

Vol. 218
No. 11

Friday
4 December, 2009
13 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 4th December, 2009/13 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Food security situation

*221. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that food security situation in the country at present is not comfortable;
- (b) if so, the background of this serious situation;
- (c) whether it is due to controllable factors or uncontrollable factors; and
- (d) the measures taken to tide over the possible mishap and to avert similar situations in future?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) With high levels of production of rice and wheat during last seasons and resultant comfortable stocks, food security situation in the country at present is manageable. Drought during kharif season in 13 States and subsequent floods in some States have resulted in sizeable reduction in production of foodgrains during kharif, 2009. However, there are adequate stocks of rice and wheat in the country to meet the requirement.

Deficient rainfall during rainy season resulting in drought and excessive rains causing floods are due to natural factors, beyond human control. To contain adverse impact of drought and floods on food security, Government has taken timely and effective measures to minimize losses in crop production during kharif season, maximise the production during succeeding rabi season, augment availability in domestic market and ensure access of poor households to required food.

Food sustaining high food production in the country, Government has initiated various measures.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. As the opening batsman, I would like to be not-out, for which I need the grace and generosity of the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead with your supplementary....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, this is an important question which concerns not only myself, but the entire House, because a major segment of the society belongs to agriculturists. As such, the interest of the agriculturists should be very much taken care of. As far as I am concerned, I am the son of a farmer; I still continue to belong to the farming community. With my background and experience I can speak with some authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, come to the question.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, there are ever so many issues involved in it. My point is, starting with input, operation, storage, marketing, price, etc., in every aspect, the farmer is finding extremely difficult. My simple point before I ask my supplementary question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I am afraid all this is not recorded because it is not related to the question.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: In spite of the size of their community, they are a neglected sector; they don't find enough support and they have become a voiceless society in spite of the fact that they command a major share in the vote bank. Sir, coming to my first supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have refined the art of wasting precious moments.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The well-informed Minister may say that they have taken all measures. But according to me, the measures they have employed and the efforts they have made are totally inadequate. I would like to ask whether in terms of budget allocation, in terms of monetary assistance and other efforts, whether you would go all out, particularly, for the purpose of increasing productivity and marketing, irrespective of the demand and supply factor. Can you ensure that the farming community is sustained in terms of price stabilisation, in terms of research and development and in terms of productivity? That is my first question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Second supplementary, please.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, in the answer, he has spoken about uncontrollable factors like flood and drought; in some parts there are floods while in others there is drought. All these natural calamities and uncontrollable factors are there, but can development in science and technology do anything about this? Can you afford to mitigate the effect of such uncontrollable factors? If so, what are the efforts being made?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is very difficult to say whether we would be able to control drought. This year, 13 States have announced drought in 312 districts. This has substantially affected our Kharif crop. Fortunately, in last leg of monsoon there were good rains. But the good

rains were not only good, they created further problems. In some States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and others, a lot of damage has been done because of excessive rains. So, this year, we have suffered because of drought while in some States we have suffered because of excessive rains. It is very difficult for anybody to control such situations. These are all sort of natural calamities. In such situations, the Government of India has definitely taken certain decisions. For instance, though there was a set back in *kharif* crop, we made a lot of efforts to compensate these losses in *rabi* and summer crops. We have provided substantial support to the State Governments by way of giving more subsidy for seeds, providing substantial quantity of agricultural credit and some other facilities with the expectation that additional area should come under these crops. Fortunately, the information which I got regarding, for instance, wheat crop is good. In wheat area, till yesterday, States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and some other States have reported that there is more area under wheat, and probably the last year was one of the best years in the history of country for wheat production. This year probably we will surpass the last year's production also. These corrective measures were taken and there is a good response. But I will not be able to tell all these details how ultimately we are going to compensate these losses in the *kharif*. But the Government of India has introduced many schemes like *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, National Food Security Mission, Accelerated Irrigation Programme, etc., where a lot of weightage and support has been given for enhancing the production.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is an experienced one and he has very * replied in his written reply that it is due to flood and drought. Sir, we have a vast area for agricultural production. There are flood-prone areas; there are drought-prone areas; there are rain-fed areas and there are irrigation-fed areas and we know the calculation how much yield is there and this was addressed by the 53rd NDC Meeting on 29th May, 2007. At that time, they could visualise and they have decided and passed a resolution to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner. To meet the growing foodgrains demand, they decided to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million tonnes, 8 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes respectively by 2011. So, what have you done in this respect to achieve the target? You just simply say that there is a shortfall because there is a flood or there is a drought. General public and the common men of the country are suffering. The other day, the senior Finance Minister replied that there is a shortfall of sugar production. What to do and how to manage it, we don't know. Prices will go up. Right from pulses, wheat, rice, sugar, oil and everything has gone up and it is beyond the reach of people. I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The information of the hon. Member that NDC has taken the decision in the year 2007 is absolutely correct. The NDC took the decision that 20 million tonnes

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

of additional production has to be there, and for that targets were fixed for wheat, rice and pulses. Rupees five thousand crore have been provided. In the last two years, out of Rs.5000 crore, about Rs.2600 crore have already been released to States. Additional area has been substantially brought under the wheat and we have got the results. Last year the pulses area was not good, but this year area under pulses has been increased. Whatever results we are expecting, we will get them definitely after the completion of crop. Last year our rice production definitely improved, but this year, as I said, there was a set back in the first *kharif* season and that is why about 56 lakh hectares of area was less under the paddy this year. That is why, we will not be able to achieve the target which was fixed. But, the decision of the NDC has been taken very seriously and implemented seriously. I am extremely happy that all the State Governments are also giving full co-operation to execute this decision. That is why, the target which we have fixed up to the year 2011, I think, there should not be any problem to fulfil that target.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister has said that the situation is manageable at present, and I do not know whether it is affordable too. The Global Hunger Index says that countries that have scored between 20 and 30 points are in alarming position. India's hunger rate has been estimated as 23.9, ranking 65 out of 88 countries much below than Zimbabwe, Uganda and so on. In view of this situation, why is the Government not bringing the Food Security Act to universalise it at the Rs.2 per kilogram, at an affordable price, and this is worth spending for the whole of nation?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government of India has taken a conscious decision to introduce a targeted Public Distribution System in this country. This decision has not been taken today; this decision was taken about ten years back. The idea and thinking behind this decision was to target that section of the society which is really vulnerable and which really requires support. The Government of India also took a decision in the year 2000 that the issue price under the Public Distribution System for AAY should be Rs.2 per kilogram for wheat and Rs.3 per kilogram for rice, and that price was fixed in the year 2000. Till today, that is, 2009, we have not changed that price. We have continued with that price because the idea is to protect the interests of that vulnerable section, and that is why, the subsidy bill, which was Rs.19,000 crores five years back, as on today, it has reached to Rs. 60,000 crores.

Regarding the Food Security Bill, preliminary draft will be prepared and circulated to the State Governments. We are expecting comments from the State Governments and after getting all these detailed comments, there is a thinking that we should call the meeting of the Chief Ministers and, then, we should take the collective view about this Bill, and then come to the Parliament. So, we are in that process. We do not want to go back from the commitment which hon. President has already made in her speech. We would like to go ahead with this.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I am proud to say that the Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu is universalised and rice is distributed at Rs.1 per kilogram. The State Government is giving an enormous subsidy which is to the tune of Rs.4,000 crores. Unmindful of the burden, the Government wants to protect that system, and for that, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the hon. Minister asking for more allocations. Would the hon. Minister consider increasing the allocation to the State?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have communicated to the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that the Government of India is definitely ready to consider the request. But, the question is that what would be the price. The price, which is fixed by the Government of India, under OMSS for sale to retail consumer through State Governments is uniform for all the States and that is the price which we have paid to the farmer, *i.e.* M.S.P. and plus transportation from Ludhiana to that destination. So, all these three factors combined together, it will reach to a particular price. It is on no-profit-no-loss basis. The Government of India do not want to earn profit. So, I have written to the Chief Minister that on this price, we are happy to allot additional quantity for APL. Hon. Chief Minister wants that we should take a different approach and instead of this price, it should be BPL price which will be very difficult to accept.

Funds for infrastructure development in universities

*222. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has allocated Rs. 400 crores for experiments and infrastructure development in universities; and;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount granted to Andhra Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A Task Force was constituted by the Central Government in March, 2005, for strengthening of Basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force, *inter alia*, recommended that for strengthening basic scientific research an amount of Rs.400 crore per annum be provided as support for infrastructure development in universities.

The Government accepted, in principle, the recommendations of the Task Force and converted it into an Empowered Committee for monitoring the implementation of its recommendations. An allocation of Rs.1200 crore has been made in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period (2007-12) for strengthening basic science research in institutions of higher learning, including support for infrastructure development.

As per the information obtained from the audited accounts, the University Grants Commission (UGC) provided a sum of Rs.165.88 crore and Rs.143.57 crore in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively for implementation of the recommendations of the Task

Force. An allocation of Rs.123 crore has been made by UGC for the current financial year of which Rs.66.63 crore has been released till 31.11.2009. A statement of financial assistance provided by UGC to universities and colleges eligible to receive grants in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the Eleventh Plan period for strengthening Basic Scientific Research including support to infrastructure development for the purpose is provided in the Statement-I.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of University	Total Grant paid from 2007-08 till 30.11.2009 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra University	687
2.	Acharya Nagarjuna University	508
3.	Hyderabad University	260
4.	Kakatiya University	251
5.	Osmania University	1192
6.	Sri Venkateswara University	372
7.	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	330
8.	Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning	20
9.	Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam	110
10.	Dravidian University, Kuppam	10
11.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Technological University.	25
GRAND TOTAL		3765

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Sir, my question is whether the Government has any proposal to provide funds to the universities which are in the remote, tribal and backward areas, as a special case, during the current Five Year Plan.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a task force was set up, and, as I have mentioned in my answer, in the terms of the task force, it was decided that a sum of Rs. 400 crores would be set aside to support infrastructure development in universities.

We decided that this task force should also tell us as to how it is to be implemented. So, we empowered them to actually implement the distribution of this amount of Rs. 400 crores. As mentioned in the answer, for the years 2007-08, and, 2008-09, a sum of Rs. 165.88 crore and Rs. 143.57 crore, respectively, has been given. So, it is for the task force to see as to which universities are going to be the target to this funding, and, that is done by a mechanism and criterion decided by the task force, and, it includes tribal universities as well.

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Sir, when will the Government take up, as a special case, the scheduled areas for tribals?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as far as the funding pattern and the infrastructure pattern is concerned, the task force looks at the infrastructure in each university and decides how to fund it. This includes the scheduled areas as well.

SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Sir, the Mizoram University, which is the one and the only university in Mizoram and has recently been established as the Central University, is very much lagging behind in respect of infrastructure development. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any grant is given to Mizoram University and also to eligible colleges in Mizoram.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I do not have the information with me at the moment but I will be glad to supply the same to the hon. Member.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि जो Central Universities announce कर दी जाती हैं और वे बजट में आ जाती हैं तो फिर उनको टास्क फोर्स में क्या अलॉटमेंट करनी है, क्या बजट देना है? जब ये already budgeted हैं तो इनमें टास्क फोर्स का क्या काम है? उनके लिए टास्क फोर्स क्या मदद करेगी, क्या अलॉकेशन करेगी?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जहाँ तक नयी Central Universities जो बन रही हैं या बनने वाली हैं, उनका सवाल है, वहाँ तो टास्क फोर्स का अभी कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। जहाँ तक पुरानी यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं, चाहे वे Central Universities हों या State Universities, ज्यादातर पैसा State Universities को जा रहा है। वहाँ का जो infrastructure है, वह इतना कमजोर है कि जब तक हम उसे पूरी तरह से मजबूत नहीं करेंगे तब तक State Universities में जो रिसर्च और डेवलपमेंट होना चाहिए, वह नहीं हो पाएगा। इसलिए ज्यादातर जो पैसा जा रहा है या जो तीन सालों में गया है, चाहे वह 165 करोड़ हो, 143 करोड़ हो या 123 करोड़ हो, ज्यादातर वह State Universities को जा रहा है।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सभापति महोदय, the whole effort is to strengthen the basic scientific research. मेरा सवाल यह है कि आज scientific research की स्थिति इतनी खराब है कि अपने देश में हर साल जो 16 हजार पीएचडी बनते हैं, उनमें केवल 5 हजार basic sciences के हैं। आप सभी विश्वविद्यालयों के पीएचडी को एक तरह से नहीं देख सकते हैं। आज अगर भारत किसी चीज में lag करता है तो वह innovation में lag करता है। जब तक innovation नहीं बढ़ेगा, तब तक हम तरक्की के सही रास्ते पर नहीं जाएंगे। सवाल केवल infrastructure बढ़ाने का नहीं है बल्कि scientific research को strengthen करने के लिए और भी भरसक प्रयास किया जाना चाहिए। It is not only the building and equipments which will build up the research. इसलिए मेरा सवाल यह है कि मंत्री महोदय real innovative, basic scientific research को बढ़ाने के लिए और क्या कदम उठाना चाहते हैं अथवा और क्या भरसक कोशिश करना चाहते हैं?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सर, मैं कहना यह चाहता हूँ कि यह जो सवाल आज के दिन आया था, वह infrastructure के ऊपर था, लेकिन क्योंकि आपने सवाल पूछा कि और क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं, तो मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि हम और कई कदम उठा रहे हैं। केवल Human Resource Development Ministry ही नहीं उठा रही है, अगर आप Science & Technology Ministry को देखें तो वहाँ बड़े प्रोग्राम हैं। वहाँ ASIST Programme है, FIST Programme है, Ramanujam Fellowships हैं, JC Bose Fellowships हैं, और इस Task Force ने यह तय किया है कि हम Ph.Ds बढ़ाएंगे, एक हजार faculty लाएंगे - Lecturers, Readers,

Professors और सारा Central University System, जो हम अभी नई Central Universities बना रहे हैं, वहां हम faculty को पूरी स्वायत्ता दे रहे हैं कि जो भी कोर्स पढ़ाना चाहें, वे पढ़ाएं और ये research universities होंगी, इनमें जो effort होगा, research पर होगा। माननीय सदस्य ने यह सही कहा कि हम, we are really lagging behind in research. अगर आप विश्व के स्तर से देखें, our contribution to research is only 2.20 per cent of the total research all over the world. This is very little. China, which was below us some years ago, has increased its contribution to 20 per cent. We need to invest more money in research and development. That is why, this Task Force was set up, and we believe that in ten years' time, आज जो 5,000 की संख्या है, हम उसको 35,000 तक ले जाएंगे, यह हमारी सोच है।

कीटनाशकों के समुचित प्रयोग के बारे में जानकारी का अभाव

*223. श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि किसानों को कीटनाशकों के प्रयोग के तरीकों की समुचित जानकारी के अभाव में देश को प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 30,000 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण आदि कराया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार पैदावार बढ़ाने तथा किसानों को कीटनाशकों के प्रयोग के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करने के लिए कोई योजना बना रही है;

(घ) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में निजी कंपनियों से भी सहायता लेने पर विचार कर रही है; और

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

कृषि मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार): (क) से (ङ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) हालांकि किसानों द्वारा कीटनाशकों के उपयोग के बारे में उचित जानकारी के अभाव के कारण हानि संबंधी कोई विशिष्ट वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन नहीं किया गया है, अनुमान दर्शाते हैं कि कीट कृमियों, रोगों और खरपतवारों के कारण फसल हानि प्रति वर्ष 10 से 30 प्रतिशत के बीच होती है, जो कृषि आक्रमण की गंभीरता पर निर्भर करती है।

(ग) सरकार 'कृषि प्रबंधन दृष्टिकोण के सुदृढ़ीकरण तथा आधुनिकीकरण' नामक स्कीम तथा अन्य स्कीमों जैसे राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना, बृहत कृषि प्रबंधन, राष्ट्रीय बागवानी मिशन, राष्ट्रीय खाद्य मिशन आदि के माध्यम से उपयुक्त घटकों के तहत समेकित कृषि प्रबंधन की रणनीति के जरिए पौध रक्षण मुद्दों की ओर ध्यान देता है।

(घ) और (ङ) सरकार कीटनाशक उद्योग को समय-समय पर प्रशिक्षण तथा बीज उपचार पहलों में सहयोजित करती रही है।

Lack of information for proper use of pesticides

† *223. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is bearing a loss of about Rs. 30,000 crores per year due to lack of proper information about use of pesticides by farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any survey, etc. in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is formulating any scheme to increase the yield and educate farmers about use of pesticides;

(d) whether Government is also contemplating to take help from private companies in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) While there are no specific scientific studies on loss due to lack of proper information about use of pesticides by farmers, estimates indicate crop losses due to insect pests, diseases and weeds range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack.

(c) The Government addresses plant protection issues through the strategy of Integrated pest Management under the scheme 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' and suitable interventions through other schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission etc.

(d) and (e) The Government has been associating the pesticide industry in training and seed treatment initiatives from time to time.

श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, जो उत्तर प्राप्त हुआ है, उसमें एक ओर माननीय मंत्री जी का कहना है कि "सरकार कृषि प्रबंधन दृष्टिकोण के सुदृढ़ीकरण तथा आधुनिकीकरण' नामक योजना तथा अन्य योजनाएं, जैसे राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना, बृहत कृषि प्रबंधन, राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा मिशन आदि के माध्यम से उपयुक्त घटकों के तहत समेकित कृषि प्रबंधन की रणनीति के जरिए पौध रक्षण मुद्दों की ओर ध्यान देती है..." लेकिन, इसके बावजूद प्रतिवर्ष 10 से 30 प्रतिशत हानि राष्ट्रीय कृषि को हो रही है और इतनी योजनाएं चलाने के बावजूद देश में लगातार अपमिश्रित और नकली उर्वरकों, कीटनाशकों और कृमिनाशियों की बिक्री और उपयोग का मामला बढ़ता जा रहा है। इतने कार्यक्रम चलाने के बावजूद भी क्या ऐसा नहीं लगता कि सरकार कहीं न कहीं फेल साबित हुई है? इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार इसके लिए किन्हीं अधिकारियों की किसी प्रकार की जिम्मेदारी तय करने पर विचार कर रही है, ताकि जो योजनाएं चल रही हैं ...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछ लें।

श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी : जो इतनी सब योजनाएं चल रही हैं, इनके अच्छे और लाभकारी परिणाम सामने आए?

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति जी, इसमें कुछ जिम्मेदारी भारत सरकार की है और कुछ जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों के ऊपर होती है। Insects और disease को कंट्रोल करने के लिए जिस pesticide की उपयुक्तता है, उस pesticide के registration की जिम्मेदारी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की है और राज्य में वह ठीक तरह से इस्तेमाल होता है या नहीं, इसमें कोई धोखाधड़ी तो नहीं हो रही, कोई गलत pesticide तो नहीं बेच रहे, इन सब के बारे में ध्यान और निगरानी रखने की जिम्मेदारी District Agriculture Officer, जो राज्य सरकार के अंदर काम करते हैं, इन लोगों की होती है। यह जो 30% यहाँ information आ गई, यह कोई खास scientific information भारत सरकार के पास नहीं है। Disease फसलों पर कितनी है, इसका surveillance करने के

लिए हर राज्य में स्टाफ एप्वाइंट किया जाता है और हर हफ्ते राज्य सरकार भारत सरकार को inform करती है कि अपने राज्य में आज disease के बारे में क्या स्थिति है। कहीं कोई प्रॉब्लम आई, कहीं कोई समस्या पैदा हुई, तो इस बारे में क्या कदम उठाना है, इसका निर्णय यहां हर हफ्ते, हर Monday को एग्रीकल्चर सैक्रेट्री की अध्यक्षता में Crop Watch Group नामक संगठन देखता है।

राज्य सरकार की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर जहां कुछ कमियां हैं और corrective measures लेने की आवश्यकता है, उस तरह के corrective measures लिए जाते हैं। यह परमानेंट युक्ति भारत सरकार ने रखी है और इससे किसानों को और राज्य सरकारों को मदद मिलती है।

श्री कप्तान सिंह सोलंकी : सभापति जी, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को ज्ञात है कि समूचे उत्तर भारत में कीटनाशकों के अंधाधुंध प्रयोग से किसानों में भी कैंसर जैसे घातक रोगों के लक्षण पाए जा रहे हैं? इन कीटनाशकों के अंधाधुंध प्रयोग को रोकने के लिए तथा किसानों को इनके द्वारा पैदा होने वाले खतरे के विषय में अवगत कराने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है?

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति जी, किस pesticide का इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए, किसका नहीं करना चाहिए, यह decision किसान अपने लेवल पर लेता है, उसको जो सलाह लोकल लेवल पर मिलती है, उसके आधार पर लेता है। किसी pesticide का कोई दुष्प्रभाव हमारे शरीर पर हो या और कुछ हो, ऐसी शिकायत जब आती है, तब उसे continue किया जाए या न किया जाए, इस बारे में भी सोचा जाता है। कई ऐसे pesticides हैं, जो हिंदुस्तान में ban किए गए हैं, इनके इस्तेमाल की इज्जत किसानों को नहीं है, किसी को नहीं है - न प्रोड्यूस करने की, न बेचने की, लेकिन जब कई जगहों पर आवश्यकता से ज्यादा कीटनाशकों की spraying होती है या प्रयोग होता है, तब इसका कुछ न कुछ असर जरूर होता है। कीटनाशक तैयार करने वाली सभी कंपनियों के ऊपर यह बंधन होता है कि उनका जो प्रॉडक्ट है, उसे किस तरह से इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए, किस लेवल तक इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए, उसके इस्तेमाल में क्या precaution लेना चाहिए, यह बात बिल्कुल साफ करके, लिखित रूप में प्रॉडक्ट के साथ रहनी ही चाहिए और अपेक्षा यह की जाती है कि जो कोई इसका इस्तेमाल करेगा, वह इन instructions को पढ़कर इस्तेमाल करेगा और इसका गलत इस्तेमाल न हो, इस पर ध्यान देगा।

SHRI P. RAJEEV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all over the world, the concept of organic farming is strengthening now. The continuous usage of fertilizers and pesticides actually adversely affects the fertility of the land and the health of the people. So, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any plans to change its thrust from the usage of pesticides to organic farming by giving more subsidy and assistance to the Local Self Governments through the State Governments.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, about four years back, the Government of India introduced a scheme to support the organic farming. There is some financial support, there is encouragement, and, we would like to encourage organic farming. But one should not forget one very important thing that it is the responsibility of all of us to provide substantial quantity of foodgrains which will resolve the food security problems.

So, for the sake of food security, it is not possible just to follow one path, that is, organic farming. Organic farming is definitely useful. The Government is encouraging organic farming but the productivity is also equally important and for the sake of productivity, there are other alternatives, which also we cannot by-pass.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय, अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह बताया कि स्वास्थ्य के लिए जो हानिकारक कीटनाशक हैं, उनके उपयोग के ऊपर लगातार नज़र रखी जाती है और इस बात की समय-समय पर मॉनीटरिंग की जाती है तथा हानिकारक कीटनाशकों के उपयोग के ऊपर नियंत्रण किया जाता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि 'endosulfan' नामक एक कीटनाशक, जो विश्व के अनेक देशों में वर्षों तक इस्तेमाल होता रहा, बाद के वर्षों में लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर उसके दुष्प्रभाव को देखते हुए, विश्व के लगभग 60-70 देशों ने उसके उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। भारत में आज भी एंडो सल्फान बहुत सारी फसलों के ऊपर लगातार इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है और पिछले अनेक वर्षों में वैज्ञानिकों ने भी और अन्य लोगों तथा किसानों ने भी इस बात की मांग की है कि एंडो सल्फान नामक इस कीटनाशक का उपयोग भारत में भी अन्य देशों की तरह प्रतिबंधित किया जाए। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस दिशा में भारत सरकार ने अभी तक कोई निर्णय लिया है, यदि नहीं तो क्यों नहीं लिया है और अगर निर्णय होने की स्टेज पर है, तो सरकार क्या निर्णय लेगी?

श्री शरद पवार : एंडो सल्फान के बारे में यह controversy पिछले कई सालों से शुरू है और इसकी शुरुआत केरल से हुई। केरल सरकार ने अपने राज्य में एंडो सल्फान बेचने पर restriction लगाया और ban भी किया। उन्होंने इसका पता करने के लिए एक कमेटी appoint की कि इसका असर कितना बुरा होता है और क्या-क्या होता है। इस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट एंडो सल्फान के प्रयोग करने के खिलाफ नहीं आई। उन्होंने यह सजेशन दिया कि इसमें precaution लेने की आवश्यकता है। केरल सरकार की तरफ से फिर एक कमेटी appoint की गई। इसकी रिपोर्ट भी एंडो सल्फान के प्रयोग के खिलाफ नहीं आई। भारत सरकार ने इसके लिए एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी appoint की। एक्सपर्ट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट भी इस तरह की नहीं आई कि इसको ban करना चाहिए। एंडो सल्फान की कई फसलों पर उपयुक्तता है, यदि इसका सीमित इस्तेमाल किया गया। यह बात सच है कि दुनिया के कई देशों में एंडो सल्फान पर ban किया गया है, लेकिन agriculture के क्षेत्र में जो important countries हैं, वहां एंडो सल्फान को इजाजत दी गई है। जिनमें चीन, यूनाइटेड स्टेट ऑफ अमेरिका, ब्राजील और आस्ट्रेलिया आते हैं। जिनमें एक uniform policy है। पांच-छः देशों ने इस पर कुछ decision लिया और इसको स्वीकारा है, इसलिए यहां भी हमें इस प्रकार का decision लेना चाहिए। यहां के एक्सपर्ट ने यहां ऐसा नहीं स्वीकार किया है, इसलिए यहां इस पर ban नहीं किया गया है।

श्री सभापति : श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी।

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, ..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: No second question, please. I am sorry.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, ..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. (Interruptions) Mr. Rajeeve, you had your turn. If you are not satisfied with the answer, there is a procedure for it.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि '...no specific scientific studies on loss due to lack of proper information about use of pesticides by farmers...' मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश के सामने यह बहुत गंभीर challenge है। इस देश में pesticides की ज्यादा मात्रा में यूज करने से बहुत बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी हाउस को यह assurance देंगे कि जो specific scientific study अभी तक नहीं कराई गई है, सरकार specific scientific study करवा कर आगे कोई preventive measures और educational front पर इसका यूज करने के बारे में कुछ प्रोग्राम तैयार करेगी?

श्री शरद पवार : महोदय, इसकी scientific study हमेशा होती ही रहती है, जैसे मैंने कहा कि कुछ pesticides का रजिस्ट्रेशन ही अपने देश में refuse किया हुआ है। There are about 27 pesticides, जिनका formulation इंडिया में ban किया गया है, यह study के बात पता चला कि इसका जो impact और repercussion है, वह ठीक नहीं है। एक्सपर्ट जब इस नतीजे पर पहुंचते हैं, तभी इस तरह का recommendation करते हैं और इसको banning करते हैं। इसलिए कोई भी pesticides की जांच किए बिना इस देश में रजिस्ट्रेशन नहीं होता है। इसकी आवश्यकता कितनी है और इसका बुरा impact कितना होगा या नहीं होगा, यह study करके ही इसके बारे में recommendation आती है और फिर बोर्ड इस पर रजिस्ट्रेशन देती है।

Implementation of Right to Education Act

*224. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after passing of the Right to Education Act, there has been no headway on account of funding of programmes by States;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has convened a meeting recently with State Governments to resolve a number of issues for implementation of the Act; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 was published for general information in the Gazette of India on 27th August, 2009. The Act has not yet come into force. On the request of Government, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has prepared financial estimates of Rs.1,71,484 crore for a period of five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15. The funds required for implementation of the Act would be shared between the Centre and the States in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of the Act.

(c) The Right of Children of Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 was discussed with Education Ministers of States and education experts in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 31st August, 2009. In addition, a Committee set up by the Government to suggest follow-up action on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) vis-a-vis the Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education Act has held discussions with representatives of the State Governments on various aspects of the Act.

(d) The State Governments have endorsed the provisions of the Act and have requested for adequate financial outlays for implementation.

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उसमें बहुत विस्तार से लिखा है कि इसके लिए राष्ट्र केंद्र सरकार का आभारी है। बच्चों को फ्री एजुकेशन और अनिवार्य शिक्षा देने के लिए यह जो कानून बना है, तो बच्चों के लिए ऐसे और भी बहुत से कानून बने हैं, लेबर में भी बहुत से कानून बने हैं। इस

कानून को लागू करने के लिए 31 अगस्त को Central Advisory Board of Education की एक मीटिंग बुलाई गई। उसमें प्रदेशों के शिक्षा मंत्री शामिल हुए, लेकिन वे किसी निर्णय पर नहीं पहुंच पाए। तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वहां क्या गतिरोध उत्पन्न हुआ कि वे किसी निर्णय पर नहीं पहुंच पाए? वह गतिरोध क्या था? प्रदेशों के शिक्षा मंत्री क्या चाहते थे?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि 31 अगस्त को जो CABE की मीटिंग हुई, तो वहां जो resolution पास हुआ, वह unanimously पास हुआ। कोई विवाद का मुद्दा वहां नहीं उठा और अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं, तो copy of Resolution मैं आपको भेज दूंगा, ताकि पता चल जाए कि हर issue पर सहमति थी।

श्री सभापति : दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल पूछिए।

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल : लेकिन सर, उत्तर में लिखा है कि वित्तीय परियोजना का अनुरोध किया गया है और अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा कि unanimously फैसला हो गया था, तो यह अनुरोध क्या था, इसके बारे में मैं जानना चाहता हूं। साथ ही मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल यह है कि केंद्र सरकार ने 1,71,484 करोड़ रुपए का जो प्रावधान रखा है, क्या इसके साथ प्रदेश सरकारों को भी कुछ पैसा देना है? अगर प्रदेश सरकार ने पैसा देना है, और वे नहीं देते या इस पैसे को खर्च नहीं करते, तो क्या सरकार जो प्रदेशों को वार्षिक ग्रांट देती है, उसमें से उनका हिस्सा काटकर, इसको पूरे तौर पर लागू करेगी? सर, यह जो कानून है, यह देश के लिए और गरीबों के बच्चों के लिए बहुत ही आवश्यक है, इसलिए इसको लागू करना अनिवार्य होना चाहिए।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति महोदय, जब यह बिल लाया गया और इस पर चर्चा हुई, इस सदन में भी हुई, तब मैंने विस्तार से बताया कि किस तरह से जो financial allocations हैं, अभी तक उनका कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ, क्योंकि हमें पहले यह तय करना था कि इसको लागू करने के लिए कितना पैसा जरूरी है और इसके लिए कई estimates बने। आज भी वे estimates पूरी तरह से तय नहीं हैं। हमारा मानना है कि लगभग 1,71,000 करोड़ रुपया इस पर लगेगा। अब जब पूरा estimate तय हो जाएगा, उसके बाद यह फैसला होगा कि State Governments के साथ किस pattern पर sharing होगी। आज के दिन Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan के अंतर्गत जो sharing of pattern है, वह 60:40 है - 60 per cent Central Government और 40 per cent State Government का है, लेकिन सन् 2012 में यह 50 per cent हो जाएगा - 50 per cent Central Government और 50 per cent State Government का और अगले पांच सालों में जब हम Right to Education Bill को implement करेंगे, तो उसका pattern क्या होगा, उसको भी अभी तय करना है। जब यह पूरी तरह से तय होगा, तब यह notify होगा और फिर उसको हम लागू करेंगे। मैं मानता हूं कि यह एक बहुत ही जरूरी बिल है, इसको जल्द से जल्द हमें लागू करना चाहिए और हम तब तक इसे लागू नहीं कर सकते, जब तक ये फैसले न हो जाएं।

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Right to Education Bill is, probably, the most important single piece of education that we have brought in the last 60 years and it involves a massive coordinated effort. In order to implement it, lakhs of schools will have to be built with environment friendly materials and designs; lakhs of teachers are needed. You can mop up a lot of educated unemployed in that. It is a huge organisation. Therefore, I want to ask the Minister whether he has set in place any architecture involving the Government of India, the State Governments, the Panchayati Raj institutions and the private sector in order to have a time-

frame to implement this. Otherwise, this is done in a fractional and non-holistic way and it will be impossible to do. With this one Act we can change the face of India, both for employment and for making schools. Has the Minister got in place an architecture or is he getting it in place and when will he get it in place?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to point out that the Act itself says that the neighbourhood schools must be built within a period of three years. That is provided in the Act itself. That is easier said than done because to be able to do that we will have to have the resources in place; we will have to have the implementation agencies in place; we will have to have the State Governments to collaborate and cooperate with us in a very substantial way. So, all that needs to be done. The Panchayati Raj institutions have to be taken on board; civil society has to be taken on board. Each of these States will have its Advisory Committee. A large part of the Advisory Committee are Panchayati Raj representatives, civil society and women who belong to that particular area. So, all that needs to be done. I have set in motion a whole process. We have set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Boradia to actually frame the architecture of what the future steps should be in order to implement this. As the financial position becomes clear and the share of the State Governments becomes clearer, we are also writing to the State Governments asking them to get prepared for the job because they need to actually set up an authority for recognition of schools. That is also very important. They have to decide as to what are those sites which they will call neighbourhood schools. Unless those sites are decided, we will not be able to move forward. So, all these steps will have to be taken. This is not something that the Central Government can do alone. This is something that has to be done in collaboration with the State Governments and civil society, and for such a huge national enterprise, I am sure, all stakeholders will come on board and make sure that this Act is implemented quickly and effectively to change the profile of our country.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, through you, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. The Child Labour Act prohibits 57 occupations. The same works are rendered by them in their houses for their own families. They are not prohibited. Similarly, there are several operations in agriculture which are also not covered by this Child Labour Act. I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. What steps are being taken by the Government to make Child Labour Act in consonance with the Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious problem and a societal problem. I don't think that in one stroke we can remove child labour, though the essence of this Act is that all children who are part of child labour should come into the school system. That is why this is an inclusive piece of legislation. There is a provision, section 31 of the Act, which talks

of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and in the event of any such complaint being made, the Commission will take on board the complaint and pass appropriate orders. As far as the Ministry of Human Resource Development is concerned, we want all children who are part of child labour to come into the school system and to be part of inclusive education.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, बहुत जल्दबाजी में यह Right to Education Bill पास किया गया है। अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया, उसमें उन्होंने कहा कि अभी यह तय नहीं है कि इसके आर्थिक खर्च को पूरा करने के लिए केन्द्र और राज्य का क्या अनुपात होगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि केवल उत्तर प्रदेश में प्राथमिक शिक्षा में एक से डेढ़ लाख के करीब अध्यापकों की कमी है और अगर यह विधेयक पास हो जाता है तो उनकी संख्या अनुमानतः 6 या 7 गुणा बढ़ जाएगी। इस अधर में, चूंकि जो शिक्षा मित्र हैं, उन्हीं शिक्षा मित्रों के जरिए अध्यापन का कार्य हो रहा है और वह भी पर्याप्त नहीं है तथा एक अध्यापक पूरे विद्यालय में पढ़ाई का काम करता है। तो यह जो वर्तमान स्थिति है और जो सरकार का अनिश्चय है, उसको देखते हुए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसका अनुपालन या क्रियान्वयन वे कब तक करने की आशा रखते हैं?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति महोदय, पहले तो माननीय सदस्य ने जल्दबाजी की बात की, जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जजमेंट था वह 1993 का जजमेंट था। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि आप इसको एकदम लागू कीजिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मेरे कहने का मतलब था बिना तैयारी के किया गया।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : अभी आपकी जल्दबाजी के लिए मुझे जवाब देने दीजिए। 16 साल के बाद तो हम इसको लाए हैं और मैं नहीं समझता कि कोई ऐसी जल्दबाजी हुई है। हमें तो इसको पहले लाना चाहिए था। दूसरी बात, आपने तैयारी की बात की। मैं समझता हूँ कि जहां तक उत्तर प्रदेश का सवाल है और वेकेंसीज का सवाल है, ऑरिजनली जो प्राइमरी रेस्पॉसिबिलिटी रहती है वह तो राज्य सरकारों की रहती है और राज्य सरकारों ने इसमें पिछले 25-30 और 50 सालों में क्या किया? यह तो हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि एक सेंट्रल कानून लागू किया जाए, ताकि सभी लोगों को इनक्लूसिव एजुकेशन दिया जाए। माननीय सदस्य का कहना कि वेकेंसी बहुत हैं, बिल्कुल सही है। हिन्दुस्तान के स्तर पर लगभग दस लाख वेकेंसीज हैं, और दस लाख वेकेंसीज होंगी। इसीलिए यह कोई एक राज्य का सवाल नहीं है, दूसरे राज्य का सवाल नहीं है, यह देश के भविष्य का सवाल है, देश के बच्चों के भविष्य का सवाल है। जितनी जल्दी इसको लागू किया जाए, उतना ही अच्छा है। हम चाहते थे कि जल्द से जल्द लागू हो और इसीलिए हम इस कानून को सदन में लाए और आप लोगों की सहमति के साथ पास हुआ है और आपकी सहायता के साथ हम इसको इम्प्लीमेंट भी करेंगे।

Introduction of new trains in North-Eastern Region

*225. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new trains introduced from North-Eastern Region to various parts of the country in the last two Railway Budgets;

(b) whether these new trains are being operated presently;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would consider stoppage of the north bound and south bound trains at various civil Sub-Divisional headquarters like Pathsala and Bijni in Assam; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHMMED): (a) to (e)
A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) Of the 4 (four) pairs of new train services announced in the Railway Budget 2008-09 to cater to the North Eastern region, 2 pairs of train services viz. 2667/2668 Gandhidham-Kamakhya Express (weekly) and 5519/5620 Gaya-Kamakhya Express (weekly) have already been introduced. The remaining train services viz. 5901/5902 Yesvantpur-New Dibrugarh Town Express (weekly) (via Moranhat) and 5927/5928 Kamakhya-New Dibrugarh Town Express (Tri-weekly) (via Moranhat) would be introduced after the commissioning of the new line between Moranhat and Chalkhowa (Dibrugarh).

Similarly, of the 5 pairs of new train services announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10, 3 (three) pairs viz. 875/876 Dharamnagar-Agartala Fast Passenger and 5743/5744 Guwahati-New Coochbehar Express and 5903/5904 Dibrugarh-Chandigarh Express (weekly) have already been introduced. The remaining 2 (two) train services viz. 5643/5644 Kamakhya-Puri Express (weekly) and 2235/2236 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express (via Muzaffarpur) (weekly) would be introduced during the current financial year.

(d) and (e) The proposal for stoppage of the North and South bound trains at Civil Sub-Divisional headquarters like Pathsala and Bijni, in Assam, has been examined but has not been found commercially justified at present. The North and South bound trains connecting North Eastern region are very long distance trains whose stoppages in close proximities is also not operationally desirable.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the railway in the North East is concerned, we are far behind in comparison to other parts of the country. There is no double rail line. There is no electrification of railway line. The hon. Minister has mentioned in the reply that they have introduced some new trains. But some of the rail lines have yet to be commissioned. I think the main reason behind this is there is no double line. Therefore, the operation of these new trains has become difficult. In reply to parts (d) and (e) of the question, it is mentioned that the proposal for stoppage of the North and South bound trains at Pathsala and Bijni has been examined. Sir, the Ministry has given the same reply on several occasions. It is not necessary that every newly introduced train should have the same place of stoppage. I would like to have a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: I am putting the question. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will give an assurance for stoppage of newly introduced trains at Pathsala and Bijni.

KM. MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the introduction of new trains, not about the projects. Still I am answering his question. Out of five trains that we have announced in the Railway Budget, we have already introduced three trains. The rest of the two trains will be introduced very soon. So far as the North Eastern Region is concerned, we want to give you two more train services. It was included in the last Railway Budget, but it could not be implemented. I think the North Eastern Region is a very important area. The safety trial run will start tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*... The safety trial run of new line work of Moranhat-Dibrugarh which will facilitate running of Yesvantpur-New Dibrugarh Town Express and Kamakhya-New Dibrugarh Town Express *via* Moranhat will start tomorrow. Sir, work on 44 kilometres of rail line has already been completed. The safety trial run will start from tomorrow. And, you will get them as a New Year gift. The introduction of these two trains was announced in the earlier Budget, but this was not implemented. We have planned to give them as the New Year gift. Regarding stoppage of trains, the hon. Member will appreciate that there are more than 8,000 stations in the country. We cannot give more number of stoppages to Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains. There is a difference between passenger trains and super fast trains. It is not that we are against having more number of stoppages at places in the North-East. But, because of long distances, it will only be of inconvenience to the passengers. In case of passenger trains, we can ask for stoppage. But, in case of long distance and super fast trains like Rajdhani, or, for that matter, Shatabdi, there is a criterion in fixing the number of stoppages. Moreover, if everybody asks for stoppages, then, ultimately, the train will stop. Now, whatever you decide, whatever this House will decide, I will abide by your guidance.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Thank you, Madam. I want to inform you that during Lal Bahadur Shastri's time and Ghani Khan Choudhury's time, there were stoppages at these places.

My second supplementary is this. During the discussion on the Railway (Interim) Budget, last year, the hon. Railway Minister gave an assurance in this House that there will be a new railway line from Jogighopa to Guwahati *via* Barpeta, Sarthebari, Hajo and Sualkuchi. It was stated that the survey of this new railway line would be started. But, till now, no action has been taken in conducting a survey of this particular line, which needs the Budget provision. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would reassure us that the work on this new line, Jogigopa - Guwahati, *via* Barpeta, would be started in this financial year. It is important that there are stoppages at Barpeta, Hajo, Sarthebari and Sualkuchi. These are all historical places and are included in the tourist map. So, I want a specific assurance from the hon. Minister.

KM. MAMATA BANERJEE: Regarding the new line from Jalpaiguri to Jogigopa, one portion of it will be completed within the month of March. This will, again, be a New Year gift. So, one

portion of work will be completed. The target date has been fixed. As regards the other line, you are asking for the survey to be done. I will take care of it. Let me examine the case. Regarding Pathshala station, I would like to tell the Member. That there are three passenger trains which stop at Patshala and Bijni. If he is still insistent, let me find a way out so that we can have, at least, one long distance train there.

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Sir, while appreciating the long distance between Delhi and Guwahati, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will examine the need for a super fast train other than the fast train which is, presently, running between Guwahati and Delhi.

KM. MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. It is a fact that it is a long distance journey. This can be considered only when the rakes will be available. The Duronto Express is successful. It is cheaper than the Rajdhani Express and is also faster than Rajdhani. It has been successfully operating between Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Nizamuddin. It is a successful system. But the rakes are to be available. Let us find out the details. If it can run from the operational point of view, we will try to give it.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, during the last Session and even before, I raised my demand regarding a new train from Agartala to Dharmanagar to depart in the morning hours. I am happy that the hon. Minister considered it, and the hon. Minister of Shipping had introduced the train by flagging it off. The Minister of Shipping flagged off a train, not a ship...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are running out of time. Please put your supplementary.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, there are some irregularities going on in the train running from Assam to Tripura. The irregularities are, Sir, that the time-schedule is not maintained; most of the trains run three to four hours late; there is shortage of staff; there is no staff to give signal in the intermediary stations. This is happening. Sir, the passenger amenities have gone down. There is no light, water, windowpanes are broken...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the supplementary related to the question.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, my question is, it is a new line which the people have achieved after long 50 years struggle. Though it is a metre gauge, we expect that those trains should be up to the standard. At least, care should be taken that the new passengers arriving in Tripura are delighted that they have the trains up to the standard. Sir,...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please ask the question, Mr. Sarkar?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I conversed with the officials of the Railway Board, N.F. Railway, etc., about one haltage at Chaturdash Debatar Bari. I think the hon. Minister knows it. ...(*Interruptions*)... These are the issues, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is the question? ...(*Interruptions*)... I am afraid, I will not allow it now. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Would the hon. Minister look into these issues?
...(Interruptions)...

KM. MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it was not only the Shipping Minister but also the Left Front Minister was present there. Please rectify that. Your local Member of Parliament was also present there. Please realise that. Do you want the presence of the Minister or the railway line? The line has been completed and the train has already started. Sir, the hon. Member is saying that there is no signal man. How can the train run without the signal man?
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: It happened.

KM. MAMATA BANERJEE: See, without the signal man the train cannot go.
...(Interruptions)... Sir, he asked the question, and I am giving the reply. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, we are giving more importance to passenger amenities, safety, security and everything. I think, we have to work together because the Railway is the lifeline of the nation. From Dharmanagar to Agartala is also our lifeline. Please appreciate that. We will take full care of that.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, railway connectivity towards the North-Eastern Region is very poor. I am not blaming the present Railway Minister. In that region, there is no electric railway line and there is no double line. Although the then Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad had announced in this House that they will make survey of a new railway line from Gawalpara-Jogighopa-Hajo to Guwahati. But, he has failed to fulfil his commitment. My colleague raised the same question today. The hon. Minister today assured us that she would look into that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you put the question or shall we run out of the Question Hour?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, according to the report of the World Health Organisation, the highest number of cancer patients are coming from the North-Eastern Region. Sir, hundreds of patients are going from Assam to Mumbai daily for treatment of cancer.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking the precious time of the House. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister that in the interest of the cancer patients kindly introduce the Duranto train between Assam and Mumbai.

KM. MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I have already assured the hon. Member that I will find out the details. If there is a possibility, when the rakes are available, we will try to give you long-distance train. There is a connection between Chennai, Kerala, Amritsar, Gaya, Bangalore and other parts also. So, if you want a train to Mumbai, Guwahati is an important place, we don't have any objection. Let us examine the case and I will let you know about it. The hon. Member

said about shortcomings in passenger amenities, etc. There is a proposal for doubling. We are doing doubling of the lines. We are also doing the ongoing projects. We are also doing electrification of railway lines in the North-Eastern Region. In this Budget, we have given Rs. 740 crores for the North-Eastern Region.

