looked into, as I said. But one thing is absolutely clear that there has to be somebody from inside, and anybody who has now access to the service area are all very highly skilled, knowledgeable people. They are not class IV employees or some routine people who are coming there and working. They all know exactly what is happening. So, therefore, we can rule out anybody outside and it is somebody from inside.

Now, hon. Member Brindaji repeated the point when I said 'No breach of security'. Of course, security can be interpreted both ways.

Even the internal system breaks down, it is a serious matter. But my point in the statement was that obviously there was no external breach. That is the point I would like to highlight. But we are equally concerned about what happened inside. It is not a very happy situation that somebody, 'a disgruntled element' for whatever reason, a reason from outside or a reason from within, because of some service matters and all that, it is a cause of concern. But the word 'breach of security' just indicates that it is nobody from outside.

Sir, what lessons have we drawn? Of course, lessons have been drawn, and immediate corrective actions have been taken.

I would also like to say on what Najmaji asked, about what kind of a water cooler it was. Water coolers are there in every organisation, factory. This particular water cooler was one which had a lid from the top. It was a padlock and there is a water pipe connection for fresh water to come in. Now, this particular cooler had a drain pipe for excess water and that pipe, a small pipe, was coming out of the cooler in the storage area and that pipe was turned up there so that if the excess water comes there, then the water could be stopped. Apparently, this person took a small vial of tritiated heavy water and put it in that pipe; this is what we initially think about it. Incidentally, this is the only water cooler with that storage tank capacity. All other water coolers are those faucet type where you don't touch or you don't need glass. You just put your mouth and drink it. Sir, now, obviously every water cooler like that, throughout the country, will have to be looked at. Apparently, there is no direct video camera looking at that water cooler and I think, this is a lapse. I think, nobody thought that water cooler is a dangerous thing. Everybody is looking at the reactor building and the water cooler was not being watched. Of course, it would not happen in future. Now, we have learnt lessons. A very serious inquiry has been conducted by Superintendent of Lab to check up the processes which are there. We have to be extra careful. I think, even more things have been done which I can't share at the moment. The profile of the people who are working is also going to be very carefully analysed. I do not want to go into that direction here.

On the long-term effects on the personnel working, there is a very highly competent health physicians in each reactor building. These people are monitoring everybody on a continuous basis. Now, the radiation is measured about the amount of radiation that the body receives over a period of year, and the figure that I gave, 30 millisievert and 50 millisievert; 50 millisievert, which is the higher limit, is the international limit. But we have tightened it further to call it 30 millisievert. Sir, these two

people perhaps went to drink water earlier than others because as more fresh water came in, it must have got diluted. That is only a speculation. But these two people did get a higher dose which has been treated.

Now, Hon. Member Mr. Siva asked what we are going to do about it and what precautions we are going to take. We will definitely take all the precautions to prevent any similar incident. Apparently, nobody would think that water cooler could cause a problem. But it did. It has been taken very seriously. The Committee is going to consider all the aspects as to how we can strengthen our processes even further. There will be definitely many more video cameras, CCTV cameras, and they will look at every aspect of it. People will be thoroughly checked.

A mention was made about the release of radioactivity. Had it happened, it would have serious consequences. But we are not talking about any release of radioactivity from the main reactor. It is completely external to the reactor incident. You may rest assured you that there is no question of any Indian nuclear installation causing accident of any type which will release radioactivity because multiple processes are there. They will ensure that no radioactivity comes out of operating reactors. That is what we have done over a period of last 60 years. I think we have a robust R&D system in the Atomic Energy Commission. We are extremely careful about the safety aspect. It is safety first and production later. That is our philosophy.

Sir, I would like to assure the House, through you, that we have taken it very seriously. The magnitude of it, fortunately, was not grave as was mentioned by some hon. Members. It could have been even more serious. It is a wake up call of sorts that you cannot take anything lightly when any industrial activity takes place. Today happens to be the anniversary of a major industrial disaster. I think we cannot take any industrial activity lightly whether it is chemical or whether it is nuclear.