*226. [The questioner(s) (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was/were absent. For answer *vide* page 22 *infra*.]

Disinvestment of Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.

*227. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has moved a proposal for disinvesting Manganese Ore (India) Limited through sale of Government equity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for disinvestment in the above company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c)
A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In accordance with the policy of the Government for sharing ownership of Central Public Sector Undertakings with the public and to meet the Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines requirements, a proposal for disinvestment of 10% of the paid up capital of Manganese Ore (India) Limited out of Government of India's shareholding has been sent to the Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard.

श्री सभापति : जल्दी से सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सभापति जी, मैं संक्षेप में पूछ रहा हूँ। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो मैंगनीज ओर है, उसके share disinvestment करने के लिए मंत्री जी इतने उतावले क्यों हैं? Stake-holders के लिए जो...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Increased demand of fertilizers in Punjab

*226. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increased demand of fertilizers in Punjab this year as compared to the previous year in the wake of a need to push up production of Rabi crops for 2009-10 due to the shortage in production of Kharif crops in 2009 and drought conditions;

(b) if so, what is the situation this year, as compared to the demand for previous two years, alongwith the nature of fertilizers sought; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to meet the increased demand and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The demand of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPX) fertilizers in Punjab during the current year 2009-10 as compared to that for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under:

(‘Qty. in ‘lakh metric tonnes’)

Particulars	Product	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
		Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif	Rabi	Total
	Urea	12.50	12.50	25.00	13.00	12.50	25.50	12.50	13.00	25.50
	DAP	2.50	5.50	8.00	2.60	5.50	8.10	3.00	5.50	8.50
	MOP	0.60	0.35	0.95	0.60	0.35	0.95	0.56	0.35	0.91
	Complexes	0.31	0.66	0.97	0.31	0.70	1.01	0.30	0.25	0.55

As can be seen, the demand of Urea and DAP has increased from 25.00 LMT to 25.50 LMT and 8.00 LMT to 8.50 LMT respectively from the year 2007-08 to the year 2009-10.

(c) The Government is meeting the increased demand through increase in indigenous production and import during the year. The demand and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizer during the year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April’09 to November’09) are as follows:

(‘Qty. in ‘lakh metric tonnes’)

Product	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Demand	Availability	Demand	Availability	Demand	Availability
Urea	25.00	26.97	25.50	26.28	15.30	15.48
DAP	8.00	9.14	8.10	8.82	7.50	7.76
MOP	0.95	0.58	0.95	0.98	0.81	0.80
Complex	0.97	NA *	1.01	0.59	0.55	0.50

*DOF started monitoring demand and availability of complex fertilizer w.e.f. 1.4.2008

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-penalized

since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level and State Governments are responsible for further distribution within the State. However, as can be seen, the availability of fertilizers in Punjab during current year is comfortable.

The following steps have been taken to ensure supplies of fertilizers as per demand:

- (i) The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of Urea is met through imports;
- (ii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;
- (iii) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertiliser Monitoring System (FMS).

Setting up of campuses of universities abroad

*228. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on one hand Government is in the process of enabling foreign universities to set up campuses in India, and on the other hand several educationists want Indian universities to be allowed to set up campuses abroad;

(b) if so, whether Government has framed any guidelines and regulations permitting State universities to go abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A legislative proposal for regulating entry and operations of foreign educational institutions is being finalized. Universities and other public institutions may set up campuses abroad, if so permitted by the relevant legislative Act, or Memorandum of Association under which a university or institution is established. So far as privately funded universities set up under the Acts of State legislatures are concerned, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed regulations, namely, the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, which, *inter alia*, provide that a private university can open off-shore campus(es) in foreign countries only after obtaining permissions from the Government of India and the host country. According to the UGC guidelines for considering proposals for declaring an institution as “deemed to be university” under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956,

it would be permissible for the “deemed to be university” to open academic Centre(s) in any of the foreign countries after obtaining due permission from Government of India and the host country.

Compensation to martyrs of 26/11

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

(a) whether Railways had paid compensation to passengers and police personnel martyred at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus during 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai;

(b) whether any provision has been made to provide job to one family member of the victims;

(c) if so, the number of families paid amount of compensation so far and the number of people given employment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) In this tragic incident, Railways have already made *ex-gratia* payment in 147 cases amounting to Rs.5.22 Crore. Enhanced *ex-gratia* payment of Rs.10 Lacs to the dependent of each of the dead persons was made. Railways have also satisfied the decree of Railway Claims Tribunal for compensation in 32 cases (out of 103 cases filed) decided so far.

Regarding provision of job, Railways have also made provision for one job for a family member of those who died in this incident and have already offered employment to 31 persons.

(d) Out of 103 claims cases filed in Railway Claims Tribunal, 71 cases are pending in Railway Claims Tribunal for award of decree.

Out of 46 cases received for appointment, offers have already been sent in 31 cases. Reasons for not yet offering appointment in 15 cases are as under:-

- 03 cases are under process.
- 02 cases were not considered/regretted as in 01 case applicant was not dependent upon the deceased and in other case the dependent widow has already been appointed by other organization.
- 04 cases have been registered for minor for consideration for appointment when they attain 18 years of age.
- In 03 cases families have refused for appointment in Group ‘D’ posts. However, Railways would pursue the matter with the aggrieved families for amicably resolving the issue.
- In 03 cases, application/relevant documents have not been submitted. Railways are pursuing the matter with the aggrieved families requesting them to submit the applications and on its receipt Railways will consider those applications immediately.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Promotion of foreign breed of cows

† *230. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the results achieved from the schemes going on for a long time for promotion of foreign breed of cows like Jersey and Houston;
- (b) whether they have contributed to increase in production of milk in the country;
- (c) the details of foreign breed of cows; and
- (d) the difference found in quality of milk of foreign and domestic breed of cows?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Genetic upgradation programme being implemented by Government of India using exotic breeds of cows, namely, Holstein Friesian and Jersey on nondescript indigenous cattle has resulted in increase in their productivity. At present 21% of the total milk produced in the country is from 9.09 million crossbred cows in milk, as against 20% of the total milk coming from 28.3 million indigenous cows in milk.

(c) Under the genetic upgradation programmes being implemented by Government of India two exotic breeds, namely, Holstein Friesian and Jersey have been utilized.

(d) Difference found in quality of milk of foreign and domestic breed of cows is in terms of milk fat percentage. The milk fat percentage of foreign breed of cows on an average ranges from 3 to 4.5% whereas the same in indigenous breeds ranges from 4 to 5.5%, although lactation yield is higher in exotic breed of cows as compared to indigenous breed of cows.

Measures to improve forthcoming Rabi yields

*231. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drought conditions have worsened and resulted in Kharif output to fall by 15 per cent;
- (b) whether the Minister of Finance has also pointed out that there will be 15 to 20 per cent shortfall in country's Kharif crop due to deficient monsoon and drought conditions;
- (c) whether food prices will continue to rise;
- (d) whether Government has decided to give Rs. 288 crore subsidy for Rabi seeds; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to improve Rabi output and to give protection to Rabi seeds?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delayed deficient and erratic rainfall during, 2009 has adversely affected Kharif food grain output by around 18% (as per first Advance Estimate 2009-10).

(c) Food prices depend on several factors such as production within the country and globally, climatic conditions, dietary preferences of consumers, overall economic growth etc. To mitigate the effect of drought and to stabilize the food prices in the country, minimum support price of rice and wheat has been increased for Kharif and Rabi Marketing Seasons. Export of non-basmati rice has been banned and import of wheat and rice on private account at zero duty is allowed. Central issue price of wheat and rice has not been increased since 1.7.2002 to lessen burden of inflation on the poor. State Governments have been requested to maximize the procurement of rice by opening sufficient procurement centers and other necessary arrangement for procurement of paddy and its milling.

(d) In view of recent drought, the distribution subsidy on certified seeds under various programmes/schemes namely Integrated Scheme on Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) has been enhanced with an additional estimated subsidy of Rs.288.26 Crores for distribution of certified seeds during current Rabi Season.

(e) Government of India has taken several other initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 and also to enhance the productivity. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional demand for requirement of seed distribution component. Subsidy norms of Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Pulses (only for Rabi/summer 2009) have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture to reduce the burden on farmers in drought affected area. Age norms of certified seed of rice, wheat and pulses have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses are planned for enhancing production. Additional allocation of rust resistance and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikits has been done. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizer, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.

Sale of VIP quota tickets

*232. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware of the media report that VIP quota for waitlisted ticket confirmation is being sold for Rs. 700/- per berth by Headquarter, Rail Bhavan;

- (b) if so, the details thereof since June to October, 2009;
- (c) whether officials of Directorate of Commercial are involved in selling of VIP quota to touts;
- (d) if so, the action she would take against guilty officials and touts;
- (e) whether a Parliamentary Committee would be constituted to enquire into the matter; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) One print media has reported that touts pay money in Rail Bhawan to get VIP quota released. No specific information has been quoted.

(e) and (f) Efforts are made to bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation by planning holiday special trains during the peak rush periods, putting on extra coaches to meet the day-to-day requirements and increasing the number of coaches on permanent basis in those trains which have high demand and patronage. Moreover, random checks are conducted in association with Vigilance Organisation. If any Railway official is found involved in any irregularity, the official is taken up severely. The process of checks and tightening of procedures is a continuous activity and is closely monitored.

Bhargava Committee on IIMs

*233. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has rejected Bhargava Committee's Pan-IIM Board recommendations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Government has consulted the Board of Governors of individual IIMs on the recommendation of the R.C. Bhargava Committee on the creation of a Pan-IIM Board. Since none of the IIMs were agreeable to the concept, the Ministry in consultation with IIMs has proposed that an informal body comprising Directors of IIM headed by the NRM will meet every six months, to deal with issues common to all IIMs.

Decrease in cultivable land due to conversion for other purposes

*234. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the extent of cultivable land is decreasing every year due to its conversion for other purposes affecting thereby production of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the action on part of Government to look into the grave concern endangering the food security of the country; and

(c) whether Central Government advises States to protect the cultivable land which are being utilized for other than agricultural purposes?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The cultivable land has marginally decreased from 182.88 million ha. of 2004-05 to 182.71 million ha. in 2006-07 leading to average annual decrease in cultivable land by 0.057 million ha. The Net Sown Area has also marginally decreased from 141.07 million ha. of 2004-05 to 140.30 million ha. in 2006-07. During the same period, land under non-agricultural purposes has increased from 24.93 million ha. to 25.19 million ha. Despite the decrease in the extent of cultivable land foodgrain production has increased from 198.36 million Tonnes in 2004-05 to 230.78 Million Tonnes in 2007-08.

(b) and (c) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable Act/Legislation to protect use of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes. With a view to prevent the use of agriculture land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security of the country, the National Policy for Farmers 2007 has recommended that prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/wastelands elsewhere. Further, the commitment under the existing re-settlement policy of the Central/State Governments would be fulfilled in letter and spirit. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated. State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.

In addition, the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 formulated by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources came into effect on 31.10.2007. The policy provides that only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the projects may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. The policy has been sent to the States/UTs for implementation.

Government of India is conscious of the need for taking measures to ensure food security of our country. With a view to prevent land degradation and to bring additional land under

cultivation as well as increasing the productivity of the existing land under agriculture, Government of India is implementing various schemes/programmes namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) etc. in the country. Three major initiatives namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched to enhance productivity of agricultural land and sustaining food security across the country.

Panel for revamping school education

*235. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has set up a panel for revamping school education in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the standard of school education throughout the country is not up to the mark;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) to what extent the panel set up by Government for revamping school education throughout the country is going to improve the standards?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A Round Table comprising educationists, academicians and representatives of civil society has been constituted on 23.9.2009 to advise the Department of School Education and Literacy on macro and micro issues pertaining to school education. The Round Table is one of the several forums in the Department for consultation and interaction on the various aspects of school education. Discussions in the Round Table are an ongoing process, and todate three meetings have been held, covering *inter alia* issues relating to universalisation of elementary education, teacher education, and public-private partnership in education. School education is largely in the domain of the State Governments, and standards across the country are uneven. Improving quality, content and process to reinforce the national and integrative character of education is a continuing endeavour of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Abolition of insurance amount given to victims of train accidents

†*236. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to do away with the amount of insurance given to passengers or to their families affected by unprecedented accidents during rail travel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the provisions for the amount given to rail passengers or to their family members affected by unprecedented accidents during rail travel; and
- (d) the amount given during the last three years on this account?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Safety of passengers is the topmost priority of Railways. Despite all precautions and best efforts, whenever accidents take place causing injury/death of passengers, it is the responsibility of the Indian Railways under the Railways Act, 1989 to pay the compensation as decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) An amount of Rs.40.82 crore has been provided under the head 'Accident Compensation' in Budget Estimates 2009-10.

(d) An amount of Rs.8.41 crore has been paid as compensation for victims of train accidents during the last three years.

Railway projects in Gujarat

*237. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 regarding providing facility of double stack container for Kandla-Bhiladi-Samdari-Jodhpur-Bhatinda railway line;
- (b) if so, the present status of the proposal;
- (c) whether her Ministry is considering to convert the route from Kandla to Palampur as part of Dedicated Freight Corridor between Delhi and Mumbai as proposed by Government;
- (d) whether in view of development of ports in Gujarat, Government is planning to run special container train connections to its ports; and
- (e) if so, by when Government proposes to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat.

(c) Kandla - Palampur section is not a part of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. However, this section is one of the identified feeder routes to Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

(d) and (e) It is the stated policy of Railways to provide rail connectivity to ports. Many such projects are under implementation through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Depending upon the traffic, container train operators are running regular container train services to major ports, such as Pipavav, Mundra and Kandla ports in Gujarat.

Plan for making train journey secure

†*238. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that people now feel insecure while travelling by train;
- (b) if so, whether Government is formulating any action plan for making train journey secure for people; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

There is no reason for passengers to feel insecure during journey by trains as Railways take great care of safety and security of passengers. Railways have a vast network throughout the country and 18 million passengers travel by trains everyday. Passengers can be soft targets for mischievous elements. Although law and order is a state subject, Railways maintain close liaison with the respective State Governments regarding security of passengers.

Following measures have been taken for security of Passengers:-

- (i) Important Mail/Express trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force (RPF)/ Government Railway Police (GRP).
- (ii) 59 Trackers and 235 Sniffer dogs are available with RPF.
- (iii) 12 Commando companies are being raised by giving Commando training to RPSF personnel in institutes of repute.
- (iv) Rupees 67.09 crore has been allocated for procurement of modern security related equipment for RPF.
- (v) Procurement of modern weapons like AK-47 is in progress.
- (vi) INTEGRATED SECURITY SYSTEM - For the first time an Integrated Security System has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 195 sensitive and vulnerable stations of the Indian Railways. The system consists of following four broad areas-
 - (a) Internet Protocol (IP) based CCTV surveillance system
 - (b) Access control
 - (c) Personal and baggage screening system
 - (d) Bomb Detection and Disposal System

In Works Programme 2009-10, approval has been accorded for implementation of this scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.344.31 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Female literacy

*239. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made substantial changes in the definition of literacy with specific focus on achieving 80 per cent literacy target for women by the end of Eleventh Plan period;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have been given directions to focus on female literacy and achieve targets; and

(c) if so, the details of other assistance the Central Government proposes to provide to State Governments where female literacy is very low?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) While the definition of literacy has not been changed, the Saakshar Bharat scheme does focus on women's literacy, especially in rural areas. 80% overall literacy is targeted by the end of the Eleventh plan period.

(b) The States/UT Governments have been informed that under Saakshar Bharat 70 million non-literates are to be made literate, of which 60 million will be women.

(c) The programme cost of Saakshar Bharat will be shared between the Govt. of India and the State/UT Governments in the ratio of 75:25 except the States of the North Eastern Region (NER) where the sharing will be in the ratio of 90:10.

Laying of foundation stone of Jammu-Baramulla line

*240. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of Jammu-Baramulla rail line on 28th October, 2009; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that between 1983 to 2009 the foundation stone of this line has been laid several times?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, on 28th October, 2009 Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated the newly constructed Anantnag-Qazigund rail line the inaugurated the First DEMU train between Qazigund and Anantnag.

(b) Between 1983 and 2009, foundation stones for different sections have been laid by the then Prime Ministers as per details given below:-

Date	Section	Foundation stone laid by
14-04-1983	Jammu-Udhampur	Late Smt. Indira Gandhi
15-03-1997	Udhampur-Katra	Sh. H.D. Deve Gowda
26-07-1997 at Qazigund (Starting Point)	Qazigund-Baramulla	Sh. I.K. Gujral
27-07-1997 at Baramulla (Terminating point)	Qazigund-Baramulla	Sh. I.K. Gujral

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Technical plan to address drought problem

†1677. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the failure of monsoon and drought in the country are becoming a permanent problem;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the technical plan of Government to keep the agriculture out of the affect of drought in the country; and
- (d) the plans Government have for agriculture diversification other than technical plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) Due to the varied agro-climatic regions and variation in the extent of rainfall during the monsoon season across the country, some parts of the country do suffer from drought like phenomenon. In 2009-10, due to the erratic behaviour of South-West Monsoon, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh declared drought/drought like/scarcity conditions.

(c) and (d) Declaration of drought is the domain of the State Government as also the responsibility to draw technical plan to minimize the affect of drought on agriculture. However, the Central Government closely monitors the progress of monsoon and takes actions deemed fit as well as advises the State Governments for appropriate action to minimize the impact of deficit rainfall on agriculture. Technical Plan of the Government includes providing additional allocation of power from the Central pool and diesel subsidy to save the standing crop in the field; providing appropriate agricultural advisories, positioning of inputs, use of Truthful Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation in age for seed varieties, distribution of minikits under the Government programmes and subsidy to use certified seeds to enable taking up of diversified crop plans in unsown/germination

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

failed areas as well as early Rabi; use of fund under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, like, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Macro management in Agriculture (MMA) to create agriculture infrastructure and facilitate in taking up of specific crop strategy to achieve higher production.

Objective of fertilizer subsidy

†1678. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether objective of providing subsidy on fertilizers is to promote agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether agricultural production has increased by 8.37 per cent and there has been growth of 6.92 per cent in production rate during 2001-2002 to 2007-2008;
- (d) if not, the facts in this regard;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that there has been increase of 214 per cent in subsidy amount during the said period; and
- (f) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that the agricultural sector is not getting the advantage of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Providing subsidy on fertilizers is one of the objectives to promote application of fertilizers to enhance agricultural production.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The foodgrain production during the period from 2001-02 to 2007-08 increased by about 8-42%. The per hectare foodgrain yield also increased from 1734 kg in 2001-02 to 1860 kg in 2007-08, the increase being about 7.27%.

(e) and (f) The increase in fertilizer subsidy has been about 241% during the period. The requirement of fertilizers subsidy during last few years has risen sharply, partially due to increase in consumption of fertilizers and mainly due to sharp increase in price of fertilizer inputs and finished fertilizers.

Decline in production of foodgrains

1679. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether kharif crops of rice, wheat and other foodgrains and pulses have dwindled considerably this year or is likely to fall short of estimates; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, to what extent and the actual estimated yields this year compared to that in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) the details of estimated production of rice, coarse cereals, pulses and foodgrains in the country during Kharif 2009-10 (1st advance estimates) alongwith the shortfall as compared to their estimated production during Kharif 2008-09 (4th advance estimates) are given in the table below:

(Million tonnes)

Crop	Estimated Production during Kharif 2009-10	Shortfall as compared to production during Kharif 2008-09
Rice	69.45	15.13
Bajra	5.83	3.01
Maize	12.61	1.29
Tur	2.47	0.16
Pulses	4.42	0.35
Foodgrains	96.63	21.07

Note : Wheat is a Rabi crop.

The details of estimated yield of major crops during Kharif season for the year 2007-08 to 2009-10 are given in the table below:-

Crop	Kharif Yield (kg/hectare)		
	2007-08	2008-09*	2009-10**
Rice	2095	2081	1970
Bajra	1042	1011	673
Maize	2122	2024	1835
Tur	826	678	707
Pulses	557	484	437
Foodgrains	1644	1648	1467

*4th Advance Estimates

**1st Advance Estimates

Suicide by farmers

†1680. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers are still committing suicide in different States;
- (b) if so, their number, State-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for these suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) to (c) the incidents of suicide by farmers have been mainly reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala. Besides, some cases of farmers' suicide were also reported by the State of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. A Statement showing number of suicides by farmers on account of agrarian reasons as per reports received from the State Governments is given in Statement (*See below*).

As reported by the State Governments and revealed in some studies conducted earlier, the causes for suicides by farmers are manifold including personal and other reasons. However, some suicides out of the total number of suicides have been attributed to crop failure, indebtedness, drought and socio-economic reasons.

However, The Veeresh Committee (in the context of the Karnataka Farmers' suicide) has appropriately concluded that connecting the spate of suicides directly to any single cause would be erroneous. Suicide in its content is strictly a personal decision and the post suicide search for causes gives only circumstantial evidence. Typical social factors like family support, failure of social institutions, habits, alcoholism, social security, introvert nature and intra family problems are some of the critical social issues that have affected the victims to take such an extreme step.

Statement

Number of suicides by farmers on account of agrarian reasons as per reports received from the State Governments

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. of suicides by farmers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2007	490
		2008	390
		2009 (upto 16.11.09)	77
2.	Karnataka	2007-08	182
		2008-09	143
		2009-10 (upto 31.08.09)	14
3.	Maharashtra	2007	590
		2008	627
		2009 (upto 15.11.09)	259

1	2	3	4
4.	Kerala	2007	68
		2008	22
		2009 (upto 31.08.09)	02
5.	Tamil Nadu	2007	01
		2008	01
		2009 (upto 31.10.09)	Nil
6.	Punjab	2007	24
		2008	10
		2009 (upto 31.10.09)	18
7.	Gujarat	2007	04
		2008	01
		2009 (upto 31.05.09)	02@
S.No.	Name of State	Date of Report	No. of Suicide
1	2	3	4
8.	Assam	12.12.2007	Nil
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.08.2007	Nil
10.	Bihar	14.5.2008	Nil
11.	Chhattisgarh	31.07.2009	Nil
12.	Goa	31.10.2009	Nil
13.	Haryana	16.11.2009	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	19.11.2009	Nil
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.11.2009	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	25.4.2008	Nil
17.	Manipur	19.11.2009	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	31.07.2009	Nil
19.	Madhya Pradesh	24.11.2009	Nil
20.	Mizoram	23.07.2009	Nil
21.	Nagaland	23.11.2009	Nil
22.	Orissa *	23.11.2009	Nil *

1	2	3	4
23.	Rajasthan	4.12.2007	Nil
24.	Sikkim	21.11.2009	Nil
25.	Tripura	25.3.2008	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20.11.2009	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	8.05.2008	Nil
28.	West Bengal	31.10.2009	Nil
29.	Admn. of Andaman and Nicobar	26.10.2007	Nil
30.	Govt. of NCT of Delhi	28.09.2007	Nil
31.	Admn. of Daman and Diu	15.07.2009	Nil
32.	Admn. of Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.07.2008	Nil
33.	Admn. of Lakshadweep	19.11.2007	Nil
34.	Admn. of Puducherry	23.11.2009	Nil
35.	Admn. of Chandigarh	23.09.2009	Nil

*23 cases of alleged suicide by farmers have been reported in Orissa, but the State Government has not been able to ascertain so far whether anyone or more out of these alleged suicides have been caused due to agrarian distress. However, investigations by the State Police are going on this regard.

@Being re-verified by the Agriculture Department, Gujarat.

Development of rainfed areas

1681. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified rainfed areas in the country for the purpose of their sustainable development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the total expenditure earmarked for development of rainfed areas under the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) The net sown area in the country is about 140.30 million ha of which 60.86 million ha area is covered under irrigation and the remaining 79.44 million ha is rainfed. The state-wise details of net sown area and rainfed area is given in Statement (See below).

Government of India has accorded highest priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed development approach. Ministry of

Agriculture under the Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture allocates approximately Rs.500 crores annually for the Programmes of Natural Resource Management for development of rainfed and degraded areas based on watershed approach as per Annual Work Plan proposed by the States. Department of Land Resources has made provision of Rs.15,359 crores for the Eleventh Plan for watershed management. Government of India has set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. For the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Rs.123 crores has been earmarked for this purpose. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also allocated a budget of Rs.75 crores for Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) and All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture in Eleventh Plan.

Statement

State-wise extent of Net Sown Area and Rainfed Area (2006-07)

(In thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	States	Net Sown Area	Net irrigated land	Rainfed area
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10147	4453	5694
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	209	52	157
3.	Assam	2753	140	2613
4.	Bihar	5556	3161	2395
5.	Chhattisgarh	4722	1282	3440
6.	Goa	137	24	113
7.	Gujarat	9852	3388	6464
8.	Haryana	3556	2990	566
9.	Himachal Pradesh	543	104	439
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	742	309	433
11.	Jharkhand	1769	164	1605
12.	Karnataka	10105	2946	7159
13.	Kerala	2101	392	1709
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14735	6365	8370
15.	Maharashtra	17475	2951	14524
16.	Manipur	224	51	173
17.	Meghalaya	213	67	146

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	92	16	76
19.	Nagaland	322	65	257
20.	Orissa	5739	1846	3893
21.	Punjab	4243	4028	215
22.	Rajasthan	16764	6496	10268
23.	Sikkim	112	9	103
24.	Tamil Nadu	5126	2889	2237
25.	Tripura	280	61	219
26.	Uttarakhand	768	343	425
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16633	13080	3553
28.	West Bengal	5296	3136	2160
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13	0	13
30.	Chandigarh	1	1	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22	7	15
32.	Daman and Diu	3	0	3
33.	Delhi	23	24	-1
34.	Lakshadweep	3	1	2
35.	Puducherry	20	18	2
TOTAL		140299	60859	79440

Diesel subsidy to farmers

1682. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to pay diesel subsidy to farmers during Kharif season this year; and

(b) the total amount of diesel subsidy paid during the current season and the details of basis of payment of subsidy Statewise?

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

(a) and (b) To save the standing crop in the field by providing supplementary irrigation, the Central Government announced Diesel Subsidy Scheme with an outlay of Rs.1000 crores. As per

the scheme, 50% subsidy provided by the States/UTs to the affected farmers on the cost of diesel will be borne by the Government of India, subject to a maximum amount of 7.50 per litre of diesel. The scheme was to operate on reimbursement basis and the State Government/UT. Administrations were required to claim reimbursement for getting Government of India's share of the subsidy so paid after full disbursement of the subsidy amount. The scheme was upto 30.09.2009. No proposals have so far been received from any State Government for reimbursement.

Implementation of proposals under RKVY in Kerala

1683. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority of Kerala had submitted schemes for assistance under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) after the report submitted by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation regarding Kuttanad and Idukki packages;

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

(c) whether steps will be taken in affirmative to the above proposals under RKVY;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (e) State Government of Kerala submitted certain proposals for funding by Government of India out of Kuttanad and Idukki package.

Following projects, out of the proposals submitted to Government of India, were considered for funding under RKVY scheme:

1. Paddy Cultivation in Onattukara Costing Rs.1200 lakhs
2. Sesamum cultivation in Onataturakara costing Rs.60 lakhs
3. Establishing Centre for Farm Machinery Research, Development and Training costing Rs. 624 lakhs.
4. Agriculture Mechanization costing Rs.8500 lakhs.

RKVY, launched during August 2007, provides for projects to be approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, and not directly by the Government of India. Accordingly, these proposals were forwarded to Government of Kerala for consideration under RKVY.

Inclusion of Thrissur, Malappuram and Kuttanad districts of Kerala under NFSM

1684. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one district Palakkad in Kerala has been included in the National Food Security Mission;

(b) if so, whether Government of Kerala has requested Central Government to include Thrissur, Malappuram and Kuttanad districts of Kerala under the National Food Security Mission; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Only one district of Palakkad in Kerala has been included under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) *i.e.* NFSM-Rice.

(b) and (c) This Ministry received representation from the State Governments apart from other dignitaries including Members of Parliament.

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

Since only one district *i.e.* Palakkad qualified the above objective criteria, this district was included under NFSM-Rice for area based interventions. As regards other rice growing districts in Kerala, the State Government was advised to take these districts under the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes-Rice of Macro Management Scheme or under newly launched Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Power supply for farm pumps in Vidarbha

1685. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the sad plight of medium and marginal farmers of Vidarbha whose first paddy crop this year has been completely destroyed due to scanty rains, and those who waited for rains and delayed their sowing, are also equally suffering; and

(b) if so, the special steps taken during August-October, 2009 to provide three phase power supply needed for farm pumps on priority basis so that the cycle of unfortunate farmers' suicides is not repeated?

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

(a) The Government is aware of the situation. It is partially true that due to scanty rains the paddy crop has been affected and caused losses of more than 50% to the paddy crop reported on 68500 hectares in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra.

(b) There are 30,378 No's paid pending applications for pump-sets connection as on 31.3.2009 in Vidarbha region. Out of which 25,370 numbers have completed formalities (*i.e.* submission of test report) and 11,876 numbers of Agricultural Pumps connections have been released so far up to 31st October, 2009. During the current financial year 2009-10 further directives have been issued to the field office to make all efforts to clear all pending cases as on 31.03.2009 in chronological order.

Drip irrigation

1686. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in the countries like Israel where water is scarce, drip irrigation is being used successfully; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not encouraging it in the country?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation in January 2006 to install drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in the country. The scheme supports the following interventions:-

- (i) Assistance @ 50% to all categories of farmers in the ratio of 40:10 shared between Central Government and State Government and remaining 50% is borne by the beneficiary either through his/her own resources or by availing soft loan from financial institution. An area of 8.02 lakh ha. has been achieved under drip irrigation.
- (ii) Training and awareness programmes on drip technology for farmers, officials, financial institutions, NGOs and other stake holders.
- (iii) Operational research on drip irrigation technology for various crops through 22 Precision Farming Development Centres.
- (iv) Integration of drip irrigation with other plasticulture applications/technologies viz. greenhouse, mulching, low tunnel etc.
- (v) Integration of Macro and Micro Irrigation in canal command area e.g. Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1687. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the global climate change and the impact of the resultant high temperature on agriculture;

(b) if so, the likely impact of higher temperature on agriculture, and to what extent the crop yield is expected to be reduced; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the impact of higher temperature on various aspects of agriculture?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Temperature rise studies, conducted so far by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), indicate that rise in temperature in India will affect crops, horticulture, water resources, livestock and fisheries sectors. Studies have also indicated that rise in winter temperature will have negative impact on wheat yield. The cultivation of apples is also shifting to higher elevations in Himachal Pradesh due to rise in temperature. Heat stress will have negative impact on milk yield of livestock. Increased surface sea temperature would cause migration of fish and changes in breeding habitats.

(c) ICAR, Department of Agriculture Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture has taken up a National Network Project on Climate Change to conduct research in agriculture and allied sectors for enhancing scientific adaptation and mitigation measures.

Focus on higher production for forthcoming Rabi crops

1688. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had asked Government agencies to focus their attention towards maximizing production from the standing Kharif crop and prepare for additional production and higher productivity during forthcoming Rabi season;

(b) whether according to recent report of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), use of zero tillage and strip till drills for wheat cultivation in Indo- Gangetic plains which traditionally has low ground water levels can help utilizing residual moisture available after rice harvest; and

(c) if so, to what extent his directive has been considered and to what extent steps taken will help to recoup Kharif losses?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India have taken several initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 in order to compensate the losses in kharif season to some extent and also to enhance the productivity. States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic intervention such as use of truthful level (TL) seeds for Kharif Season only and additional power to the states. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional requirement of seed distribution. Subsidy norms of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra

and pulses only for Rabi/summer 2009, have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture to reduce the burden on farmers in drought affected areas. Age limit norms of certified seed of rice, wheat and pulses varieties have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses are envisaged for enhancing production. Additional allocations of rust resistant and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikit have been made. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizer, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.

The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has given the recommendations on Drought Management. The authority, *inter alia*, “has recommended that the use of zero tillage in wheat utilize residual moisture after rice harvest, because zero tillage machines allows timely sowing of wheat on relatively moist field conditions as compared to traditional system of wheat cultivation.” In this regard, the directive has already been issued to major wheal growing States to take-up above technologies for coverage of more area to enhance the production and productivity of wheat crop. Large number of Zero till seed drill distributed to the farmers under National Food Security Mission and Farm Mechanization under Macro Management of Agriculture.

Inter-cropping option to augment cane supply

1689. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with crushing capacity far outstripping sugarcane availability and growers moving to more remunerative crops, northern sugar mills are seeking to promote inter-cropping alternatives to retain farmer interest in cane;

(b) whether sugarcane growers met P.M. on 16th November, 2009 and explained their miseries;

(c) whether sugar mills are also looking at inter-cropping option to augment cane supplies;

(d) if so, whether farmers were urged to grow short duration crops with cane; and

(e) the concrete steps and measures Government has taken to grow short duration crops with cane and to what extent it has given good results?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand as well as the sugar mills in Northern India are encouraging the promotion of inter-cropping of sugarcane with suitable crops in order to enhance the production of sugarcane and farm income so that farmers continue to grow and supply cane to sugar mills. The suitable inter-crop combinations in the Northern States, are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) No, Sir. No such meeting took place on 16th November, 2009 between Hon'ble Prime Minister and sugarcane growers.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The sugar mills located in the Northern States are focusing and promoting sugarcane inter-cropping with various other crops to augment the cane supply and increase the farm income. The farmers are pursued to grow short duration crops with sugarcane as a intercrop to increase their farm income through the demonstrations, trainings, farmers-scientists interface etc., to make sugarcane cultivation more remunerative.

The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) covered under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in major sugarcane growing States to increase production of sugarcane. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to States for transfer of technologies through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers as wells as farmers-scientist-interfaces, supply of critical inputs like farm Implements, planting materials, drip irrigation system etc. The results of frontline demonstrations conducted by scientists on inter-cropping during 2007-08 and 2008-09 showed significant increase in cane yields depending upon the location and combination of inter-crop. The results of such system, are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State wise Suitable Inter-Cropping System for Sugarcane in Northern States

Sl.No.	State	Suitable inter-cropping combinations
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Sugarcane + Pea Sugarcane + Potato Sugarcane + Wheat Sugarcane + Onion Sugarcane + Coriander Sugarcane + Lentil Sugarcane + Berseem
2.	Uttarakhand	Sugarcane + Wheat Sugarcane + Toria Sugarcane + Lentil Sugarcane + Urd Sugarcane + Potato

1	2	3
3.	Punjab	Sugarcane + Wheat Sugarcane + Onion Sugarcane + Garlic Sugarcane + Coriander Sugarcane + Potato
4.	Haryana	Sugarcane + Wheat Sugarcane + Garlic Sugarcane + Coriander Sugarcane + Urd / Mung Sugarcane + Potato

Statement-II

Result of front line demonstrations organized by various research centres in the country during 2007-08 and 2008-09 compared to traditional methods

State (implementing center)	Intercropping	Cane yield (tons per ha) Traditional	% gain of cane over traditional
Bihar			
(Pusa) 2008-09	Sugarcane + Letil	57	40
Gujarat			
(Navsari) 2007-08	Sugarcane + Oil Seed/pulses	86	29
Karnataka			
(Mandya) 2007-08	Sugarcane + bean	135	25
Maharashtra			
(Padegaon) 2007-08	Sugarcane + Water melon	107	26
Uttar Pradesh			
(Lucknow) 2008-09	Sugarcane + Urdbean	73	28
Uttarakhand			
(Pantnagar) 2008-09	Sugarcane + Urd bean	74	2.8

Source: Progress report (crop season 2008-09) distributed during All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane Group Meeting held at RAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar on November 06-08, 2009.

Shortfall in production due to drought

1690. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether half of India is in drought grip which has resulted in fall of output of rice, sugar, pulses and edible oils; and

(b) if so, to what extent Government is considering to improve position of rice, wheat, sugar etc., and the concrete steps and measures Government has taken to improve its productivity and meet shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per 1st advance estimates for kharif 2009, the production of rice, sugarcane, pulses and oilseeds are estimated at 69.45, 4.42, 249.48 and 15.23 million tonnes respectively against 84.58, 4.78, 273.93 and 17.88 million tonnes respectively during 2008-09 (4th advance estimates). In this regard Government has taken several steps to improve position of rice, wheat, sugar etc. Which are as under.

- (1) Minimum support price of rice has been increased from Rs.850/- and Rs.880/- for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2008-09 to Rs.950/- and Rs.980/- (KMS 2009-10) per quintal for common and Grade 'A' of Paddy, respectively with a Rs.50/- per quintal as bonus to enhance the availability of rice. Export of non-basmati rice has been banned and rice on private account at zero duty is allowed. State Governments have been requested to maximize the procurement of rice by opening sufficient procurement centers and other necessary arrangement for procurement of paddy and its milling.
- (2) The custom duties on crude and refined edible oils have been reduced to nil and 7.5% respectively since 1st April, 2008.
- (3) It has been decided that this duty structure would be continued till 30.09.2010. The Government has banned export of all major edible oils from the country since 17.03.2008 up to 30.09.2010. The Government had launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute up to 10 lakh tonnes of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs.15/- kg. which was enhanced to Rs.25/- kg from January, 2009 to March, 2009.
- (4) The Central Government has now fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs.129.84 per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs.1.37 per quintal for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level. Hitherto, the Central Government was fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane. This FRP is substantially higher than SMP of 2008-09 sugar season which was Rs.81.18 per quintal, with an additional premium of Rs.0.90 for every 0.1% point increase in recovery above 9%.

- (5) Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum are given to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, utilization of by-products viz. baggasse for co-generation of power and molasses for production of ethanol, upgradation of technology and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.
- (6) A short term scheme has been announced for cane development in the current financial year under which loans of Rs.1.0 to 2.5 crore will be available to sugar factories depending upon their crushing capacity, for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc.

Various Crops Development scheme namely National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM), and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented in order to enhance the production and productivity of food grains and sugarcane.

Suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1691. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 20 suicide deaths have been reported in a span of forty days due to drought from Telangana and Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the help Government is extending to the State, particularly to the families of farmers who have committed suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) As per information made available by the State Government, 72 farmers committed suicide from January to October, 2009 on account of agrarian reasons, comprising 43 from Telangana region and 23 from Rayalaseema region of the state. The District-wise and month-wise distribution of these suicides is given in statement (See below). The measures taken by the State Government to address the problem of drought affected areas includes Drought Contingency Plan of Rs.91.92 crore to provide for various alternate crop seeds of which Rs.35.00 crore has already been released by the Government towards seed subsidy. Total input subsidy amount of Rs.471.46 crore has already been released towards input subsidy to the small//marginal farmers whose crops are affected due to drought in 19 Districts of Andhra Pradesh. A Rehabilitation Package for 16 suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh with an approved provision of Rs. 9650.55 crore is under implementation since September 2006. Till 30th September, 2009, 94.52% of the approved provision has been released by Central/State Government and Banks.

Statement

*District-wise and Month-wise data of suicide by farmers on account of agrarian reasons in Andhra Pradesh from January, 2009 to October, 2009
as per information received from State Government*

(No. of cases of suicide by farmers)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
1.	Adilabad	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	9
2.	Ananthapur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Chittoor	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
4.	Kadapa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5.	E. Godavari	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Guntur	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7.	Krishna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
8.	Karimnagar	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	10
9.	Khammam	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10.	Kurnool	3	1	2	2	2	1	3	4	0	0	18
11.	Mahabubnagar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Medak	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	3	0	12
13.	SPS Nellore	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
14.	Nizamabad	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	7
15.	Nalgonda	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
16.	Prakasam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Ranga Reddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
18.	Srikakulam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	W. Godavari	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
20.	Vishakhapatnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Vizianagaram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Warangal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		11	5	7	3	2	3	12	25	3	1	72

Demand to amend NAIS

1692. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it would be useful for farmers if National Agricultural Insurance Scheme covers before sowing or planting rather than the present method of coverage;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the farming community and others have been demanding for (a) above; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not accepting the above genuine demand?

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

(a) The losses caused to crops from sowing to harvesting only are covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Coverage of pre-sowing or planting would be useful for farmers who are not able to sow/plant their crops due to deficit rainfall or adverse weather conditions though they had intension of doing so, and had incurred the expenditure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Keeping in view the suggestions of States/UTs and other stake-holders, a Joint Group was constituted by the Government, to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The Group has reviewed the scheme and made important recommendations including coverage of pre-sowing/planting period. Based on these recommendations a proposal on Modified NAIS has been prepared.

Delay in paying claims of AP MARKFED

1693. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is taking a long time for verifying and approving claims of Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (AP MARKFED);

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that claims of AP MARKFED are languishing in his Ministry from 2003-04, till date;

(c) if so, the reasons for such an enormous delay; and

(d) the manner in which his Ministry is planning to address this issue and cut the time and pay the claims of AP MARKFED within six months of submission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the existing policy and procedure, provisional incidentals for procurement of rice, wheat and Coarsegrains applicable to central pool in respect of all the States including Andhra Pradesh are issued at the beginning of each Marketing Season. For finalization of these provisional incidentals, annual audited accounts/ annual reports are submitted by State Governments and their agencies. Same are examined in the Department and a detailed report is prepared for each crop year. This report is sent to State Government for their comments/suggestions on provisional findings. A meeting is convened in the Department with the concerned State Government at their request in case they have differing opinion on provisional findings to finalise the incidental rates.

After issue of final incidentals, payment of balance amount to the State/State agency is made by the Food Corporation of India on receipt of claims form the State.

In respect of coarsegrains (Maize) procured by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and its agencies, including Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (AP MARKFED), incidentals for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 have already been finalized and communicated to State Government on 03.12.2008 and 07.01.2009 respectively. The State Government requested for revision of economic cost finalized by the Department. The matter was discussed with State Government/AP MARKFED in the meetings on 20.04.2009 and 02.09.2009 and based on discussions, the State Government was requested to send additional information alongwith relevant documents for reconsideration of Department. The same has been received on 01.12.2009 in the Department.

Financial Accounts of Government of Andhra Pradesh/AP MARKFED in respect of procurement of rice for the year 2001-02 to 2005-06 were received together in August, 2008. Kharif Marketing wise accounts/claim have been sent only for 2002-03 on 04.11.2009. There is no undue delay in finalization of accounts of AP MARKFED and time taken for finalization is due to delayed submission of accounts/incomplete information and documents from the State.

Potential to export fruits and vegetables

1694. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase in the production of fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, in what ways the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are utilized;

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by Government to increase the export of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the performance in that regard during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been increase in production of both fruits and vegetables in recent years as per following details:

(Quantity : Million Tonnes)

Commodity	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (3rd Advance)
Fruits	59.56	65.60	69.45
Vegetable	115.01	129.26	133.07

Source : National Horticulture Board (NHB)

Fruits and vegetables are utilized for table consumption, processing into value added products, exports etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the Ministry of Commerce has been promoting export of fruits through several measures such as infrastructure development; setting up of Agri Export Zones; opening up new markets for export; participation in international trade fairs and providing financial assistance to exporters for several activities. Other steps include integrated training programmes for quality and productivity of selected fruits and setting up pilot facilities for disinfestations etc. to meet specific quarantine requirements of importing countries.

The details of export of fruits and vegetables during the last three years is as below:

(Quantity-in Metric Tonnes and Value - Rs. in lakh)

Year	Fruits		Vegetable	
2006-07	347660	871.88	1655198	159645
2007-08	365733	91185	1358841	152527
2008-09	NA	245374	NA	194531

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)

Performance of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

1695. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for better performance in agriculture and allied sectors, particularly with reference to West Bengal in the last three years and how those steps reflected in the higher production of foodgrains and oil seeds in the country;

(b) whether Government has assessed the performance of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Eleventh Plan has fixed target of 4% growth in agriculture and allied sector. Government has launched major schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for contributing to the achievement of this target. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched during the year 2007-08 to encourage the States to invest more in the Agriculture and allied sectors to contribute to the objective of 4% annual growth in this sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. It has an envisaged outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the Plan period. Government of India has released funds under RKVY to the State Government of West Bengal during 2007-08 and 2008-09 as under:-

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crores)
2007-08	54.93
2008-09	147.38

Projects taken up by the State Government of West Bengal to be funded from RKVY funds which will contribute towards higher production of food grains and oilseeds:

	(Rs. in lakh)	
Component	2007-08	2008-09
Crops	200.00	60.30
Horticulture	675.795	1155.03
Seed farm	903.774	1102.03
Soil testing lab	205.10	452.03
Seed Testing Lab.	—	285.00
IPM	—	70.80
Agri mechanization	496.10	583.03
Extension	120.40	376.68
NRM	564.25	810.72
Micro/Minor Irrigation	—	734.29
TOTAL	3165.419	5630.76

(b) and (c) Government assesses physical and financial performance of RKVY from time to time. However as RKVY was launched only in August, 2007, no external evaluation of the Scheme has been taken up so far.

Loss of crop yield due to pest attacks

1696. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country loses approximately 18 per cent of its crop yield valued Rs. 90,000 crores due to pest attacks each year according to rating agency CARE;

(b) if so, whether Government agrees with the findings of CARE; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the crop yield due to pest attacks?

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

(a) As per the report of Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE) on Indian Pesticides Industry, the country loses approximately 18% of the crop yield valued at Rs.90,000 crore due to pest attack each year. The report has cited 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals (2002) on 'Production and Availability of Pesticides'.

(b) It is estimated that crop losses due to insect pest, diseases and weeds range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack.

(c) To prevent/reduce crop losses due to pests the Government has been implementing a scheme, namely, "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection strategy through Farmers' Field Schools organized by 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory. Suitable interventions for plant protection are also made through other schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission etc.

Recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee Report

1697. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority had approved the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 based on the recommendation of above report;

(d) if so, whether steps will be taken to consult the competent authority of Kerala before implementing the recommendations of the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Government of India constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan to suggest an implementable action plan for reviving rural cooperative credit institutions in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, Government of India

has approved a Revival Package for Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure. Legal and Institutional Reforms approved for implementation under the Revival package, *inter alia*, includes carrying out amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on the lines suggested by the Task Force.

(d) to (f) Vaidyanathan Committee Report and its recommendations were discussed at a meeting of the State Chief Ministers on 09 September 2005 and with the Finance and Cooperation Ministers of selected State Governments on 29 September 2005. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force and deliberations held in these meetings, Government of India approved a Revival Package for Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure and announced to all the States and UTs on 05 January 2006. The Revival Package is now being implemented in various States and UTs that have accepted the same for implementation. The Government of Kerala did not accept the Revival Package and hence it is not being implemented in the State of Kerala.

Allocation for agriculture and dairy development to Andhra Pradesh

1698. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent/to be spent on agriculture in the country during the last three years and the current year and its percentage share in the Gross Domestic Product; and

(b) the amount allocated/proposed to be allocated to Andhra Pradesh for agriculture and dairy development during the said period and achievements made therein?

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

(a) Investment in agriculture and allied sector in the country during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (for which data is available) with its percentage share in GDP is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) Details of major schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 to 2009-10 is given in the statement-II.

Statement-I

Year	Investment in Agriculture and allied (Rs. crore)	Investment in agriculture sector as a percentage of . GDP at constant prices
New series (at 1999-2000 prices)		
2005-06	66065	2.5
2006-07	73285	2.6
2007-08 *	79328	2.5

*Quick estimates

As per latest figures available.

Statement-II

*Allocation, Release and Achievement in respect of major Schemes being implemented by the DAC and
AHD and F (Dairy) in the State of Andhra Pradesh*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
		Allocation	Release	percentage of achievement	Allocation	Release	percentage of achievement	Allocation	Release	percentage of achievement	Allocation	Release (As on 31.10.2009)	percentage of achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AGRICULTURE													
1.	Macro Management Scheme	4210.00	2541.54	60.37	5200.00	4643.82	89.30	6535.00	3428.72	52.47	6535.00	3267.50	50.00
2.	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)	1320.00	1227.91	93.02	1640.00	1369.97	83.53	1700.00	882.12	51.89	1115.00	652.40	58.51
3.	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	10029.90	7500.00	74.78	14372.44	7836.94	54.53	19694.49	12968.39	65.85	13405.58	6403.59	47.77
4.	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms	396.00	467.00	117.93	2079.00	2470.64	118.84	1436.30	1025.87	71.42	1430.88	690.81	48.28
5.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	0.00	0.00		4482.00	4462.00	99.55	10603.00	8415.00	79.36	12505.00	9391.00	75.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6.	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)	4542.00	4542.00	100.00	5325.00	5325.00	100.00	3000.00	3000.00	100.00	3000.00	500.00	16.67
7.	Micro Irrigation	27529.00	19519.68	70.91	14865.67	5747.76	38.66	14931.68	9727.31	65.15	16832.01	6930.66	41.18
8.	National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility								175.00		688.60	0.00	0.00
9.	National Bamboo Mission	0.00	0.00	0.00	112.80	112.80	100.00	170.62	117.65	68.95	25.09	0.00	0.00
10.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	0.00	0.00		9313.00	6108.00	65.59	31657.00	29717.00	93.87	41000.00	25625.00	62.50
Dairy													
11.	Strengthening infrastructure for quality and clean milk production	**	83.75	100.00		99.63	100.00		50.00	100.00			
12.	Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)	**	72.45	100.00		301.33	100.00		354.53	100.00		100.00	100.00

*Figures for 2009-10 are provisional upto 31.10.2009

**For Dairy Schemes there is no Statewise allocation and project sanctioned are demand driven.

Damage to apple crop in Himachal Pradesh

1699. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the unfavourable weather conditions over the past one year in Himachal Pradesh have taken a heavy toll of the apple crop with the total production declined by over 45 per cent as compared to the last year due to which apple growers have been put in a heavy debt and forced to leave apple farming;

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

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme for apple growers to tackle such natural calamities;

(d) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The production of apple has reduced from 510161 MT during 2007-08 to 279759 MT, with a total decline in production by 45.16% *i.e.* 230402 MT as compared to the last year due to unfavorable weather conditions over past one year in Himachal Pradesh. However, the apple growers are not leaving apple farming in Himachal Pradesh due to rise in prices of Apple which has compensated the growers for loss in fruit production.

(b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh is encouraging the growers to adopt cultivation of new improved strains recently imported by the Department, which are less sensitive to adverse climatic conditions during flowering and fruiting as compared to delicious group of Apple.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has implemented Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme for Apple from Rabi 2009-10 season on pilot basis covering adverse climatic conditions affecting apple production such as chilling requirement, temperature fluctuation, rainfall requirement and unseasonal/excess rainfall for which a total premium 50% (@11.5% + 10.30% ST) of the sum insured per tree shall be payable by the growers. The balance 50% amount of premium shall be borne by Central and State Govt. on equal share basis. Besides, Government of India has approved a sum of Rs.88.93 crores for release from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), including Rs.11.82 crores for input subsidy to Horticulture farmers of the State.

(e) Does not arise.

Benefit under NAIS to apple growers in Himachal Pradesh

1700. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers benefited under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in the country including Himachal Pradesh during last three years, year-wise;

- (b) the targets fixed and achieved thereunder during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (c) whether apple growers of Himachal Pradesh have not been able to reap the benefits of NAIS;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that the benefit of the above scheme reaches the apple growers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a demand driven scheme, therefore, no targets are fixed under the scheme. State-wise details of total number of farmers covered under the scheme in the country including that of Himachal Pradesh, during last three years, is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Plantation/perennial horticultural crops like apple are not covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) due to their peculiar nature and non-availability of past yield data. The scheme covers only food crops, oilseeds, pulses and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which yield data is available for a requisite number of years.

(e) and (f) Keeping in view the suggestions of States/UTs and other stake-holders, a Joint Group was constituted by the Government, to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The Group has reviewed the scheme and made important recommendations including insurance coverage for perennial horticultural and vegetable crops as a separate scheme. These crops can be covered under Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), introduced in consultation with implementing insurance companies and respective State Governments. Accordingly, Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to implement Pilot WBCIS to cover Apple crop during Rabi 2009-10 season in Theog, Jubbal, Narkanada, Rohru and Chirgaon blocks of Shimla district and Ani Block of Kullu district.

Statement

Farmers covered from 2006-07 to 2008-09

S.No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2270274	2333702	2147028	6751004
2.	Assam	14618	19609	35817	70044
3.	Bihar	684435	913018	766556	2364009
4.	Chhattisgarh	729320	708590	828297	2266207

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Goa	544	513	393	1450
6.	Gujarat	877882	839273	841630	2558785
7.	Haryana	98743	140741	1788	241272
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19272	13228	22293	54793
9.	Jharkhand	1262681	742089	742837	2747607
10.	Karnataka	1340337	636976	1341946	3319259
11.	Kerala	30212	33961	27945	92118
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1859108	2215524	1844470	5919102
13.	Maharashtra	1676064	1984301	3502614	7162979
14.	Meghalaya	3102	1319	3225	7646
15.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
16.	Orissa	1080217	973145	773197	2826559
17.	Rajasthan	2619180	2834649	2250722	7704551
18.	Sikkim	38	23	314	375
19.	Tamil Nadu	315401	557200	820159	1692760
20.	Tripura	2472	1889	4118	8479
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1998002	2397911	2183557	6579470
22.	Uttarakhand	20135	33293	53741	107169
23.	West Bengal	1001321	1052765	957052	3011138
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	78	176	198	452
25.	Puducherry	2824	2670	1562	7056
26.	Jammu and Kashmir	5770	6012	1764	13546
TOTAL		17912030	18442577	19153223	55507830

Water crisis in agriculture sector

1701. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any action plan to cope with deficiency in water, which has threatened to affect the Rabi crop;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has convened meeting of States affected by deficient rain and drought to discuss the adverse effect of draught on crop; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to utilize available water for raising crops, the Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM) wing in the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing various major and medium command area irrigation projects in the country and also minor irrigation projects in hill states for promoting irrigation facilities to enhance production and productivity of different crops. Besides, promotion of water saving devices as such sprinkler/drip irrigation are carried out in various crop development schemes particularly under micro-irrigation scheme.

State Agriculture Ministers Conference was held on 21.8.2009 to review the position to take necessary strategies in this respect. The main outcome of above meeting, relating to deficiency of monsoon are as under;

- (1) To ensure that seeds for the requisite crops are available to the State Governments. In case, it is so required, the relaxation be allowed by the Central Government for inclusion of truthfully labeled (TL) seeds under RKVY extended till Rabi, 2009.
- (2) To advise NABARD to commence a drive on providing loans specifically meant for the shallow tube-wells programme, and short-term credit.
- (3) KVKs and other ICAR institutions in the States would assist the State Governments in preparing advisories for the farmers, in the matter of varieties, alternative crops, pest surveillance and pesticide use, nutrient requirement.
- (4) Services of Doordarshan and All India Radio would be utilized both by the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Governments to launch an awareness campaign amongst the farmers.
- (5) Wherever feasible, depending upon availability of surplus power, Central Government would provide additional power from the Central pool to the States for irrigation purposes.
- (6) Ensure availability of fertilizers in accordance with the requirements of the States determined during the Zonal Conference jointly by DAC, DoF and the State Governments.
- (7) Central Teams have been deputed to those States which sent their Memorandum for relief assistance under the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The above suggestions have already been taken up for implementation to enhance the productivity of Rabi crops to recoup the losses of kharif upto some extent.

The major steps taken by Central Government in this regard are as under.

States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic intervention such as allowing use of truthfully leveled (TL) seeds and provisioning additional power to energize irrigation pumps to the States. States have been given flexibility to utilize the funds under various Central schemes to meet the additional requirement of seed distribution. Subsidy norms of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and pulses have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture for Rabi/summer 2009-10 season. Age limit norms of certified seed of rice wheat and pulses varieties have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses has been planned for enhancing rice production. Additional allocations of rust resistant and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikit have been made. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertiliser, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.

Miserable condition of farmers in U.P.

1702. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of farmers of Uttar Pradesh who constitute 2/3rd population of State, is very miserable;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain their real condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government will conduct any survey in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to policies of Government, 90 per cent farmers of U.P. are not able to even feed their families properly; and

(e) the details of farmers who committed suicide in northern States during last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

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

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

Impact of bio-fuels on food prices and production

1703. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a World Bank study has revealed that bio-fuels are responsible for hike in food prices that has pushed hundred million people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of bio-fuels in India; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase food production to bring the food price at reasonable level?

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

(a) to (d) The World Bank Study was based on bio-fuel production in USA where edible green crops like Soyabean, maize etc. were purportedly diverted for obtaining ethanol. Very little area is under bio-fuel production in India. Further, the Government as a policy encourages bio-fuel plantations only on wastelands. As such there has been no adverse impact of promoting bio-fuels on increase in food prices in India. The Government has also been encouraging research institutions such as Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to develop high yielding varieties and technologies for achieving higher production and productivity of all food crops. Besides, in pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Food Security Mission" has been launched from Rabi 2007-08. The aim of the Mission is to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million tonnes, 8 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of Eleventh Plan. In addition, the Government of India provides assistance for seeds and crop development programmes to enhance production and productivity under various schemes such as "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds", "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)", "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)", "Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA)", "Technology Mission on Cotton", "Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta", "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" and "Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States (TMNE)" etc.

National Policy on Millet

1704. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any 'National Policy on Millet' as India is the top producer of Millet in the world with 10.6 million tonnes per year and domestic consumer and exporter with value addition;

(b) if so, the strategies formulated to increase the production by fixing the Minimum Support Price and for exploring possibility of evolving decentralized multigrain and need based PDS suiting to the local condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) No, Sir However, National Agriculture Policy (July 2000) focused for special efforts to raise the production and productivity of crops to meet the increasing demand for food. Accordingly, to enhance the production and productivity of cereals including millet, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals (excluding Maize) Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP - Coarse Cereals)" under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is in operation in the major coarse cereals growing States in the

country. Besides, frontline demonstrations of coarse cereals are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agriculture Universities on farmer's field to popularize the frontier technologies among farmers. Under this scheme, assistance is given to the farmers for distribution of seed minikits, distribution of certified seeds, micronutrients, gypsum, as well as transfer of technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers in farmer field schools.

The Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for jowar, bajra and ragi. MSP has been increased for jowar and bajra from Rs.540/- per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs.840/- per quintal in 2009-10 and Rs.600/- per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs.915/- per quintal in 2009-10 for ragi, respectively.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution makes allocation of coarse grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as per the requests of the States/UTs for the same for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories. The coarse grains are allocated for AAY and BPL categories by submitting equal quantities of rice and/or wheat as requested by the States/UTs since allocation of food grains (rice and wheat) is already being made to these categories as per their entitlement *i.e.* @35 kgs. per family per month. However, for APL category, coarse grains are allocated based on requests received from State Governments in addition to their existing allocation of food grains where there is margin between the present allocation and the entitled maximum quantity of 35 kgs. per APL family per month.

Research and development in farming sector

1705. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the agriculture production is declining during recent years;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any initiatives to promote research and development in the field of agriculture since there is threat for food security; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) No, Sir. The production of rice, wheat, cereals and total foodgrains in the country has steadily increased during the last five years *i.e.*, 2004-05 to 2008-09 (4th advance estimates).

Government has taken several initiatives to promote research and development and adoption of improved technologies in the field of agriculture. Some of the major initiatives include enhancing crop productivity through development of superior varieties having high disease resistance, high yield and responding well for precision farming practices, evolving appropriate crop management practices and formulating efficient crop based cropping systems for sustainable food production,

intensification of research on development of commercially viable hybrid technology for achieving higher yield, development of molecular techniques and their application in crop breeding with emphasis on genetic engineering etc.

Fall in soil nutrition in Assam

1706. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there has been an inordinate fall in soil nutrition factors in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action-plan of Government towards controlling the use of urea and banning the use of other pesticides to ensure food safety and nutrition security in the State of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) An increasing trend of depletion of nutrients has been reported in soil in Assam as brought out below:-

Nutrient	Negative balance (in metric tonnes) in 1998-99	Negative balance (in metric tonnes) in 2005-06
N	1,35,257	2,14,763
P2O5	65,876	59,967
K2O	1,67,650	2,35,576

(c) The Government has taken steps to reduce the imbalance in use of chemical fertilizers including urea as well as to reduce use of pesticides in the State of Assam keeping in view the food safety and nutrition security. Emphasis is given on balanced use of chemical fertilizers, Integrated Nutrient Management, organic farming and Integrated Pest Management for control of pests with judicious use of pesticides.

Hike in prices of corn

1707. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether corn prices are rising;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of corn exported to each country during the last three years; and
- (d) the role of Andhra Pradesh farmers producing corn in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 1993-94 =100) for Corn showed a mixed trend during the period 2007 to 2009 (November 2009). However from December 2008, the WPI for Corn increased continuously up to September, 2009 and thereafter started declining. The statement showing trends in the Monthly WPI of Corn over the last three years is given below:

Monthly WPI for Maize/Corn from 2007

Months	2007	2008	2009
January	240.2	234.3	264.5
February	244.8	237.2	268.4
March	249.3	244.5	269.4
April	248.8	246.0	277.7
May	244.0	246.4	282.2
June	242.6	254.6	287.3
July	240.7	252.5	290.7
August	236.0	252.6	299.9
September	228.8	249.8	300.9
October	228.3	254.4	295.9
November	225.0	258.9	295.2
December	223.4	254.4	—

(c) The details of Corn exported to each country from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) State-wise data on exports are not available.

Statement

Export of Maize (Corn), other than seed from India

(Quantity in mt. value in lakhs)

Country	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Malaysia	46946.13	3460.54	1252302.32	111419.21	1193280.15	114870.78
Korea RP	118.00	18.64	286550.00	26555.25	9143.00	970.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Taiwan	5799.00	521.67	259229.52	24096.91	509402.00	52781.70
Vietnam S Rep	11944.00	1006.54	215566.88	19799.22	314888.94	18217.88
Bangladesh	294167.18	21645.58	202034.22	16542.68	93011.24	8589.98
U Arab Emts	25225.90	2106.35	85552.87	7716.37	181486.07	18240.15
Yemen Republic	—	—	83467.09	7389.10	166024.14	15995.75
Sri Lanka	84160.00	6251.57	67535.60	6013.11	51527.00	4954.65
Jordan	—	—	65832.00	5762.99	193034.00	19061.89
Nepal	14350.14	747.85	58831.83	4245.08	12503.66	1124.13
Indonesia	113508.66	8701.64	38211.14	3424.90	39632.05	4384.87
Pakistan	2100.00	197.25	24627.03	2471.89	113246.67	11363.85
Oman	365.00	31.96	19977.14	1803.61	52576.00	5036.91
Singapore	10113.28	799.98	15756.00	1426.63	33730.37	3221.78
Philippines	10030.77	1857.60	4234.90	1009.78	4288.93	1089.04
Cyprus	—	—	7000.00	672.52	—	—
Portugal	—	—	5627.00	628.15	3144.00	342.61
Iraq	2323.00	220.54	7199.96	618.48	6648.00	614.22
Seychelles	4666.20	392.64	6550.98	610.29	2775.00	315.98
Kuwait	5.60	0.38	6205.50	557.24	7087.00	651.78
Saudi Arabia	1.00	0.05	4874.00	496.66	51975.18	5421.59
Qatar	—	—	3342.62	304.38	954.00	103.55
China P RP	350.15	38.51	2256.63	254.33	1362.00	162.59
Japan	—	—	732.98	102.04	58704.01	6368.92
Australia	—	—	1515.70	99.20	18304.70	1840.85
Malta	—	—	735.26	70.48	453.00	44.77
Somalia	—	—	250.00	64.46	—	—
Greece	—	—	642.00	60.59	207.00	19.91
Thailand	3263.08	1044.04	220.00	31.99	1264.49	547.83
Unspecified	—	—	261.04	20.31	1008.00	108.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bulgaria	—	—	100.00	14.81	—	—
Uganda	—	—	131.00	12.51	—	—
Eritrea	3535.00	259.66	22.00	9.92	—	—
Spain	—	—	77.00	9.91	270.00	37.44
Brunei	1.00	0.12	114.55	9.27	333.99	46.39
Italy	14.00	1.32	75.00	7.85	—	—
UK	8.10	1.48	55.55	7.42	168.00	22.58
Armenia	—	—	22.00	2.43	—	—
Maldives	—	—	17.59	0.95	11.46	0.75
Kenya	10.00	0.06	3.06	0.31	30279.00	3858.51
Bahrain	—	—	2.80	0.27	22.00	3.82
Colombia	—	—	1.00	0.15	—	—
South Africa	—	—	1.06	0.06	25.00	4.49
Fiji IS	—	—	0.30	0.03	—	—
Iran	—	—	0.20	0.01	—	—
Denmark	0.40	0.03	—	—	—	—
Congo P REP	226.43	15.16	—	—	—	—
Bhutan	199.91	8.31	—	—	—	—
Sudan	3851.00	547.44	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	100.00	7.62	—	—	—	—
Tanzania REP	20.00	0.71	—	—	—	—
USA	8.40	0.36	—	—	4.00	0.34
DJIBOUTI	—	—	—	—	20266	2382.24
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	—	16800	1625.53
France	—	—	—	—	2200.00	199.26
New Zealand	—	—	—	—	1548.00	192.75
Belgium	—	—	—	—	997.00	174.87
Hongkong	—	—	—	—	1170.84	115.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Guinea	—	—	—	—	898.77	104.23
Syria	—	—	—	—	525.00	57.34
Lebanon	—	—	—	—	552.00	55.51
Egypt A RP	—	—	—	—	90.00	43.98
Netherland	—	—	—	—	192.00	39.91
Turkey	—	—	—	—	240.00	23.11
Canada	—	—	—	—	44.42	12.09
Germany	—	—	—	—	27.00	5.81
Mozambique	—	—	—	—	2.00	0.23
Romania	—	—	—	—	0.10	0.01
Ukraine	—	—	—	—	0.13	0.01
TOTAL	637411.33	49885.60	2727715.32	244343.75	3198327.31	305454.26

Source: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Supply and distribution of fertilizers

†1708. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of manure/fertilizers along with their quantity allocated to States by the Central Government for this year for Rabi crop in the country;

(b) whether States are getting fertilizers being allocated by the Central Government in prescribed time-frame;

(c) if so, the names of the States which got fertilizers, the details of the type of fertilizers and their quantity along with their date of distribution and the States which are yet to be supplied; and

(d) whether there is a shortage of manure/fertilizers in the country this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level and State Governments are responsible for further distribution within the State.

The State-wise requirement (demand), supply (availability) and sales of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPK) fertilizers during the current Rabi season 2009-10 (October'09 and November'09) is given in Statement (*See* below).

As can be seen, the availability of all the fertilizers has been adequate.

Statement

RABI 2009

(Figures in 000'MTs)

UREA

States	October, 2009			November, 2009		
	Require- ment	Avail- ability#	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability#	Sales upto 30.11.09#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	300.00	319.86	260.53	280.00	264.96	144.96
Karnataka	120.00	160.25	128.98	85.00	131.37	57.62
Kerala	15.00	22.19	18.31	15.50	25.01	9.75
Tamil Nadu	135.00	105.08	96.79	180.00	164.33	144.75
Gujarat	160.00	160.63	124.43	210.00	180.03	110.15
Madhya Pradesh	193.29	212.68	194.70	307.02	314.98	153.10
Chhattisgarh	6.00	17.48	9.65	9.50	14.32	5.57
Maharashtra	220.00	215.75	131.10	214.00	212.53	125.29
Rajasthan	138.00	145.15	102.79	230.00	219.45	122.48
Haryana	145.00	191.64	139.69	265.00	219.95	129.52
Punjab	300.00	278.25	204.60	270.00	267.34	78.28
Jammu and Kashmir	25.67	2.95	0.23	10.03	5.37	1.93
Uttar Pradesh	300.00	529.99	294.42	500.00	655.02	349.02
Uttarakhand	2.50	17.67	5.82	15.50	36.26	8.87
Bihar	130.00	129.90	121.35	180.00	181.00	139.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	10.00	18.32	13.37	15.00	12.89	5.53
Orissa	25.00	47.47	14.96	15.00	38.70	3.82
West Bengal	78.77	100.94	74.85	137.00	148.83	79.32
Assam	12.60	15.48	14.82	18.20	22.14	14.07
All India	2333.20	2702.67	1957.98	2970.38	3124.61	1689.98

#Availability and Sale figures are tentative and will be finalised by 5.12.09.

RABI 2009

(Figures in 000'MTs)

DAP

States	October, 2009			November, 2009		
	Require- ment	Avail- ability@	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability#	Sales upto 30.11.09#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	200.00	183.78	88.62	100.00	111.14	37.84
Karnataka	90.00	165.60	24.19	70.00	55.99	30.58
Kerala	5.26	3.18	3.11	3.00	4.19	1.87
Tamil Nadu	85.00	30.53	27.80	46.00	49.83	30.69
Gujarat	135.00	128.38	71.62	125.00	113.36	55.56
Madhya Pradesh	182.26	233.93	83.30	171.89	193.30	107.73
Chhattisgarh	8.15	52.51	9.02	10.75	5.96	4.77
Maharashtra	179.50	498.36	55.63	160.20	90.15	51.33
Rajasthan	150.00	133.94	132.59	95.00	116.25	79.33
Haryana	225.00	220.58	149.24	125.00	102.05	96.36
Punjab	350.00	360.15	175.80	100.00	117.84	114.14
Jammu and Kashmir	21.00	3.50	3.46	8.25	7.98	6.53
Uttar Pradesh	375.00	387.97	199.24	375.00	375.22	202.63
Uttarakhand	4.00	10.88	1.41	7.00	8.10	3.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	60.00	54.57	49.74	100.00	80.61	60.78
Jharkhand	12.50	14.96	13.38	12.50	10.58	6.43
Orissa	5.00	42.27	7.38	8.48	22.19	5.03
West Bengal	31.30	47.04	32.81	56.10	57.62	41.12
Assam	1.80	2.58	2.58	2.60	2.54	1.68
All India	2125.63	2578.33	1131.88	1580.65	1524.97	938.63

@Availability includes 14.45 LMT of DAP (AP-85250, MT, Karnataka, 142279 MT, Gujarat 66370 MT, Madhya Pradesh 141765 MT, Chhattisgarh 47128 MT, Maharashtra 443244 MT, Haryana 77587 MT, Punjab 184901 MT, Uttar Pradesh 191042 MT, Uttarakhand 9406 MT, Orissa 37087 MT, West Bengal 16066MT) pre-positioned for Rabi 09-10 during Kharif' 09 over and above the Kharif' 09 requirement. The entire pre-positioned quantity 14.45 LMT has been sold to state level agencies/private dealers etc. by September end.

#Availability and Sale figures are tentative and will be finalised by 5.12.09.

RABI 2009

(Figures in 000'MTs)

MOP

States	October, 2009			November, 2009		
	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability#	Sales upto 30.11.09#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	85.00	103.33	79.23	50.00	77.95	22.93
Karnataka	50.00	67.64	52.71	40.00	69.98	28.26
Kerala	20.00	26.58	22.89	15.00	23.70	9.04
Tamil Nadu	53.00	56.36	49.47	77.00	89.80	50.50
Gujarat	26.00	36.19	33.80	25.00	27.99	25.35
Madhya Pradesh	20.59	16.03	12.11	19.06	19.65	11.09
Chhattisgarh	2.00	2.90	1.22	2.45	3.01	0.79
Maharashtra	64.60	64.41	43.00	37.30	87.60	27.97
Rajasthan	6.00	7.10	3.95	4.00	8.42	0.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	10.00	13.14	10.46	5.00	13.77	8.90
Punjab	15.00	20.25	7.60	10.00	16.37	8.91
Jammu and Kashmir	4.72	1.83	1.37	4.95	0.46	0.45
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	29.28	28.11	35.00	83.96	48.62
Uttarakhand	2.00	2.63	2.63	2.00	0.15	0.15
Bihar	25.00	17.30	15.46	50.00	42.17	21.61
Jharkhand	2.50	1.38	1.38	2.00	0.81	0.37
Orissa	5.67	11.32	6.44	6.54	8.02	3.17
West Bengal	33.90	44.81	44.79	63.50	89.17	49.80
Assam	6.30	8.37	1.47	9.10	9.54	4.86
All India	492.10	531.95	419.18	462.74	672.51	323.64

#Availability and Sale figures are tentative and will be finalised by 5.12.09.

RABI 2009

(Figures in 000'MTs)

NPK

States	October, 2009			November, 2009		
	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability#	Sales upto 30.11.09#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	200.00	237.49	187.38	200.00	197.05	67.07
Karnataka	125.00	105.78	88.85	100.00	70.92	37.96
Kerala	19.75	26.28	23.52	17.75	21.31	3.03
Tamil Nadu	46.00	74.17	68.06	42.00	68.11	37.68
Gujarat	52.55	62.25	42.15	54.25	75.71	38.78
Madhya Pradesh	59.67	50.20	41.99	54.84	66.62	43.90
Chhattisgarh	7.35	7.62	6.15	7.10	8.54	3.36
Maharashtra	80.00	89.23	68.15	85.00	99.06	56.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	26.80	18.46	17.84	15.00	20.50	17.92
Haryana	5.00	12.02	10.56	5.00	10.86	6.31
Punjab	20.00	19.70	15.97	5.00	15.10	7.98
Uttar Pradesh	125.00	157.06	136.19	125.00	173.87	127.42
Uttarakhand	7.50	6.65	6.38	5.00	5.55	5.35
Bihar	45.00	35.15	32.24	60.00	36.78	13.12
Jharkhand	6.80	12.21	12.21	9.20	10.22	5.09
Orissa	9.70	18.01	5.63	9.40	17.55	4.54
West Bengal	96.50	104.90	101.78	118.30	98.60	48.06
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
All India	945.30	1044.22	870.45	927.28	1003.27	528.15

#Availability and Sale figures are tentative and will be finalised by 5.12.09.

Aid for Bhopal gas tragedy

†1709. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of contribution of Central and State Government in the aid given for various schemes for health and resettlement of victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;
- (b) the contribution of Centre in the last five years; and
- (c) the details of funds provided to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India had sanctioned Rs.102.00 crores for immediate relief and rehabilitation and financial assistance to the victims of Gas Tragedy from 1985 to 1989. In 1990, Government of India approved a 5 Year Action Plan of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh with a total outlay of Rs.258.00 crores for Medical, Economic, Social and Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims. It was decided that the expenditure on 5 Year Action Plan to be implemented by State Government of Madhya Pradesh would be shared by the Government of India and State Government of Madhya Pradesh in ratio of 75:25. This Action Plan was extended up to July, 1999. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs.193.50 crore and the Action Plan has been completed in the year 1999-2000. This financial assistance has been fully utilized in various relief and rehabilitation programmes of the Gas Victims.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In April, 2006, the Government of India sanctioned funds to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The Government of India sanctioned funds to the Government of Madhya Pradesh who sanctioned Rs.14.18 crore to Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for providing safe drinking water through pipe lines from the Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The work under this project is nearing completion.

Common code of ethics for pharmaceutical industry

1710. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representation from Small and Medium Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in the country to speed up exploration of the option of a common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is a fact that under the pressure of multinational drug companies, Government is not showing any interest to opt for a common code of ethics; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps Government proposes to adopt common code of ethics for the pharmaceutical industry to bring down the prices of medicines at a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumers/patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/Industry, this Department has been able to persuade most of the associations to have code of ethics. Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association have informed that they alongwith Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCMP).

Sick fertilizer PSEs

†1711. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) has suggested for investment of Rs. 50,000 crores at Government level to re-operate sick public sector factories producing chemical fertilizers;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has prepared a proposal to re-operate sick units on the basis of partnership with the private sector; and

(d) if so, the facts and the assessment of total property of these sick units in September, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units on FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendation for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of the each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendation regarding the suitable financing option. Recommendations of the ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Comparison of cost of production of fertilizer using gas and naphtha

†1712. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of production of chemical fertilizers is more with the use of naphtha in comparison to use of gas as a fuel;

(b) if so, the facts in this regards;

(c) the assessment of cost of production of fertilizers after the use of both above said fuels in the year 2008-09; and

(d) the respective production percentage of fertilizer by using gas and naphtha as fuel in the country in the year 2008-09?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Cost of production of chemical fertilizer-urea is more with the use of naphtha in comparison to use of gas as a fuel.

(b) and (c) The details are as under :

	Gas based units	Naphtha based units
Weighted Average Provisional concession rate during 2008-09 (Rs/MT of Urea)	10891 (20 Units)	23352 (4 Units)

(d) The production percentage of fertilizer is as under:

	Gas based Units	Naphtha based Units	FO/LSHS based Units
Production of Urea	79% (20 Units)	10% (4 Units)	11% (4 Units)

Import of sub-standard urea by Indian Potash Ltd.

1713. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ship-load of urea imported by State owned Indian Potash Ltd. through Pipavav Port in Gujarat has been found to be sub-standard;

(b) whether the disputed cargo from Bandar Abbas in Iran was earlier rejected by Pakistan and later diverted to India through forged shipping documents;

(c) whether Government had ordered the vessel to be detained and quality check to be conducted by an independent team of officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir. Samples of urea cargo in vessel MV Saint Peter imported through Indian Potash Limited (IPL) were drawn by the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQ and TI), Faridabad during discharge operation of the vessel at Pipavav port which were found to be as per the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) specifications.

(b) On the basis of complaint of urea being sub-standard and rejected by the Pakistan, an independent inspection team of the Government officials was deputed for further investigation. The team has observed that the pre arrival notification of security submitted by the Master of the

vessel to the authorities at Pipavav port contains last 10 ports of call, and also shows that vessel was sailed from Yuzhny and anchored at Gawader port in Pakistan from 22nd August 2009 to 16th September 2009. There is no evidence on record that vessel was sailed from Bandar Abbas in Iran. The case is still under examination in the Department.

(c) and (d) The vessel had completed discharge at Pipavav port and sailed out before the complaint was received. A team consisting of one officer each from Department of Fertilizers and CFQC and TI (Mumbai), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was deputed to further investigate the matter. The team took samples from the urea discharged by MV Saint Peter and stored at Pipavav port. The analysis of second sample done in CFQC and TI, Mumbai also conformed to the FCO specifications. However, the laboratory report indicates that the sample does not conform to the particle size specifications provided in the Contract. Against the contractual requirement of 90% (80% under FCO) the particle size retained on 1mm IS sieve is reported 84.15%. The supplier is liable to pay penalty for deficiency in particle size as per the contractual provisions.

Import and allotment of DAP and urea

†1714. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not providing adequate quantity of DAP fertilizer to farmers in the country;
- (b) the allotment of DAP fertilizer and the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of agencies and countries from where DAP and urea were imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of DAP fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at state level and state Governments are responsible for its tie-up with the manufacturers and importers and further distribution within the State. The State-wise requirement, availability and sales of DAP during the year 2009-10 (April'09 to November'09) is given in statement (*See below*).

(c) The details of agencies and countries where the DAP and urea has been imported during the current year 2009-10 (April'09 to October'09) are as follows:

Urea		DAP	
Agencies	Countries	Agencies	Countries
1	2	3	4
MMTC,	Bahrain, Bangladesh,	Tata Chemicals Limited,	USA, Jordan,
STC	China, CIS, Egypt,	Indian Potash Limited,	China, Mexico,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
and IPL	Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar and S. Arabia.	IFFCO, Mosaic India Pvt. Limited, Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd., Zuari Industries Ltd., KRIBHCO, Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd., Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited and Paradip Phosphates Ltd.	CIS, Tunisia, Russia, Australia, Lithuania and Turkey.

Statement

*Estimated Cumulative Requirement, availability and Sales of DAP during
the year 09-10 (April'09 to November'09)*

DAP

(Qty. '000 Tonnes)

State	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	800.00	769.18	695.87
Karnataka	605.00	662.24	636.83
Kerala	28.25	25.48	23.16
Tamil Nadu	331.00	244.47	225.33
Gujarat	685.00	640.79	582.29
Madhya Pradesh	804.15	868.16	782.59
Chhattisgarh	153.90	193.63	192.44
Maharashtra	889.70	1140.04	1101.22
Rajasthan	595.00	562.98	526.05
Haryana	650.00	625.52	619.82
Punjab	750.00	775.92	772.24
Jammu and Kashmir	66.75	35.06	33.60

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	1300.00	1321.49	1148.76
Uttarakhand	26.00	33.82	29.38
Bihar	335.00	283.50	263.48
Jharkhand	100.00	70.48	66.34
Orissa	148.48	186.39	169.24
West Bengal	307.40	324.37	307.86
Assam	19.40	18.82	17.96
All India	8627.05	8792.05	8205.35

Overcharging of medicines

1715. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total detection of overcharging of medicines under price control by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) till date;

(b) the percentage and value of overcharging of medicines produced in excise free zones;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to put price control on non-scheduled medicines mostly being manufactured from excise free zones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Based on detection of overcharging cases National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), since its inception and till 31st October 2009, has issued demand notices in 727 no. of cases for Rs.2106.29 crores (overcharging alongwith interest) for selling the medicines at higher than the price fixed under Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Daman and Diu have different scheme of excise duty exemption. No separate State-wise records are maintained by NPPA in this regard.

(c) and (d) In respect of drugs not covered under DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-Scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R and D, cost of utilities/packing

material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum w.e.f. 1.4.2007 (prior to 1.4.2007 it was 20% per annum) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Based on monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA. There is no separate mechanism in DPCO, 1995 to control the prices of medicines being manufactured in excise free Zones.

Sale of anti-asthma drugs at higher prices

1716. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of companies producing anti-asthma products containing Salbutamol and Leavo Salbutamol are not following the ceiling prices and are selling their products at much higher prices;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing authority (NPPA) has informed that certain companies were found selling Salbutamol and Leavo Salbutamol based medicines over and above the ceiling price fixed by NPPA. NPPA has issued notices to all such companies. Names of the companies where demand of overcharging have been quantified and their present status of recovery are given in Statement (*See below*). As number of cases related to Salbutamol bulk drug and related formulations are lying in various Courts and are sub-judice, the recovery of the amount depends on the outcome of these Court Cases.

Statement

Names of the Companies where demands of over choosing have been quantified and their present status of Recovery

Sl. No.	Name of the Company (M/s)	Name of Formulation	Estimated Overcharged amount and interest (Rs. In lakhs)	Recovered amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Cipla Ltd.	Salbutamol	6438.99		Matter is subjudice
2.	SGS Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	Salbutamol tabs	0.17	0.12	Under process
3.	Manish Pharma Lab.	Salbutamol Sulphate	0.23	0.23	Closed as amount recovered
4.	Kopran Ltd.	Salbutamol based formulations	698.9		Matter is subjudice
5.	US Vitamins Ltd./ Neo Pharma	Salbutamol based formulations	29.04		Under process
6.	Biddle Sawyer Ltd.	Salbutamol based formulations	27.47		Under process
7.	Cipla Ltd.	Salbutamol based formulations	45064.61		Matter is subjudice
8.	Khandelwal Labs	Salbutamol based formulations	2.74	2.74	Closed as amount recovered
9.	Esskay Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Dexares tabs and Salbutamol sulphate tabs	14.75		Referred to Official liquidator
10.	Karnani Pharma (P) Ltd.	Salbaxine Tabs	0.08	0.08	Closed as amount recovered
11.	Eros Pharma	Salbid 4 mg and 8 mg	1.62	1.62	Closed as amount recovered

Restarting of fertilizer factory at Talcher

†1717. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of restarting the closed fertilizer factory at Talcher in Orissa has been started; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) including the Talcher Unit of FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the Country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Committee to review price control mechanism of medicines

1718. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee of Group of Ministers to review the price control mechanism of medicines;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(d) the details of the action taken by Government on such recommendations; and

(e) if not, by when the Committee will finalize and submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has held re-constituted on 1.9.2009. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM makes its recommendation to the Cabinet.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

New investment policy for fertilizer sector

1719. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced new investment policy for fertilizer sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the fertilizer industry has responded positively;
- (d) if so, the fertilizer companies that have revamped their units and the companies who have asked Government for assured availability of gas for their plants;
- (e) whether retail price of urea has not been revised since 2002;
- (f) if so, whether profit margin of manufacturers of urea has remained same as it was in 2002;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) the measures taken to safeguard interests of the manufacturers of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (h) The Government has announced a policy for new investments in urea sector on 4th September 2008. The New Investment Policy aims at revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy is expected to completely bridge the gap in next five years between the consumption and domestic production subject to confirmed and adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices. The salient features of the new investment policy are as under :-

1. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor and ceiling prices.
2. **Floor and Ceiling prices** : The floor for urea price is be kept at USD 250 per MT and the ceiling for urea price is fixed at USD 425 per MT.
3. **Revamp Project** : Any improvement in capacity of existing plants through investment upto Rs.1000 crore, in the existing train of ammonia-urea production will be treated as revamp of existing units. The additional urea from the revamp of existing units will be recognized at 85% of Import Parity Price with the floor and ceiling price as indicated above.
4. **Expansion Projects** : Setting up of a new ammonia-Urea plant (a separate new ammonia-urea train) in the premises of the existing fertilizer plants, utilizing some of the common utilities will qualify for being treated as expansion project. The investment should exceed a minimum limit of Rs.3000 crore. The urea from the expansion of existing units will be recognized at 90% of IPP, with the floor and ceiling price as indicated above.

5. **Revival/Brownfield projects** : The urea from the revived units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) will be recognized at 95% of IPP with prescribed floor and ceiling price, if the revival of closed units takes place in public sector.
6. **Greenfield projects** : The pricing of Greenfield projects will be decided based on a bidding process which will be for a discount over IPP, after firming up of the location (States) of the proposed new plants.
7. **Gas transportation charges** : An additional gas transportation cost will be paid to units undertaking expansion and revival on the basis of actuals (upto 5.2 Gcal per MT of urea) as decided by the Regulator (Gas) subject to a maximum ceiling of USD 25 per MT of urea.
8. **Allocation of Gas** : Only non-APM gas will be considered for the new investment in urea sector.
9. **Coal gasification based Urea Projects** : The Coal gasification based urea projects will also be treated on par with a revival or a Greenfield project as the case may be. In addition, any other incentives or tax benefits as provided by Government for encouraging coal gasification technology will also be extended to these projects.
10. **Joint Ventures abroad** : The Joint Venture projects abroad in gas rich countries are also proposed to be encouraged through firm offtake contracts with pricing decided on the basis of prevailing market conditions and in mutual consultation with the joint venture company. However, the principle for deciding upon the maximum price will be the price achieved under Greenfield projects or 95% of IPP as proposed for revival projects (in absence of any Greenfield projects) with a cap of USD 405 CIF India per MT and a floor of USD 225 CIF India per MT (inclusive of handling and bagging costs).
11. **Time period for proposed investment policy** : Only those revamp projects which start production of additional capacities within four years of notification of the new policy would qualify for the dispensation recommended above. Similarly production from expansion and revival (brownfield) units that come about within five years of notification of the new policy would qualify for dispensation provided in the policy. If the production does not come through within the stipulated time period, such brownfield projects will be treated similar to a Greenfield projects wherein price will be decided through limited bidding options. The time period for setting up of new Joint Ventures would also be five years under the new investment policy.

The fertilizer Industry has responded positively towards the New Investment Policy by initiating investment decision for revamp/expansion of existing capacities.

IFFCO-Aonla-I and II, IFFCO-Phulpur-I and II, Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL) - Gadepan-I and II, Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (NFCL) - Kakinada-I and II and the unit of Tata Chemicals Limited - Babrala have informed regarding additional production of urea after revamp. Further, RCF, Thal; KRIBHCO-Hazira and NFL, Vijaipur have undertaken revamp of their units.

Six companies viz. IFFCO, KRIBHCO, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, INDO-GULF Fertilizers Limited, TATA Chemicals Limited and Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited have requested for firm availability of gas for taking final investment decision to undertake expansion of their existing units.

There is no change in the MRP of Urea since march 2002. The urea units are allowed 12% post tax return on capital employed in the costed year for arriving at the retention price before group averaging. The return allowed is not dependent on MRP of urea It is based on costed year capital employed/networth of the units.

The Government has taken various measures to encourage efficiency and safeguard the interest of urea producing units. Under NPS-III, pre-set energy norms have been notified for all the urea units. Savings in energy consumption achieved by the urea units with respect to pre set energy norms are incentivized by payment at the weighted average basic rate of inputs consumed.

Sale of sub-standard and spurious fertilizers

†1720. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard and spurious fertilizers are being sold with brand names in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide good quality fertilizers in different States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Clause 26, 27 and 28 of Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 as given in Statement (*See below*) to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including sale of sub-standard and spurious fertilizers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

The Fertiliser (Control) Order 1985

VII. Enforcement Authorities

Clause. 26: Appointment of registering authority

The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint such number of persons, as it thinks necessary, to be registering authorities for the purpose of this Order and may, in any such notification define the limits of local area within which each such registering authority shall exercise his jurisdiction.

Clause. 27: Appointment of inspectors

The State Government, or the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint such number of persons, as it thinks necessary, to be inspectors of fertilizers for the purpose of this Order, any may, in any such notification, define the limits of local area within which each such inspector shall exercise his jurisdiction.

Clause. 28: Powers of inspectors

(1) An inspector may, with a view to securing compliance with this order:-

- (a) require any manufacturer, importer, pool handling agency, wholesale dealer or retail dealer to give any information in his possession with respect to the manufacture, storage and disposal of any fertilizer manufactured or, in any manner handled by him:
- (b) draw samples of any fertilizer in accordance with the procedure of drawal of samples laid down in Schedule-II.

Provided that the inspector shall prepare the sampling details in duplicate in Form J, and hand over one copy of the same to the dealer or his representative from whom the sample has been drawn;

- (c) enter upon and search any premises where any fertilizer is manufactured/ imported or stored or exhibited for sale, if he has reason to believe that any fertilizer has been or is being manufactured/imported, sold, offered for sale, stored, exhibited for sale or distributed contrary to the provisions of this Order;
- (d) seize or detain any fertilizer in respect of which he has reason to believe that a contravention of this Order has been or is being or is attempted to be committed;
- (e) seize any books of accounts or documents relating to manufacture, storage or sale of fertilizers, etc. in respect of which he has reason to believe that any contravention of this Order has been or is being or is about to be committed;

Provided that the inspector shall give a receipt for such fertilizers or books of accounts or documents so seized to the person from whom the same have been seized;

Provided further that the books of accounts or documents so seized shall be returned to the person from whom they were seized after copies thereof or extracts therefrom as certified by such person, have been take.

- (2) Subject to the proviso to paragraphs (d) and (e) of Sub-clause (1), the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) relating to search and seizure shall, so far as may be, apply to searches and seizures under this clause.
 - Provided also that the inspector shall give the stop sale notice in writing to the person whose stocks have been detained and initiate appropriate action as per the provisions of this order within a period of twenty one days. If no action has been initiated by the inspector within the said period of twenty one days from the date of issue of the said notice, the notice of stop sale shall be deemed to have been revoked.
- (3) Where any fertilizer is seized by an inspector under this clause, he shall forthwith report the fact of such seizure to the collector whereupon the provisions of sections 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D and 6E of the Act, shall apply to the custody, disposal and confiscation of such fertilizers.
- (4) Every person, if so required by an inspector, shall be bound to afford all necessary facilities to him for the purpose of enabling him to exercise his powers under sub-clause (1).

Compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

†1721. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether compensation has been given to all the wards affected by the gas tragedy in Bhopal city of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of wards and the total amount of compensation provided to them;
- (c) if not, the number of wards yet to be given compensation; and
- (d) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, compensation has been given after due adjudication to the claimants of 56 wards in Bhopal City, who proved that they were affected by MIC gas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A total amount of original compensation of Rs.1548.54 crores has been awarded in 57,4,372 cases of all 56 wards. Out of these, 56 wards, 36 wards, were declared as gas affected. Out of the total 5,74,372 awarded cases, 5,69,166 cases pertain to 36 gas affected wards and 5206 cases pertain to remaining 20 wards. In these 20 wards, approximately Rs.13.00 crore was disbursed as compensation.

(c) None.

(d) A proposal for declaring the remaining 20 wards of Bhopal city as gas affected was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal was duly considered by the Group of Ministers on Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in the meetings held on 17th April, 2008 and 11th June, 2008 and the same was not found to be feasible.

Utilization of Sugar Development Fund

†1722. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees of sugarcane farmers are credited with the Central Government as Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to use this Fund in sugarcane development and promotion of sugar industries; and

(d) if so, the details of utilization of this Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sugar Development Fund consists of the Proceeds of duty of excise levied and collected on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India reduced by the cost of collection together with any moneys received by the Central Government for the purpose of sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and any income from investments of such amounts.

(c) and (d) Yes, sir. As per the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983, the funds thereunder are utilised by the Central Government for the following purposes:-

- (i) For making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof or the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane in the area in which any sugar factory is situated,
- (ii) Making grants for the purpose of any research project aimed at the development of sugar industry.
- (iii) For making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for bagasse-based co-generation power projects with a view to improving their viability.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iv) For making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol with a view to improving their viability.
- (v) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of building up and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar with a view to stabilising price of sugar.
- (vi) Defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipments sugar.
- (vii) Loans for potentially viable sick sugar undertaking for rehabilitation and modernization of sugar factory or for sugarcane development scheme.
- (viii) Restructuring of loans for potentially viable sick sugar undertaking for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof or the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane.
- (ix) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of financial assistance to sugar factories towards interest on loans given in terms of any scheme approved by the Central Government from time to time.
- (x) Defraying any other expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

Guidelines for issuance of ration cards

1723. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued guidelines to State Governments on issuance of ration cards;
- (b) if so, the details of these guidelines;
- (c) whether State Governments have done computerization of the process of issuing ration cards; and
- (d) the details of changes brought about by State Governments to prevent misuse of ration cards, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and delivery of allocated foodgrains to them through fair price shops are of concerned States and UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been issued by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order and paragraph 2 of annexe to it provide guidelines to the State Governments/UT Administrations to issue distinctive ration cards

to Above Poverty Line (APL), BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

As per existing norms of allocations of foodgrains under TPDS, State/UT Governments have to identify BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000.

(c) and (d) As reported by States/UTs at the end of October, 2009, 10 State/UT Governments, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have initiated computerization of TPDS operations in which the district and FPS wise allocation of foodgrains are displayed on the website.

State/UT Governments are periodically carrying out review of existing lists of ration cards to eliminate bogus ration cards/units in them.

Instructions were issued in January, 2008 to all States/UT Governments to take action as per law against the families/persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and also against officials found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Further instructions have been issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards.

Since July, 2006 onwards, 17 State/UT Governments have reported detection and deletion of 159.52 lakh fake/bogus/ineligible ration cards as given in Statement.

Statement

Number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Governments with effect from July, 2006 onwards

(Updated on 15.11.2009)

Sl. No.	State	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted eliminated (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2.	Assam	0.07
3.	Chhattisgarh	3.65
4.	Delhi	16.32
5.	Gujarat	7.83

1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02#
7.	Jharkhand	0.65
8.	Karnataka	6.45
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
10.	Maharashtra	29.45
11.	Meghalaya	0.00*
12.	Orissa	2.50
13.	Sikkim	0.01@
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3.96
15.	Uttarakhand	0.16
16.	West Bengal	52.92 (individual cards)
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00\$
TOTAL		159.42

Actual figures # 1536, *341, @914, \$300

Measures to tackle price-rise

1724. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide pulses and other essential commodities through Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to tackle price-rise situation of essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) At present, Central Government makes available wheat, rice, coarse grains and Kerosene under TPDS to the State/UT Governments for distribution through Fair Price Shops. Pulses imported by the PSUs viz. STC, PEC, MMTC and NAFED are supplied to the State Government for distribution through PDS at the subsidy of Rs.10 per kg per ration card holder. In view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oil through whatever outlets they decide on.

The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in Statement.

Statement

Measures taken by Government to control prices of essential commodities

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for sugar, rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize;
- (ii) Reduced import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;
- (iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 1.8.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.4.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.3.2010.
- (iv) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.3.2010 (notified on 17.4.2009). Furthermore, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31.3.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis (notified on 31.7.2009).
- (v) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED up to 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended upto 30.11.2009. Furthermore, the duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies.
- (vi) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

2. Administrative Measures

- (vii) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (viii) Effected no changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;
- (ix) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, sugar, edible oilseeds upto 30.9.2010;
- (x) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at \$445 per tonne for November 2009) and basmati rice (\$900 PMT);
- (xi) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs.5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs.3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs.4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs.2 kg for AAY) over the last five years;

- (xii) Futures trading in Rice, Urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and continues during 2009-10. Futures trading in sugar was suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.
- (xiii) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs.15/kg.
- (xiv) To augment availability of pulses, permitted the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED to import and sell pulses under a scheme and the losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.
- (xv) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg to State Governments.
- (xvi) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.
- (xvii) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009
- (xviii) For the month of Nov., 2009, a quantity of 15.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar has been made available which includes 10.50 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 1.45 lakh tons of refined raw sugar imported by sugar mills. The estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.50 lac ton. Besides, the validity period of Oct. 2009 non-levy quota has since been extended for the first fortnight up to 25.10.2009 and for the second fortnight upto 10.11.2009, it is expected about 1.55 lakh ton of sugar would be spill over quota of Oct. 09.

Sugar stock in the country

1725. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only two months sugar stock is available in the country;
- (b) if so, the immediate action taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) the reasons for such shortage of sugar;
- (d) whether Government is planning to import sugar; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The opening stocks of sugar on the commencement of current 2009-10 sugar season were hardly enough to meet requirement of the first two months of this season. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stock of sugar is given in statement (*See below*). The low production of sugar

in 2008-09 sugar season is mainly on account of reduction in area and lower production of sugarcane in the crop year 2007-08 (Sugar Season 2008-09) and higher diversion of cane to usages other than manufacturing of sugar.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Central Government, however, has facilitated duty-free import of raw and white/refined by sugar mills, Central/States agencies and merchant importers-exporters with a view augment domestic stocks of sugar.

Statement

Measures taken by the Central Government to augment domestic stocks of sugar.

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills, later extended upto 31.03.2010. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tonnes by 01.08.2009 which was extended upto 30.11.2009. Further, duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies, upto 30.11.2009. This has been further extended upto 31.03.2010 and the cap on import of white/refined sugar has been removed.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the imports competitive.

Bogus caste certificate cases in FCI

1726. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of bogus caste certificate cases in FCI as on 31 March, 2009, State-wise and cadre-wise;
- (b) the details of pending cases and reasons for delay; and
- (c) the action taken against the officers who have failed to verify caste certificate at the time of recruitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As verified by State Governments the total number of bogus caste certificate cases, State-wise and Category-wise in the FCI as on 31.03.2009, was as under:-

State	Category				Total
	I	II	III	IV	
Kerala	1	2	3	0	6
Tamil Nadu	1	0	5	3	9
Andhra Pradesh	1	5	8	1	15
Maharashtra	0	0	5	0	5
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	0	1
GRAND TOTAL	3	7	22	4	36

(b) Following number of cases have been referred to State Governments for verification:

State	Category				Total
	I	II	III	IV	
Tamil Nadu	3	1	4	5	13
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	2	2
Karnataka	—	—	3	—	3
Maharashtra	—	1	34	8	43
Gujarat	—	—	21	13	34
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1	1
Chhattisgarh	—	—	9	8	17
GRAND TOTAL	3	2	71	37	113

Verification of caste certificates is within the purview of the State Governments.

(c) Stringent measures are taken by FCI to ensure strict compliance with instructions for verification of Caste Certificates at the time of recruitment. There is no complaint against any officer of FCI for failing to verify the Caste Certificates at the time of recruitment, as caste certificates are issued by State Governments.

Price rise of sugar

1727. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of sugar has increased 19 per cent from 1 October to 12 November, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such steep rise in price of sugar;

(d) the amount and rate at which sugar was imported and exported during last two years, year-wise and country-wise rate thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to redress the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The retail price of sugar in the four metro cities as on 01.10.2009 and 12.11.2009 along with the details of percentage increase in sugar prices is given as under:

(Rs. per kg.)

Centre	On 1st Oct. 09	On 12th Nov, 09	Percentage increase in sugar prices
Delhi	32.00	38.00	18.75%
Mumbai	33.00	37.00	12.12%
Kolkata	30.00	35.00	16.66%
Chennai	30.00	33.00	10.00%

(c) The low sugar production in the country during the last sugar season 2008-09 and the anticipated low production of sugar during the current sugar season 2009-10 has led to recent escalation in sugar prices.

(d) The Central Government has not undertaken any import/export of sugar. Export/import of sugar is undertaken by the sugar mills/merchant exporters-importers as per their commercial prudence. As such the amount and rate at which sugar was imported/exported are not available. However, a statement indicating the country-wise quantity and value of import and export of sugar during the last two financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in Statement-I (*See below*)

(e) Concerned with the fact that the production of sugar in the country during the last sugar season 2008-09 was less than the domestic demand and that the estimated sugar production in the current sugar season 2009-10 is also expected to be substantially lower than the overall demand of sugar in the country, the Central Government has allowed duty-free import of white/refined and raw sugar to bridge the gap between demand and production as well as to moderate prices of sugar in the open market. Details of these measures are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

(a) Country wise quantity and value of sugar imported during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Sl. No.	Countries	2007-08		2008-09	
		Qty. in tonnes		Value Rs. in lakhs	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Korea RP	230	46.79	1	1.52
2.	UK	49	17.66	81	55.39
3.	Italy	4	14.3	33	74.52
4.	France	3	6.88	6	23.83
5.	Netherlands	55	5.89	6	5.66
6.	Canada	15	4.92	40	16.99
7.	USA	40	71.39	58	123.62
8.	Germany	100	55.77	117	84.62
9.	Singapore	0	0	4	3.08
10.	Brazil	0	0	385689	57824.46
11.	Israel	0	0	20	18.02
12.	Japan	0	0	11	17.61
13.	China RP	0	0	9	16.92
14.	Austria	0	0	9	11.35
15.	Switzerland	0	0	3	9.94
16.	UAE	0	0	2	6.49
17.	Belgium	0	0	3	5.74
18.	Indonesia	0	0	1	3.85
19.	Denmark	0	0	0	1.29
20.	Ireland	0	0	2	1.06
21.	Thailand	0	0	1	0.76

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Taiwan	0	0	0	0.53
23.	New Zealand	0	0	1	0.17
TOTAL		496	223.60	386099	58310.86

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata.

(b) Country wise quantity and value of sugar exported during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09

Qty. in tonnes Value Rs. in lakhs

Sl. No.	Countries	2007-08		2008-09	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Afghanistan	66675	7564.87	15408	2449.39
2.	Albania	3530	490.33	2080	280.36
3.	Algeria	0	0	5040	685.61
4.	Austria	4786	553.96	3	0.23
5.	Angola	41	4.08	0	0
6.	Australia	361	50.22	693	90.45
7.	Bahrain	6841	837.97	7188	1032.72
8.	Bangladesh	466695	58157.60	613190	80742.48
9.	Belgium	11	1.63	42	4.15
10.	Benin	2	0.67	0	0.07
11.	Bhutan	905	136.55	2182	320.47
12.	Botswana	27	3.68	104	14.53
13.	Brunei	4	0.88	3	0.50
14.	Canada	2295	363.66	1451	249.56
15.	China PRP	262423	28893.12	74166	8966.46
16.	Croatia	13279	1701.18	4582	639.60
17.	Colombia	0	0	25	6.23

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Congo PRP	4449	461.81	1012	138.07
19.	Comodia	1232	137.73	0	0
20.	Cameroon	0	0.06	2	0.52
21.	Comoros	766	86.89	0	0
22.	Costa Rica	12	4.81	0	0
23.	Cyprus	0	0	1	0.12
24.	Djibouti	142447	16887.44	145428	19970.68
25.	Dubai	0	0	0	0
26.	Denmark	1	0.15	840	248.16
27.	Egypt	16906	19138.19	70249	8784.28
28.	Eritrea	41273	4669.39	33703	4536.46
29.	Ethopia	20959	2580.04	59726	8155.46
30.	Ecuador	5	1.73	0	0
31.	Fiji	24745	2702.09	29399	3848.71
32.	France	85	14.96	31	4.51
33.	FR Polynesia	26	3.01	26	4.09
34.	Gambia	0	0	0	0.01
35.	Ghana	17194	2248.47	18	4.26
36.	Greece	7215	1235.91	1061	148.01
37.	Gabon	9	2.43	0	0
38.	Georgia	1005	105.98	6988	1175.94
39.	Germany	8787	1023.05	1486	412.77
40.	Guinea	260	34.27	0	0
41.	Guyana	2	0.92	0	0
42.	Haiti	261	28.28	0	0
43.	Hong Kong	957	116.44	761	114.12
44.	Indonesia	214611	24453.95	40610	4368.16

1	2	3	4	5	6
45.	Iran	133071	14600.85	132541	17467.91
46.	Iraq	14898	1984.80	42503	5695.25
47.	Israel	18994	2303.19	7772	979.16
48.	Italy	53	5.91	8	2.89
49.	Ireland	1	0.25	6	0.77
50.	Jordan	42046	4883.86	34195	4977.37
51.	Japan	126	11.82	25	4.10
52.	Kenya	85639	9794.28	79811	11136.19
53.	Kuwait	18605	2309.84	13886	1869.34
54.	Kiribati	105	10.98	0	0
55.	Korea RP	118	17.36	1500	228.53
56.	Korea DP	0	0	25500	3818.13
57.	Labanon	6439	781.44	1560	210.38
58.	Libia	5888	659.97	3556	438.58
59.	Madagascar	11450	1384.54	7498	1020.72
60.	Malawai	0	0	2	0.19
61.	Malaysia	220983	23278.83	150703	18087.69
62.	Maldives	7093	827.82	8226	1268.35
63.	Mauritius	2375	261.28	871	93.05
64.	Macao	1	0.08	0	0
65.	Macedonia	25	2.98	0	0
66.	Mali	1	0.18	0	0
67.	Myanmar	34	3.14	0	0
68.	Mangolia	2503	549.50	294	42.60
69.	Mozambique	49	16.51	36	6.43
70.	Nigeria	27	3.72	383	50.00
71.	Nepal	8229	1013.65	32375	4729.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
72.	Netherland	172	17.55	48	5.65
73.	Hetherlandantil	0	0	1	0.29
74.	Newzeland	327	36.01	124	11.25
75.	Niger	525	63.48	0	0
76.	Norway	0	0.04	2	0.49
77.	Oman	24324	2808.13	15127	2203.29
78.	Pakistan IR	253128	28755.76	31872	4862.05
79.	Papau New Guine	7789	901.50	900	116.45
80.	Phillippines	5	0.48	15	2.12
81.	Poland	508	59.05	423	63.92
82.	Portugal	42879	6455.82	4	0.50
83.	Qatar	3721	442.42	6098	968.70
84.	Russia	26377	2884.61	840	133.76
85.	Reunion	1	0.08	2	0.46
86.	Romania	28	6.36	10	3.82
87.	Saudi Arabia	94552	10788.74	193881	26287.61
88.	Singapore	48453	5455.00	5906	770.20
89.	Solomon is	0	0	472	87.60
90.	Somalia	231985	26495.30	173853	24178.23
91.	South Africa	11981	1454.96	3852	541.73
92.	South Korea	0	0	0	0
93.	Spain	0	0	0	0.02
94.	Sri Lanka	483448	55485.89	340331	50129.43
95.	Sudan	7137	844.72	1291	179.41
96.	Syria	83574	9966.21	7417	998.47
97.	Serbia Montngro	5054	576.50	988	141.33
98.	Seychelles	2144	255.38	1937	290.73

1	2	3	4	5	6
99.	ST Lucia	1	0.11	0	0
100.	Switzerland	7	1.27	34	3.44
101.	Tajakistan	77	8.21	3302	449.94
102.	Tanzania	62776	7246.56	46844	6103.15
103.	Taiwan	21195	2366.67	25626	3167.29
104.	Turkey	1336	158.45	1950	255.77
105.	Turkaminstan	3778	444.70	2080	290.36
106.	Thailand	1	0.08	1	0.34
107.	Tongo	90	28.90	40	5.40
108.	Tonga	52	5.44	312	43.56
109.	Trinidad	1	0.13	0	0
110.	Tunissia	3500	499.06	0	0
111.	U.A.E.	709206	76965.76	691549	87286.10
112.	Uganda	1434	176.22	399	54.26
113.	U.K.	1013	178.89	1265	316.50
114.	U.S.A.	12889	2031.84	2543	550.27
115.	Samoa	231	24.92	260	41.10
116.	Vietnam	6039	670.53	1000	134.80
117.	Yemen	470279	57247.70	108143	14604.80
118.	Zambia	2	0.95	1	0.17
119.	Uzbekistan	0	0	1	0.31
120.	Congo D. REP	0	0	0	0.25
121.	Unspecified	0	0	504	64.38
TOTAL		4684554	541215.66	3331997(P)	444874.37(P)

(P) : Provisional.

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata.

Statement-II

Measures taken by the Central Government to augment domestic stocks of sugar and to contain sugar prices.

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty upto 30.09.2009.
 - Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills. This is presently in force upto 31.12.2010.
 - Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. This is presently in force upto 31.12.2010.
 - Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED. Subsequently, duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies. This is presently in force upto 31.03.2010.
 - Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations. Sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
 - The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production w.e.f. 01.10.2009 for 2009-10 sugar season to ensure availability of sugar for PDS.
 - States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar.
- 1.1 Besides augmenting the sugar stocks by permitting import of raw and white/refined sugar in 2008-09 sugar season, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turnover limits to moderate prices of sugar as follows:
- Stock-holding and turnover limits have been fixed for sugar dealers. Subsequently, Khandsari sugar has also been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit.
 - An order has been issued imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use. The order is in respect of stocks of domestically produced sugar.
 - Futures trade in sugar has been suspended in domestic exchanges w.e.f. 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Steep price rise of sugar and pulses

†1728. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there has been steep rise in the price of pulses and sugar due to drought and low production in the country;
- (b) the percentage of increase in prices of pulses and sugar during last four months;
- (c) the quantum of pulses and sugar sanctioned by Government to be imported from foreign countries;
- (d) the names of agencies that imported these items and at what rates; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to control the rise in prices?

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

(b) During the last four months, the All India average wholesale prices has increased in the case of Sugar by 28.07%, Pulses such as Tur dal by 23.97%, Gram by 4.55% respectively.

(c) As regards pulses and sugar, the Central Government is not undertaking their import. Export/import of sugar is undertaken by the sugar mills/merchant exporters-importers as per their commercial prudence.

The four PSUs, viz. MMTC, PEC, STC and NAFED are authorized by the Government to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses and sell them in domestic market as per their procedure.

(d) The details of the importing agencies, the quantity of sugar imported, and rates etc., are not maintained by the Government. The 4 PSUs have contracted imports of different pulses at different times at different rates. The quantity of pulses imported by the 4 PSUs and the rates during 2009-10 are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(e) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities such as pulses and sugar are given in Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Import of Pulses and the rates during year 2009-2010

Name of 4 PSU's	URAD		Red Lentils		Yellow Lentils		African Tur		Yellow Peas		Toor		Moong		Chick Peas		Dunn Peas	
	Qty		Price		Qty		Price		Qty		Price		Qty		Price		Qty	
	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price
STC	4994	490	3500	895	1390	822	3000	1003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MMTC	1030	890	2000	921	—	—	—	—	—	—	26000	1011- 1204	960	877	—	—	—	—
NAFED	9550	632.89	—	—	—	—	—	—	97254	458.40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PEC	29465.80	559.00- 1199.9	—	659.22- 915.00	6243	775- 850	—	—	—	—	107913	675.00- 1221.00	13950	749.90- 918.89	22889.32	434.22- 656.20	1000	391

Source: 4 PSUs.

Statement-II

Government Measures to check the prices of pulses and sugar are briefly stated below:

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero-for sugar, pulses.
- (ii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. up to 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.12.2010. Furthermore, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31.12.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis.
- (iii) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED up to 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended upto 31.3.2010. Furthermore, the duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies.
- (iv) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

2. Administrative Measures

- (v) Banned export of pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (vi) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of pulses, sugar, upto 30.9.2010.
- (vii) Futures trading in urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and continues during 2009-10. Futures trading in sugar was suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.
- (viii) To augment availability of pulses, permitted the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED to import and sell pulses under a scheme and the losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.
- (ix) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg to State Governments.
- (x) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009
- (xi) For the month of Nov, 2009 a quantity of 15.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar has been made available which includes 10.50 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 1.45 lakh tons of refined raw sugar imported by sugar mills. The estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.50 lac ton. Besides, the validity period of Oct. 2009 non-levy quota has since been extended for the first fortnight up to 25.10.2009 and for the second fortnight upto 10.11.2009, it is expected about 1.55 lakh ton of sugar would be spill over quota of Oct. 09.

Universalisation of PDS

1729. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide essential commodities to the APL people through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether APL people can afford food expenses in the midst of soaring rise in prices of food articles; and

(c) if not, by when Government is going to implement universalisation of PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/UT Governments.

Based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000, number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) [(including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)] families accepted for allocations of foodgrains under TPDS is 6.52 crore out of total 18.04 crore families. However, as reported by end of October, 2009, State/UT Governments have issued 10.96 crore BPL ration cards (which include 2.43 AAY cards) and 13.27 crore APL ration cards.

At present, under the TPDS, allocations of foodgrains to Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made between 10 and 35 kg per family per month depending upon their availability in central pool. During 2009-10, total allocations of rice and wheat for APL category are of 19.02 million tons. These allocations are made at subsidized rates. The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains for APL category are as follows:

(Rs. per kg.)		
Wheat	Rice Gr.A	Coarse Grains
6.10	8.30	4.50

At present, under the TPDS, the level of subsidy is 59.5% and 56.2% on wheat and rice respectively allocated to States and UTs for the APL category. These subsidized issue prices for the APL category have been retained at these levels since July 2002 and are thus affordable.

There is no proposal before Government to make Targeted Public Distribution System universal in coverage.

Raid to stop inflation and hoarding

†1730. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the number of businessmen raided in last one and half years to stop inflation and hoarding;

(b) the name of States in which inquiry has been conducted by the Department under 'stock limit' scheme of the Central Government; and

(c) the benchmark fixed for storage and whether that has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Government/ Union Territories. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both "The Essential Commodities Act, 1955" and "The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980", to prevent mal-practices in essential commodities. There has been regular interaction by Government of India with the State Governments and they have been requested to use these powers effectively. Some State Governments have taken action and reported detentions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The total number of detentions in 2009 (upto 31.10.2009) is 126. The number of raids under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 conducted, as reported by various State Governments during the year 2008 were 268775 and during 2009 (Upto 31.10.2009) is 111367.

(b) and (c) No inquiry has been conducted by this Department as there is no such provision. The State Governments/UTs have fixed the stock limits as per their requirement. As per information furnished by the State Government/UT Administrations 23 State Governments/UTs have either issued stock limits for all the six items or for individual items or have issued only licensing requirements/stock declaration (of these 23, 18 States/UTs have actually issued stock limit Orders; 5 States/UTs have issued licensing requirements/stock declarations).

Rottening of foodgrains at godowns in Punjab

†1731. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains that got rotten in godowns of various food agencies in Punjab since the year 2006;
- (b) whether the foodgrains had been procured for the purpose of export;
- (c) the reasons for not exporting the foodgrains;
- (d) the time period after which foodgrains starts decaying in godowns; and
- (e) the reasons for decaying of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Negligible quantity of foodgrains stored by Food Corporation of India had got rotten in Punjab since 2006. A quantity of 54,007 tons of foodgrains had been damaged in Punjab due to various reasons, such as, heavy rains, floods, acceptance of below specifications stocks and movement to other regions from April, 2006 to October, 2009.

(b) Foodgrains had been primarily procured for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes of the Government. However, a small quantity of foodgrains is exported for diplomatic reasons. 6.5 lakh tons of wheat flour (Maida), Samolina (Rava/Sirgi), Wholemeal atta and resultant atta has been permitted for export upto 31st March, 2010.

(c) Keeping in view the requirements of the country, the Government has not allowed export of foodgrains except for small quantities mentioned in part (b).

(d) and (e) There is no fixed time period after which foodgrains start decaying in godowns. Decaying of foodgrains in godowns depends upon a number of factors, such as, moisture content of foodgrains, type of godown, storage conditions and steps taken for preservation and maintenance of foodgrains. Besides, insects, fungi and rodents infestation are the other reasons for decaying of foodgrains during storage.

The following effective steps are being taken for safe and proper storage of foodgrains in the godowns:

- (i) Godowns are constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials, such as, wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check the migration of moisture from the floor.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and timely in the godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are taken.

- (vii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by the technical staff.
- (viii) The principle of “First in First Out” (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

Government's directions to check hoarding

1732. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:

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

- (a) whether Government has in the recent past directed to State Governments to come down heavily on hoarders who try to earn profit from the reduced foodgrains production;
- (b) if so, whether the directions of Government had any impact on State Governments to check hoarding of foodgrains by hoarders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether inspite of directions by Government to check hoarding of foodgrains, it remain ineffective; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) the enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Governments/Union Territories. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both “The Essential Commodities Act, 1955” and “The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980”, to prevent mal-practices in essential commodities.

Directions have been given to states/UTs from time to time to take necessary actions under both the Acts to prevent hoarding and smuggling. Recently a Chief Secretaries conference had been held on 08.08.2009 wherein *inter alia* the need to implement the stock control orders had been emphasized by Secretary (CA). Secretary (CA) had written to all the Chief Secretaries *vide* letter dated 03.08.2009 requesting them to send action taken reports on Essential Commodities Act regularly and also reiterated the need to fix stock limits where Central Government had issued orders and also to enforce them strictly. In continuation of this letter the Hon'ble Minister had also written to all the Chief Ministers *vide* his letter dated 23.09.2009. Hon'ble Minister had also convened a meeting of all Food Ministers on 16.08.2009 in which these issues were discussed.

Regular interactions have been had with the State Governments/UTs. Some State Governments have taken action and reported detentions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The number of detentions as

reported by various State Governments during the year 2009 (Upto 31.10.2009) is as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the State Govt.	During 2009 (Upto 31.10.2009)
1.	Gujarat	18
2.	Tamil Nadu	104
3.	Orissa	02
4.	Maharashtra	02
TOTAL		126

The action taken by the State Governments under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against unscrupulous traders in respect of essential commodities during the year 2009 (upto 31.10.2009) as reported by them is as under:

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2009	111367	5516	2982	42	2634.66

Strengthening of Forward Market Commission

1733. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is thinking of strengthening Forward Market Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the turnover of commodities exchanges of various farm items through commodities exchanges in the last two years, item-wise;

(d) the revenue Government got through trading of various farm items in the last two years through commodity exchanges;

(e) the commodity transaction tax imposed on various items traded through commodities exchanges, item-wise;

(f) the actual exchange of commodities taken place in contracts constituted; and

(g) how many contracts ended in terms of squaring off through payment of money between the parties and their percentage in terms of number and money involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to keep up with the regulatory requirements of a modern commodity derivative market, it is proposed to strengthen the Forward Markets Commission on the lines of the other modern market regulators and a bill to amend the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 is under the consideration of the Government. The amendment broadly proposes to grant autonomy to the Regulator and provide it with the necessary regulatory tools not available to it under the current legal provisions.

(c) Details of volume of trade in various commodities is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) Government does not get any revenue.

(e) The Commodity Transaction Tax is not applicable to the commodities futures market.

(f) The Commodity Exchanges are essentially platform for hedging the price risk; therefore, all the transactions on the futures platform on the settlement day may not result into delivery. However, almost all agri. Commodities are kept on compulsory delivery mode, which ensures that maximum delivery takes place on the settlement day. This ensures that futures prices remain aligned to the physical market supply-demand fundamentals of the commodity being traded. This threat of delivery ensures that the prices are not manipulated by the speculators. In most of these contracts, however, substantial quantities of delivery actually take place. A statement giving details of deliveries in major commodities traded on the Exchange platform is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(g) Details are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Volume and Value of Trading in Major Agri-commodities (2007-08 to 2009-10)

(Volume of Trading - in Lakh Tonnes, Value - in Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Commodity	Exchange	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (April-Oct'09)	
			Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I Agricultural Commodities								
Major Food Items								
1.	Chana/Gram		381.48	93517.27	89.91	21770.94	297.88	70755.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		MCX	34.58	8503.29	9.90	2262.09	25.62	6033.33
		NCDEX	346.89	85011.97	74.25	18222.29	234.29	55859.67
		NMCE	0.009	2.01	5.76	1286.56	37.96	8862.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Soy Oil		448.29	241588.02	132.24	64105.16	274.97	128739.33
		MCX	100.80	53842.06	15.91	7886.27	21.48	10066.35
		NCDEX	168.86	92505.62	54.74	26885.11	154.19	72169.44
		NMCE	0.006	3.11	4.32	1950.72	28.07	13078.62
		NBOT	178.62	95237.24	57.26	27383.07	71.23	33424.91
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Pepper		71.97	105323.74	21.54	28740.94	10.01	13887.89
		MCX	0.15	209.38	0.42	486.28	0.00	0.32
		NCDEX	64.78	95007.43	19.03	25527.25	9.24	12825.92
		NMCE	6.86	9830.68	1.64	2202.89	0.73	1006.85
		Others	0.19	276.25	0.45	524.52	0.04	54.81
4.	Jeera (Cumin seed)		60.73	72929.87	28.49	32986.37	10.75	12580.60
		MCX	0.14	163.33	0.0002	0.23	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	60.58	72762.69	28.49	32986.14	10.75	12580.60
		NMCE	0.004	3.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
5.	Urad		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NMCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Chillis		25.91	12461.14	3.73	1968.60	1.61	882.07
		MCX	0.05	22.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	25.86	12438.81	3.73	1968.60	1.61	882.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Soy seed		326.05	60746.07	381.09	81500.27	193.36	44956.99
		MCX	1.80	281.44	0.01	3.56	3.10	633.88
		NCDEX	323.89	60397.85	350.87	74997.21	190.25	44322.62
		Others	0.36	66.78	30.21	6499.50	0.00	0.49
8.	Mustard Seed		362.55	88233.78	424.70	118964.97	247.30	64006.53
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
		NCDEX	275.77	67392.01	343.30	98402.34	166.53	44484.73
		NMCE	2.8056	768.02	46.47	10699.45	53.32	12477.00
		Others	83.97	20073.75	34.93	9863.18	27.46	7044.70
9.	Wheat		0.15	15.02	0.00	0.00	14.93	1766.90
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.70	902.46
		NCDEX	0.15	15.02	0.00	0.00	7.23	864.44
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Potato		90.62	5525.92	21.09	1175.34	27.99	2733.60
		MCX	80.65	4909.21	16.29	932.04	21.99	2165.65
		NCDEX	9.97	616.70	4.81	243.30	6.00	567.95
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Turmeric		109.24	28147.52	133.50	55353.76	89.31	56461.42
		MCX	21.80	6035.64	0.93	323.94	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	86.46	21887.07	130.15	53764.39	81.68	51311.13
		NMCE	0.39	94.50	2.43	1265.42	7.63	5150.29
		Others	0.58	130.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Sugar		177.06	24365.09	142.22	26091.18	35.30	8192.06
		MCX	11.72	1493.15	0.60	89.09	0.25	62.68
		NCDEX	165.34	22871.95	141.62	26002.09	35.05	8129.38
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Gur		50.69	6242.82	22.51	3770.83	21.44	5770.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		MCX	0.56	7.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	34.00	4336.87	18.47	3184.83	21.04	5675.55
		Others	16.14	1898.93	4.04	586.00	0.40	94.62
14.	Tur		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Cardamom		0.74	4072.04	0.29	1864.56	0.14	1104.86
		MCX	0.73	4041.66	0.29	1864.55	0.14	1104.86
		NCDEX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NMCE	0.01	30.38	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Maize		29.21	2300.70	13.59	1215.46	1.60	148.88
		MCX	0.0004	0.03	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	29.21	2300.67	13.59	1215.04	1.60	148.88
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Rice		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Barly		10.15	1034.74	1.96	243.01	3.01	281.27
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	10.15	1034.74	1.96	243.01	3.01	281.27
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Coffee		0.57	417.13	3.29	2938.13	3.07	2375.84
		MCX	0.55	407.21	0.0004	0.37	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	0.01	9.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		MMCE	0.00	0.00	3.29	2937.77	3.07	2375.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Coriander/		0.00	0.00	1.92	1676.03	0.08	34.24
	Dhaniya	MCX	0.00	0.00	1.62	1500.06	0.02	8.45
		NCDEX	0.00	0.00	0.30	175.97	0.06	25.79
21.	Crude Palm Oil		0.00	0.00	16.57	5982.66	23.02	7747.82
		MCX	0.00	0.00	15.82	5634.26	23.02	7747.82
		NCDEX	0.00	0.00	0.04	20.32	0.00	0.00
		NMCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		BNOT	0.00	0.00	0.71	328.09	0.00	0.00
22.	Copra		2.50	1009.67	12.59	5030.97	22.15	7275.26
		MCX	2.50	1009.67	12.59	5030.97	22.15	7275.26
		FCI, Kochi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Coconut oil		0.38	185.61	0.34	194.74	0.11	48.79
		MCX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		NMCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		FCI, Kochi	0.38	185.61	0.34	194.74	0.11	48.79
(A) Total of Above			2148.28	748116.16	1451.58	455573.92	1278.01	429749.50
Major Non Food Items								
24.	Guar seed		670.48	123752.55	585.61	103931.74	653.87	137403.51
		MCX	8.77	1640.95	0.03	4.38	20.69	4682.65
		NCDEX	656.52	121151.17	539.68	96185.65	589.60	123907.15
		NMCE	1.9608	392.57	44.70	7538.56	42.05	8505.60
		Others	3.23	567.87	1.21	203.14	1.52	308.11
25.	Mentha Oil		1.95	10051.68	1.36	7984.10	0.79	4111.54
		MCX	1.77	9058.15	1.36	7971.03	0.79	4111.54
		NCDEX	0.18	993.52	0.00	13.07	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Castor seed		87.32	19572.71	71.20	18305.07	26.90	6869.52
		MCX	2.13	441.45	0.12	25.09	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		NCDEX	10.12	2164.83	6.32	1725.88	2.10	527.22
		NMCE	0.44850	97.69	4.03	1055.18	4.95	1266.86
		Others	74.61	16868.73	60.73	15498.92	19.85	5075.44
27.	Guar Gum		10.80	4940.50	7.77	3286.54	27.38	12723.29
		MCX	0.07	32.46	0.02	7.27	0.00	0.00
		NCDEX	10.73	4908.00	7.75	3279.27	27.38	12723.29
		NMCE	0.0001	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Kapas		41.47	9789.33	18.92	4719.38	11.66	3183.55
		MCX	7.23	1626.31	0.40	100.55	1.11	310.32
		NCDEX	18.37	4452.62	5.49	1345.67	1.98	549.71
		NMCE	0.00	0.00	3.49	839.73	0.76	199.20
		Others	15.86	3710.40	9.54	2433.43	7.80	2124.33
29.	Rubber		5.65	5119.94	1.12	988.66	2.61	2636.75
		MCX	0.23	198.47	0.01	6.38	0.00	0.16
		NCDEX	0.00008	0.08	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.06
		NMCE	5.42	4921.39	1.11	982.04	2.61	2636.53
		Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Raw jute		16.38	2164.88	14.74	2771.13	17.93	4197.11
		MCX	9.10	1235.50	10.74	1871.92	9.61	2240.47
		NCDEX	0.40	52.40	0.01	1.10	0.00	1.16
		NMCE	6.81	869.95	3.99	898.11	8.31	1955.48
		Others	0.06	7.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Kapaskhali/		136.04	10747.11	109.15	10234.57	41.30	4733.85
	Cotton	MCX	16.74	1255.08	4.63	407.52	0.01	1.59
	seedcake	NCDEX	119.30	9492.03	102.89	9643.03	41.23	4723.76
		Others	0.00	0.00	1.64	184.02	0.06	8.49
32.	Sacking		12.68	3690.55	32.52	11554.13	35.26	15073.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		NCDEX					0.00	0.00
		NMCE	12.68	3690.55	32.52	11554.13	35.26	15073.50
33.	Isabgul seed	NMCE	7.77	3218.78	12.85	6509.36	16.27	9369.61
34.	Menthol Crystal	NMCE	0.01	53.09	0.02	13.67	0.00	0.00
35.	Areca	MCX	0.00	2.73	0.09	91.91	0.0	0.00
36.	Cotton		0.02	8.91	2.43	1338.96	0.02	11.83
		MCX	0.00	0.000	0.93	483.80	0.02	9.39
		NCDEX	0.02	8.91	1.51	855.16	0.00	2.44
37.	Other Agri		0.19	54.42	0.00	0.00	0.29	944.47
(B) Total of Above			990.75	193167.17	857.76	171729.21	834.29	201258.52
(A+ Total Agri- B) Commodities			3139.03	941283.33	2309.35	627303.14	2112.30	631008.01

Statement-II

(a) Delivery Details in respect of MCX, Mumbai

MAJOR COMMODITIES

Jan-09

Name of the Commodity (Actively Traded)	UNIT	Delivery (in Units)	Open Interest on expiry day (In Units)	Delivery As a % of the Open Interest
1	2	3	4	5
Arecarashi	MT	47.00	47.00	100.00%
Cardamom	MT	13.00	15.00	86.67%
Coriander	MT	40.00	40.00	100.00%
Goldguinea	KG	9.89	10.36	95.44%
Goldmini	KG	402.90	407.60	98.85%
Menthaoil	KG	180000.00	180000.00	100.00%
Rubber	MT	1.00	1.00	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		180513.79	180520.96	100.00%

1	2	3	4	5
Feb-09				
Cardamom	MT	18.00	18.00	100.00%
Chana	MT	1590.00	1590.00	100.00%
Gold	KG	97.00	97.00	100.00%
Goldguinea	KG	6.00	6.06	98.94%
Goldmini	KG	14.20	14.50	97.93%
Kapaskhali	MT	250.00	250.00	100.00%
Menthaoil	KG	248400.00	248760.00	99.86%
Rubber	MT	3.00	3.00	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		250378.20	250738.56	99.86%
Mar-09				
Cardamom	MT	16.00	16.00	100.00%
Chana	MT	2540.00	2560.00	99.22%
Coriander	MT	10.00	10.00	100.00%
Goldguinea	KG	9.20	9.48	97.05%
Goldmini	KG	10.30	13.40	76.87%
Kapaskhali	MT	150.00	150.00	100.00%
Menthaoil	KG	252000.00	252720.00	99.72%
Potato	MT	120.00	1590.00	7.55%
Potato Trwar	MT	60.00	150.00	40.00%
Rubber	MT	11.00	11.00	100.00%
Silver	KG	4620.00	4800.00	96.25%
GRAND TOTAL		259546.50	262029.88	99.05%
Apr-09				
Cardamom	MT	9.00	9.00	100.00%
Chana	MT	1650.00	1650.00	100.00%
Gold	KG	455.00	456.00	99.78%

1	2	3	4	5
Goldguinea	KG	6.15	6.71	91.66%
Goldmini	KG	9.10	11.80	77.12%
Kapaskhali	MT	50.00	50.00	100.00%
Menthaoil	KG	127440.00	127800.00	99.72%
Potato Trwr	MT	60.00	60.00	100.00%
Rubber	MT	3.00	3.00	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		129682.25	130046.51	99.72%

May-09

Cardamom	MT	12.00	21.00	57.14%
Chana	MT	3330.00	3330.00	100.00%
Coriander	MT	10.00	10.00	100.00%
Goldguinea	KG	0.34	1.35	25.44%
Goldmini	KG	127.70	130.00	98.23%
Menthaoil	KG	42480.00	42480.00	100.00%
Silver	KG	18210.00	18540.00	98.22%
GRAND TOTAL		64170.04	64512.35	99.47%

Jun-09

Cardamom	MT	15.00	34.00	44.12%
Chana	MT	3760.00	3760.00	100.00%
Coriander	MT	20.00	20.00	100.00%
Gold	KG	32.00	36.00	88.89%
Goldguinea	KG	1.83	2.07	88.42%
Goldmini	KG	2.50	4.00	62.50%
Menthaoil	KG	111600.00	115560.00	96.57%
Potato Trwr	MT	30.00	30.00	100.00%
Steelgzb	MT	150.00	150.00	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		115611.33	119596.07	96.67%

1	2	3	4	5
Jul-09				
Cardamom	MT	16.50	18.00	91.67%
Chana	MT	1870.00	1880.00	99.47%
Coriander	MT	20.00	20.00	100.00%
Goldmini	KG	87.60	88.70	98.76%
Menthaoil	KG	321120.00	322200.00	99.66%
Potato	MT	960.00	990.00	96.97%
Potato Trwr	MT	390.00	390.00	100.00%
Silver	KG	23550.00	23670.00	99.49%
Steelgzb	MT	20.00	20.00	100.00%
Sugar	MT	550.00	590.00	93.22%
GRAND TOTAL		348584.10	349866.70	99.63%
Aug-09				
Cardamom	MT	7.00	7.00	100.00%
Chana	MT	2900.00	2900.00	100.00%
Coriander	MT	10.00	10.00	100.00%
Gold	KG	29.00	31.00	93.55%
Goldguinea	KG	0.14	1.30	10.49%
Goldmini	KG	17.80	19.20	92.71%
Menthaoil	KG	398160.00	398160.00	100.00%
Potato	MT	750.00	870.00	86.21%
Steelgzb	MT	230.00	260.00	88.46%
Wheat	MT	90.00	100.00	90.00%
GRAND TOTAL		402193.94	402358.50	99.96%
Sep-09				
Almond	MT	133.00	134.00	99.25%
Cardamom	MT	16.50	17.00	97.06%
Chana	MT	4340.00	4360.00	99.54%
Goldguinea	KG	0.30	5.29	5.60%

1	2	3	4	5
Goldmini	KG	2.90	4.00	72.50%
Guarseed	MT	320.00	320.00	100.00%
Menthaoil	KG	244080.00	244800.00	99.71%
Potato	MT	300.00	540.00	55.56%
Silver	KG	4080.00	4260.00	95.77%
Steelgzb	MT	680.00	680.00	100.00%
Wheat	MT	10.00	10.00	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		253962.70	255130.29	99.54%

Oct-09

Almond	MT	19.00	20.00	95.00%
Cardamom	MT	6.00	10.50	57.14%
Chana	MT	1290.00	1390.00	92.81%
Gold	KG	3527.00	3533.00	99.83%
Goldguinea	KG	46.93	47.10	99.63%
Goldmini	KG	101.30	103.10	98.25%
Guarseed	MT	880.00	890.00	98.88%
Menthaoil	KG	339840.00	340560.00	99.79%
Potato	MT	1110.00	1260.00	88.10%
Steelgzb	MT	70.00	70.00	100.00%
Wheat	MT	550.00	560.00	98.21%
GRAND TOTAL		347440.23	348443.70	99.71%

(b) Delivery Details in Respect of NCDEX, Mumbai

MAJOR COMMODITIES

Jan-09

Name of the Commodity (Actively Traded)	UNIT	Delivery (in Units)	Open Interest on expiry day (In Units)	Delivery As a % of the Open Interest
1	2	3	4	5
Chana	MT	270	280	96.43%

1	2	3	4	5
Cotton Seed Oil Cake Akola	MT	50	180	27.78%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	41900	42200	99.29%
Gold	KGS	26	26	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	960	960	100.00%
Guar Seed	MT	5800	5800	100.00%
Jeera	MT	102	108	94.44%
Maize	MT	830	830	100.00%
Mustard Seed	MT	2820	4410	63.95%
Pepper	MT	533	533	100.00%
Silver	KGS	8340	8340	100.00%
Steel	MT	2810	2810	100.00%
Sugar	MT	9430	9460	99.68%
GRAND TOTAL		73871	75937	97.28%

Feb-09

Castor Seed	MT	0	50	0.00%
Chana	MT	780	820	95.12%
Chilli	MT	0	5	0.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	2100	3600	58.33%
Gold	KGS	29	29	100.00%
Jeera	MT	99	114	86.84%
Maize	MT	1000	1000	100.00%
Mustard Seed	MT	1600	1630	98.16%
Pepper	MT	578	578	100.00%
Silver	KGS	930	930	100.00%
Steel	MT	9280	9280	100.00%
Sugar	MT	22310	22310	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		38706	40346	95.54%