I assure the House that the culprit will be apprehended. We are sure because the inquiry is going on at various levels right from the intelligence agencies to the local police. We intend to find out who was the person and what was his motive. Of course, the whole aspect of the motive will be looked into.

I assure the House that the processes will be strengthened and we will look at the health of the people and future nuclear installations that we will build will be safer after the lessons that we have learnt. Thank you, Sir.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, you gave the answer. And you tried to give the answer as best as you can at this stage. The main thing is that it is very easy to find who the culprit is, because people having access to heavy water, which is taken out from the atomic plant to the service area, must be very limited. They must be people of some calibre. I don't think our Atomic

Energy Commission allows just anybody to come and pick up the sample of heavy water and go to lab for testing it. It is very easy to find out who had the access to those vials. It may be one person or two persons or ten people. I don't think hundred people are having access to that vial. So, it is very easy to find who the culprit is. You should not take long to conduct this inquiry. I hope before the House adjourns for recess, we will be able to get some reply from the Government, so that when we go home we are not worried about it, because we don't have access to the Government to ask questions.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. The process there works like this. The people who tap the heavy water circuit and take the sample out of it are different people. They collect the sample in a vial and come out and keep that vial in the chemistry lab. They are a different set of people. The people who have access to that lab are known. They have been inquired and we will zero on that person. But to say that this particular person did it, is not possible at this stage, because the inquiry is going on.

As I said, there are many other things like whether this whole process of monitoring heavy water can be automated, so that no sample is required to be taken out of the system. That also will be considered in future.

I assure you that we are doing all that is possible for safety. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now we shall take up the statement by the Minister on the visit of the Prime Minister to the United States of America. Shri S.M. Krishna.

Recent visit of the Prime Minister to United States of America

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Sir, I rise to inform the House of the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to the USA from November 22 to 26, 2009. I would like to share with this House the main outcome of the visit. As hon. Members are aware, the Prime Minister's visit to the United States marked the first bilateral Summit between India and the United States after the elections in America last November and our Parliamentary elections this year. It was also the first State visit to the United States by a foreign leader under the new Administration.

An important objective of the hon. Prime Minister's visit was to reaffirm the importance that India attaches to its relations with the United States, and to share our perspectives and concerns on key issues with the new US Administration.

President Obama conveyed to our Prime Minister that strengthening relations with India was one of the highest priorities for his Administration. Prime Minister conveyed to the President that the

rapid socio-economic transformation underway in India holds several opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries in all areas. India is in a position to contribute to global economic recovery, combat poverty and underdevelopment, and provide stability to a region plagued by terrorism and violent extremism.

Hon. Prime Minister and the US President reviewed all aspects of the India-US bilateral relationship. During their meeting, the US Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, and I updated them on the progress of the Strategic Dialogue that we had announced earlier this year, on July this year.

The Joint Statement titled "India and the United States: Partnership for a Better World" issued after the talks outlines the main focus of the discussions. Trade and investment, clean and efficient energy, science and technology, space, high technology, education, health, agriculture and counter-terrorism have been identified as areas of special focus for our future cooperation.

Both India and the United States reiterated their intention to realise the full potential of the Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation signed on October 10, last year, through the speedy implementation of its provisions. We also agreed that it was particularly important to invigorate and strengthen high technology trade between our countries.

The two sides agreed to create conditions to facilitate the expansion of their economies. In this context, the opportunities for US participation in the infrastructure, information and communication technology, healthcare services, education services, energy and the environmentally friendly technologies sectors in India were highlighted. They agreed to launch the US-India Financial and Economic Partnership to strengthen engagement on economic, financial and investment-related issues.

Both sides agreed to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travellers, students and exchange visitors between our two countries. We announced our intention to develop a Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment that would foster an environment conducive to technological innovation and collaboration, promote inclusive growth and job creation, and support opportunities for increased trade and investment, including for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The two leaders agreed to pursue their fruitful collaboration in research and science and technology. They launched a Knowledge Initiative with a total funding of ten million U.S. dollars that will be allocated to increasing university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between the U.S. and Indian universities, including greater emphasis on community colleges. The Fulbright-

Nehru Programme will be expanded to provide more student and scholar exchange grants. They agreed to cooperate in the area of women's empowerment.

Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to advance public health and biomedical research collaborations between the two countries. A Memorandum of Intent has been signed on the establishment of a Regional Global Disease Detection Centre in India in partnership with the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. This would facilitate cooperation between our doctors and scientists in discovering new and affordable technologies and treatments.

Through the India-US Bi-national Science and Technology Commission and the Endowment, it was agreed to give fresh impetus to collaboration in the cutting edge areas of scientific research, technology and development.

Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to increase India-U.S. agricultural cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural cooperation and food security for the purpose of promoting agricultural research, human resources capacity building, natural resource management, agri-business and food processing, and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. An important element of this cooperation is the joint development of technology that would improve weather forecasting, including predicting monsoons, and contribute to food productivity and food security efforts in our country.

It was also decided that both countries would collaborate in the application of our space technology and related scientific capabilities in outer space and also for development process, including in the field of agriculture.

A Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Access Agreement between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the US Patent and Trademark Office was signed. This will help prevent misappropriation of traditional knowledge through mistaken issuance of patents as had earlier happened with neem and haldi.

An MoU to facilitate comprehensive bilateral cooperation on a range of IPR issues focussing on capacity building, human resource development and raising public awareness of the importance of IPR was also signed.

Prime Minister and President Obama discussed issues related to our region which are of immediate concern to both our Governments, particularly the threat of terrorism emanating from our immediate neighbourhood.

They reiterated the interest of India and the USA in the stability, development and independence of Afghanistan; and in the defeat of terrorist safe havens in Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Obama conveyed that India's role in the reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan was very much appreciated by the US Administration as well as the US Congress. Both

leaders were united in their commitment to continue, and enhance, the efforts of India and the USA to help the Afghan people in their development.

Prime Minister's visit to the USA coincided with the eve of the first anniversary of the Mumbai attacks. Naturally, this subject was a priority in Prime Minister's discussions with President Obama. In their discussions, Prime Minister and President Obama underscored the absolute imperative to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist attack and the need for resolute and credible steps to be taken to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries that provide shelter to terrorists and their activities. They decided on a Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing and capacity building. Sir, India and the United States also agreed to continue pursuing mutually beneficial defence cooperation.

The two leaders reaffirmed their shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and agreed to work together, as leaders of responsible States with advanced nuclear technology, for global non-proliferation, and universal, non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament. They also agreed to consult regularly and seek the early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament. They discussed the important issue of nuclear security and the dangers posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine networks.

Sustainable development and clean and efficient usage of energy being an important modern day challenge, it was agreed to enter into a Green Partnership to address the challenges of food security, clean energy and energy security. Prime Minister and President Obama announced the launch of a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative. The initiative includes cooperation in wind and solar energy, second generation bio-fuels, unconventional gas, energy efficiency, and clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage. Prime Minister and President Obama agreed on the need for a substantive and comprehensive outcome at the meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, which would cover mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology.

The two leaders committed themselves to strengthen and reform the global economic and financial architecture in the G-20, World Bank and the IMF. They further committed themselves to achieving genuine reform of the United Nations including in its Security Council in a manner that reflects the contemporary realities of the 21st Century. Their discussions covered the need to have an open and inclusive architecture for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The two sides were unanimous that the 2.7 million strong Indian-American community are a powerful factor in strengthening India-US relations in all areas.

The hon. Prime Minister's visit has laid the foundation for further enhancing our relations with the United States across a broad spectrum of activities.