1	2	3	4	5
Mar-09				
Castor Seed	MT	0	100	0.00%
Chana	MT	470	3030	15.51%
Chilli	MT	35	35	100.00%
Cotton seed oil cake Akola	MT	1600	3060	52.29%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	4700	4800	97.92%
Gold	KGS	36	36	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	425	625	68.00%
Guar Seed	MT	880	1160	75.86%
Jeera	MT	399	522	76.44%
Maize	MT	30	30	100.00%
Pepper	MT	434	434	100.00%
Potato	MT	0	45	0.00%
Silver	KGS	1740	1740	100.00%
Soybean	MT	5000	22510	100.00%
Steel	MT	3750	5790	100.00%
Sugar	MT	28160	28620	98.39%
GRAND TOTAL		47659	72537	65.70%
Apr-09				
Castor Seed	MT	70	70	100.00%
Chana	MT	1920	1930	97.48%
Chilli	MT	390	390	100.00%
Dhaniya	MT	0	20	0.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	2200	2300	95.65%
Gold	KGS	5	5	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	180	180	100.00%
Guar Seed	MT	1110	1130	98.23%

1	2	3	4	5
Maize	MT	200	200	100.00%
Pepper	MT	282	283	99.65%
Potato	MT	0	225	0.00%
Silver*	KGS	5970	5970	100.00%
Soybean	MT	6340	12220	99.21%
Steel	MT	4790	4800	99.79%
Sugar	MT	24830	25050	99.12%
Turmeric	MT	100	180	55.56%
GRAND TOTAL		48387	54953	88.05%

May-09

Barley	MT	0	20	0.00%
Castor Seed	MT	250	370	67.57%
Chana	MT	7270	7390	98.38%
Cotton seed oil cake Akola	MT	1730	1730	100.00%
Dhaniya	MT	0	10	0.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	4000	4100	97.56%
Gold	KGS	37	37	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	370	370	100.00%
Guar Seed	MT	1610	1630	98.77%
Jeera	MT	312	318	98.11%
Maize	MT	170	340	50.00%
Mustard Seed	MT	4440	8250	53.82%
Pepper	MT	260	260	100.00%
Potato	MT	0	300	0.00%
Silver	KGS	780	780	100.00%
Soybean	MT	1980	3300	60.00%
Steel	MT	3110	3120	99.68%

1	2	3	4	5
Sugar	MT	18870	19220	98.18%
Turmaric	MT	90	100	90.00%
GRAND TOTAL		45279	51645	87.67%

Jun-09

Castor Seed	MT	550	570	96.49%
Chana	MT	7010	7180	97.63%
Chilli	MT	1185	1185	100.00%
Cotton seed oil cake Akola	MT	3700	9320	39.70%
Dhaniya	MT	20	20	100.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	200	200	100.00%
Gold	KGS	23	23	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	475	475	100.00%
Guar Seed	MT	1330	1410	94.33%
Jeera	MT	357	369	96.75%
Maize	MT	40	280	14.29%
Mustard Seed	MT	3920	4810	81.50%
Pepper	MT	254	268	94.78%
Potato	MT	75	150	50.00%
Silver 5 kgs	KGS	0	205	0.00%
Silver	KGS	900	900	100.00%
Soybean	MT	2630	3490	75.36%
Steel	MT	5670	5670	100.00%
Sugar	MT	6240	6240	100.00%
Turmeric	MT	590	600	98.33
Wheat	MT	0	20	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL		35169	43385	81.06%

1	2	3	4	5
Jul-09				
Barley	MT	20	20	100.00%
Castor Seed	MT	840	850	98.82%
Chana	MT	7810	8260	94.55%
Cotton seed oil cake Akola	MT	1300	1540	84.42%
Dhaniya	MT	60	60	100.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	1400	1500	93.33%
Gold *	KGS	0	1	0.00%
Guar Gum	MT	990	1015	97.54%
Guar Seed	MT	3020	3040	99.34%
Jeera	MT	270	270	100.00%
Maize	MT	170	180	94.44%
Mustard Seed	MT	15090	15090	100.00%
Pepper	MT	316	316	100.00%
Potato	MT	375	375	100.00%
Silver 5 kgs	KGS	0	10	0.00%
Silver	KGS	3330	3330	100.00%
Soybean	MT	780	3490	100.00%
Steel	MT	1670	4050	100.00%
Sugar	MT	0	580	0.00%
Turmeric	MT	400	410	97.56%
Wheat	MT	250	250	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		38091	44637	85.34%
Aug-09				
Castor Seed	MT	20	130	15.38%
Chana	MT	18970	18980	99.95%
Cotton seed oil cake Akola	MT	2380	2380	100.00%

1	2	3	4	5
Dhaniya	MT	20	20	100.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	0	200	0.00%
Groundnut-Bikaner	MT	0	10	0.00%
Guar Gum	MT	300	300	100.00%
Guar Seed	MT	1520	1740	87.36%
Jeera	MT	414	414	100.00%
Mustard Seed	MT	11550	11640	99.23%
Pepper	MT	400	402	99.50%
Potato	MT	375	375	100.00%
Red Chilli	MT	615	615	100.00%
Silver 5 kgs	KGS	0	5	0.00%
Silver*	KGS	1140	1140	100.00%
Soybean	MT	2670	10060	100.00%
Steel	MT	1640	4860	100.00%
Sugar	MT	120	420	28.57%
Turmeric	MT	940	960	97.92%
Wheat	MT	440	450	97.78%
GRAND TOTAL		43514	55101	78.97%

Sep-09

Barley	MT	0	180	0.00%
Castor Seed	MT	700	700	100.00%
Chana	MT	8000	8010	99.88%
Cotton seed oil cake Akola	MT	2310	3220	71.74%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	2400	2400	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	1195	1195	100.00%
Guar Seed	MT	2310	2320	99.57%
Jeera	MT	375	411	91.24%

1	2	3	4	5
Maize	MT	300	960	31.25%
Mustard Seed	MT	43850	44610	98.30%
Pepper	MT	479	479	100.00%
Potato	MT	2610	2610	100.00%
Refined soya oil	MT	0	5380	0.00%
Silver 5 kgs	KGS	0	10	0.00%
Silver	KGS	720	720	100.00%
Soybean	MT	7650	20840	100.00%
Steel	MT	2700	2760	100.00%
Turmeric	MT	850	850	100.00%
Wheat	MT	710	1290	55.04%
GRAND TOTAL		77159	98945	77.98%

Oct-09

Barley	MT	0	150	0.00%
Castor Seed	MT	0	10	0.00%
Chana	MT	2490	2780	89.57%
CHLL 334 GTR	MT	585	585	100.00%
Gold 100 grams	GMS	1100	1100	100.00%
Guar Gum	MT	840	865	97.11%
Guar Seed	MT	3360	3490	96.28%
Jeera	MT	309	405	76.30%
Maize	MT	50	300	16.57%
Mustard Seed	MT	35330	36270	97.41%
Pepper	MT	432	436	99.08%
Silver	KGS	480	480	100.00%
Soybean	MT	0	6520	0.00%
Steel	MT	7810	7870	99.24%

1	2	3	4	5
Turmeric	MT	370	380	97.37%
Wheat	MT	0	310	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL		53156	61951	85.80%

(c) Delivery Details in Respect of NMCE, Ahmedabad

MAJOR COMMODITIES

Jan-09

Name of the Commodity (Actively Traded)	UNIT	Delivery	Open Interest on expiry day	Delivery As a % of the Open Interest
1	2	3	4	5
Chana		—	—	
Coffee REP Bulk	MT	6	6	100.00%
Copra		—	—	
Guar seed		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Pepper	MT	115	115	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Rubber	MT	148	148	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		269	269	100.00%

Feb-09

Aluminium		—	—	
Castor seed 10 MT		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Isabgulseed		—	—	

1	2	3	4	5
Kilogold		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	17	17	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	658	658	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		675	675	100.00%

Mar-09

Aluminium		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Coffee Rep Bulk	MT	10.5	10.5	100.00%
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	100	100	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	552	552	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Silver		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		663	663	100.00%

1	2	3	4	5
Apr-09				
Aluminium		—	—	
Castor Seed 10 MT		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Isabgulseed		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	34	34	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	733	733	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		767	767	100.00%
May-09				
Aluminium		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Coffee Rep Bulk	MT	6	6	100.00%
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Kalyan Kapas		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	

1	2	3	4	5
Pepper	MT	17	17	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	613	613	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Silver		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		636	636	100.00%

Jun-09

Aluminium		—	—	
Castor Seed 10 MT		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Copper		—	—	
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Isabgulseed		—	—	
Kilogold		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	52	52	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	162	162	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	

1	2	3	4	5
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
Grand Total		214	214	100.00%

Jul-09

Aluminium 5 Ton		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Coffee Rep Bulk		—	—	
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	35	35	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	104	104	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Silver		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		139	139	100.00%

Aug-09

Aluminium 5 Ton		—	—	
Castor Seed 10 MT		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Copper		—	—	

1	2	3	4	5
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Isabgulseed		—	—	
Kilogold		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	89	89	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	90	90	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
GRAND TOTAL		179	179	100.00%

Sep-09

Aluminium 5 Ton		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Coffee Rep Bulk	MT	10.5	10.5	100.00%
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	110	110	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	182	182	100.00%

1	2	3	4	5
Sack		—	—	
Silver		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
Grand Total		303	303	100.00%

Oct-09

Aluminium 5 Ton		—	—	
Castor Seed 10 MT		—	—	
Chana		—	—	
Copra		—	—	
Guarseed 10 MT		—	—	
Isabgulseed		—	—	
Kilogold		—	—	
Lead		—	—	
Nickel		—	—	
Pepper	MT	57	57	100.00%
Rape/Mustard Seed		—	—	
Raw Jute		—	—	
Rubber	MT	144	144	100.00%
Sack		—	—	
Soyoil 10 MT		—	—	
Turmeric		—	—	
Zinc		—	—	
Grand Total		201	201	100.00%

Statement-III

*(a) Details of contracts ended in terms of squaring off through
money differences*

(a) Name of the Exchange: National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, Mumbai

Period: January 2009 to October 2009

Particulars		Value (in Rs)
Value of Deliveries on the Exchange in all contracts expiring during January, 2009 to October, 2009	1	11434030872
Value of Open Interest on the date of expiry in all contracts expiring during January, 2009 to October, 2009	2	17696218788
Value of contracts settled in terms of square-off (i.e. Open interest Value on expiry day which has not resulted in actual delivery)	3	6262187917
Cash Settlement as % of total		35.39%
Delivery as % of total	4	64.61%

(b) Name of the Exchange: National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd

Period: January 2009 to October 2009

Particulars		Value (in Rs)
Value of Deliveries on the Exchange in all contracts expiring during January, 2009 to October, 2009	1	378340840
Value of Open Interest on the date of expiry in all contracts expiring during January, 2009 to October, 2009	2	381783090
Value of contracts settled in terms of square-off (i.e. Open interest Value on expiry day which has not resulted in actual delivery)	3	3442250
Cash Settlement as % of total	4	0.90%
Delivery as % of total	4	99.10%

(c) **Name of the Exchange: MCX Ltd.**

Period: January 2009 to October 2009

Particulars		Value (in Rs)
Value of Deliveries on the Exchange in all contracts expiring during January 2009 to October 2009	1	1076.03 Crs.
Value of Open Interest on the date of expiry in all contracts expiring during January 2009 to October 2009	2	4602.84 Crs.
Value of contracts settled in terms of square-off (<i>i.e.</i> Open interest Value on expiry day which has not resulted in actual delivery)	3	3526.81 Crs.
Cash Settlement as % of total		76.62%
Delivery as % of total	4	23.38%

Proposals under National Food Security Bill

1734. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposed National Food Security Bill has been finalised;
- (b) if so, whether there had been initiative for discussion with all stakeholders in this regard;
- (c) whether there would be any pruning of those in the BPL list; and
- (d) whether those in the APL list would be excluded from the protection under this Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (d) At present, Government is examining various issues, including the extent of coverage of Below Poverty Line and other households, related to proposed National Food Security Act in consultation with various stakeholders.

Flouting of Government's order on sugarcane control

†1735. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on one side the price of sugar is continuously increasing and on the other side farmers producing sugarcane are not getting their cost price;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof, and whether it is not failure of Government policy;
- (c) whether capitalists are openly flouting Central Government's order for Sugarcane Control, Sugarcane Purchase and Marketing Act of State Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by Government so far against those capitalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The lower than anticipated sugar production in 2008-09 sugar season and the estimated low production of sugar in the current sugar season has led to increase in sugar prices since the beginning of 2009. The Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and prices (CACP) taking into account various factors including the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar. However, some sugarcane producing States fix their State Advised/Agreed price (SAP) of sugarcane higher than the SMP announced by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 as amended from time to time, the powers for enforcing the provisions relating to payment of the cane price dues of cane growers by the sugar mills are delegated and vested with the State Governments concerned who have the necessary field organizations.

Unaffordable price hike for common man

†1736. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of foodgrains have become unaffordable for the common man;
- (b) if so, the reasons for Government's inability to control it; and
- (c) whether the rise in prices will be controlled soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) There has been an increase in prices of foodgrain items such as cereals, pulses and sugar. The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 296.52 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to 348.45 lakh tonnes in 2008-09. During the period 2009-10 (up to August 2009), 183.07 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prices are determined by the market forces of demand and supply side factors. Availability of items such as pulses, sugar and edible oils is being enhanced in the short term by encouraging their imports. In the medium and long term focus is on agricultural growth.

Introduction of universalized PDS system

1737. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that universalized PDS was in vogue previously;
- (b) if so, the reasons for its withdrawal;
- (c) whether the universalized PDS will again come into force;
- (d) if so, by when; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Prior to June 1997, Public Distribution System (PDS) was a general entitlement Scheme for all consumers without any specific target. With a view to streamline the PDS as well as to improve its reach in the hilly, tribal, inaccessible and priority areas, a variant of PDS called Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was also under implementation from June, 1992, in 1775 blocks.

With a view to specifically target poor sections of society for distribution of subsidized foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in June, 1997.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal before Government to make TPDS universal in coverage.

(e) If the universal PDS as it existed prior to 1997 is to be restored, then even if allocations are made for 18.04 crore households (this number of households was as per estimated population by Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000), the total annual requirement of rice and wheat at the scale of 35 kg. per household per month would be 76 million tons. Further, if the total ration cards issued by the State and UT Governments up to 31.10.2009 are considered, this number is 24.23 crores. At the scale of 35 kg. foodgrains per household per month, the actual requirement of these households would be around 102 million tons of wheat and rice per annum.

Procurement of such huge quantities of wheat and rice would necessitate a total ban on private trade in the country and operation of only Government procurement system. Since procurement of rice and wheat cannot be organized at such a level, their imports will become necessary. Also the scale of issue will accordingly have to be reduced.

Further, in order to manage the level of food subsidy, the issue prices of rice and wheat will have to be increased substantially from the present Central Issue Prices (CIPs) which have not been revised during the last seven to nine years. This would also mean that BPL and AAY families would end up not only getting much reduced scale of issue but also have to pay higher CIPs.

Pending sugarcane dues of farmers in Uttar Pradesh

1738. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current position in respect of amount of sugarcane arrears mill owners owe to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether the arrears have declined in the last one year or so;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the sugarcane arrears is one deterrent factor which discourages farmers from cultivation of sugarcane;
- (e) whether Government proposes to intervene with a view to compel mill owners to clear the arrears within a time bound framework; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) The status of cane price arrears payable, as on 31.10.2009, by the sugar mill owners to the sugarcane farmers was as under:

Sugar season	Cane price arrears (Rs. in Crore)
2008-09	2.69
2007-08	10.52
2006-07 and earlier	70.12
TOTAL	83.33

(b) and (c) The cane price arrears for the sugar season 2007-08 have declined from Rs.144.58 Crores as on 31.10.2008 to Rs.10.52 Crores as on 31.10.2009. Similarly the cane price arrears for the sugar season 2006-07 and earlier have also declined from Rs.138.46 Crores as on 31.10.2008 to Rs.70.12 Crores as on 31.10.2009. The higher domestic prices of sugar in 2008-09 season have improved the financial capacity of sugar mills enabling them to clear the outstanding cane price arrears.

(d) High sugarcane arrears in one of the factors which could discourage the farmers from cultivation of sugarcane.

(e) and (f) The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 contains the necessary provisions for timely payment of cane price to the cane growers for the sugarcane supplied by them to the sugar mills.

Foodgrains to each household

1739. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would ensure that no one goes hungry and will provide 35 kg. of foodgrain per month to each household that would cost a little more than 2 per cent of GDP while given largesse nearly Rs. 3 lakh crores as tax benefits and other concessions to corporate over the past year;

(b) whether Government is aware that inadequate and even worsening conditions of nutrition have made India among the worst nutrition indicators in the world; and

(c) if so, the reasons why there is persistent increase in food prices resulting in reducing the ability of many more households to access sufficient food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) Targeted Public Distribution System is focused on poor families as estimated by Planning Commission. Government of India allocates foodgrains at rate of 35 kg. per Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) family per month at subsidized prices. The State/Union Territory (UT) Governments have to deliver these foodgrains to eligible BPL and AAY ration card holders. For Above Poverty Line (APL) category of ration card holders, Central Government allocates foodgrains to States/UTs at the rate of 10 to 35 kg. per family per month. However, in order to protect the vulnerable sections, the Central Issue Prices for rice and wheat have remained unchanged for the last 7-9 years and are as given below:

	BPL	AAY	APL
Rice (Rs. per kg.)	5.65	3.00	8.30
Wheat (Rs. per kg.)	4.15	2.00	6.10

However, it is not possible to allocate foodgrains at the rate of 35 kg. per APL family per month for all APL households.

(b) As reported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, level of malnutrition among children in India is high.

(c) The rise in prices of foodgrains is due to a number of factors such as growing demand

on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption patterns, adverse climatic changes, market expectations and sentiments, etc.

Allocation of wheat and rice to State Governments

1740. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of allocation of rice and wheat to States from the Central Pool, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has received requests from State Governments for enhancement of the present allocation of foodgrains;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by Government on such requests of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (d) Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS based on allocation norms. For 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, foodgrains are allocated to all States and UTs at the scale of 35 kg per family per month. For the Above Poverty Line (APL) families, Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and offtake levels in the Past. The present allocations under this category range between 10 and 35 kg per family per month in different States.

State-wise details of allocations of foodgrains made under TPDS to State/UT Governments for AAY, BPL and APL categories for the current year 2009-10 are given in Statement-I (See below).

Requests have been received from some State Governments for enhancement of allocations of foodgrains under TPDS, based on which Government has made additional allocations under APL category. As compared to last year, the allocations under this category for current year have been increased from 11.2 million tons to 19.02 million tons. A comparative statement on State-wise APL allocations made during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in Statement-II (See below).

Government also made additional allocations of foodgrains for drought relief, State-wise details of such allocations made during the current year are given in Statement-III (See below). Further, in order to check inflationary trends in food economy, Government has allocated rice and wheat to State/UT Governments under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for distribution to retail consumers and for sale to bulk consumers, their details are given in Statement-IV.

Statement-I

*Allocation of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) under TPDS (AAY, BPL and APL)
for the year 2009-10*

(Quantity in Thousand Tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2009-10		
		Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3576.063	147.153	3723.216
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	92.124	9.432	101.556
3.	Assam	1195.176	250.935	1446.111
4.	Bihar	1903.260	1534.221	3437.481
5.	Chhattisgarh	853.755	238.197	1091.952
6.	Delhi	147.204	445.344	592.548
7.	Goa	39.232	7.476	46.708
8.	Gujarat	329.448	1357.440	1686.888
9.	Haryana	0.000	919.472	919.472
10.	Himachal Pradesh	181.650	304.671	486.321
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	532.672	224.132	756.804
12.	Jharkhand	718.050	564.312	1282.362
13.	Karnataka	1810.057	357.435	2167.492
14.	Kerala	1051.724	249.880	1301.604
15.	Madhya Pradesh	223.212	2661.541	2884.753
16.	Maharashtra	1681.802	2726.820	4408.622
17.	Manipur	96.850	16.681	113.531
18.	Meghalaya	130.116	17.160	147.276
19.	Mizoram	75.420	7.488	82.908
20.	Nagaland	95.175	34.371	129.546
21.	Orissa	1723.032	392.820	2115.852
22.	Punjab	0.000	1135.720	1135.72

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Rajasthan	0.000	1869.402	1869.402
24.	Sikkim	41.280	2.940	44.22
25.	Tamil Nadu	3557.436	210.396	3767.832
26.	Tripura	273.960	28.044	302.004
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2720.964	4075.253	6796.217
28.	Uttarakhand	169.560	244.692	414.252
29.	West Bengal	1394.276	1922.268	3316.544
30.	Andaman an Nicobar Islands	23.124	8.148	31.272
31.	Chandigarh	3.696	22.100	25.796
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.244	0.636	8.880
33.	Daman and Diu	2.292	2.028	4.320
34.	Lakshadweep	4.614	0.000	4.614
35.	Puducherry	41.772	11.940	53.712
TOTAL		24697.240	22000.548	46697.788

Statement-II

Allocation of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) for APL category under TPDS for 2008-09 2009-10

(Quantity in Thousand Tons)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,871.306	2016.840
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60.060	60.060
3.	Assam	635.340	675.195
4.	Bihar	218.330	697.689
5.	Chhattisgarh	150.066	304.320
6.	Delhi	420.768	420.768
7.	Goa	24.787	35.140
8.	Gujarat	215.491	796.440

1	2	3	4
9.	Haryana	272.101	588.080
10.	Himachal Pradesh	247.296	270.441
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	447.720	447.720
12.	Jharkhand	60.438	276.870
13.	Karnataka	730.586	853.216
14.	Kerala	511.996	648.996
15.	Madhya Pradesh	353.207	1152.277
16.	Maharashtra	421.481	1664.318
17.	Manipur	36.684	43.799
18.	Meghalaya	67.416	70.416
19.	Mizoram	54.348	54.348
20.	Nagaland	74.796	77.466
21.	Orissa	170.091	419.160
22.	Punjab	466.384	939.184
23.	Rajasthan	343.604	848.382
24.	Sikkim	25.980	25.980
25.	Tamil Nadu	1,640.456	1725.456
26.	Tripura	151.104	178.104
27.	Uttar Pradesh	440.674	2311.037
28.	Uttarakhand	153.080	205.080
29.	West Bengal	856.678	1141.280
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22.501	24.432
31.	Chandigarh	1.800	21.600
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.434	2.160
33.	Daman and Diu	0.690	2.640
34.	Lakshadweep	3.360	3.360
35.	Puducherry	3.237	18.600
TOTAL		11,155.290	19,020.854

Statement-III

Additional ad-hoc monthly allocation of foodgrains for APL category under TPDS to drought affected states for October to December, 2009

(Qty. in thousand tons)

S.No.	State	Wheat	Rice	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.785	17.893	53.678
2.	Assam	8.857	4.428	13.285
3.	Bihar	12.215	6.108	18.323
4.	Himachal Pradesh	2.477	1.238	3.715
5.	Jharkhand	6.540	3.270	9.810
6.	Karnataka	14.501	7.251	21.752
7.	Madhya Pradesh	20.639	—	20.639
8.	Maharashtra *	22.386	11.193	33.579
9.	Manipur	0.803	0.402	1.205
10.	Nagaland	0.593	0.297	0.890
11.	Rajasthan	25.354	—	25.354
12.	Uttar Pradesh	63.159	—	63.159
TOTAL		213.309	52.080	265.389

*Allocation to Maharashtra for November and December, 09 in view of the already made additional allocation of 50000 tons of wheat and 52000 tons of rice for October, 09.

Statement-IV

*Release of Wheat and Rice to States/UTs under OMSS for distribution to Retail/
Bulk consumers during October to December, 2009*

(Qty. in tons)

State/UT	Releases for retail consumers		Wheat for bulk consumers
	Wheat	Rice	
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	798	650	—

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	8239	152753	30396
Arunachal Pradesh	1535	3674	—
Assam	66247	41508	28355
Bihar	5332	2	1475
Chandigarh	—	—	7209
Chhattisgarh	4939	960	1412
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	45	100	—
Daman and Diu	—	7	—
Delhi	80481	8361	82422
Goa	1604	1406	2107
Gujarat	15991	600	1686
Himachal Pradesh	49523	8780	1425
Haryana	19522	—	16772
Jammu and Kashmir	40264	24684	25746
Jharkhand	3149	20	548
Karnataka	18032	59215	66918
Kerala	40660	25675	29235
Lakshadweep	—	206	—
Madhya Pradesh	53885	351	8608
Maharashtra	68267	3210	29130
Manipur	3162	2756	—
Meghalaya	3677	4476	—
Mizoram	1885	3549	—
Nagaland	7572	5871	—
Orissa	31807	704	19920
Puducherry	380	4	2810
Punjab	88982	—	33244
Rajasthan	86932	39	7532

1	2	3	4
Sikkim	738	1897	42
Tamil Nadu	30893	126422	38381
Tripura	4472	10368	—
Uttar Pradesh	51518	1593	23152
Uttarakhand	26477	2196	20269
West Bengal	182990	7963	21206
TOTAL	1000000	500000	500000

Wastage of foodgrains due to poor storage and transit facilities

1741. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been huge foodgrain losses in several regions of the country, due to poor storage and lack of transit facilities; and

(b) if so, the extent of such losses for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise, and the steps Government proposes to take to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir. However, while carrying out operational activities on a large scale, small storage and transit losses are incurred by FCI.

(b) State-wise Storage and Transit Losses (wheat and rice) for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (Upto September, 2009) in terms of quantity and value are given at Annexure. [See Appendix 218 Annexure No. 6]

(b) Steps taken to check/reduce Storage and Transit Losses are given in Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by F.C.I. to check/reduce storage and transit losses

Security and Safety of Storage Complexes

- Physical measures like installation of barbed wire fencing of the boundary walls, provision of street lights for illumination of godowns and proper locking of the sheds are taken to secure the godowns.
- Security staff of FCI as well as other Agencies like Home Guards, Special Police Officers are deployed for safety of the stocks.
- Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force and State Armed Police has been done at some depots/godowns, which are vulnerable.

Inspections

- Security Inspections as well as surprise checks of the Depots are also conducted from time to time at various levels to detect and plug the security lapses.
- Special Squad checking at selected rail-heads, transshipment and destination/despatch centers.
- Identification of vulnerable points.
- Inspection of Depots by Senior Officers of the HQs, Executive Directors (Zone)/General Managers (Region)/Area Managers.

Quality Control Measures

- Periodical prophylactic and curative treatment of stocks, as prescribed.
- Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the FIFO principle.
- Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.
- Improvement in dunnage material.
- Ensuring proper quality checking of foodgrains at the time of procurement.

Preventive Measures and Monitoring of Losses

- Streamlining of procedure and documentation for transparency and accountability in operations at each level.
- Adoption of 50kg packing to avoid use of hooks.
- Double line machine stitching of bags.
- Supervision of loading/unloading operations by the ICCS (Independent Consignment Certification Squad).
- MOU is signed between FCI and Ministry of CAF and PD for the last 5 years. One of the parameters of MOU is to bring down/control storage and transit losses.
- Monitoring of S&T Losses during monthly Performance Review Meetings at Regional/Zonal/Headquarters levels.
- Transfer of officials whose integrity if found doubtful as per existing instructions.
- Transit Insurance of stocks.

Safeguards for Movement and Storage

- Inspection and monitoring of calibration of weigh-bridges.
- Ensuring that all FCI owned godowns are constructed and maintained on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.

- Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means *i.e.* normally covered wagons etc.
- Loading of standardized bags as far as possible and leaving 18 inches space near the flap doors.
- Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

Wastage of wheat in Punjab

1742. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Punjab is losing 18 lakh metric tonnes of wheat due to wastage every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of a total 150 lakh metric tonnes of wheat produced in Punjab, almost 100 lakh metric tonnes are stored in the open;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government intends to take to solve this perennial problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of wheat stored under Covered and Plinth (CAP) in Punjab as on 01.11.2009 are as under:

State agencies	—	76.52 lakh metric tonnes
FCI	—	4.55 lakh metric tonnes

(d) In 2008 the Government of India has formulated a Scheme for construction of godowns of godowns for FCI-Storage requirements through Private Entrepreneurs. Under the Scheme, High Level Committee of Food Corporation of India (FCI) has approved creation of storage capacity of 71.25 lakh metric tonnes at various locations in Punjab. The godowns are proposed to be constructed through private investment, for which FCI would be guaranteeing the storage charges for 5 years. The government has also allowed Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) to build godowns at locations approved by the FCI within the 71.25 lakh metric tonnes of storage capacity approved, on their own land and with their own funds. FCI would provide 4 years Guarantee for the storage space so created by CWC/SWCs.

The outward movement of foodgrains from Punjab has been increased so as to create more storing space in the State. The outward movement of wheat from April to October, 2009 was 48.69 lakh metric tonnes as compared to 31.00 lakh metric tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

Allotment of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh under PDS

†1743. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain allocation for BPL and APL families in Madhya Pradesh under public distribution system has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of quantum of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene being supplied under public distribution system to Madhya Pradesh by Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS based on allocation norms. For 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, foodgrains are allocated to all States and UTs, including 41.25 lakh BPL families in the State of Madhya Pradesh, at the scale of 35 kg per family per month.

For the above Poverty Line (APL) families, Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs, including the State of Madhya Pradesh, based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and offtake levels in the past. The present allocations under this category range between 10 and 35 kg per family per month.

Details of allocations of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene for the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last three years are as under :

(In thousand tons)

Commodity	BPL (including AAY) **			APL		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Wheat	1292.946 **	1314.268 * +	1473.098	339.106	99.900	349.373
Rice	439.530	418.208	259.378	702.840	25.560	3.834
Total	1732.476	1732.476	1732.476	1041.946	125.550	353.207

** including 16578 tons of coarse grains

* + including 51000 tons of coarse grains

(In thousand tons)

Levy sugar *	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ++
	115.98	155.53	161.13

* Sugar season is reckoned from October to September.

++ including special festival quota

(In thousand tons)

Kerosene	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	488.609	488.609	488.609

During 2009-10, the allocations of wheat and rice to Madhya Pradesh under TPDS (AAY, BPL and APL) have been increased from 20.85 lakh tons to 28.84 lakh tons.

Price hike of sugar

1744. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar price in open market climbed Rs. 46 per kg. and is expected to keep climbing the way things are;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is estimated that total expected production of sugar in 2009-10 is around 15 million tonnes according to National Sugar Federation of co-operative sugar factories and the expected demand is 23 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) At present, the sugar prices are ruling in the range of Rs.34 to 39 per kilogram in the four metropolitan cities of the country. It is difficult to indicate if sugar prices would keep climbing as sugar price in the market depend upon a number of factors like demand, supply, market sentiments and international prices.

(c) and (d) The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. has estimated sugar production for the current sugar season 2009-10 to be around 16.0-16.05 million tonnes and the estimated domestic demand of sugar to be around 23 million tonnes. In order to augment availability of sugar in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps, the details of which are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred. Question 1725 Parts (a) to (c).]

Implementation of Abhijit Sen Committee Report

1745. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Abhijit Sen Committee Report fully;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results yielded so far; and

(d) if not, by when the report will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Abhijit Sen Committee's recommendations are taken into consideration, while devising various policies with regard to the Commodity Futures Market. An amendment to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act 1952 (FCR Act) to strengthen

the regulatory capabilities of Forward Markets Commission (FMC) and enabling developments in the commodities futures market is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Some of the important recommendations of the Abhijit Sen Committee Report include upgrading the capabilities of the FMC and quality of regulation by expeditious amendment of the FCR Act 1952, increasing the participation of hedgers, *i.e.* the physical market stakeholders in the Futures Market, reforming and improving the spot market, removing the legal and regulatory hurdles in setting up and functioning of national spot exchanges which can facilitate best spot price discovery and a ready market for farmers to sell their produce, restructuring of contract designs and other requirements of futures trading so as to enable farmers' participation in the futures market, strengthening support infrastructure of warehouse and commodity finance and operationalisation of the WD and R Act in order to reach out to the farmers and strengthening the efforts of FMC and commodities exchanges for dissemination of futures prices through various channels to improve the farmers bargaining power while marketing the produce.

The Government is making all efforts to amend the FC (R) Act. The amendment of the FC (R) Act would facilitate strengthening of the capabilities of FMC to effectively regulate the market, enable participation of institutional Players such as banks and financial institutions in the commodity futures market, thereby bringing adequate depth to the market to enhance participation of hedgers in the market, and introduction of new derivative products such as options that would encourage participation of farmers in the commodity futures markets. The Forward markets Commission and the Exchanges review contract designs of agricultural commodities from time to time with a view to making it suitable for participation by agri-market stakeholders.

The futures market, currently in its 6th year of operation after the liberalization of the commodity futures market, have served as a catalyst of change for spot markets and have contributed though in a small measure, to the development of rural agri infrastructure including warehousing, grading and quality certification facilities. The two national spot exchanges set up by the National Commodity Exchanges have attempted to create an integrated national spot market to discover the best spot prices which the farmer can get. The passage of the Warehousing Development and Regulation (Act) 2007 will go a long way in the expansion of warehousing facilities in the country and the development of transferable warehouse receipt system and WDR financing by banks.

The Forward Markets commission has commenced the implementation of a nationwide Price Dissemination Scheme that would make available spot and futures prices of agricultural commodities to all links in the agriculture supply chain, especially farmers.

(d) Many of the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented. Efforts are being made to amend Forward Contract (Regulation) Act, 1952 to empower the Regulator to regulate and develop the market effectively.

Subsidy for coconut oil distribution through PDS in Kerala

1746. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has subsidised palmolein distributed through the PDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala has requested to give similar subsidy for the coconut oil distributed through the ration shops/PDS in Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The Government of India had implemented a 'Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs' during 2008-09 with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg till January 2009 and thereafter Rs. 25/- per kg of imported edible oil handed over to the States for distribution under the Scheme. About 2.61 lakh tons of packed edible oils (refined palmolein and refined soyabean oil) had been handed over to 12 States under the Scheme. The Scheme ended on 31.3.2009. The Scheme has been extended in August 2009 for the current year upto 31.3.2010. The extended Scheme envisages the import of upto 10 lakh tons of edible oils by designated PSUs, NAFED and National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF) with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg of edible oils handed over to States for distribution. The States are free to distribute the packed edible oils through any outlet of their choice. Till 27.11.2009, about 1.04 lakh tons of edible oils have been contracted and about 51,366 tons handed over to States participating in the Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of Kerala, *vide* its letters dated 29.3.2008, 23.6.2009 and 25.6.2009 had requested that the subsidy given under the above Scheme may be allowed for coconut oil. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, *vide* his D.O. Letter dated 12.8.2008, had also requested to extend the subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg for distribution of coconut oil through the Public Distribution System of Kerala.

The Government of Kerala had been informed that the subsidy under the 'Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs' is restricted to edible oils imported by PSUs and supplied to the States/UTs for distribution with a view to increase domestic availability and keep domestic prices under control and that the Scheme had no provision to subsidise domestic oils.

Joint programmes of foreign and Indian technological universities

1747. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is proposal under consideration of Government to allow foreign technological universities and institutes to collaborate with Indian universities and institutes to conduct joint programmes;

- (b) whether suitable regulations in this regard have been brought out by Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether collaborating foreign universities can award Bachelor and Post Graduate degree certificates of their universities in India?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d)
The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has notified a Regulation called the *AICTE Regulations for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/Institutions imparting technical education in India* vide Notification No.F.37-3/Legal/2005 dated 16th May, 2005. A legislative proposal to regulate entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India is also under consideration of the Government.

Students not getting admission in higher education

†1748. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether about seven lakh children pass twelfth class examination every year in the country;
- (b) if not, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether many children out of them are unable to get admission in regular colleges of higher education due to less marks;
- (d) if so, the assessment about number of youth not getting admission;
- (e) whether there is adequate arrangement for them to get professional education in the country; and
- (f) if so, the number of children who had competence to get admission in professional education in the country in academic year 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b)
As per available information, about 61.31 lakhs students in 2006 and 65.66 lakhs students in 2007 passed senior secondary/higher secondary examinations (Annual and supplementary) in the country.

(c) to (f) While no data is maintained about the number of students not getting admission in regular colleges or professional institutes after passing XII examination, it is mentioned that the present Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education *i.e.* percentage of all persons enrolled in post-higher secondary classes in relation to the total population in the 18-24 year age group is about 12.4%. In order to expand professional education in the country, the Government has set up 08 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), in AP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Gujarat, MP and Himachal Pradesh. One Indian Institute of Management (IIM) has been set up in Shillong and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

it is proposed to set up 06 more IIMs (in Raipur, Rohtak, Ranchi, Tiruchirapalli, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan) in the Eleventh Plan. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Pune, Mohali, Bhopal, Thiruvananthapuram and Kolkatta have also started functioning. 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 10 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) are also being set up during the Eleventh Plan. There has also been a phenomenal increase in the number of institutions in the technical and management sector in the country. The number of AICTE approved institutions, as on August 31, 2008 was 6244.

Admission of foreign students in IIMs

1749. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to allow IIMs to open doors for foreign students for admission through Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT);

(b) whether this will not be affecting the opportunities for Indian students as limited seats are available in the IIMs; and

(c) if so, whether Government also plans to increase seats in the IIMs by establishing more institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Ministry has suggested the Directors of all IIMs to come up with a formal proposal to devise ways of attracting/inducting foreign students into IIMs.

(b) and (c) Induction of foreign students will not be at the cost of seats for Indian students. The Government is setting up seven new IIMs during the Eleventh Five Year Plan which would increase seats in the IIM system.

Assistance for Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Maharashtra

1750. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance released during the last three years for Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Maharashtra, at the primary and upper primary stage, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme for children studying in class VI to VIII; and

(c) the number of children at primary and upper primary level who would get the benefit of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) was extended to upper primary stage (classes VI-VIII) initially in 43 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) with effect from 1.10.2007 and in all blocks

from 1.4.2008 in Maharashtra. The details of Central assistance released to Maharashtra during the last three years under the MDMS at Primary and Upper Primary stage are as under:-

Year	Funds released* (Rs. in lakh)	Foodgrain allocated (In MTs)
2006-07	34700.26	164135.22
2007-08	28068.59	188138.89
2008-09	62440.06	309755.58

*Excluding cost of foodgrains reimbursed to Food Corporation of India towards supply of foodgrains to Maharashtra.

(c) During the current financial year 2009-10, 82,53,837 children at primary (classes I-V) stage and 39,73,878 children at upper primary (classes VI-VIII) stage are likely to be benefitted under the MDMS in Maharashtra.

Setting up of centres for studies of WTO and IPRs

‡1751. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited applications from the universities and premier research institutes in the country to set up study centres for studies of World Trade Organization (WTO) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs);

(b) if so, the number of applications that have been received from the universities/institutes interested in starting the said centre and the status of these applications; and

(c) the amount that has been sanctioned, issued and spent in this regard till date and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme of Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach (IPERPO) grants are being provided to Universities and other Institutions of Higher Studies for the establishment of Intellectual Property Rights Chairs for conducting research and studies related to Intellectual Property Rights and World Trade Organization. Since the inception of the Scheme of Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach (IPERPO) in 2001, 18 Universities/ Institutions have been identified and provided financial assistance for the establishment of IPR Chairs. A total grants of Rs.405.04 Lakhs has been released to the IPR Chairs from financial year 2001-2002 to 2008-2009 and the total expenditure incurred from financial year 2001-2002 to 2008-2009 is Rs.173.85 Lakhs. A list showing the Universities/Institutions selected for the establishment of IPR Chairs is given in Statement-I (See below). During 2008-09, ten

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Universities/Institutions have been identified under the Scheme and invited for consideration under the Scheme and requested to submit proposals for consideration for the establishment of IPR Chairs. The details of the proposals received from the institutions proposed to be selected for establishment of IPR Chairs are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Universities/Institutions where Intellectual Property Right Chair were sanctioned under the Scheme of Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach (IPERPO) for the establishment of IPR Chairs.

Sl.No.	Name of the University/Institute and year of establishment
1.	University of Madras March 2001
2.	National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore March, 2001
3.	University of Delhi March 2001
4.	Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Cochin March, 2003
5.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur February, 2005
6.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur February, 2005
7.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras February, 2005
8.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay February, 2005
9.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, February, 2005
10.	Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmadabad, February, 2005
11.	Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, February, 2005
12.	Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore,
13.	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi
14.	Delhi School of Economics, DU, Delhi February, 2005
15.	NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad March, 2008
16.	National Law University (NLU), Jodhpur March, 2008
17.	National Law University (NLU), Bhopal March, 2008
18.	West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WANUJS), Kolkata March, 2008

Statement-II

*List of Universities/Institutes from where proposals for establishing IPR Chairs
were invited during 2008-09*

Sl. No.	Name of the Universities/Institutions	Position regarding Proposal
1.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.	Received
2.	Hidayatullah National Law University, HNLU Bhawan, Civil Lines, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.	Received
3.	National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi, Kerala.	Received
4.	Chanakya National Law University Patna, Bihar.	Received
5.	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, Uttarakhand.	Received
6.	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.	Received
7.	Gauhati University, Assam.	Received
8.	National Institute of Design (NID) Ahemdabad, Gujarat.	Not received
9.	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, Punjab.	Received
10.	Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh	Not received

Funds to universities for scientific purpose

1752. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC is going to give Rupees five lakhs each to about 97 universities for scientific purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the funds released and utilized for the current year in Andhra Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c)
The University Grants Commission (UGC) has a scheme for strengthening Basic Scientific Research in universities. One component of the scheme pertains to grants to colleges with potential for excellence for infrastructure improvement of science departments. The information in regard to the financial assistance provided to universities in the State of Andhra Pradesh under this component is given in Statement (*See below*). The information in respect of the other States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Funds to Universities for scientific purpose

Sl. No.	Name of University in the State of Andhra Pradesh	Total Grant provided from 2007-08 till 30.11.2009 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra University	77
2.	Acharya Nagarjuna University	198
3.	Kakatiya University	66
4.	Osmania University	462
5.	Sri Venkateswara University	132
GRAND TOTAL		935

Implementation of Right to Education Act

1753. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central aid given to States and Union Territories' administration for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for the current year;

(b) the steps taken by Government to enforce the Act; and

(c) the number of persons prosecuted under the Act for preventing the children from going to schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c)
On the request of Government, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has prepared financial estimates for Rs.1,71,484 crores for the period 2010-11 to 2014-15 for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The Act has not yet come into force, and therefore the question of central aid to States and Union Territories, and prosecution of persons under the Act does not arise.

Enrolment of students in primary classes

1754. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of new enrolment of students in the primary classes this year after the enactment of law making education upto the age of 14 years as a Fundamental Right and the likely enrolment during the next academic year 2010-11, State-wise for both years; and

(b) the increased requirement of teachers and how that is likely to be met and also to ensure that the teachers do not transgress in other activities like post office duties, agencies for small scale investments and insurance business, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 was published in the Gazette of India on 27th August, 2006. The Act has not yet come into force.

As per Selected Education Statistics (SES) published by the MHRD, the Gross Enrolment Ratio at the primary level in 2006-07 was 111.24. According to the estimates prepared by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) for a period of five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15, the population projection of 6 to 10 year age group, which is the target population for the primary schools, for 2010-11 is 11,52,82,595.

(b) NUEPA has, at the instance of the Government, prepared estimates for additional requirement of teachers on the basis of the Pupil Teacher Ratio norms prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, according to which around 5.10 lakh additional teachers would be required for the country as a whole at the elementary level. The Act provides that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for implementation of the Act. It also enumerates the functions to be performed by teachers and prohibits teachers from engaging in private tuition or private teaching activity.

Funds sanctioned under SSA

†1755. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to different States during the last five years and the amount released so far, State-wise;

(b) the sanctioned amount released to different States under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, State-wise;

(c) whether more funds are yet to be sanctioned under this scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b)
A statement showing details of state-wise central funding released to States/UTs for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme during the last five years and current year is given in Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The release of funds are made to States/UTs as per outlay approved in the Annual Works Plan and Budget at the beginning of financial year as per funding pattern applicable between Centre and States.

Statement

*GOI released during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and
2009-10 (as on 17.11.2009) under SSA*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	GOI Release					
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 17.11.2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28000	37999.00	46245.56	28100.00	71031.78	13569.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3009	4442.51	7143.74	11043.55	13683.64	4117
3.	Assam	20654	13850.00	51464.72	28903.62	42740.91	42480
4.	Bihar	31970.56	32399.56	107744.39	135417.64	186158.47	45000
5.	Chhattisgarh	20786.76	30184.39	50182.20	46787.76	51853.86	46892.6
6.	Goa	0	728.12	724.12	899.57	804.41	550.58
7.	Gujarat	14072	15084.84	14806.97	22658.26	25432.47	8031.73
8.	Haryana	12881.55	10196.55	25647.12	14220.00	20546.87	10000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6144	7614.66	6250.75	7638.30	8552.99	8608
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7747.18	18530.65	22083.37	20063.27	20532.59	30000
11.	Jharkhand	16568.5	28568.50	51515.00	80748.99	69041.09	15000
12.	Karnataka	26280.7	38303.78	54206.98	40604.78	51578.19	44220.6
13.	Kerala	8939	5939.00	6382.00	8323.42	10854.04	6039.5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44608.919	77173.12	110879.68	86769.94	85569.35	100249
15.	Maharashtra	35489.79	50235.31	52158.56	45729.96	67386.02	48023

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Manipur	1225	3208.44	9.24	1850.95	321.21	500
17.	Meghalaya	2930.81	1921.00	4294.00	9359.63	9440.36	8383
18.	Mizoram	3300.24	2559.15	3441.69	4212.02	5112.59	2645
19.	Nagaland	2088.49	2323.01	2315.20	4596.00	2867.87	1413
20.	Orissa	21807.27	32792.50	44010.95	62853.68	49080.9	63061.6
21.	Punjab	3040	14683.89	12879.92	10493.88	13808.1	8973
22.	Rajasthan	23549.397	60313.43	75809.82	101307.20	108326.8	112724
23.	Sikkim	1000.25	1062.50	402.14	1036.25	1075.31	986
24.	Tamil Nadu	26517	35329.53	37329.65	53125.09	45414.47	48366
25.	Tripura	4703.96	7070.19	5330.01	4178.49	6464.12	4273
26.	Uttar Pradesh	87761	182799.00	206654.00	204758.00	212884.89	178448.3
27.	Uttaranchal	9144.705	10004.00	16934.00	13162.80	11444.45	13997.29
28.	West Bengal	46024.36	34199.79	61736.80	90571.68	65169.37	94142
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	272.58	163.00	419.62	187.10	780.54	312.44
30.	Chandigarh	447.95	350.00	300.00	934.95	820.52	826
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	111.91	0.00	100.00	418.54	104.63	350.18
32.	Daman and Diu	0	111.91				69
33.	Delhi	0	1100.00	4232.24	1671.55	1529.01	1163
34.	Lakshadweep	12.03	0.00	87.47		70	41
35.	Puducherry	225.53	529.40		577.07	638.59	273.96
TOTAL		511314.441	751770.73	1083719.91	1143203.94	1261120.41	963729.68
36.	National Component	2660.849	952.00	1115.04	1328.58	1459.41	1117.89
GRAND TOTAL		513975.29	752722.73	1084834.95	1144532.52	1262579.82	964847.57

Estimate of expenditure for implementation of Right to Education Act

1756. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, whether Government has estimated the expenditure for implementing the Act during the current Plan period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the share of Central Government out of this?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 was published in the Gazette of India on 27th August, 2009. It shall come into force as per Notification under Section 1(3) of the Act.

(c) to (e) On the request of Government, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has prepared financial estimates for Rs.1,71,484 crores for a 5-year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The financial estimates include an amount of Rs.70,133 crore for the remaining two years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Act provides that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for implementation of the Act and the sharing of financial responsibility between the Centre and States would be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments.

World Bank report on secondary education

1757. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been announcing huge investment in education sector;

(b) whether the latest World Bank report on secondary education in India is hardly flattering;

(c) whether according to World Bank report there has been focus on primary education but secondary education hardly gets attention it deserves and remains highly inequitable across the States;

(d) if so, whether according to the report secondary education is critical to breaking inter-generational transmission of poverty; and

(e) if so, to what extent Government has examined the points raised by World Bank on secondary education and the steps being taken to consider and implement them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The total allocation for education sector during the Eleventh Plans Rs.2,69,873 crore, of which Rs.1,84,930 crore is for school education and literacy, and Rs. 84,943 crore is for higher education.

(b) to (d) The World Bank in its report 'Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity' (January, 2009) has *inter alia* mentioned that India's gross enrolment rate at the secondary level of 40% is below that of countries in East Asia and Latin America. It also mentions that the focus of public investment in India over the last 15 years has been on primary education, and that secondary education is highly inequitable across the States and requires more attention. The report also cites instances of international research regarding the impact of secondary education suggesting that it is critical to breaking the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

(e) Central Government recognizes the need to make substantial improvement to the secondary education sector. A new scheme called "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" has been launched to enhance access to secondary education and to improve its quality. It seeks to ensure availability of secondary schools within reasonable distance of every habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at the secondary stage by conforming all schools to the prescribed norms. An outlay of Rs.20,120 crore has been provided for this scheme during the Eleventh Plan. The total allocation for secondary education has also been increased from Rs.4,325 crore in the Tenth Plan to Rs.53550 crore in the Eleventh Plan.

Schemes for developing hidden talent of poor students at schools

†1758. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government for developing the hidden talent of poor students at school and college level in the country, especially in rural and hilly areas;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up a fund specifically for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Details of the major schemes being implemented by the Government to develop latent potential of poor students at school and college level, are as follows:

Department of School Education and Literacy

S.No.	Schemes/Programmes
1	2
1.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
2.	Midday Meal (MDM) Scheme
3.	National Literacy Mission (NLMA)
4.	Revamped Lifelong Education and Awareness Programme (LEAP)
5.	Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme
6.	National Open Schooling
7.	Navodaya Vidyalayas Scheme
8.	Kendriya Vidyalayas Scheme
9.	Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA) Scheme
10.	Scheme for Universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS)
11.	Scheme to start 6000 New Model Schools
12.	Scheme to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools
13.	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) (Residential Schools/Hostels Scheme
14.	Girl Child Incentive Scheme
15.	Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) Scheme
16.	Vocational Education Scheme
17.	National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL)
	Department of Higher Education
18.	Open and Distance Learning Schemes
19.	IGNOU Skill development Schemes
20.	Remedial Coaching Schemes SCs/STs/Minorities
21.	Reservation in Admissions in Central Educational Institutions as per Act, 2006
22.	New Community Colleges/Community Polytechnics
23.	Establishment of new central universities in uncovered states
24.	Setting up of 374 model degree colleges in low GER districts
25.	Incentivising State Government for expansion, inclusion and excellence
26.	Scheme to give UGC grants to hitherto uncovered State Universities (150) and Colleges (6000) through UGC grants
27.	National Education Mission through ICT

1	2
28.	Establishment of new Polytechnics in unserved/under served districts
29.	Strengthening and upgradation of 400 Polytechnics
30.	Construction of Women's Hostels in Polytechnics
31.	Sanction of Scholarship for students belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities
32.	Scheme of the construction of Girls Hostels
33.	Scheme to permit 2nd shifts in Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics
34.	Merit Scholarship Scheme for Economically Weaker Section Students
35.	Establishment of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
36.	Various Research Fellowships Programmes
37.	Scheme to establish a large number of new Central Education Institutions such as new IITs, IIMs, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Schools of Planning and Architecture, Central Universities, Indian Institute of Information Technology and National Institutes of Technologies.

Besides the above, a new Central Sector Scheme to provide full interest subsidy during the period of moratorium on loans taken by students belonging to economically weaker sections from scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association, for pursuing any of the approved courses of studies in technical and professional streams, from recognized institutions in India has been approved.

(b) and (c) Depending upon the fund requirements of each scheme, necessary budget provisions are made under respective budget heads/sub heads.

Indian Institute of Information Technology

1759. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the time-frame by which the aforesaid academy is likely to be established in the State;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Government of Gujarat has agreed to provide land as well as required equity for the establishment of IIIT;

(d) the contribution of the State Government and the Central Government; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Planning Commission has not made any state-specific recommendations with regard to the location of IIITs.

(b) to (c) This Ministry is considering setting up of 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the country during the Eleventh Plan, mostly in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Cost of the IIITs will be shared by the Central government, State governments and Industry Partners. The Government of Gujarat have indicated their willingness to provide the required land, capital infrastructure and equity participation for the IIIT in their State. Details regarding contribution of the Central government, State governments and private partners for setting up of IIITs as also the states in which these IIITs will be located are yet to be finalized.

Upgradation of universities to international standard

1760. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted in selecting universities for upgradation to the international standard;

(b) whether it is a fact that not even a single university from Andhra Pradesh has been taken up for upgradation to the level of world universities; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) The Government is considering a proposal to set up 14 new Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards should be located in or around large cities which would automatically have a kind of connectivity and infrastructure which such university would need. One such Innovation University is proposed to be established in Vishakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Directives for austerity measures to autonomous and statutory bodies

1761. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry, as part of austerity measures, has issued a directive on September 12, 2009 to all autonomous and statutory bodies for increasing tuition fee, levying user fees and withdrawal of hostel subsidies, etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has also put in 10 per cent cut in non-Plan expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor particularly behind withdrawal of hostel subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In consonance with the economy instructions issued by Ministry of Finance on austerity measures, instructions were issued to heads of all autonomous and statutory bodies for effecting

cut in non-salary component of non-plan expenditure. In the same set of instructions, an advisory was issued to make efforts to generate additional resources by gradual revision of tuition fees, levy of user fees, withdrawal of hostel subsidies and other measures.

Model schools for educationally backward districts of Rajasthan

1762. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has identified educationally backward districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government proposes to develop educationally backward districts by setting up model schools, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the allocation made to Rajasthan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Central Government has decided to set up 6000 Model Schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block as benchmarks of excellence. It has been decided to set up 2500 of these schools through State Governments in educationally backward blocks. Rajasthan has 186 educationally backward blocks. Sanctioning of schools is based on viability of proposals received from State Governments.

Unabated growth in number of private institutes

1763. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unabated growth in the number of private institutes of higher education without any quality check has forced some academics from Harvard University to scrutinise this sector;

(b) if so, their findings in this regard; and

(c) the follow up action which has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Matters related to growth and quality of privately funded institutions of higher education are addressed by the Central and State Governments, if necessary, in consultation with stake

holders. The universities and academe are free to take up various studies and the Government has no control over the same.

In so far as quality of higher education is concerned, various steps have been initiated. Processes for review of “deemed to be universities” are under way. A legislative proposal for mandatory accreditation of higher education institutions is under consideration of the Government. Another legislative proposal for the prohibition of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities is also under consideration.

Provision of modern education in Sanskrit schools

†1764. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated by Government to give advantage of modern education to Sanskrit schools being run in traditional way in the country;

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

(c) the total number of schools providing Sanskrit education in the country at present where degrees like Shastri and Acharya are given;

(d) whether there is an arrangement to provide any economic assistance to these Sanskrit institutes at present; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), a Deemed University, implements a Scheme for the Development of Sanskrit Education which also provides for financial assistance for teachers for modern subjects in Traditional Sanskrit Pathasalas/Mahavidyalayas. Under this Scheme, financial assistance for appointment of a maximum of three teachers in modern subjects, for purchase of computer and honorarium for a part time computer teacher can be provided to the Traditional Sanskrit Pathasalas/Mahavidyalayas. The registered/affiliated Pathasalas/Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas can send their proposals under this Scheme to the RSkS through the concerned State Governments.

(c) 11 Sanskrit Universities in the country are awarding different degrees like Shastri, Acharya or their equivalent. In addition, there are general Universities in India, which also award Post Graduate degrees in Sanskrit.

(d) and (e) 89 Institutions located in different States have been provided with financial assistance for 159 teachers of modern subjects amounting to Rs.1.15 crore for the year 2008-2009 by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. University Grants Commission has released grants amounting to Rs.39.39 crores to various Sanskrit Universities in 2008-2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

World Bank loan for establishment of additional schools

†1765. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made target to establish additional schools in the country under National Secondary Education Campaign;

(b) if so, the number of additional schools targeted to be established at the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the percentage of children in the country getting admission in secondary schools after the achievement of the target;

(d) whether it is a fact that an offer has been made by World Bank to provide economic loan to assist the scheme; and

(e) if so, the amount which is proposed in the offer?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) A new Centrally sponsored scheme called “Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)” has been launched with enhancement of access to secondary education as one of its objectives. The target for the number of additional schools under the scheme is about 11000. However, the number of additional schools to be established would depend on the school mapping exercise. It is targeted to achieve a gross enrolment ratio of 75% at secondary stage (classes IX-X) within 5 years of implementing the scheme.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has sought assistance to the tune of US\$ 500 million from the World Bank as programmatic support for RMSA.

Requirement of funds for implementation of Right to Education Act

1766. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether for implementation of Right to Education Act over next five years, Centre and States have worked out the funds required to be a whopping Rs. 1.78 lakh crores;

(b) whether this new law will come in force from next academic year and since education is now a Fundamental Right, whether it is mandatory on part of Government to provide what is demanded;

(c) if so, the measures on which this amount will be required and whether funds have been allotted for the purpose; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what will be the total contribution to be made by Centre and States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d)
On the request of the Government, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has prepared financial estimates for Rs.1,71,484 crores for a period of five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The estimates of funds cover recurring and non-recurring components including, *inter alia*, school infrastructure and facilities, child entitlements, teacher recruitment and teacher training and will be shared between the Central and the State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the RTE Act. The RTE Act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette appoint. The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in Part III Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India. This Act has also not come into force.

Identification of deficiencies in higher education

1767. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as stated by Prime Minister, Government has concluded that the quality of education imparted in Indian institutes of higher education is far below the international standards;

(b) if so, the steps that have been and are being taken by Government to identify the deficiencies in higher education where standards are lacking; and

(c) whether any study group has been or is being set up to identify the deficiencies and to mitigate the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) While there are several institutions of world class quality in India, the general standards of higher education requires improvement to match international standards.

(b) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards, quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology etc.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

(c) No, Sir.

Government support to noncommercial public schools in Assam

1768. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent of the non-commercial public schools in Assam run by public with Government concurrence are yet to be supported by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such public institutes in Assam running without any support either from Central or State Government, category-wise;

(c) whether non-commercial colleges established and run by public are also deprived of UGC grants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to launch any special scheme to cover the students and teachers of these deprived institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The matter pertains to the State Government of Assam. The Central Government has no scheme to support private unaided schools in Assam.

(c) to (f) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to the institutions of higher education which are covered under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. Self financing institutions of higher education are not provided with financial assistance by UGC.

Establishment of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

1769. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to establish more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested Central Government for the establishment of an IISER in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) As per the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. At present, there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A suitable reply has been sent to the Chief Minister of Gujarat stating that at present there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

World Bank report on secondary education

1770. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that our secondary education is in shambles;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the World Bank report recently published stating that India is behind China, Brazil, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in secondary education; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to improve the quality of education at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The World Bank in its report 'Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity' (January, 2009) has mentioned that India's gross enrolment rate at the secondary level of 40% is below that of countries in East Asia and Latin America. The report also states that countries having lower per capita income than India such as Vietnam and Moldova have much higher GER Bangladesh with a far lower per capita income has roughly the same GER at the secondary level.

(c) Central Government recognizes the need to make substantial improvement to the secondary education sector. A new centrally sponsored scheme called "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" has been launched to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. It, *inter alia*, seeks to ensure availability of secondary school within reasonable distance of every habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at secondary stage by conforming all schools to prescribed norms. An outlay of Rs.20,120 crore has been provided for this scheme during the Eleventh Plan. The total allocation for the secondary education sector has also been increased from Rs.4,325 crore in the Tenth Plan to Rs.53,550 crore in the Eleventh Plan.

Awarding of MCA and BCA degrees by IGNOU

1771. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students are pursuing simultaneous education in BCA and MCA in IGNOU and some of them have even passed all papers of MCA;

(b) whether some students have not cleared all papers of BCA inspite of more than nine/ten attempts;

(c) if so, the reasons for IGNOU not awarding degrees of MCA and BCA to such students like that in Delhi University which is awarding degree of Graduation to students in such eventuality; and

(d) the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) As per information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), it offers BCA-MCA in integrated mode with modular approach where, BCA-MCA programme are integrated in order to provide flexibility to the students. Student cannot pursue courses of BCA and MCA concurrently. However, students are allowed to give examination of leftover courses of BCA/MCA alongwith the current courses of BCA/MCA which student is pursuing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per information provided by IGNOU, there is no provision to award degree of MCA and BCA without clearing all the courses.

(d) The University has decided to accommodate such students by allowing them of old syllabus of MCA and BCA to clear their left-out courses till December 2010 Term-end-Examination. Moreover, any student who could not complete the programme can take readmission to same programme and avail facility of credit transfer.

SC/ST students enrolled in Navodaya Vidyalayas

1772. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of male/female students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) enrolled in Navodaya Vidyalayas during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to enhance the existing percentage of enrolment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) A statement showing the number of boys and girls belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes enrolled in Navodaya Vidyalayas during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 in each State/UT is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir. Seats are reserved in Navodaya Vidyalayas for children from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in proportion to their population in the concerned district, but not less than 15% for SC and 7.5% for ST.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

*The State-wise details of Male/Female SC/ST students enrolled in
Navodaya Vidyalayas during 2007-08 and 2008-09*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	SC Male		SC Female		ST Male		ST Female	
		2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1724	1766	760	784	846	822	264	293
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	57	33	30	1869	2810	1075	453
3.	Assam	925	992	669	709	1195	1502	955	777
4.	Bihar	1910	2344	941	623	366	482	180	128
5.	Chandigarh	82	89	66	72	3	4	1	3
6.	Chhattisgarh	664	707	332	354	1059	1177	530	588
7.	Daman and Diu	19	20	9	10	12	13	6	6
8.	Delhi	174	161	106	105	23	21	14	20
9.	Goa	12	24	6	12	37	49	18	24
10.	Gujarat	875	891	432	440	660	682	326	337
11.	Himachal Pradesh	958	978	670	682	389	409	343	358
12.	Haryana	1594	1702	576	629	27	46	15	23
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	460	468	222	226	765	843	461	529
14.	Jharkhand	913	1314	450	162	1357	2095	669	260
15.	Karnataka	1779	1842	854	874	829	866	446	497
16.	Kerala	758	741	520	572	143	135	123	149
17.	Madhya Pradesh	3221	3329	1611	1665	2525	2725	1263	1363
18.	Maharashtra	2041	1973	1009	975	893	958	442	474
19.	Manipur	269	357	249	176	854	902	891	967
20.	Meghalaya	27	35	24	12	859	861	700	752
21.	Mizoram	6	5	4	3	267	324	233	322
22.	Nagaland	6	8	6	7	715	856	630	613

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Orissa	1373	1459	687	730	1675	1793	838	896
24.	Punjab	2106	2213	1277	1377	4	10	2	5
25.	Rajasthan	2839	2845	741	782	1789	1784	611	632
26.	Sikkim	57	69	47	45	259	256	236	211
27.	Silvasa	1	11	3	6	69	74	34	37
28.	Tripura	157	189	137	141	236	265	211	201
29.	Uttar Pradesh	7305	7245	1544	1510	346	740	91	91
30.	Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep	224	226	121	135	135	142	135	129
31.	Uttarakhand	792	809	247	236	170	183	77	93
32.	West Bengal	447	828	220	35	106	214	53	9
Total		33762	35697	14573	14119	20482	24143	11873	11240

National Commission for Higher Education and Research

1773. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given its approval for setting up of proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER);

(b) if so, whether Government has opted to keep medical and agricultural education out of the ambit of NCHER;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is proposed that a collegium of eminent academics and experts will be set up for selection of Vice-Chancellors of universities and other top academic and research posts; and

(e) if so, by when the proposal is expected to be finalized and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (e) A Task Force to, *inter alia*, aid and assist the Government in the establishment of the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) has been constituted which would look into the ambit, powers and functions to be entrusted to the proposed NCHER as well as the proposal to establish collegium of eminent academic. In regard to Medical Education, the President has in her address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009 stated the proposal to create a National Council for Human Resources in Health.

Establishment of Central University in Gujarat

1774. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to establish a Central University in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has already submitted details of suitable land and all other information required by Government; and

(c) if so, the place notified for the Central University in Gujarat and by when the University would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat is to provide, free of cost, about 500 acres of land for the Central University of Gujarat. The Central Government has constituted a Site Selection Committee to visit the sites offered by the State Government. The final selection of site will be made by the Central Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee and the exact location of the University will be notified in the Official Gazette. The State Government has offered five sites in Sabarkantha district and one site in Gandhinagar. The Site Selection Committee is expected to visit these sites shortly. The University has, however, already started functioning from temporary premises in Gandhinagar.

Review of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Tamil Nadu

1775. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the shortcomings which were noticed in the scheme in the State;

(c) the steps Government has taken to remove these shortcomings;

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the fund allocation to the State for better implementation of the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Government reviews the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) through various national/regional level meetings held from time to time. Besides, 42 Monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the MDMS in States/UTs. The Government also assesses the performance of the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress

Reports (QPRs). A national level review meeting of State Educational Secretaries Conference was held on 1st August, 2009 at New Delhi in which the implementation of the MDMS in Tamil Nadu was also reviewed. No serious shortcoming affecting implementation of MDMS in Tamil Nadu has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) As and when any serious issue concerning the implementation of the MDMS comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State/UT is immediately asked to take necessary remedial action to ensure proper implementation of the Scheme.

(d) and (e) For providing better quality of mid day meal to children, the Government has brought about the following changes in the MDMS for all States/UTs with effect from 1.12.2009:-

- (i) Revision of food norm for upper primary.
- (ii) Revision of cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) from Rs.1.68 to Rs.2.50 for primary and Rs.2.20 to Rs.3.75 for upper primary children with effect from 1.12.2009.
- (iii) A separate provision for engagement of cook-cum-helper on honorarium basis @ Rs.1000 per month to each cook-cum-helper.
- (iv) Revision of cost of construction of Kitchen-cum-Store.

Soft loans to students

†1776. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, on the lines of NABARD and SIDBI, the proposed National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) is also considering to provide soft loans to students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof
- (c) by when NEFC is likely to be constituted; and
- (d) the details of the working of NEFC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) A proposal to establish a National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC) to *inter alia*, provide refinance facilities to educational loans advanced by scheduled public sector banks is under consideration of Government.

World Bank report on secondary education

1777. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether latest World Bank report on secondary education observes that secondary education in India hardly gets the attention it deserves and remains highly inequitable across States;
- (b) whether evidence from around the world suggests that secondary education is critical for breaking inter-generational transmission of poverty as it enables youth to break out of poverty trap;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether India's Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at secondary level of 40 per cent is far behind the average GER of East Asian countries at 70 per cent; and

(d) whether countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh with lower per capita incomes, have higher GER rates?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The World Bank in its report 'Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity' (January, 2009) has *inter alia* mentioned that the focus of public investment in India over the last 15 years has been on primary education, and that secondary education is highly inequitable across the States and requires more attention.

(b) The World Bank report cites instances of international research regarding the impact of secondary education suggesting that it is critical to breaking the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

(c) The World Bank report mentions that India's gross enrolment rate at the secondary level of 40 percent is far below that of countries in East Asia (average 70 percent).

(c) The World Bank report states that countries like Vietnam with lower per capita income have higher GER, Bangladesh with a far lower per capita income has roughly the same GER at secondary level.

Setting up of off-shore campuses of universities

1778. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted private universities and deemed universities to open off-shore campuses whereas Government run State and Central Universities are not allowed to open their campuses abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will allow Government run State and Central Universities also to set up their campuses abroad as Indian universities face competition from foreign universities and encourage them to go abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed regulations, namely, the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, which, *inter alia*, provide that a private university can open off-shore campus(es) in foreign countries only after obtaining permissions from the Government of India and the host country. According to the UGC guidelines for considering proposals for declaring an institution as "deemed to be university" under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, it would be permissible for the "deemed to be university" to open academic Centre(s) in any of the foreign countries after obtaining due permission from Government of India and the host country.

According to the University Grants Commission, the following institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' have approved off-shore campuses:-

Sl. No.	Name of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be University'	Country
1.	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan	United Arab Emirates
2.	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Mesra, Ranchi	Oman, Bahrain
3.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and Oman.
4.	Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem, Tamil Nadu	Thailand
5.	Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai	Mauritius

(c) and (d) Public Universities and institutions may set up campuses abroad, if so permitted under the relevant State Act or Memorandum of Association, under which a university or institution is established. According to the existing provisions, a Central University is not allowed to open off-shore campus(es).

Revisiting educational system in schools

1779. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to revisit the educational system in schools; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) A 'Round Table on School Education' has been constituted to advise and make recommendations on improving the school education system in the country and to suggest means of implementation thereof. Discussions in the Round Table are an on-going process for interactions on school education. So far three meetings of the Round Table have been held.

Grants to universities for research in science

†1780. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the grants given to universities for research in science during the last three years and grants proposed for the next five years, year-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the steps being taken to promote research in the field of science?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) According to the information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the universities have been provided a sum of Rs.165.88 crore and Rs.143.57 crore in the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively for research in science. An allocation of Rs.123 crore has been made by UGC for the current financial year *i.e.* 2009-10 of which Rs.66.63 crore has been released till 30.11.2009.

An amount of Rs.1200 crore has been allocated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for strengthening scientific research in institution of higher learning.

(b) Looking at the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in universities, a Task Force was constituted by the Central Government for strengthening basic scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has, *inter alia*, recommended creation of 1000 positions of research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research, and, creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The Task Force has been converted into an Empowered Committee for monitoring the implementation of its recommendations.

UGC has granted 1800 Junior Research Fellowships to the science departments recognized as Centre of Advanced Study/Department of Special Assistance/Department of Research Science in universities; launched the "Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-doctoral Fellowships", award 500 Post-Doctoral Fellowships in all areas of sciences and provided infrastructure strengthening grant of Rs.5 lakhs to each of the 700 science departments of 97 colleges with potential for excellence.

Target of employment by KVIC

1781. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that Khadi and Village Industries Commission has set a target of employment 1.5 crore persons during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the rural youths, artisans, weavers, etc., are fully employed or work is given to them on casual basis; and

(c) the status of employment of persons as on 30th September, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) The growth of khadi and village industries (KVI) sector during the successive five year plans has been in tandem with overall growth of the economy of the country. Going by the trend, it is estimated that Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) could provide employment to 145 lakh persons (15 lakh in khadi and 130 lakh in village industry) in the KVI sector by the end of eleventh five year plan. As on 31 March 2009, employment has been provided to an estimated 104 lakh persons in KVI sector.

(b) Khadi activities provide employment opportunities mainly to spinners and weavers who usually work from their dwelling units using simple tools and technology and within the time available with them alongwith other livelihood/household activities. The wages to weavers are being paid based on the cost chart prescribed by the Central Certification Committee of KVIC. The remuneration to spinners and weavers are being paid by the concerned khadi institutions (which are basically NGOs enlisted with KVIC/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards) on piece work basis. As far as Village Industry artisans are concerned, the wages are paid generally on the basis of output of the individuals employed by the entrepreneurs in the units set up by them with margin money assistance from Government of India through KVIC under schemes including erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the present Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

However, for upliftment of khadi artisans and weavers, the Government of India through KVIC implements a number of schemes which include Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) to provide insurance to khadi artisans and weavers, Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans providing assistance for construction of worksheds for better work environment, Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans to assist 200 khadi institutions to make khadi industry competitive with more market driven and profitable production by replacement of obsolete, old machinery and equipment and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) providing need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.

(c) As on 30 September 2009, the total employment in khadi and village industries sector was estimated as 107 lakh persons.

Micro and small enterprises in Tamil Nadu

1782. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of micro and small enterprises existing as on date in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number out of them which are sick and how many of them are revivable or potentially viable; and

(c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take for rehabilitation of all sick micro and small enterprises in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) As per the Quick Results of Fourth All India Census of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the reference year of 2006-07 and the estimates made thereafter the number of micro, small, and medium enterprises (both registered and unregistered) existing in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.03.2009 were 25,95,127.

(b) As per the date compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the scheduled commercial banks, there were 4,972 sick micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in the State of Tamil Nadu as at the end of March, 2009, out of which 834 sick MSEs were potentially viable.

(c) Financial assistance, by way of debt restructuring, including fresh loans, for the rehabilitation of sick MSEs is provided by the primary lending institutions (PLIs), including commercial banks, which provide credit to the MSEs. For this purpose, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness in MSEs at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick MSEs identified as potentially viable. RBI has also issued guidelines on 8th September 2005 on debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which relate, *inter alia*, to viability criteria, prudential norms for restructured accounts, provision of additional finance and time frame for working out the restructuring package and its implementation. Further, the RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks on May 4, 2009 to apply the RBI's guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and put in place their own non-discretionary one-time settlement (OTS) policy for the MSE sector.

Shoe industry of Agra

1783. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rising costs and shrinking markets have adversely hit the centuries old shoe industry of Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of person engaged in the industry and the steps taken by Government to revive and revamp the industry in Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (c) The figures of All India Census of MSMEs (3rd and 4th) indicate that the number of units and employment in Footwear manufacturing in Agra increased from 1970 and 12417 in 2001-02 to 2725 and 17892 in 2006-07 respectively. Figures available for the registered sector in footwear manufacturing in Agra also shows an increase in gross output and fixed assets over the same period.

Ministry of MSME is implementing a number of schemes for the promotion and development of MSMEs including those engaged in footwear manufacturing. Major programmes include the Cluster Development Programme, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme and Skill Development Programmes. The Ministry of MSME has also set up the Central Footwear Training Institute in Agra for this purpose. The Institute conducts training and also provides common facilities services to the micro and small units. In addition, the Government is implementing the Indian Leather Development Programme for growth of the leather sector.

Bell metal industries in Assam

1784. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the facts that the age-old bell metal industries at Sarthebari and Hajo in Assam are facing various problems;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to promote such small and cottage industries in Assam and North East Region;

(c) whether Government would take steps to supply raw material to such industry at the working place like Sarthebari and Hajo; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (d) Government of India and Government of Assam have taken various steps for promotion of bell and brass metal industry in small and cottage sector in Assam. Through its various schemes, Government of Assam has supported construction of godowns, factory sheds; use of improved tools; setting up of raw material depot etc. for the two clusters at Sarthebari and Hajo. Under the cluster development programme, Central Government, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has supported capacity building and marketing inputs for the Hajo cluster as well as provided financial assistance for setting up of a common facility centre at Hajo.

Employment generation through PMEGP

1785. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

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

(a) whether Government has not fulfilled its promise of creating over six lakh jobs through the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme during 2008-09;

(b) whether this is due to delay in issuing guidelines and reluctance of banks to disburse loans;

(c) whether Government had set up a target of part-financing 61,227 projects and generating 6,12,245 jobs in 600 odd districts of the country during 2008-09;

(d) whether at end of March 2009, it could fund only 36,287 project, giving work to 3,62,870 people; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove these hurdles so that target is achieved in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (d) As Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit linked subsidy programme and banks finance as much as 60% of the project cost after assessment of their viability, the target in terms of number of projects, and employment likely to be generated are only estimated figures. Actual achievement would depend among various factors, on the nature, cost and location of projects/units.

Implementation guidelines of PMEGP could be issued in September 2008 after obtaining approval of the competent authority in August 2008. Preliminary activities of implementation like publicity, workshops, distribution of targets, etc. took some time as it involved coordination by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) of State Governments and about 850 nodal branches as well as 12000 financing bank branches spread across the country. Imposition of model code conduct of General Elections, elections in six States in 2008, and delay in constitution of District Level Task Force (DLTF) by concerned State Governments also resulted in less availability of time for actual implementation of the programme.

Despite the constraints in implementation of PMEGP mentioned above, a total of 36,281 projects could be got sanctioned by banks and loans could actually be disbursed in 25507 cases in 2008-09 for creation of estimated employment opportunities for 2.55 lakh persons.

(e) For improved implementation of PMEGP and achieving the targets during 2009-10, all Chief Ministers have been requested to instruct the State implementing agencies, namely, DICs, KVIBs and Banks to put in more concerted efforts in improving the performance of PMEGP. Regular review meetings are also being undertaken by National Level Monitoring Committee, KVIC and others including communication of district level targets well in advance by KVIC, etc. Project profiles of more than 300 model projects have been made available in the websites namely www.kvic.org.in and www.pmegp.in and around 515 training centres across the country have been accredited by KVIC for imparting EDP training to the PMEGP beneficiaries for facilitating the offtake of bank finance with margin money subsidy.

Proposal to award 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers

1786. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to award 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that poor weavers of the country are committing suicide whereas organizations having Khadi Production Certificate are gaining day by day;
- (c) whether Government is planning to implement various welfare measures including awarding of 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) Certificate for khadi production is issued by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to the institutions which are societies, cooperatives or trusts registered under relevant Acts, enlisted with KVIC and engaged in Khadi and village industries activities. The institutions have to abide by the guidelines issued by KVIC time to time to carry out production and sales activities.

(b) No incidence of suicide of khadi weavers has been reported so far. In khadi and village industries sector weavers are generally registered with khadi institutions and are engaged in production of khadi. The spinners and weavers usually work from their dwelling units using simple tools and technology and within the time available with them alongwith other livelihood/household activities. The wages are paid by the institution concerned on the basis of cost chart prescribed by the Central Certification Committee of KVIC. The remuneration is paid on piece work basis with due care on efficient utilization of manpower as well as ensuring fair wages.

(c) and (d) The Government through KVIC has been implementing a welfare scheme for the khadi artisans including khadi weavers, namely, "Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana" with effect from 2003-04. The Scheme was formulated in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with annual premium of Rs.200/- per beneficiary initially. The Commission upon negotiation with LIC could reduce the premium to Rs.100/- with effect from 2005-06 which is shared by the Central Government (from Social Security Fund), Khadi Institution, Khadi Artisan and KVIC. The compensation under the Scheme is Rs.30,000 on natural death, Rs.75,000 on accidental death, Rs.75,000 in case of full permanent disability due to accident and Rs.37,500 for part permanent disability due to accident. As an 'add-on' benefit without any additional premium, two school going children of insured artisans studying in Class Nine to Twelve are eligible for a scholarship of Rs.100/- each per month.

Besides, 21 State Level Artisans' Welfare Fund Trusts (AWTF) have been established for the welfare of khadi artisans. The fund available with these trusts is to be utilised by the artisans for education of their children, medical expenses and marriage expenses in the family of artisans, etc.

Export of coir and coir products

1787. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of export of coir and coir products in the last three years and the earning from such exports;
- (b) whether coir industry is facing a crisis due to shortage of raw fibre; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) Details of export of coir and coir products including the earning from such exports during the last three years is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The coir industry in the export oriented production centres at Alleppey (Kerala) is facing scarcity of coir fibre, of late. The industry is mainly dependent on Tamil Nadu for sourcing fibre and it is estimated that around 80,000 MT to 1,00,000 MT of coir fibre is annually transported from the places like Pollachi, Tenkasi, Cumbam, Theni and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu to the export oriented production centres at Alleppey, Kerala. Supply of coir fibre by the production centres in Tamil Nadu to Kerala has come down as coir fibre is being increasingly exported. As against an export of coir fibre of 11,102 MT in 2007-2008, 19444 MT of coir fibre was exported during 2008-2009. In the current year, 18,262 MT of coir fibre has been exported till October, 2009 as compared to the export of 4,835 MT in the corresponding period of the previous year. In addition, there has been a slow down in the fibre production activities in Kerala due to a number of reasons like unattractive remuneration, drudgery in operation, awareness on the pollution aspects of the environment due to retting etc.

The scarcity of coir fibre has not so far been reported in other coir producing States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa though there appears to be some shortage in the curled coir industry in Tamil Nadu.

The recent situation of scarcity of coir fibre relates especially to the State of Kerala and it has been reported that the State Government is taking steps for establishing a Market Fluctuation fund to offset the increase in price of coir fibre supplied to manufacturers, revival of existing defibering units and arranging supply of coir fibre from other States. The Coir Board a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME has been asked to closely liaise with different coir fibre producing and consuming State Governments in arriving at a mutually acceptable working arrangement and also provide technical assistance for revival of defibering units in Kerala for mitigating the scarcity of coir fibre in Kerala.

Statement

Export of coir and coir products during April 2006 to March 2009

Product Name	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Curled Coir	1804.03	208.34	1279.99	152.06	1438.38	223.85
Coir Fibre	9356.54	1075.80	11101.64	1224.14	19443.54	2390.89
Coir Rugs	488.31	328.55	178.14	134.40	63.83	67.63
Coir Pith	67152.99	5382.07	83613.24	6384.77	96996.32	8462.30
Coir Rope	154.25	68.87	372.26	139.99	370.28	164.60
Coir Othersorts	119.31	66.04	57.02	57.83	50.50	19.03
Coir Yarn	9691.17	3161.57	8407.09	2666.90	5335.09	1925.92
GEO-Textiles	3044.51	1335.22	3364.72	1444.65	3251.52	1591.05
Handloom Mats	42986.07	27370.67	40917.35	24299.85	35553.43	23537.53
Handloom Matting	3642.27	2354.63	3013.71	1879.33	2368.45	1716.56
Powerloom Mats	246.21	168.84	75.06	52.69	54.21	40.06
Powerloommatting	104.75	85.11	115.82	88.30	87.52	85.09
Rubberised Coir	947.31	697.86	1120.35	852.19	1222.59	1174.77
Tufted Mats	29017.02	182213.02	33950.35	19910.98	33689.27	22598.15
TOTAL	168754.75	60516.59	187566.74	59288.08	199924.93	63997.43

MoU for construction of ROB's in Kerala

1788. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala had discussed the matter of executing MoU for construction of some Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) with her Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) There is no latest communication from State Government in this regard. However, in the year 2002 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered into between Railways and PWD of State Government of Kerala to execute 20 works, out of which 15 works have been commissioned. 24 more works were also entrusted to Road Building Development Corporation of Kerala (RBDCK) for execution by State Government.

Shatabdi/Superfast train for Khajuraho

†1789. SHRI GANGA CHARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken by Railways to make the journey of tourists convenient to the world famous Khajuraho tourist spot in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government proposes to start Shatabdi or other superfast train from Delhi to Khajuraho;

(c) if so, by when the said train would be started;

(d) whether Government has formulated any new scheme this year to provide proper boarding and lodging facilities to foreign tourists apart from making their journey convenient to promote foreign tourists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Khajuraho has been connected by rail recently. The passenger amenities have been provided as per norms.

(b) and (c) Hazrat Nizamuddin-Khajuraho Link Express is providing direct service between Delhi and Khajuraho. At present, there is no proposal to start any additional train between Delhi and Khajuraho.

(d) and (e) There is no separate scheme for foreign tourists. However, Khajuraho has been identified for development of a Multi-functional Complex, which may have a budget hotel.

Railway projects in Jharkhand

1790. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway projects for new lines, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification being undertaken in Jharkhand;

(b) the present status of these projects;

(c) whether any time frame exists for completion of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) 7 New Lines, 1 Gauge Conversion and 8 Doubling Project are in progress in the State of Jharkhand. 3 Railway Electrification projects have been completed. The works are progressing as per availability of resources. Details of Projects, with targets wherever fixed, are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Approx length in Km	Status of Project
1	2	3	4
New Lines			
1.	Deogarh-Dumka	72	Jasidih (Deogarh)-Ghoramara (26.27 Kms.) -work completed. Ghormara-Dhumka (46 km.)-targeted in 2009-10.
2.	Deogarh-Sultanganj, Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bihtiah Road	151	Earthwork, Major bridges and minor bridges have been taken up.
3.	Gaya-Chatra	97	New work included in Budget 2008-09. Preliminary works taken up.
4.	Giridih-Koderma	102	Koderma-Maheshpur (20 km) and Maheshpur-Nawadih (14 km) completed. Earthwork, Minor and major bridges etc. in balance portion has been taken up.
5.	Koderma-Ranchi	202	Land acquisition, earthwork, minor bridges, Road over bridges and Road under bridges has been taken up.
6.	Koderma-Tilaiya	65	Land acquisition, Earthwork, minor bridges etc. taken up.
7.	Manderhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	Earthwork, minor bridges, major bridges track linking etc. has been taken up.
Gauge Conversion			
1.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	111	Ranchi-Lohardaga- (69 Kms) Gauge Conversion completed. Earthwork minor bridge and track linking in balance portion taken up.
Doubling			
1.	Barharwa-Tinpahar	16.49	Barharwa-Bakudi (7.70 km)-completed Bakudi-Tinpahar (8.80 km)-targeted in 2009-10.
2.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra	18.3	Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up.

1	2	3	4
3.	Chandrapura- Rajabera- Chandrapura- Bhandaridah	10.6	Preliminary works taken up.
4.	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur- Bondamunda Section)	40	Preliminary works taken up.
5.	Muri-North Outer Cabin/Muri-Doubling of section with provision of 2nd bridge over Subarnarekha	1	Preliminary works taken up. Tender for Civil Engineering works awarded.
6.	Padapahar-Banspani	32	Padapahar-Dongaoposi (5.6 Kms.) and Jamakundia-Deojhar (6.6 Kms.) completed. Balance work targeted in 2009-10.
7.	Rajkharsawan- Sini-3rd line	15	Preliminary works, tendering etc. taken up.
8.	Tinpahar-Sahibganj as PH-I of doubling of Tinpahar-Bhagalpur	37.81	Preliminary works taken up.
Railway Electrification			
1.	Bokaro Steel City- Muri-Hatia- Bondamunda- Bimlagarh- Kiriburu/Barsuan incl. Purulia- Kotshila	434	Completed.
2.	Chandilmuri- Barkakana	119	Completed.
3.	Kusunda- Katrargarh- Jamuniatanda	23	Completed.

Gauge conversion under NRDS in Rajasthan

1791. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for gauge conversion in Rajasthan is going to be executed under National Rail Development Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when it will be executed;
- (c) whether Jaipur-Phulehra-Reengus-Rewari section which is quite sensitive and important is also going to be included in the scheme; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) There is no such scheme as National Rail Development Scheme. However, gauge conversion of Bhildi-Samdari (223 kms) and Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari (295 kms) sections are included in National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY). Gauge conversion of Phulera-Ringus-Rewari and Jaipur-Phulera has already been completed. The gauge conversion of Ajmer-Phulera and Bhildi-Samdari is targeted for completion during the current year.

Modernization of Tindharia workshop

†1792. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of railway workshop situated at Tindharia;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal for modernization of Tindharia workshop;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Tindharia workshop is presently engaged in Periodical over hauling (POH) of Narrow Gauge (NG) steam locos and NG coaches.

(b) to (d) A work of upgradation of some identified infrastructure of Tindharia workshop is in progress at an anticipated cost of Rs. 2.82 cr.

Survey work for new rail lines in Rajasthan

†1793. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposals from Rajasthan included in survey work for the new rail lines in the rail budget of the year 2009-10; and
- (b) the time frame set for completion of the survey work for the said new rail lines and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) The details of new line surveys in Rajasthan included in the railway budget 2009-10 are as under:

1. Didwana-Ringus new BG line *via* Khatu Shyamji-Survey Completed.
2. Bilara-Bar new line
3. Ratlam-Banswara-Dungarpur new line
4. Ajmer-Sawaimadhopur *via* Tonk new line
5. Churu-Nauhar *via* Taranagar new line

The surveys are proposed to be completed in about one year.

Train accidents

1794. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of rail accidents took place in the country during the last one year;
- (b) the number of casualties in each of these accidents;
- (c) whether enquiries have been done to ascertain the reasons for the accidents, accident-wise; and
- (d) the details of the reports of the enquiries and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) During the year 2008-09, 177 consequential train accidents took place on Indian Railways. Category-wise number of consequential train accidents during 2008-09 and casualties involved therein are as under:

Type of Consequential Accident	No. of Accidents (2008-09)	Killed (2008-09)	Injured (2008-09)
Collision	13	09	54
Derailments	85	10	141
Manned Level Crossing Accidents	07	18	54
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	62	129	143
Fire in Trains	03	31	11
Miscellaneous	07	12	40
TOTAL	177	209	443

(c) and (d) Out of a total of 177 consequential train accidents during the year 2008-09, 24 were inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety, an independent organization under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the balance 153 were inquired by the Departmental Committees. Each inquiry establishes the cause and the responsibility. Recommendations/findings of the Commission of Railway Safety and the Departmental Committees are examined by the concerned Departments of Indian Railways for compliance if feasible, and disciplinary action is taken against the defaulting staff. On the basis of inquiries finalized during the year 2008-09, major penalty has been awarded to 61 and minor penalty has been awarded to 171 defaulting staff.

‘Duronto train’ reaching destinations before time

1795. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:
SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the recently introduced Duronto trains are reaching destinations before schedule;
- (b) if so, how they are making it possible; and
- (c) whether these trains are running as per schedule at the cost of other trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Duronto trains are superfast, non-stop run through trains. While framing the time table, normally some recovery time is allowed between major junctions to offset delays on account of unforeseen contingencies. When delay on run is less than the recovery time permitted in the Time Table, the trains arrive at the junction stations before schedule. As Duronto trains are scheduled to run non-stop, from end-to end, the time gained while traversing several junctions en-route gets accumulated and sometimes results in Duronto trains arriving destinations before schedule.

- (c) No, Sir.

Completion of Anand Vihar railway station

1796. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Anand Vihar railway station in Delhi is nearing completion;
- (b) if so, what would be the capacity of this station; and
- (c) the advantages that would accrue from this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway Station includes station building, three high level platforms and other maintenance facilities.

(c) In view of ever increasing passenger traffic, a modern railway terminal has been developed at the periphery of national capital region to de-congest New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat

Nizamuddin Stations. The terminals is also well integrated with inter-state bus terminal as well as Delhi Metro Railway Corporation.

Recommendations of Security Review Committee

†1797. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of train accidents happen due to negligence of railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether her Ministry is concentrating on other things instead of increasing the efficiency of its personnel; and

(d) the view of her Ministry on the recommendations of Railway Security Review Committee constituted in 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Out of a total of 177 consequential train accidents in the year 2008-09, 73 such accidents were caused due to failure of railway staff. In the current year from April to 15th November 2009, out of 93 consequential train accidents, 40 were attributed to failure of railway staff.

(c) No, Sir. In addition to measures taken to improve the efficiency of staff by way of emphasis to training including induction, promotional and in-service refresher courses, steps have been taken for adoption of suitable modern technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, to further enhance the efficiency.

(d) Railway Safety Review Committee was constituted in the year 1998 under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna to review the implementation of the recommendations of all previous accident inquiry committees, to examine the adequacy of existing organization and practices for safe running of trains and to suggest safety measures, etc. The Committee in its report made 278 recommendations on various aspects of working of Indian Railways, out of which 239 were fully/partially accepted by the Ministry of Railways. Out of 239 accepted recommendations, 208 have already been implemented and the balance 31 recommendations are under various stages of implementation. 39 recommendations of the Committee related to retirement age, allowances, educational qualifications for recruitment, amendment to Trade Union Act, reduction of staff strength, stopping appointments on compassionate grounds to safety category posts, etc. were not found feasible for acceptance.

Electrification of Jaipur-Phulera, Jaipur-Dausa sections, etc.

†1798. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government would accord approval for electrification necessitated by doubling of Jaipur-Phulera, Jaipur-Dausa-Bandikui, Rewari-Alwar sections of North-Western Railway and Ajmer-Phulera of Rewari-Ajmer section; and

(b) whether approval for electrification of Bandikui-Agra section would also be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (b) Electrification of tracks is considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity. At present, there is no proposal to electrify Jaipur-Phulera, Jaipur-Dausa-Bandikui, Rewari-Alwar, Ajmer-Phulera of Rewari-Ajmer section and Bandikui-Agra sections of North Western Railway.