The Prime Minister has invited President Obama to visit India, an invitation which the US President has accepted. We look forward to receiving President Obama in India in the near future, where a warm welcome awaits him.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE - *Contd.*

Report of the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission and related papers

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Before I call Shri Arun Jaitley, there is a Paper to be laid on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952, a copy (in Hindi) of the Report of the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry constituted to inquire into a definite matter of public importance, namely, the destruction of the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure at Ayodhya on the 6th December, 1992, along with the Memorandum of Action Taken thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. (951A/15/09)]

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS - *Contd.*

Visit of Prime Minister to United States of America - *Contd.*

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, the entire nation, particularly, close observers, were all very curious after the Prime Minister's visit to the United States as to what the key outcome of this visit is. The hon. External Affairs Minister's statement, in fact, makes the answer to this question even curious. The statement speaks, in detail, about various areas; say, general areas of co-operation, strategic relationship between the two countries, dialogue on the civil nuclear co-operation, trade and investment, joint knowledge initiative, agriculture co-operation, how to protect our parents in our traditional knowledge, haldi and neem, IPRs, the co-operation with regard to the Climate Change Conference at Copenhagen, etc. But it contains curiosity; there is one dull and drab sentence on the most important issue which the whole country was concerned about, that is, the pressure on our neighbours with regard to terrorism emanating thereof. It says at Page 5, and I read: "The Prime Minister and President Obama discussed issues relating to our region which are of immediate concern to both our Governments, particularly, the threat of terrorism emanating from our immediate neighbourhood." Now, the Prime Minister, before going in for this dialogue,

en route to Washington, told the Indian media that he was very firm that time had still not come to resume dialogue with Pakistan because Pakistan had shown no change in attitude as far as terrorism emanating from its soil towards India was concerned, and that the co-operation, with regard to 26/11, and to punish the guilty, was not forthcoming. After this meeting with President Obama, the Prime Minister said that he was fully satisfied with the outcome of a dialogue. Now, this statement in regard to this key question leaves us still wondering as to what really happened. Did these issues at all come up in the course of the discussion that Pakistan was not dismantling the infrastructure on terror in Pakistan, that Pakistan soil was still being used for organising terrorist attacks against India, as also that Pakistan was still not fully co-operating as far as punishing the guilty of 26/11? Were these questions at all raised and what was the U.S. response to these questions? Now, the whole country is interested in knowing these things, and the hon. Minister's statement goes into detail about other areas of dialogue, which are also very important, but is curiously silent with regard to details on any one of these and the response of the United States of America.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, on the basis of what the hon. Minister of External Affairs has told us, this statement is more like a chronicle of issues that were taken up for discussions rather than to inform the House as to what the substantive manner is in which we have made advances. It generally lists out all the important areas which are important by themselves. But what have we agreed, or, what have we achieved in terms of the concrete, tangible issues in all these respects? Apart from the issues of cross-border terrorism, our neighbours, etc., which the Leader of the Opposition has raised, which I would also like to know, -- not only me, the whole country would like to know this as to what the response of the U.S. to this is--this statement also talks about a region where Afghanistan has been mentioned, where it is said that India's role has been very much appreciated by the U.S. Administration as well as the U.S. Congress. Now, that is where the United States has now decided to send additional troops by another 30,000. Is there any concern of India on that issue? Does this sort of increase in deployments to Afghanistan have implications on India's security and terrorism here? What was India's response to them? We do not get any idea at all of these from this statement. Now, even on issues of counter-terrorism, cooperation initiative, what does this all mean? Will the FBI continue operating its offices here? Will the CIA start operating from here? Is that the intention? Will they have a greater access to our own records and our own fact files and data, which is what everybody in the world is after today? Will that be accessible to them?

In the name of effective counter-terrorism cooperation, what does this entail, Sir? Are India's own security concerns going to be, in any way, jeopardised? Then, Sir, the question is, there is only

a two line statement on a very important area i.e., on the question of 'India agreed to continue pursuing mutually beneficial defence cooperation, Now, what does this mean, Sir? Does it mean that we are going to have joint military exercises with the USA and with other countries in our region, between whom there is no common enemy? Joint military exercises are between countries who have a common enemy in sight. Who is the common enemy that we have between us and the USA, and Australia and Japan and Singapore with whom we have these joint exercises? Therefore, it is all very wolly, I mean, the whole thing. What is it that you actually went in?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Be brief.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I have two more issues. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will take very little time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will speak very briefly. I have two more issues. One is the issue that has continuously held our attention for nearly two years i.e., the Indo-US Nuclear Deal. Here, there is a statement. In this statement, it says, 'reiterated the intention to realise the full potential'. This was signed on October 10, 2008. Now, over a year has passed, we still are talking of reiterating the intention to realise the full potential. Now, in thirteen months that have passed since this has been signed, what has happened? Why has nothing been realised? We have heard reports and the media reports confirmed that the new Administration in the USA wants us to sign on some of the treaties which we refused to sign because they are non-discriminatory. There is a reference here also to the Fissile Missile Cut-off Treaty, which, it says, 'that we are working for a discriminatory approach'. But, FMCT also, we had earlier decided and all of us had agreed that we will not sign to it. Now, these are certainly matters of very important import for us. Finally, Sir, the fruitful collaboration in science and technology, agriculture, etc., is important. Sir, collaborative research for increasing food productivity, etc., are very noble ideas, Sir. But, does that mean that these initiatives of collaborative research will mean the crippling of my own indigenous national institutes of agricultural research, which is what we have been seeing in the last few years, the ICAR and the others? Does that have implications on that? What does it mean? Therefore, Sir, to sum up, I would only like to submit, with all humility to the Government, Sir, that (a) whenever such visits do come across, we have wished the Prime Minister very well before he went, and we continue to wish him well in the interest of our country, but, we would only like the Government to keep in mind the timing of the visit. We also have a Parliamentary Democracy; we also have the Parliament in session. So, our timing cannot be chosen only by them. We also have to give our inputs. So, next time onwards, I think, that should be kept in mind so that our Parliamentary schedules are also kept in mind and not by their schedules alone. Thank you, Sir.

5.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. ...*(Interruptions)*... Najmaji, Ravi Shankar Prasad is also asking.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Yes, Sir. The benefits of the statement are that it is suo motu taken. This is not on party lines. Anybody who has got a question can put it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is not on party lines. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad is from your own party. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you start. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, I have identified you.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: No problem, Sir, because, I am sure, Ravi Shankar Prasad will speak on another subject. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will also give you the chance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, this is a very long statement. I am very happy that within 40 minutes of meeting President Obama, the Prime Minister made so much talk. He must be very fast speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You put your question.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I am putting the question. Sir, I can make a comment also with the question. Sir, we discussed about the women's issues today. There is one line in the Statement on page 3 where they agreed to cooperate in the areas of women's empowerment. Sir, before the Prime Minister's visit, the roaming lady ambassador of President Obama came to India to discuss about women's empowerment. She was sent to India to discuss with various people, and I had a very cordial discussion with her about India's women's empowerment position. So, I would like to ask in which way America is going to cooperate in empowering the Indian women.

The main thing is, if you look at page 2, para 4, which talks about cooperation between the two sides: "The two sides agree to create conditions to facilitate the expansion of their economy in the context of the opportunity to the U.S. participation in infrastructure, information and communication technology, health care, etc., etc." Sir, is it going to be a one-way traffic that America is going to have more cooperation from India? Did the Prime Minister, at any point of time discuss cooperation from that side? In the last American administration, a lot of outsourcing was stopped. It resulted in a lot of unemployment in our country in the areas of information technology,

call centres, etc. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Prime Minister, at any point of time, discussed outsourcing. What is America going to do? Would America be sending only their people here or some of our people also would have cooperation from there? Is it one-way traffic or two-way?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, my question relates precisely to page 5 of the Statement of the hon. Minister where a reiteration has been made about the joint resolve of the U.S. and India to destroy safe havens of terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Hon. Minister, I wish to remind you in addition to what the Leader of the Opposition has asked. An interesting development has taken place, namely, President Obama has unfolded his vision of the region in a much publicised speech yesterday where he has resolved to send 30,000 troops more. But what is more amazing is, that vision is strikingly soft about Pakistan! There is not even a mention, at all, that safe havens in Pakistan, the role of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba needs to be destroyed and indeed Pakistan has to play a role. My question is, if there is this reiteration between the Prime Minister of a sovereign country like India and President Obama, why does it not reflect in the vision of President Obama which he has laid down for this region only yesterday?