Removal of Chairmen of All Railway Recruitment Boards

1799. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the serving Chairmen of Railway Recruitment Boards have been removed recently;

(b) whether they had a fixed term to serve;

(c) if so, whether they have been removed before time because of their acts of omission/commission;

(d) if so, the types of charges against them; and

(e) if not, the reasons for their removal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir. The officers working as Chairmen, Railway Recruitment Boards have recently been transferred to their respective cadres.

(b) There is no fixed tenure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The officers are transferred due to administrative exigencies. Group 'A' Railway Officers have All India Service Liability as laid down in the Recruitment Rules and acceptance thereof is a precondition before accepting appointment on the Railways. Moreover in terms of Rule No. 226 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code Vol.-I which are statutory Rules framed by the President under Article 309 of the Constitution of India, Group 'A' officers can be transferred from one Railway/Unit/Organization to another in administrative interest by the Competent Authority.

Financing the cost of land acquisition for ROBs in Kerala

1800. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Government of Kerala is finding it difficult to finance the cost of land acquisition for the Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) in the State due to prohibitive land value in the State;

(b) whether the State Government has requested Railways to share the land acquisition cost with the State Government on a 1:1 ratio; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Kerala State Government has requested to consider possibility of sharing land acquisition cost with State Government at the ratio of 1:1 citing reasons that land is scarce and cost of acquisition is prohibitive in Kerala, in comparison to other States and State Government is finding it difficult to finance the cost of land acquisition for all the proposed works of Road over/under bridges. Due to heavy liability in hand with Railways (as 830 works already sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the country) with meagre allocation of funds from Central Road Fund for construction of Road over/under bridges, it has not been found feasible for Railways to share cost of land acquisition also at the ratio of 1:1 under extant rules. State Government has been apprised of the position.

Green toilets in trains

1801. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is pursuing plans of retrofitting rail coaches of important passenger trains with green toilets for creating a biological environment friendly ambience;

(b) if so, whether this project would be undertaken through indigenously developed techniques or foreign consultants/construction companies would be involved; and

(c) whether the technology recently developed by Research and Design Organization has undergone any field trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways are in the process of developing environment friendly "green toilets" and conducting field trials before considering fitment/retrofitment in coaches as a regular measure. The acquiring of technology/design of such toilet system is not restricted to indigenous parties.

(c) The prototype environment friendly toilet system developed by Research, Design and Standards Organisation is presently undergoing field trials in Southern Railway.

Sharing of cost of rail projects by States

1802. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many States have urged Railways to go ahead with rail projects as they have agreed to share cost of these projects;
- (b) if so, whether project like gauge conversion, laying new tracks or doubling of tracks would be done soon in the States which have readily agreed to share part of cost;
- (c) if so, whether her Ministry is likely to go ahead with these projects; and
- (d) the total cost to be involved and the States that have agreed to share the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) State Governments which have agreed to share cost of the projects include States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The sharing of cost of the projects by State Governments would expedite the implementation due to availability of additional funds. Many of the projects are already ongoing. The new proposals are also considered on merits. The total cost of projects where sharing has been agreed by State Governments is about Rs. 10920 crore.

Survey of gauge conversion in Rajasthan

1803. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of new proposals for gauge conversion in Rajasthan which have been included in the Rail Budget 2009-10 for conducting survey work;
- (b) the time-frame fixed up by her Ministry for the survey of above gauge conversion works; and
- (c) after completion of survey what is the criteria for sanctioning these new gauge conversion works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) No new proposals for gauge conversion in the State of Rajasthan have been included the Rail Budget 2009-10 for conducting survey work.

- (c) Does not arise. However, the policy adopted for taking up gauge conversion has been as under:
 - (i) Development of alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes.
 - (ii) Establishment of BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.

- (iii) Establishment of BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.
- (iv) Conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.
- (v) Minimizing transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.
- (vi) The conversion of lines is carried out as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the users were getting on the Metre Gauge (MG).

Policy regarding electrification of tracks

1804. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of her Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;
- (b) whether it is not proper to have railway tracks electrified to the optimum; and
- (c) the total number of proposals for electrification of railway tracks which have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan and the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Electrification of railway tracks is decided based on traffic volumes, operational necessity and financial viability.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is desirable to electrify rail sections which satisfy the conditions stated at (a) above. In the state of Rajasthan, 600 out of 5683 Route Kilometres (RKMs) are electrified and in the country 18942 out of 63273 RKMs are electrified.

(c) The following proposals for electrification of rail tracks have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan and their present status is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the proposed section(s)	Status
1.	Bina-Kota	Electrification work is in progress and targeted for completion by March 2010.
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Proposal is under consideration.
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh	
4.	Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad	For electrification, these sections are not in the priority at present.
5.	Agra-Bharatpur	
6.	Kota-Chittorgarh	
7.	Kandla-Bhatinda	

Reconstitution of Railway Recruitment Boards

1805. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently dissolved all Railway Recruitment Boards in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government had received any complaints on the functioning of Railway Recruitment Boards;
- (d) if so, to what extent those complaints were investigated and found correct and the actions being initiated for those found guilty;
- (e) whether new Railway Recruitment Boards have been constituted; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by Government to allow them to function freely and impartially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways had received complaints related to some of the Railway Recruitment Boards. Such complaints were investigated as per prescribed procedure and based on the findings of the investigation, action wherever required has been initiated against those found guilty.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Since no Railway Recruitment Board has been dissolved, the question of their reconstitution does not arise.

Drives against unauthorized agents and touts

1806. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the results of the intensive drives against unauthorized travel agents and touts, who book substantial number of tickets under false names, especially during Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali festivals;
- (b) whether any specific probe, with or without the help of CBI has identified railway officials who maintained links with touts and cartels during festival related huge bookings in past ten months of 2009;
- (c) whether any scanning has been undertaken in the Northern Railways as per instructions of Railway Board's Vigilance Department issued during August, 2009; and

(d) whether unusually high transactions have been found on specific counters in Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) During Pooja season special checks were conducted and 150 touts/ unauthorized travel agents were apprehended and prosecuted.

(b) During last 10 months, 30 Railway Officials have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules for connivance with touts/travel agents.

(c) Special checks were conducted by Zonal Railways including Northern Railway, on the instruction of Railway Board's Vigilance Department during the period August, 2009 to September, 2009.

(d) No such case has been reported.

Scheme to track trains through satellites

1807. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have recently approved a scheme to track trains through satellite;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether the scheme would be in the interest of railway commuters; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) A pilot project "Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN)" was approved in 2003, to be developed jointly by Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The project has been jointly funded by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The projects can provide online train running information to public/passengers. Field trials have been conducted and results are being analysed.

Increase in train accidents

†1808. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in train accidents in the last year;

(b) whether their investigations have been completed;

(c) whether shortage of employees is one of the reasons;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the total number of vacant posts in the departments related to protection and surveillance of rail lines; and

(e) the details of the scheme to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents decreased from 194 in 2007-08 to 177 in 2008-09. Out of 177 consequential train accidents, 24 accidents have been inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 153 were inquired by the Departmental Committees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) About 41,000 vacancies are existing in the categories deputed primarily for maintenance of tracks. Steps are being taken to fill up these posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Release of balance funds for various rail lines

1809. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kotipalli-Narsapur; Nandyal-Yerraguntla; Kakinada-Pitampuram; Cuddapah-Banglore; Obulavaripalli-Krishnapatnam; Munirabad-Mahaboobnagar lines, indicating the year of their sanctioning, total cost, expenditure incurred, amount sanctioned, year-wise and the balance fund required for each of these projects;

(b) the reasons for delay in releasing the balance funds; and

(c) by when the balance funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) The details of projects alongwith their year of sanction, total anticipated cost, expenditure incurred upto 31.03.09, outlay provided for 2009-2010 is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Total Cost	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.09	Outlay in Budget 2009-10	Balance Funds required
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kotipalli-Narsapur New line	2000-01	695.00	9.42	0.01	685.57
2.	Nadyal-Yerraguntla New line	1996-97	429.49	207.12	51.00	171.37
3.	Kakinada-Pithapuram New line	1999-2000	85.51	0.01	0.01	85.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Cuddapah-Bangalore New line	2008-09	1000.23	0.01	29.00	971.22
5.	Obulavarpalli-Krishnapatnam New line	2006-07	732.81	95.00	50.00	587.81
6.	Munirabad-Mahboobnagar New line	1997-98	497.47	47.43	20.00	430.04

The project of Kakinada-Pithapuram new line not yet received requisite approval. The project of Obulavaripalli-Krishnapatnam is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through Special Purpose Vehicle. There are constraints of funds and projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Rail line between Pandharpur to Miraj in Solapur

†1810. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the work of rail line between Pandharpur and Miraj in Solapur district of Maharashtra is moving at snail's pace and due to this, it would not be completed in next 10-15 years; and

(b) the deadline fixed to complete the said rail line and the funds allocated for this purpose year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) The work of gauge conversion of Miraj-Pandharpur is targeted for completion by March, 2010. This is part of Miraj-Latur gauge conversion project on which an expenditure of Rs.521.51 crore has been incurred up to 31.03.2009. An outlay of Rs.100 crore has been provided for the project in Budget, 2009-10.

Railway bridge over Yamuna

1811. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to limited capacity of railway bridges over Yamuna in Delhi, the incoming trains from East and South are required to halt at the outer and get delayed; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir. The two existing bridges on River Yamuna in Delhi do not have any capacity constraint and the trains are not required to halt on account of the bridges.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) Does not arise.

Renewal of rail track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad

1812. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the renovation and renewal of the railway track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad; and

(b) the steps being taken to expedite the work and complete it early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) The Track Renewal work for the entire 105.69 km of Shikohabad-Farrukhabad section has been completed.

Proposals for alternative rail routes

1813. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the alternative rail routes developed and proposed to be developed;

(b) the purpose of developing alternative rail routes;

(c) whether that purpose is being achieved;

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

(e) the details of plans which are being made to achieve the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) The Indian Railways is a vast rail network connecting North, South, East and West of the country. To go from the one point of the country to another, a number of alternate routes already exist. For example, the main route connecting North and south of the country is *via* Vijaywada, Kazipet, Ballarshah, Nagpur, Bhopal and Itarsi and the alternate route is *Via* Visakhapatnam, Titlagarh, Raipur to Nagpur. In addition, the Railways have plans to develop Dedicated Freight corridors to provide alternate routes for freight traffic. New routes are developed based on viability, demand, feasibility and operational need.

(b) Primarily to decongest main routes.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The main routes are being decongested due to improved utilization of alternate routes. Capacity augmentation is being done by the Railways both on the main and alternate routes. For example, to improve line capacity on the main routes connecting North and South, various works have been sanctioned which include doubling, 3rd and 4th lines, automatic signalling, grade separator, Intermediate Block Sections, electrification, strengthening of tracks, yard remodelling, crossing stations and additional loops at stations. The capacity on alternate routes is also being augmented. To improve capacity on the alternate north-south route, doubling between Raipur and Titlagarh, third line between Vizianagaram and Kottavalasa and fourth line between Kottavalasa and Simhachalam north sections have been sanctioned.

Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor from New Delhi to Mumbai

1814. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has cleared and decided to build a dedicated rail freight corridor from New Delhi to Mumbai with Rs. 17,700 crores loan from Japan to fund the project;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the said corridor project; and
- (c) the steps taken in pursuance of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the construction of the Dedicated Freight Corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi with Japanese funding. The funding for Phase-I from Vadodara to Rewari is estimated at Rs.17,700 Crores.

(b) Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project envisages a 1483 Kilometers, double line, electrified railway track from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi. The Corridor will be suitable for running of larger and heavier trains to cater mainly to the container transport requirements to and from the existing and emerging ports in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) Subsequent to the Government approval, an Engineering Services Loan Agreement was signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and process for engagement of Engineering Services Consultants has been initiated.

Introduction of more Duranto trains

1815. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that Government is shunting Rajdhani trains and introducing more Duranto trains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other routes on which Duranto trains are going to be introduced in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to do away with Rajdhani Express.

(c) 5 pairs of Duronto trains have been introduced. Duronto trains on the following routes are to be introduced during the year 2009-10:

1. Delhi (Nizamuddin) - Secunderabad
2. Ernakulam - Delhi (Nizamuddin)
3. New Delhi - Jammu Tawi
4. Mumbai - Ahmedabad (AC)
5. Bhubaneswar — Delhi

6. New Delhi - Allahabad
7. New Delhi - Lucknow
8. Howrah - Delhi
9. Kolkata - Amritsar

Information on mobile phone about train positions

†1816. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide information to the passengers travelling in reserved coaches about position of the train *via* SMS on mobile subsequent to the trains leaving their originating station;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c): There is no such proposal at present. However, Global position System (GPS) based on-board passenger information system has been tried out on select trains.

Status of tickets under waiting list through mobile phones

†1817. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to inform the passengers, having their tickets under waiting list about their status on mobile after finalizing the chart;

(b) whether Railways also proposes to pass the information to passengers on mobile *via* SMS about the last minute change in their ticket category due to upgradation which causes undue hardship to the passengers at station; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) A pilot project on “SMS alert service for e-ticket customers” has been launched. In this service, “Ticket Booking Confirmation” irrespective of the status of booking is given to e-ticket customers. This service has since become available from the 2nd week of November 2009.

Status report sought by Prime Minister

1818. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has sought a status report from Railways within a fortnight;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the nature and reasons for this scrutiny;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that increasing number of accidents has caused worry all over the country; and
- (d) the steps proposed to reduce accidents and improve functioning of the railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Dose not arise.
- (c) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents has decreased consistently from 415 in 2001-02 to 177 in 2008-09. In the current year also, during April to 30th November 2009, the number of consequential train accidents decreased to 102 from 177 during the corresponding period of the previous year.
- (d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents as stated above.

Plan for mobilization of financial resources

1819. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government's plan for financial resource mobilization by using surplus railways land includes use of such lands for creating industrial and manufacturing facilities in consultation with State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have planned to utilise its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, etc. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Utilization of surplus railway land

1820. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has decided to utilize surplus railway land for mobilizing additional financial resources;
- (b) if so, the details and financial projections thereof;
- (c) the details of surplus railway land available, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the reasons for such land becoming surplus; and

(e) since how long such land remained idle and whether Government had earlier tried to put them to any productive use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Indian Railways have approx 10.65 lakh acre of land. About 90% of this land is under Railway's operational and allied usages. The total vacant land, at present, is about 1.13 lakh acre.

In order to mobilise additional financial resources, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been set up by Railways through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005 to undertake commercial development of that vacant railway land and air-space which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. So far 133 sites of such vacant land measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA on various Zonal Railways for commercial development. RLDA has taken up studies for ascertaining revenue potential of these sites. Railways have also planned to utilise its 1.13 lakh acre vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail Coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, and others through innovative financing models in order to earn more revenue for the railways, create additional railway infrastructure, and also generate employment opportunities.

Incidents of deaths due to run over by trains

1821. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether within first week of November, 2009 only there were five incidents of run over by trains leading to death of nineteen persons including railway men on duty;

(b) if so, the details of the same, date and location-wise;

(c) whether enquiry committees have been constituted to investigate the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) During the first week of November, 2009, 99 incidents of run over were reported over Indian Railways in which 122 persons died. Out of these 99 incidents, 3 major incidents were reported from Northern Railway causing death of 11 Railway employees and 6 others. The brief details of these incidents are as under:-

(i) On 03.11.2009, six persons were run over by Train No. 2015 (Ajmer Shatabdi Express) near Pataudi Railway Station in Delhi-Rewari section.

(ii) On 03.11.2009, six gangmen were run over by EMU Train No. NP6 between Asaoti and Palwal Railway Stations in New Delhi-Agra section.

- (iii) On 07.11.2009, five railway-men including one Junior Engineer were run over by Dehradun Jan Shatabdi Express between Sahibabad and Ghaziabad Railway Stations.

(c) and (d) Investigation into the incident at S.No. (i) has been conducted by GRP. Enquiry has been conducted and completed in the incidents at S.Nos. (ii) and (iii) causing death of railway men.

Work on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor

†1822. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time and place from where work on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project commenced;
- (b) whether acquisition of land, forest department's approval where necessary, removal of utilities, etc., for this corridor have been completed;
- (c) the alignment of this project in Rajasthan;
- (d) the details of its progress at present; and
- (e) the target fixed for completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) On Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the first construction contract for 54 major and important bridges between Vaitarna and Utran on Vasai-Bharuch Section was awarded on 26.12.2008 and the work has commenced.

(b) Acquisition of land, forest Department's clearance where necessary, removal of utilities etc. are in progress, and have not been completed.

(c) In Rajasthan, Western Dedicated Freight Corridor traverses for 564 Kilometers of which 523 Kilometers is parallel to the existing Indian Railways alignment from Palanpur to Rewari and 41 Kilometers is on detours.

(d) and (e) Final Location Survey of the Western Corridor has been completed. Notification for Land Acquisition for Western Dedicated Freight Corridor have been issued for 1346 Kilometers and 362 Kilometers under Section 20A and 20E of the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008 respectively. The tentative schedule of completion of the project, Subject to availability of land and fund, is 2016-17.

Development of group housing and commercial projects on unused land

†1823. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways proposes to develop group housing and commercial projects in its unused land all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Railways have identified the places for these projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Railways have established any statutory mechanism for said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (e) Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been set up by Railways through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005 to undertake commercial development of vacant railway land which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. Such commercial utilization includes commercial as well as residential projects. 133 sites measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA for development.

Derailment of Mandore Express

1824. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who have so far lost their lives and were seriously injured, separately, due to the derailment of Mandore Express near Jaipur in the early hours of 14 November, 2009;
- (b) whether statutory inquiry in the mishap has since been completed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the *ex-gratia* financial assistance given by Railways to the next-of-kin of the deceased and to those injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) On 14.11.2009, 15 coaches of Train No. 2462 Jodhpur-Delhi Mandor Express derailed between Jhir and Jatwara stations of Jaipur-Bandikui section of Jaipur division of North Western Railway. As a result of this accident, 7 persons lost their lives, 5 were grievously injured and 15 sustained simple injuries.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Action would be taken after receipt of the report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle.

(d) An *ex-gratia* relief of Rs.5 lakhs to the next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs.1 lakh to each grievously injured and Rs.10,000 to each simple injured has been announced. So far, Rs. 40,60,000 have been disbursed as *ex-gratia* to the next of kin of the deceased and injured passengers.

Incidents of damaging railway property

1825. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether railway property worth crores of rupees was gutted by a mob of locals who torched five coaches of Mahananda Express at Hathras Junction recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether incidents of damaging railway property is a routine one and Northern Railway spends Rs 3.5 lakh every month for replacing broken window panes in 9 Shatabdi and 13 Rajdhani Express;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 30.09.2009 local people and supporters of organizations/unions agitated demanding stoppage of Gomti and Magadh Express trains at Hathras. During the course of agitation, train no. 4083 (Mahananda Express) was stopped and hose pipes were disconnected due to which the train could not proceed ahead. The passengers were detrained safely and security arrangements were made by the civil/local police/Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) authorities. The agitators burnt 06 sleeper and 05 general bogies causing loss amounting to Rs. 1,83,56,000/-.

(c) and (d) Instances of damage to Railway property particularly the window glasses are routine, specially in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains. An amount of approximately Rs.7 lakhs is spent by Northern Railway per month towards recoupment/repair of such broken window glasses of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains.

(e) The following steps are being taken in this regard:-

(i) Important trains including most of the Shatabdi/Rajdhani Express trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Government Railway Police (GRP).

(ii) Escorting of trains is monitored at Divisional/zonal level.

(iii) At the places where repeated incidents are reported, surprise checks are being conducted by supervisory officers and Gazetted Officers. Local police and GRP have also been requested to take necessary action.

(iv) Regular co-ordination meetings are held with counter parts in Government Railway Police and State Police.

Vacancies in Railways

1826. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 1,75,000 vacancies in different categories in Railways;

(b) whether it is proposed to fill up only 40,000 vacancies; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not filling the entire vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) As on 31.3.09, there are 1,69,813 vacancies in different categories in Zonal Railway.

(b) and (c) As per the policy, railway administration intends to fill up all the available vacancies promptly as per laid down procedure.

Human resource strength in SAIL

1827. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the human resource strength in SAIL, plant-wise;
- (b) whether contract labourers are also counted in the total strength of the SAIL;
- (c) whether it is a fact that all contract labourers who have the gate pass to enter inside the SAIL plant are not covered in ESIC and EPF; and
- (d) the total number of gate passes issued and total coverage of EPF, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) The plant-wise human resources strength in SAIL as on 01/11/2009 is as under:-

Plant-Wise	Manpower strength
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	32273
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	13917
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	19797
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	25132
IISCO Steel Plant (ISP)	11765
Alloy Steel Plant (ASP)	1932
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	1317
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL)	1791
SAIL Refractory Unit (SRU)	1548
Other Units of SAIL	9502
TOTAL	118974
MEL *	729
GRAND TOTAL	119703

*Subsidiary of SAIL.

(b) No, Sir. Contract Labour is not counted in the total manpower strength of SAIL.

(c) No, Sir. All contract labourers working at SAIL plant/units who have been issued gate pass are covered under Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), except for contract labourers engaged in Salem Steel Plant (SSP) who are covered only under EPF.

(d) The total number of gate passes issued to contract labourers and coverage under EPF, plant-wise is as under:-

Plant	No. of gate passes issued	No. of contract labourers covered under EPF
Bhilai Steel Plant	2516	All
Durgapur Steel Plant	2362	All
Rourkela Steel Plant	3217	All
Bokaro Steel Plant	2758	All
IISCO Steel Plant	4204	All
Alloy Steel Plant	276	All
Salem Steel Plant	122	All
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant	526	All
SAIL Refractory Unit	1074	All
TOTAL	17055	All

Ship-breaking facility at Alang

1828. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been commissioned by Government to scientifically improve the ship breaking facility at Alang;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to develop Alang as a modern ship breaking facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) to (d) As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and

procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

Expansion plan of steel PSUs

1829. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether steel PSUs have embarked on an ambitious expansion plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made so far; and
- (d) how far Jharkhand figures in this expansion plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has undertaken modernisation and expansion of its plants viz. Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) in Chhattisgarh, Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) in Jharkhand, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) in Orissa, Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) and IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) in West Bengal and Salem Steel Plant (SSP) in Tamil Nadu. SAIL envisages increasing the installed capacity of hot metal from 13.82 million tonne per annum to 23.46 million tonne per annum in the current phase. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) in Andhra Pradesh is implementing expansion plans to augment its liquid steel production capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum.

(c) The orders for major packages of expansion of ISP and SSP of SAIL as well as expansion of VSP, RINL have been placed. Part packages of expansion of BSP, RSP, BSL and DSP have been placed. These ordered packages are under various stages of execution.

(d) The expansion plan of SAIL includes modernisation and expansion of its integrated Steel plant at Bokaro in the State of Jharkhand. Modernisation and expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant envisages increase in hot metal production capacity from 4.59 million tonne per annum to 5.77 million tonne per annum in the current phase.

Revival of steel industry to check job losses

1830. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking fresh measures to check job losses and revive manufacturing sectors in the steel industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the targets fixed for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) There is no loss of job in any of the public sector steel units under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel. On the other hand, the public sector steel units, Steel Authority of India

Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are undertaking huge capacity expansion of the existing steel units, in order to boost their steel production. SAIL is expanding its hot metal production capacity from 13.82 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 23.46 MTPA for completion by 2012-13. Similarly, RINL is also undertaking its capacity expansion from 3.0 MTPA of liquid steel to 6.3 MTPA for completion by 2011-12.

(c) Since projects of SAIL and RINL are planned for completion during the oncoming years, there will not be any capacity addition during the current year 2009-10.

Revival of Kudremukh iron-ore mines

1831. SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when the Kudremukh iron-ore mines in the State of Karnataka was closed;

(b) the extent of financial loss incurred by way of rendering various constructions including pipelines constructed for purpose of transporting iron ore from the mines to Mangalore port and roads and buildings constructed for the purpose of mines useless and also the recurring loss every year;

(c) whether there is any proposal on the part of Government to revive the Kudremukh iron-ore mines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) Consequent upon the verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court, mining operations at Kudremukh Iron Ore Mines in Karnataka was stopped on 31st December, 2005.

(b) KIOCL Ltd. has written off Rs.71.65 crores during 2005-06, being the written down value of plant and machinery and building, as on the date of closure of Kudremukh Mine. KIOCL Ltd. is incurring an expenditure of around Rs.60 crores per annum on Kudremukh site towards salary and other amenities of employees posted at Kudremukh, security of plant and machinery and for maintenance of plant and equipment at Kudremukh.

(c) and (d) Restarting of Kudremukh mining activities cannot be undertaken without specific clearance from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, hence no specific time frame can be fixed for reopening of the mine.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2007-08) of NCPSL, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (d) Review by the Government on the Audit Report of the above Council.
- (e) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 887/15/09]

I. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Corporations and related papers.

II. Reports and Account (2008-09) of various Commission/Institutes/Enterprise/ Centre and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND HUMAN ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) (a) Fifty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1076/15/09]

- (b) Twentieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO), Port Blair, 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.

- (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports.

- (ii) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 866/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1077/15/09]

- (c) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI), Agra, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 867/15/09]

- (d) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 870/15/09]

- (e) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI), Chennai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 869/15/09]

- (f) Annual Report and Accounts of the Process-cum-Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (ii) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 868/15/09]

Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Chemicals Ltd. and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurgaon, 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.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 846/15/09]

- (b) Forty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), Raigad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Companies.

- II. Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 986/15/09]

I. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of IRCTC, New Delhi and related papers

II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of IRWO, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers , under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956,:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 846/15/09]

- (b) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporations.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 848/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation (IRWO), 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 Organisation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 850/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

III. Report (2007-08) of IGNOU, New Delhi and related papers.

IV. Report (2007-08) of the Manipur University, Imphal and related papers.

V. Reports and Accounts (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) of various Educational Institutes/Universities/Missions and related papers.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education), under Section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956:

- (1) G.S.R. 111, dated the 15th August, 2009, publishing the University Grants Commission (Fitness of Institutions for Grants) (Amendment) Rules, 2009.

- (2) G.S.R. 112, dated the 15th August, 2009, publishing the University Grants Commission (Fitness of Certain Universities for Grants) (Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (3) No. F. 1-1/2002 (PS) Exemp., dated from the 11th to 17th July, 2009, publishing the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree), Regulations 2009.
- (4) No. F. 1-1/2002 (PS) Exemp., dated from the 11th to 17th July, 2009, publishing the University Grants Commission (Minimum qualifications required for the appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in Universities and Institutions affiliated to it) (3rd Amendment), Regulation, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) See No.L.T. 926/15/09]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Notification No. S.O. 1761 (E), dated the 17th July, 2009, regarding implementation of reservation for students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to Jirania in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, Tripura, in regard to Central Educational Institutions situated therein, under Section 7 of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 927/15/09]

- III. (1) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under subsection (4) of Section 29 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985:
 - (a) Annual Report of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
 - (c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 830/15/09]

- IV. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 33 of the Manipur University Act, 2005:
 - (a) Annual Report of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2007-08.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
 - (c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 827/15/09]

V. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Axom Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 831/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Gujarat Council of Elementary Education, Gandhi Nagar, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 833/15/09]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 832/15/09]

- (iv) Annual Accounts of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the year 2007-08, and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 31 of the Mizoram University Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 825/15/09]

- (v) Annual Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, for the year 2007-08, and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 34 of the Rajiv Gandhi University Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 824/15/09]

- (vi) Annual Accounts of the Tripura University, Tripura, for the year 2007-08 (from 2nd July, 2007 to 31st March, 2008), and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 34 of the Tripura University Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 828/15/09]

- (vii) Annual Accounts of the Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2007-08, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section 4 of Section 36 of the Visva Bharati Act, 1951.

- (viii) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a), (iii) (a) and (iv) to (vii) above.

[Placed in Library. For (vii and (viii) See No.L.T. 829/15/09]

- (ix) Annual Accounts of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section 4 of Section 31 of the Tezpur University Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 826/15/09]

- (x) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Pondicherry, for the year 2005-06, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 816/15/09]

- (xi) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Pondicherry, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 823/15/09]

- (xii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory of Daman and Diu, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 821/15/09]

- (xiii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory Mission Authority, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 820/15/09]

- (xiv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, for the year 2002-03, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 817/15/09]

- (xv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, for the year 2003-04, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 818/15/09]

- (xvi) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Karnataka, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 814/15/09]

- (xvii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory Mission Authority, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, for the year 2004-05, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1627/15/09]

- (xviii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory Mission Authority, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 822/15/09]

- (xix) Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission, Bhopal, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 834/15/09]

- (xx) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 925/15/09]

- (xxi) Annual Report and Accounts of the Ujala Society Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Jammu and Kashmir, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 835/15/09]

- (xxii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Manipur, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 813/15/09]

- (xxiii) (a) Annual Report of the Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1139/15/09]

- (xxiv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Tamil Nadu State Mission of Education for All, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Tamil Nadu, Chennai, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1142/15/09]

- (xxv) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports at (x) to (xxiv) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1142/15/09]

- (xxvi) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (x) to (xix), (xxi) to (xxii) and (xxiv) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1142/15/09]

**Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Companies/Corporations Ltd. And
related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) (a) Forty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL), Nagpur, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 951/15/09]

- (b) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the MECON Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 949/15/09]

- (c) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL), Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 948/15/09]

- (d) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 950/15/09]

- (e) Twenty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 945/15/09]

- (f) Forty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL), Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 946/15/09]

- (g) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, for the

year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 947/15/09]

- (h) Thirty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the KIOCL Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Companies.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 944/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

III. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of various Development Board/Corpn. and related papers.

IV. Report and accounts (2005-06 and 2006-07) of Central Agricultural University, Imphal and related papers.

V. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of KCDC, Mangalore and related papers.

VI. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various cooperatives and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) under sub-section (d) of Section 4 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914:
- (1) S.O. 2286 (E), dated the 9th September, 2009, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (First Amendment) Order, 2009.
- (2) S.O. 2390 (E), dated the 16th September, 2009, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment) Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No.L.T. 793/15/09]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:
- (1) S.O. 2072 (E), dated the Tenth August, 2009, regarding specifications of Customised Fertiliser, under clause 20B of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.

- (2) S.O. 2073 (E), dated the 10th August, 2009, regarding specifications of Neem coated Urea as provisional fertilizer, under clause 20A of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.
- (3) S.O. 2802 (E), dated the 3rd November, 2009, specifying Ammonium Phosphate Sulphate with zinc as Provisional fertilizer, under clause 20A of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.
- (4) S.O. 2803 (E), dated the 3rd November, 2009, publishing the Fertiliser (Control) Third Amendment Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) See No.L.T. 879/15/09]

- (iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture Research and Education), under sub-section (2) of Section 43 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992, together with delay statement on the Notifications:-

- (1) No. DL(N)04/0007/2003-05, dated from the 10th to 16th January, 2009, regarding the third amendment to Statutes of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992, pertaining to term of Office of Vice-Chancellor of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1628/15/09]

- (2) No. CAU/Reg/584/Ord/05, dated from the 7th to 13th February, 2009, publishing Ordinance No. 1 of 2008, regarding Institute of University Gold Medal for students of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal completing Masters Degree.
- (3) No. CAU/Reg/584/Ord/05, dated from the 7th to 13th February, 2009, publishing Ordinance No. 2 of 2008, regarding Academic and other qualifications for the academic positions of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal.
- (4) No. CAU/Reg/584/Ord/05, dated from the 7th to 13th February, 2009, publishing Ordinance No. 3 of 2008, regarding revision of qualification for Non-Teaching posts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal.

[Placed in Library. For (2) to (4) See No.L.T. 882/15/09]

- II. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

- (1) G.S.R. 597 (E), dated the 22nd August, 2009, regarding imposing of stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar.

- (2) G.S.R. 640 (E), dated the 7th September, 2009, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 597 (E), dated the 22nd August, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (3) G.S.R. 671 (E), dated the 14th September, 2009, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 531 (E), dated the 16th July, 2009, inserting certain entries in the original Notification.
- (4) G.S.R. 691 (E), dated the 23rd September, 2009, regarding non-applicability of the provisions of the Notification No. G.S.R. 135 (E), dated the 17th February, 2000, in respect of sugar processed from imported raw sugar.
- (5) G.S.R. 692 (E), dated the 23rd September, 2009, regarding non-applicability of the provisions of the Notification No. G.S.R. 832(E), dated the 29th December, 1999, in respect of imported white/refined sugar.
- (6) G.S.R. 726 (E), dated the 7th October, 2009, regarding imposition of levy obligation @ 20% on sugar produced during 2009-10 sugar season on every domestic producer of sugar.
- (7) S.O. 2563 (E), dated the 8th October, 2009, amending S.O. No. 509 (E), dated the 18th February, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (8) S.O. 2665 (E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 22nd October, 2009, publishing the Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (8) See No.L.T. 879/15/09]

- (9) S.O. 649 (E), dated the 9th March, 2009, publishing the Removal of (Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2009.
- (10) S.O. 1621 (E), dated the 2nd July, 2009, publishing the Removal of (Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Fifth Amendment) Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (9) and (10) See No.L.T. 798/15/09]

- (11) S.O. 2404 (E), dated the 18th September, 2009, rescinding the Notification No. S.O. 526 (E), dated the 12th April, 2006.
- (12) S.O. 2461 (E), dated the 25th September, 2009, publishing the Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Sixth Amendment) Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. For (11) and (12) See No.L.T. 879/15/09]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No.E.P.33(1)/97-Vol.III, dated the 14th September, 2009, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2009, under sub-section (4) of Section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 878/15/09]

- III. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 15 and Section 17 of the Coconut Development Act, 1979 (5 of 1979):

- (a) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 875/15/09]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (11) of Section 31 of the Warehousing Corporation Act 1962:

- (a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 883/15/09]

- (iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 14 of the National Oilseed and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983:

- (a) Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD), Gurgaon, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 877/15/09]

- IV. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 874/15/09]

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2005-06 and the Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2006-07.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2006-07 and the Audit Report thereon.

- (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. 874(A)/15/09]

- V. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Thirty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited (KCDC), Mangalore, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 876/15/09]

- VI. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited (NLCF), 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 Federation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 792/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Co-operative Union.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 790/15/09]

(iii) (a) Thirty-third Annual Report of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 791/15/09]

(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 881/15/09]

(b) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Societies.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 880/15/09]

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform you that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 3rd December, 2009, has allotted time for the Government Business as follows:-

BUSINESS	TIME ALLOTTED
1. Consideration and passing of the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2005.	3 HOURS
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-	
(a) The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — to replace an Ordinance.	2 HOURS
(b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2009.	2 HOURS

The Committee has also recommended that the House may sit upto 6 p.m. and beyond, as and when necessary, for the transaction of Government Legislative Business and Other Business.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COIR BOARD

सूक्ष्म, लघु तथा मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव उपस्थित करता हूँ :-

“कयर उद्योग नियम, 1954 के नियम 4 के उप-नियम (1) के खंड (ड) और नियम 5 के उप-नियम (2) के साथ पठित कयर उद्योग अधिनियम, 1953 (1953 का 45) की धारा 4 की उप-धारा (3) के खंड (ड) के अनुसरण में, यह सभा उस रीति से, जैसा सभापति निदेश दें, सभा के सदस्यों में से एक सदस्य को 21 अप्रैल, 2009 को राज्य सभा की सदस्यता से श्री के. चन्द्रन पिल्लै की सेवानिवृत्ति के कारण रिक्त हुए स्थान पर कयर बोर्ड का सदस्य होने के लिए निर्वाचित करने की कार्यवाही करे।”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 7th of December, 2009 will consist of:-

1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - (a) The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2009 - To replace Ordinance.
 - (b) The Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - (a) The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2009
 - (b) The Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009 - To replace Ordinance.
3. Consideration and passing of the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2005.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I am pained to see that on an important issue concerning the entire country, particularly south India, Members have given a notice. Now, the Government should come forward to issue a statement. You are depriving the Members of their right to present the facts before the House and also elicit information. I do not want to join the issue now; I only request the Chair; once the Minister makes the statement, Members who have given notice and also those who are interested should be given enough time to provide information and seek clarification. Otherwise, Sir, there would be injustice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I fully agree that we had admitted the Calling Attention Notice on this subject but in the meantime the Government wanted to make a *suo motu* Statement. When the Statement is made then, the Calling Attention Motion becomes redundant. So, that is why we have decided that whatever time was given for Calling Attention Motion that time will be given for this.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Let there be a discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever time is allotted for Calling Attention Motion will be considered for this topic.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): There must be sufficient time to articulate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is there.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Recent Developments in Northern Sri Lanka

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to inform the House of the recent developments in Northern Sri Lanka.

Hon. Members would recall that conclusion of the military conflict in Northern Sri Lanka presented Sri Lanka with an opportunity to heal the wounds created by decades of protracted conflict, to make a new beginning and to build a better future for its people.

Government of India had emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government that the time had indeed come to focus on issues of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconciliation. We had expressed our readiness to work with the Government of Sri Lanka in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process of Northern Sri Lanka and in restoring normalcy.

In the aftermath of the conflict, the presence of nearly 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps in Northern Sri Lanka posed a major challenge for the Sri Lankan Government. It was crucial that these IDPs were given immediate humanitarian attention and that urgent steps were taken to resettle them in their original places of habitation. This would, ultimately, ensure that a semblance of normalcy was restored to their lives after the traumatic experience they had undergone during the conflict. Their welfare was the first priority.

Our concern on this score was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government. We have consistently urged the Government of Sri Lanka to quicken the pace of rehabilitation and resettlement. They had agreed that the bulk of the IDPs would be resettled within 180 days.

In October this year, a delegation of Parliamentary Members from Tamil Nadu had visited Sri Lanka to study the rehabilitation and relief work being undertaken in Northern Sri Lanka. They had visited Jaffna, the IDP camps in Vavuniya, the Up-country Plantation areas in Central Sri Lanka and met the IDPs in the camps, witnessed the distribution of the humanitarian relief items donated by India and held discussions with a cross-section of the leaders of the Sri Lankan Tamil community and the Indian Origin Tamils. They called on the President of Sri Lanka H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Subsequently to their visit, more than 100,000 IDPs have been resettled. According to Sri Lankan Government sources, a total of more than 150,000 IDPs have been resettled and around 145,000 still remain in the camps. We understand more have been resettled recently. Travel restrictions in Northern Sri Lanka as well as those on the remaining have been relaxed. We have been assured that by end-January 2010, all IDPs would be resettled. We continue to work with the Sri Lankan Government to ensure the resettlement of all IDPs.

India has been actively involved in the critical task of providing humanitarian relief and assisting in the rehabilitation of the IDPs in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. So far, 2.5 lakh family packs from Tamil Nadu, consisting of dry rations, clothing, utensils, footwear, etc., have been rushed to the IDPs since October last year. The 60-member emergency field hospital set up by India in March operated for six months till September this year and treated more than 50,000 patients, many of them serious cases requiring surgery. Two consignments of medical supplies have also been gifted.

After hon. Prime Minister's announcement in June, 2009, in the Parliament, the Government set aside an amount of Rs. 500 crores for the rehabilitation of the IDPs and for the welfare of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. We are committed to doing more. Our humanitarian effort in Sri Lanka has transitioned from a purely relief effort to a broader rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. In order to facilitate speedy resettlement of IDPs, India is extending much needed de-mining assistance. Four Indian de-mining teams are currently in Sri Lanka. After our Parliamentary delegation suggested enhancing Indian assistance in the field of de-mining, we are sending three more demining teams. To ensure that returning IDPs have a roof over their heads, India has donated 2,600 tonnes of shelter material. Additional 2,600 tonnes of shelter material is being sent. We will also supply cement to assist the returning IDPs to rebuild damaged housing. To address the vulnerable sections of the society emerging out of a military conflict, especially war widows, we are undertaking a project for their rehabilitation as well.

India has also decided to assist Sri Lanka in reviving agriculture in the North. To begin with, 20,000 agricultural starter packs have been supplied. Supply of an additional 50,000 packs is in the pipeline. A team led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research visited Sri Lanka to work out a blueprint for our assistance to revive agriculture in Northern Sri Lanka.

Infrastructure is a priority area. The extension of assistance under Lines of Credit to take up projects in railway infrastructure reconstruction in Northern Sri Lanka and provision of rolling stock is receiving our attention, as also construction projects in the North and East of Sri Lanka to rejuvenate the cultural and social life amongst the people. At the same time, the requirements of up-country Indian Origin Tamils are also not lost sight of. Skill development and capacity building are areas of focus, as also vocational training and the provision of enhanced educational opportunities.

The Government is keen to see the revival of political process in Sri Lanka, which will meet the legitimate interests and aspiration of all communities, including the Tamils and the Muslims, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. Revival of such a political process and an inclusive dialogue would help bring the minority communities into the political mainstream. We have continued to emphasise to the Sri Lankan Government to put forward a meaningful devolution package that would go beyond the 13th Amendment. We will remain engaged with them through this process of transition and reform.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to reiterate to this august House that the welfare and the safety of our fishermen in the waters between India and Sri Lanka have always received very high priority by the Government. The Government and our High Commission in Sri Lanka have always taken up matters relating to the expeditious release of the arrested Indian fishermen. Hon. Members would recall that it was with a view to address the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of this issue that the Government reached an Understanding with Sri Lankan Government in October 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with *bona fide* Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. The Understanding of October, 2008, has had a salutary effect on the situation. While in 2008, 334 boats and 1456 of our fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lankan Government; in 2009, till end of November, only 31 boats and 124 fishermen have been apprehended, witnessing a sharp decrease. We have continued to emphasize to the Sri Lankan Government the need to scrupulously adhere to the October, 2008 Understanding. However, it is important that our fishermen do not venture deep into Sri Lankan waters for their own safety and security.

The Government attaches utmost importance to the rehabilitation and the reconstruction efforts being undertaken by Sri Lanka in the North. As a close neighbour, India continues to do whatever it can to assist Sri Lanka at this crucial turning point in the country's history.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, that visit was sponsored by the Congress Party and the DMK Party.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with all the responsibility, I must say that we are thoroughly disappointed over the Government of India's response to the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. The Statement read out by the hon. Minister is just nothing but a narrative of some incidents that have taken place in the recent past. Sir, I stand up with a heavy heart, it is very disturbing. I was telling my colleagues, since last few days, whenever we remember the issue of Sri Lankan Tamils, we are not getting proper sleep. Because, there is no forum where we can discuss this issue; there is no way by which people can get justice. India and Sri Lanka have a historical bond. We have a civilisational bondage. We have also military understanding, at times. We have been helping that country from time to time and we have the best relationship with that country. We want that relationship to continue. They are our nearest friends and we want to stand by them as and when require, in whatever matter it is concerned. We are also committed to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of that country. We are not in favour of a separate country in Sri Lanka. Let us make it very clear. We have no sympathy for the extremist elements, even the LTTE, and the acts committed by the LTTE. Whatever little sympathy they had, after the assassination of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, even that sympathy has gone. But, simply, if somebody thinks that just because the LTTE has gone, the issue is gone; then, they are thoroughly mistaken. That seems to be the situation today.

Sir, recently, there are articles, there are also opinions expressed in international fora. Unfortunately, as far as the Indian media is concerned, except in one or two leading newspapers, National English dailies, Local Tamil dailies, not enough focus is made on this burning issue. Sir, one can win a war but may lose peace. I would request the hon. Minister and the Government of India to keep this in mind. Do not treat as if the Sri Lankan Tamil issue is over, because the LTTE has been militarily finished. Sir, the issue is very much alive. The issue may again resurface. I am saying it with all responsibility. Unless you address the core issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of these people and also adherence to the 13th Constitutional Amendment which was agreed upon between our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the then President of Sri Lanka and unless it is taken to logical conclusions, this issue will remain and it will agitate the people.

Sir, I just quote, one of the commentators wrote, "it will be a fatal mistake to see it as a demise of the cause that gave birth to LTTE. If the Government does not act fast to resettle the war displaced persons and find a political solution to the conflict, a new challenge will emerge. Neglect on the part of the Government to ensure the preservation of dignity of the war displaced in the transitional camps delays the implementation of the resettlement plans and indifference to

forging a national consensus for a political solution to the ethnic conflict acceptable to all stakeholders will make this issue resurface again and then it will have disastrous consequences.’ This is the core of my submission to the House and to this Government; but unfortunately nothing, nothing has been done so far.

Sir, even today there are reports that the conditions in the camps are horrible. Many agencies, the International Red Cross Society, even the UN Secretary-General and the other people who have got some access, have all opined and said one thing, ‘the conditions in the camps are appalling, to say the least.’ I do not know why the Sri Lankan Government have not allowed the international media a free access too, why they have not invited even India which is a friendly country, neighbouring country, which is ready to help, in all party MPs delegation to visit the affected areas and see for themselves and understand the gravity of the situation. We have good intentions; we do not want to fish in the troubled waters; we never did it. Sir, we have even gone out of the way earlier to send our Indian Army to see that the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka is maintained. We lost more than 1000 precious lives of our Indian soldiers for the sake of unity of our neighbouring country. That is the interest India is showing. That speaks of the sincerity of India, much against the criticism at that time; and you know it had a consequence, the unfortunate consequence. But today, unfortunately, those rulers there seem to have not understood the gravity of the feelings of the people. Sir, the people across India, particularly, in South and, more particularly, in Tamil Nadu are weeping; they are crying without sound. But you cannot expect them to keep quiet like this for ever. I don’t want to politicalise the issue; I don’t want to quarrel with any other party in this issue because it is not an intra-party issue; it is not a conflict between two parties in Tamil Nadu or two parties at the national level. All of us are concerned, equally concerned.