The second clarification that I seek is on page 6 of your Statement where he has talked about non-discriminatory, complete nuclear disarmament. Hon. Minister, should we presume that we are being taken, wittingly or unwittingly, on the path to signing CTBT? Because, the indications, the sound, though a little vague, is coming out of that. These two concerns we would like to be replied.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this is important, and there should be more Members seeking clarifications. Sir, before I seek a couple of clarifications, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. External Affairs Minister that the general public took note of the absence of the Prime Minister during the Parliament Session. They also felt the absence of the Prime Minister when the whole country paid homage to the victims and heroes of 26/11. This you must keep in mind.

Now, I seek a few clarifications. Firstly, page 3 talks about knowledge initiative with a total funding of US\$ 10 million. Then, it talks about including greater emphasis on community colleges and exchanges between the U.S. and the Indian universities. Already, there is an issue of allowing FDI by foreign universities in the country, and there is a strong opposition from the academic community, from the democratic sections of our country. What is this, exactly, the Government wants to do in this area of exchanges?

Then, at page 4, you talk about very diversified cooperation in agriculture. Earlier, we had one knowledge initiative on agriculture in which we had representatives of Monsanto and Cargill on the board. What is the experience of that? How do you want to expand it further? Will it be in the interest of our country? On page five, the Prime Minister and President, Obama discussed issues related to our region which are of immediate concern to both our Governments, particularly the threat of terrorism. I agree with many of my previous speakers who asked. I would like to know whether there was any talk about the relationship between India and Sri Lanka, where US has also got a role. Sri Lanka and US have signed the logistics agreement and I do not think it is in our interest. Was there any reference to it? Was there any talk on that count?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay fine, three questions are over.

SHRI D. RAJA: This is an important issue. It is a comprehensive strategic partnership with USA. The country should know; the country should discuss. I have been hearing these words, "...universal non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament" for a long, long time. Which are the nuclear powers who have come forward for a time bound programme for universal disarmament? I would like to know whether US wants to set up a model in this regard. What about NPT? US is already pressurising India. Was it discussed and was India told or pressurised to sign NPT?

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): I would like to know a simple thing. I was reading page 5 and in the last paragraph it says, "They decided on a Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing, and capacity building." This is regarding Prime Minister of India and President Barack Obama. Sir, when our Prime Minister was there in America, David Headley was in the custody of America and in our newspapers so many stories were appearing and so many advisories and alerts were issued by the Government of India about the different, important and sensitive installations of our country to give more security to these places and they have identified some place also where he went, with whom he had dined, in which swimming pool he had gone and to which gym he was going. Everything was appearing in the newspaper.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

I would like to know whether the American agencies or Barack Obama shared whatever they have achieved during the interrogation with David Headley and Rana regarding their design against India. If it was discussed, please share that information to the House.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Sir, my clarification was also in regard to what Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad raised, incidentally and surprisingly. This is on page 5, particularly the threat of terrorism emanating from our immediate neighbourhood. The dichotomy is, on the one hand Pakistan is part of the fight against terrorism and on the other hand both the countries are shaking hands for countering terrorism, particularly the safe havens which are in Pakistan, Can you elaborate how both the Governments, US and India, are going to fight to take up this counter terrorism against the safe havens in Pakistan?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): In the discussion, a point was discussed about CTBT and cutting of carbon emissions. What was the stand? Has it figured in the discussion and if it did, then, I would like to know.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at page 5 of the Statement, it is stated, [In their discussions, Prime Minister and President Obama underscored the absolute imperative to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist attack...] Now, it is revealed in the Press that Headley and Rana were largely responsible and they were at the root of 26/11 incident. It is also reported in the Press that the American Government has taken objection and said that the Indian investigators should not put any questions to Headley and Rana. How can the truth be brought out without questioning Headley and Rana? And, how can America restrict it? Is it not an encroachment on our sovereignty?

Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have decided to 'counter terrorism' or 'countering terrorism?' Sir, 'countering terrorism' is different from 'counter terrorism.' Whether it is a typographical mistake or what it is. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify this. Counter terrorism means, you also start terrorism. Thank you.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, the Statement, actually, reflects the eagerness of India to become a strong strategic ally of America.

Sir, at page 2 of the statement it was mentioned that the US participation in the infrastructure, information and communication technology, healthcare services, education services, energy and environmentally-friendly technologies sectors there would be co-operation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has committed to allow more FDI in these sectors, including education.

Sir, the second point is, at page 3 of the Statement, it is mentioned about the public health co-operation. I would like to know whether the Government of India is aware that the public healthcare system in the USA is in trouble. When Mr. Obama has failed to formulate an alternative public health policy there, how can we co-operate with the USA in that sector?

The third point is with regard on the nuclear sector. I would like to know whether India has agreed to take the responsibility of failure of reactors which we had purchased from USA. Sir, most of the newspapers have also reported that.

The fourth point is, at page 7, it has been mentioned, ‘...They further committed themselves to achieving genuine reform of the United Nations including in its Security Council in a manner...’ I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether America has agreed to support our candidature for a permanent Membership of the United Nation’s Security Council.

The last point is, at page 6 of the statement, it is stated, ‘...shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and agreed to work together...’ So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether India has agreed to sign the CTBT and NPT. Thank you.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : धन्यवाद, महोदय। मैंने स्टेटमेंट बहुत ध्यान से सुना है। आप सभी जानते हैं कि जब अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति चीन गए थे तो उन दोनों ने मिलकर भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच में संबंध सुधारने की बात कही थी। पूरे देश में इसके बारे में चिंता थी। क्या यह चिंता वहां पर बताई गई है, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, a number of questions have been raised and clarifications sought. The House will have to take note of the fact that President Obama, after taking over as the President of the USA, thought it fit to invite leaders of the largest democracy in the world to visit the USA as the first State Guest. That itself conveys a message which is so vibrant and the message is that close collaboration is sought to be achieved further between the two democracies. President Obama could have invited anybody else; he could have invited the Prime Minister of United Kingdom or the Chancellor of Germany. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: But his first visit to Asia. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: No, we did not invite him. The invitation was extended by the Prime Minister when he went to the White House and Mr. Obama has accepted our invitation. He is going to visit our country. So, let us not try to bring in our political inclinations in assessing the success of the visit of the Prime Minister to the United States. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned about terror. Well, when they met one to one, they discussed about various aspects of terror. The Prime Minister did make out an emphatic case that our neighbourhood is infested with terrorism. And, it is necessary for the United States of America to join with India in fighting those terrorist forces. It was mentioned by our Prime Minister that the Lashkar-e-Taiba and various other organisations are the main engine of terrorism in our region. So, it has been brought to his notice. Then, we found that there was an appreciation of the position that India has taken on the issue of terror. In the days to come, I am sure that the United States will play a more active and pro-active role in trying to join

hands with India to contain terrorism. My esteemed friend, Mr. Yechury, talked about Afghanistan. Well, I was in Kabul when President Karzai took his oath for the second term. The whole Indian approach to the problem in Afghanistan is that any solution to the Afghanistan problem has to be Afghan-oriented. It has to be rooted in the soil of Afghanistan. It has to be with the help and cooperation of the people of Afghanistan. So, I think, there, India's position has been made amply clear. When I visited Kabul, I met with a cross-section of the people there. They were appreciative of the constructive role that India has been playing in re-building of Afghanistan, which should be welcomed by all sections of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: What about the additional US troops he sent to Afghanistan? That did not figure in that.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: The United States do not consult us about sending troops to wherever they like to and wherever they want to. As far as our dialogue is concerned, we can become an ally of the United States. We are on equal terms. We are equal partners. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, let us confine ourselves to the Indian borders. One hon. Member, I think, Mr. Yechury, mentioned about the CIA. I know how fond you are about the CIA, or, how allergic you are about the CIA. ...*(Interruptions)*... Well, let me reiterate that the Government of India has its own intelligence agencies. They are quite capable of taking care of our needs and requirements. But we have agreed on intelligence sharing with the United States. Let me say that we have a collaboration with them. For example, Mr. Ahluwalia raised Headley's case. Well, I am very happy to convey to the House that the United States has agreed to fully cooperate in helping India, in the Headley investigation...contrary to what appeared in a section of the media that United States was unwilling to help India out in this situation.

Sir, agricultural cooperation was talked about. Well, we have been cooperating with United States in the field of agriculture and with various other countries, including Israel. That doesn't mean to say that they will send out men here. Yes; they might come, their technicians; their agronomy experts might come to India and we might send our agronomy experts to United States to find out the best practices that are available with United States and there is nothing wrong in it, in trying to understand what the best practices are in a particular field and to inculcate them if it suits our requirements, our conditions. Then, I think, we should be able to embrace it and then try to implement it within our own agricultural operations or areas.

Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad talked about CTBT. Well India's position is known. We have made it very clear. It is unequivocal that we are not going to sign the CTBT and the United States jolly well knows about it. So, there need not be any concerns on that.

Mr. Raja wanted to know about community colleges; what does it mean? Well, there are colleges and colleges and community colleges are a practice there in United States. Well, we will have educational exchanges and if it suits our requirements, we could copy the community colleges here; otherwise, we will reject it totally. But there is nothing wrong in talking to them and trying to understand the whole concept of community colleges. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, we have agreed to increase the number of Fulbright Scholarships. So, more number of young men and women ...*(Interruptions)*... bright young men and women ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHR1 RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You have been a Fulbright Scholar yourself. We quite appreciate that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, bright young men and women will get a chance to get exposed to what is happening in the United States, study there in their universities and so also bright young men and women from the United States will have the chance to come to Bangalore to study. They can come to Delhi to study in Delhi University, in the Jawaharlal University. So, I think, this is going to be more of an interdependent work. Globalisation is going to be the order of the day. We cannot live in isolation. We will have to get ourselves integrated to this concept of globalisation and India has always gone along on those lines.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I don't know from where Mrs. Najma Heptulla got the news that they met only for forty minutes and talked about all these things. I think, either there is something wrong with your clock or there is something wrong with my clock when I was present in Washington.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I read in the newspaper that the meeting with the President Obama lasted for forty minutes. That is why I said, 'the long discussion that took place in forty minutes as very bright.'

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: We were sitting outside, Madam. Let me assure the hon. Member that we were all sitting outside while they were talking inside. So, I know how long the one-on-one exchanges took place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

On the whole, Sir, it has been a very successful visit and a very productive visit and it helped. We had some apprehensions about the new administration. Now, we know exactly where we stand vis-a-vis the new administration in Washington D.C. I think the purpose has been fully achieved.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was such an elaborate reply.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, only one thing. This is not covered in this. There was an uninvited couple there as guests. What was the reaction of Mr. Obama's administration and Indian SPG on that?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Mr. Ahluwalia wants to know, in case there is an opportunity next time whether we can do that! ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, those who are talking about. ...*(Interruptions)*... Here is a country which is talking about their expertise in providing security to the whole world and there has been such a major failure in their system! What is the reaction of the Government of India? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Government of India does not have a reaction but I have a reaction, and that is, when Mr. Ahluwalia goes to Washington D.C. next, he should be invited to the White House.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: They have already sent their invitation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past five of the clock till
eleven of the clock on Friday, 4th December, 2009.