As I told you we have civilisation bonds with Sri Lanka, we also have historical bonds and from time to time — just now the hon. Minister has also read out — we have given so much assistance and we are ready to extend further assistance also in the reconstruction, in the rehabilitation and for medicines. Even the medical teams have gone and we are also ready to provide whatever help is required. Fine. But, at the same time, what are the conditions? Sir, unfortunately, in between what has happened? Sir, the Sri Lankan Government have moved to the United Nations Human Rights Council and said that they should not take up the issue of violations during the conflict. Switzerland has moved a Resolution; 18 countries have backed that Resolution; but unfortunately India did not. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaigarnar Karunanidhi, who is a partner in this Government, wrote a letter to the Government of India saying that ‘though there is a question of interfering in the internal affairs of the country which would affect its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, Sri Lanka should be treated as a special

case. It is widely believed by millions of Tamils spread all over the world that the draft resolution now presented by the Sri Lankan Government to the United Nations Human Rights Council is largely against the interests of Sri Lankan Tamils, and, hence, I request you to kindly take appropriate action in this regard having in mind sentiments of the Sri Lankan Tamils and their future welfare.'

This is the letter written by the Chief Minister of ruling alliance. I have not seen any response whatsoever from the Government so far on this issue. I don't want to dwell at length about what the other countries are saying. Even the Foreign Secretary, so-called External Affairs Minister of Britain, he also opined that both the sides, Government as well as LTTE people, at that time were transferring their limits and civilians have become casualty in this entire conflict. He said that there is a need to have an enquiry into this. We are mum; we are keeping quiet on this issue. Why? We have problems here. I can say when there is problem in Kashmir, the information on media was allowed. International Observers were allowed freely to come and see the election process in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. We are an open society. Here, it is not the question of conflict. Conflict is over. For the time being, the military conflict is over, but not the appalling conditions, because there is no sanitation; there is no proper drinking water; no proper medicines available and there are reports in umpteen number of international agencies saying what is happening there. Mr. Gordon Weiss, UN Spokesman in Colombo said, "the way we are taking it up at this point of time is important for the future. You have to assuage the feelings of those people who are affected." Just now the hon. Minister has said that 50,000 people are treated including some of them for critical injury. That makes us to understand what is the situation? Fifty thousand people! Out of three lakh people there, fifty thousand people are treated by our Indian doctors. You can understand the situation. Just now the Minister has said that they are allowed free movement. Free movement in what sense? They were not allowed to meet their relatives; they were not allowed to go to North and see other families. Just now, they are all living in barbed fencing camps; they don't have freedom to move; they don't have any source to explain their plight to anybody and they are not allowed to meet anybody. Now, they say that they can go in convoys and come back by evening. That is the situation today. That is why people are disturbed. Sir, there are fifty thousand children in the camps, one thousand of whom are orphaned by war and four thousand maimed men and women are in the camp, as rightly said by the Minister. I don't have the exact figures. I do not want to dispute the figures also, though I have some information that majority of the people are still in the camps only. Unfortunately, Minister instead of getting assured information said 'Government sources'. There are also reports that around 10,000 tiger combatants, including about hundred jailed soldiers, are also kept in the camps. That is the

situation that speaks of the experience. Then, Sir, I just quote one statement made by recently retired Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, Sarath Nanda Silva, on the condition of camps. He said, “The conditions in the camps were qualified as appalling.” These are the words used by the retired Chief Justice of Sri Lanka. The attacks on civilian population during the conflict and hardships caused to them because of military action has resulted in depression among the Tamil Diaspora across the world, not only in India.

Even people who are living outside in different parts of the world, they are all very much concerned. The military action has resulted in untold sufferings. Our high level delegation that went there was assured by the Sri Lankan Government that they would not use lethal weapons and chemical weapons against the LTTE and other people. They used it. There is a proof that they used it. Even in conflict area, civilians were also become casualty in that conflict. So, Sir, we should impress upon the Government of Sri Lanka. In NDA, during our regime, we said that we are committed for a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the framework of Sri Lanka’s unity, territorial integrity and the united Sri Lanka where all communities can realise their aspirations. That is the vision of our Government. I hope the same is the vision of this Government also. But, from time to time, political solutions for this Tamil question must come within the framework that preserves Sri Lankan unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

When Sri Lankan Government sought India’s assistance to protect its unity, it was extended. Now, the issue is, it is quite but natural for the people of India and the Parliament of India to be concerned about the sufferings of Sri Lankan Tamils, who are our brothers. We don’t want to interfere in their internal affairs. Sir, the recently retired Army Chief gave a statement that the conditions in the camps is one of the 16 reasons that has made me to take a decision to resign from the military and enter the political field. I do not know if it is a political statement or not, but it is a fact; it is a statement. Sir, whatever be the happenings, on the occasion of the celebration of the victory and honouring war heroes on May 22nd, the President of Sri Lanka, Shri Mahinda Rajapaksa spoke of the Jathika Kodiya, meaning the national flag, Sinha Kodiya Sinhalese flag.

We are not concerned about their flag. We respect their flag. But the point is, the Sri Lankan Tamils, the minority Muslims there, must also have the feeling that they are also part and parcel of that country, that they are also equal partners in that country, that they also have a say in the Legislature and in the local bodies and they must feel that they are equal citizens. That is not happening. The Tamil generation and the Muslim generation in the North and East of the country are very much agitated. This agreement is nothing new. It was ratified by both the Parliaments of India and Sri Lanka earlier. And there was a broad agreement; of course, LTTE first agreed to that and then backed out and the consequences followed. But, at the same

time, we are not able to see an inch of development, an inch of movement with regard to fulfilment of the 13th Constitutional amendment or any action by the Sri Lankan Government in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu, please.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am just concluding. I told you...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But I have also given sufficient time. I am only reminding you of the time. It is Friday today.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: My concern is that we should not be seen begging for time on this issue; I am sorry for using that word.

Sir, General Sharat Fonseka said that the travails of the wardisplaced was one of the 16 reasons that prompted him to seek voluntary retirement. This is the statement given by that important functionary who is also contesting the elections. Now, my point is, the sweet words of the President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapakse, should be matched by substantial political reforms that institutionalise devolution and reach out to Sri Lankan Tamils' hearts and minds. This should be done at the earliest.

Sir, there is a letter, one Tamil gentleman wrote — it is there on the Internet — 'I do not know the purpose of my life. I wonder why and for what the LTTE, the military fought the battle and what the war achieved in the end. We believe the Tigers, Sri Lankan Government and Indian people with whom we share a special bond, are all responsible for our fate today.' This is the feeling of the average Tamilian in Sri Lanka. Try to understand; I would request Members from all sides of Parliament to understand the hurt feelings and sentiments of the people. This is reflected in the statement made by Mr. Aryanathan, interviewed at Manik Farm, Zone IV. The newspaper, The Hindu, published it on May, 27.

The Draft Resolution of 2000 is widely agreed upon by everybody. Today, we are in 2009; so far, not even an inch has moved in the direction of devolution, in the direction of removing the feelings of discrimination, in the direction of involvement of various sections of the Sri Lankan society in the process of administration, governance and legislature. This has not happened. Unless this is done, the issue is going to continue. That is one point.

Secondly, talking of rehabilitation, we are sending material. The hon. Minister for External Affairs is here. What prevented the Government of India; why have you not sent an all-Party MPs' delegation? You have extensively quoted the report talking about the opinion of the Members of Parliament who visited the place. They had visited on their own though the media gave it a colour as if it was a Government delegation or the Ruling Party delegation.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): It was said by the media that it was a Congress-DMK delegation.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: My question is, is it an issue of the Congress Party or the DMK Party? No. It is an issue that concerns the entire country. It is an issue that concerns all political parties. You should have taken the initiative to see that one person from every political party had gone there.

SHRI D. RAJA: That is why, he says.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That is what I am saying. But, the hon. External Affairs Minister quoted, "MPs delegation". That is why, I am saying this. I have no objection to any party - DMK, PMK, AIADMK, or, MDMK - going over to Sri Lanka and seeing something and coming back. We have no problem. We have no quarrel with them. But, my point is that the Government of India has failed in its responsibility to take timely action of sending a delegation of the MPs to see the seriousness of the situation in the camps and give first-hand information to the Parliament.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: This delegation was sent by the party, not by the Government. It was sent by the DMK Party and the Congress Party.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Then, my point is, if it is a delegation of Parties, I do agree; they have a right. Then, why has the Minister mentioned it on his behalf?

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Because we are MPs.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Are we not MPs? Do you want to divide the people? Who has to meet the Sri Lankan President there? Is it done by the political parties or by the Government of India? Was there no intervention? My point is that don't trivialise things. Sir, the Government of India, even now, should send a delegation of Members of Parliament, cutting across party lines, to see the situation there; understand the feelings of the affected people; also have a look at rehabilitation to understand further requirement; also understand first hand information on how this rehabilitation is being organised there and how it is spent and fixed; and also understand the latest thinking in the minds of the people who are still very much there in the camps. This is equally important. Sir, we are a democratic country. World over, all the democratic countries want democracy to prevail everywhere in the world. So, that being the primary concern, we should not be carried away by partisan politics in this matter. We do not want to rub Sri Lanka on the wrong side. Let me make it very clear.

As I told you, we have no sympathy for the LTTE. We do not have any sympathy and we do not agree with the actions taken by the LTTE, using violent methods to finish their political opponents, both internally and outside, and they will ask the sympathy of the world community because of that. But, I have sympathy for Sri Lankan Tamils. My Party, and, I hope, the Indian Parliament, have enough sympathy for Sri Lankan Tamils. Sympathy should not be mere lip sympathy. Sympathy should be translated into action, and we must also move in the direction of

finding a permanent solution. Without finding a permanent solution, we just simply offer a lip sympathy by just mentioning it in the House and then making some sort of goody-goody remarks and saying that something has been done, something is being done, and something more will be done and all that. Sir, simply because Tamil Nadu people are not coming to streets, don't understand this as a weakness. There is a different political situation. That is why, nobody wants to disturb that political situation. There is a different background to this. But, don't force people to go to the level of coming to streets. Because, there is a strong feeling in each and every corner of that part of the country; all political parties are also equally concerned about this. So, I only request the Government to be proactive, to see that proper message is sent.

Two delegations have gone there. In between, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has gone to Sri Lanka. I had a chance of meeting him in the flight. I conveyed him my feelings. We are deeply hurt and disturbed also over the inaction of the Government of India. I cannot quarrel with Sri Lankan Government. Because we have a Parliament here; we have a Government here. You are accountable to us and we have every right to ask you and also to tell you and suggest you as to what to do and what not to do. That is what we are doing today. So, I hope you will understand the sentiments of the House, sentiments of the people, and also the sentiments of the displaced people across the world. Again, you understand why that support came to that organisation; because of the Diaspora around the world. They all feel that they have been discriminated, they have been displaced. You should see to it that their feelings are assuaged and timely action is taken by Sri Lankan Government, and then, people are made happy, and happily situated there.

SHRI D. RAJA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, today, I speak with great pain and great anguish. I have raised this issue on several occasions in this august House. Several Parliaments in several countries could discuss the Sri Lankan developments at length but the Indian Parliament could not find enough time to discuss the crucial situation in Sri Lanka.

I do not consider this statement as one which reflects the deep concerns of our people. I do agree with Venkaiah Naidu ji. I do deplore terrorism — the terrorism by any organised group; the terrorism by the State — I do deplore terrorism in that way. I would like to deal with four major issues, namely, war and crimes; the political solution to the Sri Lankan Tamil question; the Government of India's policy; and, the question of fishermen.

Sir, what happened in Sri Lanka was nothing but a full-scale war against the national linguistic minority in Sri Lanka, that is, the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. It was a full-scale war and it was *. It is not that my party calls it *, several parties in the UPA coalition have called it *. It is the view of some partners in the UPA government that what happened in Sri Lanka was * — * against the national linguistic minority,

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the Tamils. Sir, what happened at the end of the full-scale war, particularly, in the month of May, cannot be described by anyone in words. It was a tragedy.

Such disaster, such tragedy did not happen anywhere in the contemporary history. It did not happen anywhere. Thousands of people were butchered, killed; thousands of women were killed; and, children were killed. Where did it happen? I would like to put this question to the External Affairs Minister. In the contemporary history, show me the country where such a full-scale war was waged against its own citizens, its own people. It happened in Sri Lanka, Sir. It was a full-scale war and it was *, and, the Government of India assisted in that war. This is my charge against the Government. The Government of India sent two naval ships and it was acknowledged by the Sri Lankan Government. In the Parliament, they acknowledged it. Even the former Army Chief acknowledged it. The Government of India extended all out support in the action taken by the Sri Lankan Government. The war was undertaken by the Sri Lankan Government with full assistance — military assistance, financial assistance, and, all sorts of infrastructural assistance — given by the Government of India. Two naval ships were sent there. The Government of India should explain all this to the nation. What was the compulsion for the Government of India to do this? What was the obligation on the part of our Government to do this? I am not going into the past issues. I am talking about the recent, current issues. The Government of India did it. It was known to everybody. That is why I * the Government of India for having supported such a war.

On the one side, you supported the war, and, on the other side, you are now giving full support for rehabilitation. I do not question the support given for rehabilitation or resettlement. I am not questioning that. But what is the policy of the Government of India. Is it a fair and just policy towards a neighbouring country that you will give assistance to the State to wage war against its own citizens, and, then, you will give assistance to restart their lives? What is this policy, Sir? The country wants to know, the people want to know the policy of the UPA Government.

Having said this, Sir, on the humanitarian issue, I would say that what happened in Sri Lanka was a gross violation of human rights, gross violation of human rights. It was raised by the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Its representative Navi Pillay raised the issue and it was criticised, by whom? By our Government. What was suggested by Navi Pillay? Have an impartial inquiry into the violations of human rights; have an impartial inquiry into the war crimes. This is what was demanded. And the Government of India got up and asked, “How could you raise this issue?” That is why I am asking: What is our policy?

Sir, it is not that the Sri Lankan Government agreed because some delegation went there and talked to them. They agreed to send the people from camps, because the issue was taken up by several European countries; the European Union refused to extend financial assistance to the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Sri Lankan Government on the question of the gross violation of human rights. And, in fact, the issue was raised in the IMF. I must say this. The IMF refused to give financial aid to Sri Lanka. IMF had to give 2.6 billion dollars to Sri Lanka. But there was an issue. Our Prime Minister promised, 'if the IMF does not give aid, India is there to assist Sri Lanka.' This was reported on 22nd October 2009, and it was acknowledged in the Sri Lankan Parliament also. That is why I am asking this. The issue was raised not just by one country. Argentina raised this issue. It is somewhere in Latin America. Germany raised this issue. It is in the Europe. Several countries voiced their concern about the human rights violations in Sri Lanka. But what about our country, Sir?

As Venkaiah Naiduji said, we have civilisational bond with Sri Lanka. We have emotional bond with Sri Lanka. We have all kinds of relations with Sri Lanka. But what was our attitude? What was the stand taken by our Government? Our Government was willing to offer any help to the Sri Lankan Government which was committing*. That is why I demanded in this House from the Government of India that it is time to recast its policy towards Sri Lanka.

Now, Sir, about camps, some rosy picture is given in the statement that the Government is sending back some internally displaced persons. Sir, the camps, I said it in this House, are nothing but 'concentration camps,' what we saw in the regime of Hitler. They are open air jails. You ask anybody. If the Sri Lankan Government denies this, let the Sri Lankan Government give access to international media. Let the Sri Lankan Government give access to any international agency. Let them go and see the situation. It is nothing but an open air jail. Even now you claim that some people are released. But they have to report back. They can go out, but they have to come back and report. That is the condition. I don't want to get into the issue of injured people. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said it in his speech about children and women.

Now I raise one small issue, Sir. It is a very small issue but a very serious issue. The young men and women are reported 'disappeared.' Why did they disappear? How did they disappear? Let the Sri Lankan Government explain it. Our Government should ask about the so-called 'disappearance.' I read the history of Argentina where military dictatorship was ruling the country and young men and women used to be reported 'disappeared.' Actually, army took them and killed them. It happened in several other countries.

But what is happening in Sri Lanka, Sir? Where are they, Sir? Thousands of young men and women! Where are they? What sin they have committed, I would like to know. Just because they are born as Tamils! Is it the reason behind killing the young men and women like this? In the name of disappearance! What is the theory of this disappearance? Can we subscribe to such atrocious military theory? That is the character

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

of Sri Lankan Government, Sir. Our Government should try to understand the character of Sri Lankan State. We are concerned with democracy. We want our neighbouring countries to have vibrant democracies. The security of India cannot be secure if Sri Lanka is not secure or if Pakistan is not secure or if Nepal is not secure. I agree that the security of any nation lies in the security of other nation. Having said that, I am raising this question. We are having a vibrant democracy. We are proud of our democracy. It is not the same in Sri Lanka. It is not that only I am talking about it. But many other scholars also have raised this question; the character of Sri Lankan State has been changing. That is why our Government should have assessed the situation and should have recast its policy towards Sri Lanka.

Then coming to the political solution, Sir, we talk about having a political solution. But are we in a position to tell the Sri Lankan Government to really address the question of having a political solution for Sri Lankan Tamils? What do they want? Whether they are Muslims, they are also Tamils. Whether they are Tamils living in the hilly region or in the candy region or whether they are the Tamils of Indian origin or the Tamils of Jaffna, they all want a peaceful coexistence, a peaceful coexistence on the basis of equality with other nationality. That is all they want. The Sri Lankan Government should come forward for having a reasonable political solution. But Sri Lankan Government is not speaking about the political solution. Sri Lankan Government believes in a military solution and it continues to have the same line, military solution; "We can settle everything with the might of army, with the might of gun!" Is it the solution, Sir?

As a neighbouring country, we have a moral responsibility, Sir. More than one lakh Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are living in India, Sir, in Tamil Nadu. For how many years? It is not for one month, one year. For several years they continue to live in Tamil Nadu, in India. Isn't there any responsibility on the part of Sri Lanka? Has that Government any concern for its own citizens who are living as refugees in other neighbouring, sovereign country? Has our Government raised this issue at any point of time? I am not saying we can interfere in any sovereign country just like that. But the issues do not remain as internal issues. They spill over us and we are taking the burden of Sri Lankan refugees! What do they want? What is our assessment? On this question of political solution, our Government, again I am saying, has not taken a strong position. This is what all others have said, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has said. We can use goody, goody words, a goody, goody language. But finally, a solution should emerge. If that solution does not emerge, I am afraid, Sir, we should not underestimate the seeming silence today. This silence can prove to be more powerful in the coming days within our own country, and also in Sri Lanka.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, you have to finish now.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am finishing, Sir. That is what the Sri Lankan Government must understand. The Sri Lankan Government should come forward with a political solution to the Tamil question.

They can't delay this. The delay will again derail the Sri Lankan Government. They can go in for the elections. They can go in for the Presidential election. They can go in for the Sri Lankan Parliament election. But my question is: What will happen to the Sri Lankan Tamil? Will they have some rights to live in that island peacefully? What will India do for that? I would like to know whether India has some moral responsibility or not, whether the Indian Government has some moral responsibility or not.

Now I come to the fishermen's issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, you please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I am coming to the last issue, the fishermen's issue. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for he wrote me a letter on 30th September, 2009 where he talks about the Agreements and I quote:

"The Government considers its maritime boundary with Sri Lanka settled under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976."

Sir, I am quoting from your letter.

"Under the Agreement, the Island of Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Texts of both these Agreements were subsequently laid on the Table of the House. Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen are allowed access to Katchatheevu Island for rest, for drying nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival. The right of access is not understood to cover fishing rights around the island to Indian fishermen."

Now, in the statement, the hon. Minister says and I quote:

"However, it is important that our fishermen do not venture deep into Sri Lankan waters for their own safety and security.

I take it — I don't want to be harsh — as a kind of insult or betrayal, as far as the Indian fishermen are concerned.

[The Vice-Chairman, (Prof. P.J. Kurien), in the chair]

Sir, now I am going to quote article 5 of the 1974 Agreement.

Article 5 says:

"Subject to the foregoing, Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Katchatheevu as hitherto and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents for these purposes."

Then, article 6 reads as follows:

"The vessels of India and Sri Lanka will enjoy in each other's waters such rights as they have traditionally enjoyed therein."

1.00 P.M.

This is what has been agreed in the Agreement. But how was this Agreement flouted? How was this Agreement subverted? I must quote. Sir, it is good enough that you are present. We had one Foreign Secretary. I name the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kewal Singh. The letter of Mr. Kewal Singh, the then Foreign Secretary of India, addressed a letter, dated 23.3.1976, to Mr. W.T. Jayasinghe, the then Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka, which reads as follows:

“Fishing vessels and fishermen of India shall not engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone of Sri Lanka, nor shall be fishing vessels and fishermen of Sri Lanka engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone of India without the express permission of Sri Lanka or India, as the case may be.”

Now, how can you, at the Foreign Secretaries level, change the understanding between the two countries? I would like to know whether the Parliament was taken into confidence, whether this country was taken into confidence and whether the people were taken into confidence.

I would like to know this from the Government. Did you consult the Parliament? Did you consult the country before allowing the Foreign Secretary to subvert the accepted agreements signed in 1974-76? That is why, I think, the time has come for the Government of India to reopen these agreements. The Government of India will have to renegotiate the Katchatheevu Agreement. The Government of India will have to restore the traditional rights of the Indian fishermen; otherwise, the Indian fishermen will always be attacked by the Sri Lankan Army. That is what is happening. Sir, I do not take these numbers. I have my own doubts about the numbers with regard to internal displaced persons, with regard to fishermen because I do not think these numbers reflect the reality. How are you going to protect the Indian fishermen?

Now you are advising the Indian fishermen not to go there. Is that the only way to protect the Indian fishermen, to provide them safety and security? But what happens to their traditional rights of fishing around Katchatheevu? What happens to their traditional rights? Are we so helpless to tell our Indian fishermen that please don't go there; we can't save you if the Sri Lankan Navy attacks you or captures you and that the Government of India cannot do anything? You are pleading helplessness in this statement by asking our fishermen not to venture. This really pains me. This question of Indian fishermen will have to be taken up with all seriousness. That is why I demand that the 1974-76 agreements should be reopened and renegotiated.

Finally, I agree that this delegation went there. I do not have any complaints. Any party can send its delegation. It is good that they went there. They tried to have some interaction with the people; they tried to have some interaction with the Government. I have no objection. But can you

take it as an official delegation? Your statement deals with the visit of the delegation substantially. Can you take it as an official delegation? Is it the way to deal with such a situation? Here I completely agree that the Government of India should have taken up the initiative to send some kind of an all-party delegation and the Government of India should have negotiated with the friendly neighbour that we would like to help you, we would like to send our delegation to have direct interaction. Did the Government of India do so? We want to know this. Otherwise, how can we address these questions? It is a serious issue. I am not politicalising this issue. It is the concern of the whole country.

Today, I am happy that the principle Opposition Party stood up and spoke on this issue. I think the whole Parliament should discuss this issue. All parties must express their views. It is not that I happen to be a Tamil and, therefore, I should speak on this issue. I speak for the people who are being butchered in any part of the world. I speak for the people of Palestine. I speak for the people of Burma. I speak for the people wherever they are being massacred, wherever they are being butchered, wherever their rights are being denied. In the same manner, I speak for Tamils. This is a serious issue. India cannot behave just like any other country. That is my point. India is its immediate neighbour. We all have friendly relations with the Sri Lankan Government. You have given Rs. 500 crores and you have offered to give more. We have no complaints. It is a very good gesture. But how does that Government react and respond to our concerns?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am concluding. On the Sri Lankan Tamil issue, the Government of India must be held responsible for the developments. We cannot simply wash our hands. This hands-off policy must be given up. When you have taken the charge of the External Affairs, I would like to humbly request you that this hands-off policy towards Sri Lanka must end.

And the Government of India should play a pro-active role. The Government of India has a moral responsibility to tell the Sri Lankan Government to come forward with a political solution to the Sri Lankan Tamils. Also, the Katchatheevu Agreements need to be re-opened and re-negotiated. We do this, Sir. We have done it in case of Bhutan. We have done it in case of other neighbours. Then, why not with Sri Lanka? These are my points. This is really a very serious issue and, I am sure the whole House joins me in expressing the serious concern. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shri Tiruchi Siva. Please be brief. It is already 1.05 p.m.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I do not want that much of time because I am standing with a heavy heart. Instead of elucidating my views in words, just by shedding a drop of tear, I would make the entire House, not just the Government but everyone here, to realise the

grief that we have. Sir, the misery and the grief, which the Sri Lankan Tamils are undergoing, is an unending process, that too, an uninterrupted one. Sir, I do want to elaborate much on it. Much has been said and a lot is known to all. I have two history books. One is 'The Rich Past of the Tamils', which says that when they went across the world, establishing the rich heritage of the Tamil race, whoever came to Tamil Nadu, were warmly welcomed, with hospitality. And, my another history book says that the same Tamil race in Sri Lanka are now standing in the wired camps with a begging bowl.

We have got an umbilical cord relationship with those people. Reports, which come to us, are paining. Our women there have no clothes to change. With just only one dress, the women are sustaining their lives. There is no water. Only contaminated water is used for drinking purposes. They are suffering from illness. I do not want to repeat all those things. I may create an emotional situation; but this may not serve the purpose. Instead of saying what has happened, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister what is to happen. Sir, I want to be brief. I want to control my emotions. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our leader, has spent sleepless nights. He has repeatedly written letters to the Central Government. He has organised all the people of Tamil Nadu, expressed solidarity and shared their concerns with the Sri Lankan Government. Even while going to the United Nations, he has pleaded with the Government as to how human rights have been abused on the Sri Lankan soil by the Sri Lankan Government against the Tamils.

Sir, let me come to the point. The Minister's statement says, "More than 1,50,000 IDPs have been resettled, according to the Sri Lankan Government sources. One hundred and forty-five still remain in the camps." I differ with the word 'resettled'. People might have moved out of the camps. I do know whether they are resettled or not. The Sri Lankan Government, I am sure, is not interested in them. Those people were driven out of their homes. They were deprived of their jobs. Whatever occupations they were engaged in, they do not have anything now. They do not have shelter. They do not have any source of living. They might have moved out of the camps. But what is their status after having reached their places? Who is to monitor that? While there is no access to the international media, even the Sri Lankan media has no access. The U.N. Representatives, or, even the Red Cross, have no access to them. A team, comprising the DMK and Congress (I) Members, visited the camp and they interacted with the IDPs. They gave a report to the Government. I would again submit to the Government, Sir, that it is not only extending rehabilitation assistance to the Sri Lankan Government, but you have to also monitor whether it is being utilised for the welfare of the displaced Tamils.

Secondly, I would like to again submit to the hon. Minister, who is equally concerned like us, to see whether the people who are moving out of the camps are resettled; they are given adequate accommodation; they are given livelihood sources. When the Government of India thinks it is their responsibility to extend all help to the Sri Lankan Government, which is responsible for all these things, that is the problem. The Minister's Statement says that it is a very great challenge to the Sri Lankan Government. But, the sole reason of it is the Sri Lankan Government. So, again, I don't want to beat around the bush, Sir. There are only pertinent questions, which I would like to pose to the Minister. Sir, the Prime Minister had announced in Parliament in June, 2009 that the Government has set apart an amount of Rs.500 crores for their rehabilitation.

I want to know whether it has reached the people who deserved it, and for whom it has been sent and in what manner it was sent. What is the monitoring mechanism the Government of India is having to see to that that whatever assistance we are extending is reaching to them? The foremost question I would like to pose to the Minister is this. You have already sent de-mining teams as per the recommendations or the suggestions extended by the MPs Team which visited there. What is the outcome? Have the de-mining teams excavated anything? Have they found out anything? Is there any need of sending some more teams? So also the medical relief which we have sent, which is a team of 600 member emergency field hospital, it says that more than 50,000 patients have been treated; many of them are serious cases requiring surgery. Sir, this is just an instance. In what hygienic condition or the health condition the people who are in the camps are in which have led to such a situation that they are in the need of surgery even.

Sir, kindly extend some more medical help to them. When the Sri Lankan Government totally denies or declines its responsibility, after having done all these atrocities, when it has driven out the people from their own soil showing a war as a reason, it is now neglecting its duty. The Government may attempt to try to resettle the people because of the ensuing elections. That is not a concern for us. I would like again to insist upon the Minister, Sir, kindly extend some more medical relief to the people.

Sir, coming to the most important issue, when the sovereignty of the Sri Lankan Government is a concern to India, India's sovereignty is also foremost. When we have problems in the Northern and the Eastern Region, the Southern Region is also a border of India. So, the security of India must be kept in mind while we approach the issues that are happening in Sri Lanka. Not only that, Sir, the Indian fishermen, that too from Tamil Nadu, they are also Indians, are facing problems. The Indian sovereignty is to be restored or upheld, and the rights of the Indian fishermen should be restored. Sir, so far, the Minister has proudly said, I appreciate that, "While in 2008, 334 boats had been seized and 1450 fishermen apprehended, and, now, after the Agreement, it is now

31 boats and 124 fishermen apprehended.” But, Sir, we should not forget that 800 fishermen have been killed so far by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy not only apprehend our fishermen but also they damage their fishing nets, they damage their boats, they even hit them with their bayonets. They treat them very brutally.

Sir, all these things have been expressed on the floor of this House, many a time, by all the Members. We have also expressed it on the floor of this House. Sir, our Chief Minister, our leader has immediately represented to the Government and every relief has been given to the victims. But, what is the role of the Indian Government? Sir, the Kachchativu Agreement has restored with India certain rights and its fishermen, which is not being obliged by Sri Lanka. So, Sir, taking into consideration all those clauses in the Agreement, kindly restore the rights which our fishermen enjoy in the Kachchativu and they have a smooth fishing right on our seas.

Some times, they may cross over; because it is very hard to find the borderline on a sea. But, that is not happening always. Whenever the Indian fishermen are seen by the Sri Lankan Navy, immediately they are apprehended and they are tortured. So, kindly take this into consideration.

Sir, now to sum it up, I have nothing more to say. I would like to ask the Minister: What are the steps the Government of India proposes to take to meet the legitimate rights and aspirations of Tamils and Muslims in leading a peaceful life in that soil?

Sir, the pages of past history of Sri Lanka are full of blood stains. They will tell us of the reason that led to all the unwanted happenings. Sir, the civil war may have been over; but the reason still remains to be addressed. The Government of India should see to it that the Tamils in the island, after the ‘resettlement’; I mean the word resettlement, the Minister is also concerned about the word, he knows the meaning better than me or anybody else. After the resettlement, it must see to it that the people are ensured of equal citizenship status and all constitutional rights.

This is the submission with a heavy heart, controlling our emotions; our eyes are drained, Sir; no more tears should be shed by the Tamils here, and the Tamils there in Sri Lanka should not undergo any more arduous days. Thank you.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am very much pained with agony and anguish particularly as a person hailing from the area of Ramanathapuram or Rameswaram, from which most of the Sri Lankan Tamils have gone there. After listening to the sentiments of Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, Mr. Raja and Mr. Siva, my job is pretty easier in the sense that they have dealt with all aspects. As such, I will try to confine as quickly as possible so that time can be saved and the Chair has a sigh of relief.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to make an observation for which our hon. Minister, a well-meaning Minister, may not mistake me. The way it was handled from the beginning till now, the Government of India is very slow, slack and some times indifferent on issues like this on the

ground terming them basically as an internal matters. Sir, I shall illustrate one or two points to justify my observation.

Sir, as far as the civil war is concerned, when it was at its peak between Sri Lankan Tamils and the Sri Lankan Government, there was a secret training for 100 Sri Lankan military personnel by our Indian Army with the full knowledge and approval of Government of India. Not only that, they have also supplied arms and radar systems to the Sri Lankan Army. What for these things are given? Have these facilities and the training given been targeted against the Sri Lankan Tamils? This is the matter of fact and this is my first point which I request the Minister to clarify.

I now come to my second point. As far as the east Sri Lanka is concerned, namely, in and around Trikonamalai, it has now been considered as a high secret zone by the Sri Lankan military. In such a situation, how the Indian Tamils or Sri Lankan Tamils can afford to live freely? They want to see to it that the Sri Lankan Tamils are always under the control of the military. This is how the east Sri Lanka has been made as a high security zone.

Sir, coming to the very important point, which Mr. Raja also referred, relating to the fishermen who are going from Rameshwaram and Ramnad. Every day, it is a problem for them. Sri Lankan Navy is committing all kinds of atrocities against them. The hon. Minister may say that the seizure of boats and the number of people have reduced but the problem continues and the people are finding no chance to eke out a livelihood. What I am trying to say is, the 1974 Agreement — about which Mr. Siva and Mr. Raja also spoke — can be nullified in the sense that there was a precedent that in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka at the instance of Sri Lankan Government, the 1987 agreement between India and Sri Lanka, was nullified. The same analogy can be applied and the agreement of 1974 can be done away with. As a result, Katchatheevu can be restored. Unless these things are done, the fishermen problem will never end at all.

Sir, coming to the most important point — Mr. Siva will contain and bear with me — the CM of Tamil Nadu has made an observation that refugees in Tamil Nadu and in India can be given rehabilitation and permanent residentship in India. In this connection, I want to submit that the hidden agenda of Mahinda Rajapakse, the President of Sri Lanka is to see that the Sri Lankan Tamils are driven away or they are liquidated or sent away. The Sri Lankan Government and their administration want to see that the Sri Lankan Tamils are driven away once and for all. In such a situation, if the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu says that they can be rehabilitated and they can be given permanent...

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): The hon. Minister is wrong. Excuse me, Sir, no...He was not asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, please...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: You wait and listen to what I am going to say.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Those who have come back to Tamil Nadu, have come back long ago. He is misleading. *(Interruptions)*

DR. K. MALAISAMY: You wait and see what I am going to say. What I am trying to say is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Dr. Malaisamy, don't bring in controversies.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Okay, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Listen. Just one second. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, let him not...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please sit down. He is not yielding. Dr. Malaisamy, please listen to me. You please listen to me. This is an issue on which all Members, this side or that side, are equally concerned. This is not a Tamil issue. This is an issue of the nation. Everybody is concerned. So, don't bring in controversial issues. What you want is result, not controversy. This is what I want to say.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: If they listen to me for a minute.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I want to...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, sit down. You sit down. There is no time. You sit down. I will take care. You need not. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I am not disputing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, I will take care. You need not. No, no, that will not go on record.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am not questioning the print media...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, you give your suggestions. You say what the Government should do. You give your suggestions.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The point that I want to make out is, the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils in India or in Tamil Nadu will help the idea of Rajapakse because he wants to liquidate. He wants to avoid them. So, without knowing what his intention would be on the other hand, this kind of approach on the part of Tamil Nadu Government may help only Rajapaksa, not Sri Lankan Tamils. That is what I want to say. Sir, my next point is nearly about one lakh Sri Lankan Tamils are within the barbed fence in the campus and I don't want to explain further the pathetic condition in which they are living.

What are all the atrocities committed earlier on Tamils will continue. They are sent out to live in their own houses. But they could not go to their houses since they are all destroyed or damaged or in a dilapidated condition. The houses are not at all in a liveable condition. They say — as has been said here — that so many people have gone to their homes from camps. But, in reality, they have not gone to their homes at all as they are not in a liveable condition. On the other hand, they are wandering here and there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Now, I come to the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka about which the hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement. Sir, as per our information, our Indian High Commission is not at all giving the correct information to the Government of India. The ground realities have not at all been reported correctly. I just cite a small illustration. They have started computer school, Information Centre, etc., on behalf of the Indian High Commission. You know where they have started. They have started these only in Sinhalese area, not in Tamil area. I don't know the reason why the Indian High Commission has gone to the extent of setting up all these institutions in Sinhalese area.

Sir, my last point is, as per the information I could gather informally from persons living in Sri Lanka and Tamils is that the President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa — I am not personally against him — is not at all sincere and serious for resettlement of Tamils there. They wanted to annihilate Tamils once and for all. I will give you a simple example. Earlier, where 3/4th of the Tamil population living in a particular area has now been reduced to 1/4th. So, ultimately the whole area has been captured by the Government and people of Sri Lanka. They want that Tamils be driven out of the country. So, the secret agenda of Mr. Rajapaksa must be understood.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude, Dr. Malaisamy. Shri Rangarajan.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Lastly, Sir,...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, certainly, this is my last point.

As far as the Parliamentary Committee is concerned, as Shri Naidu, Shri Raja and others have said, I would say, if it is an official Parliamentary delegation, it would be nice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Everybody has mentioned about it. Okay. I called Mr. Rangarajan...(*Interruptions*)...Okay, I called Mr. Rangarajan.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister in one word, in one minute. I am a person hailing from Rameswaram and Ramanathapuram. Should you not be considerate for a minute, at least? You have been so kind to me all along.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, no. There is time constraint. Please conclude...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister think that he made a statement and feels that everything is all right. It is not like that. What I am trying to say is to find out the root cause of the issue. They are more concerned about self-determination, etc. The first point is, the aspirations of Sri Lankan Tamils should be fulfilled. My second point is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You have said that it is your last point and again you have come to your first point!

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I will make three points in one minute.

My second point is, the Government of India should take more interest, put extra effort and take concrete steps to solve the problems of Tamils, as has been rightly stated by my colleagues here, have not yet ended. The work has only half done. Yet, a lot more to be done for which the hon. Minister has to take special interest.

Lastly, India is such a huge country and is it so difficult for it to handle a small country like Sri Lanka. I am not undermining it. If necessary, you can arm-twist it even by showing your...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, no...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No, no...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am not suggesting it. I leave it to you. But, the point is, get the things done, the aspiration of the Tamils are fulfilled and their lives are safeguarded. Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I think, it is not a proper word to use... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Malaisamy is arm-twisting me ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to submit that the statement made by the hon. Minister is in no way convincing us. I request the hon. Foreign Minister and the Government of India to take up this as an Indian problem. Do not take this as Tamil problem or the problem belonging to some Tamil political parties. What happened in Sri Lanka in the beginning of the 21st Century is a tragedy. The tragedy had happened before our eyes.

If the Government of India had intervened at a proper time, this issue could have been settled and so much of bloodshed could have been avoided. The Statement of the Minister of External Affairs says, "... more than 1,00,000 IDPs have been resettled. According to Sri Lankan Government sources, a total of more than 1,50,000 IDPs have been resettled and around

1,45,000 still remain in the camps.” I would like to ask the Foreign Minister, if they have been resettled, where have they been resettled? In their villages, there is no house. If there is a house, there is no roof. So, I am told by some people who are working there in some voluntary organisation that the people have been taken from this camp to another camp. Is that what you call the resettlement? Resettlement means that they should go to their own villages. They must have their own property. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that the voluntary organisations working there told me that in the camp Ph.D doctors are there, medical doctors are there, teachers are there, lawyers are there and intellectuals are also there. They are suffering so much. The voluntary organisation was informed by the Sri Lankan Army that they are not going to release the youngsters who are there, because the blood is the LTTE blood. That is the approach of the Sri Lankan Government. They treat their own citizens more than a criminal.

So, the Government of India should take note of it. Please believe us. We are also discussing with so many people. Sir, the voluntary organisation people are prepared to take the orphan children who are there, but the Sri Lankan Government has refused to give them. So, this tragedy has to be properly understood by the Government of India. So, my point is that the Government must answer this House, and to this country. The Foreign Secretary and the National Security Adviser of Sri Lanka had said that displaced people would be returned to their homes in 180 days. Now those 180 days are going to finish. ..(*Interruptions*)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please put your question.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: You have to answer us; you have to answer this country. Why are you not able to return them to their homes? You have to answer us. (*Time-bell rings*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please put your question.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: My second point is this. I join with Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Shri D.Raja that you send a delegation on behalf of this Parliament. This Parliament should send a delegation to Sri Lanka. I do not want to join with their politics, but a delegation should be sent from here. I agree with Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Now I come to the fishermen. As far as their problems are concerned, Shri D. Raja correctly said that if we can reopen the Katchatheevu Agreement, you must reopen and renegotiate that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: There is nothing wrong. My point is, getting Katchatheevu alone will not solve the problem. Before 1983, they were venturing the other side also because fish is there. You have to go not only around Katchatheevu but also beyond Katchatheevu.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have taken six minutes.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Now, Sri Lanka is a very friendly country. Our coast guards are very friendly with their coast guards. My suggestion is, the Government should see that the coast guards of the two countries, the fishermen, should be there to monitor and help; they should not chase. The coast guard should help our fishermen. It is their livelihood. The rights which they were enjoying before 1983, those rights should be there. We are sending our entrepreneurs there. We have already opened 250 petrol bunks. We are starting schools there. We are rehabilitating their cement factories and other factories. I know, the Government of India is doing so many things in that country, but please help these Tamils so that they could live a normal life there. *(Time-bell rings)*

Finally, more importantly, the Sri Lankan Government has to take concrete step to ...*(Interruptions)*... ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Now, there is election there. In the elections, so many problems will come and the Sri Lankan settlement problem, the political settlement problem will go back. Please see that this Government negotiates with the Sri Lankan Government. Give them political package immediately before elections. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Finally, ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Only one minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is already 1.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... You don't know. There are other speakers also. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; you can't do like that.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: So, there should not be any delay in the political settlement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Look at the watch. It is 1.35 p.m.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, I am finishing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, there are other speakers. Please.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: So, the Government of India should, in a time-frame, see that the Sri Lankan Tamils are settled properly and the people who are living in Tamil Nadu should be given proper protection. ...*(Interruptions)*... ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी.... आप तीन मिनट लीजिए। अभी 1 बजकर 35 मिनट हो गए हैं और ढाई बजे प्राइवेट मੈम्बर्स बिजनेस भी लेना है...*(व्यवधान)*... लंच ब्रेक भी होना है, इसलिए तीन मिनट में बोलिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी का जो बयान है, वह बहुत ही निराशाजनक है। यह सही है कि उन्होंने मानवता के आधार पर जो सहायता वहां दी, वह ठीक ही दी, क्योंकि जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने शंका व्यक्त की कि आखिर जो सहायता दी जा रही है, इसकी क्या गारंटी है कि जो पीड़ित लोग हैं, उन तक सहायता ठीक ढंग से पहुंच रही है या नहीं पहुंच रही है? श्रीलंका में जिस प्रकार की कार्यवाही वहां की सरकार और वहां की सेना ने की है, वह बहुत ही शत्रुतापूर्ण और भेदभावपूर्ण रही है। हम श्रीलंका की सम्प्रभुता की इज्जत करते हैं। हम लिट्टे जैसे आतंकवादी संगठन के क्रियाकलापों की निंदा करते हैं, परंतु उसी के साथ-साथ हम श्रीलंका की सरकार और उसकी सेना द्वारा जिस प्रकार से तमिलों के ऊपर, जो तमिल युद्धरत नहीं थे - बच्चे थे, महिलाएं थीं, उनके मोहल्लों में, अस्पतालों में, शिक्षण संस्थाओं पर जिस तरीके से आक्रमण हुए और जिस तरीके से उनको मारा गया, जैसा कि श्री डी. राजा ने कहा और उन्होंने ही नहीं कहा, दुनिया की प्रेस ने इसको नरसंहार की संज्ञा दी, तो हम उस नाते भी श्रीलंका सरकार की इस कार्यवाही की निंदा करते हैं। हमें श्रीलंका की स्थिति के बारे में अवगत हो जाना चाहिए। आज आप जानते हैं कि पाकिस्तान और चीन जिस तरीके से श्रीलंका के मामले में दखल दे रहा है, उसने हथियार दिए, उसने हर प्रकार की सहायता प्रदान की, क्योंकि जो चीन है, चीन का कोई at stake नहीं है। चीन व्यावहारिकता के आधार पर अपनी विदेश नीति, अपने रिश्ते तय करता है। उसके सामने कोई ideology नहीं है ..(समय की घंटी).. परंतु हमारी सरकार है, अब आप तो मुझे पूरी बात कहने भी(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): तिवारी जी, conclude कीजिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : जो हमारी सरकार है, वह न तो व्यावहारिकता ही ठीक कर पा रही है और न अपने असूलों पर ही टिक पा रही है, क्योंकि आप जानते हैं कि अगर तमिलों की समस्या है, तो भारत सरकार को, जो उसका राजनैतिक हल है, उस राजनैतिक हल के लिए दबाव डालना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): तिवारी जी, क्लैरिफिकेशन्स पूछिए। टाइम नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं क्या करूं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : आपने दूसरे लोगों को इतना मौका दिया और मैं कोई irrelevant बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप क्लैरिफिकेशन्स पूछिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मैं शॉर्ट में ही अपनी बात कह रहा हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no time.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : अगर आप मुझे पूरी बात ही नहीं कहने देंगे, तो मैं कैसे ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; you put your questions and stop.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मेरा क्वेश्चन जो है... क्वेश्चन किए बिना मैं ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no time. We have to finish.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : अब आप मेरा इतना समय मत लीजिए। मुझे अपनी बात कह लेने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Minister has to go to the Lok Sabha.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर भारत सरकार की कौन सी मजबूरी थी कि श्रीलंका सरकार के द्वारा तमिलों के ऊपर इस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की गई? हम कम से कम उन्हें सलाह तो दे सकते थे, human rights के violation के बारे में अपनी बात तो कह सकते थे। दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो राजनैतिक सुझाव था, राजनैतिक हल था, उस राजनैतिक हल के लिए आपने क्या दबाव डाला? अगर तमिल और सिंहल के बीच में इस प्रकार का भेदभाव होगा तो आप जानते हैं कि पाकिस्तान में क्या हुआ। हम चाहे कुछ न करें, परन्तु श्रीलंका की सरकार हमेशा हमें शंका की नज़र से देखेगी। इसलिए अपनी संप्रभुता की रक्षा के लिए, अपनी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को दृष्टि में रखते हुए हमें श्रीलंका के बारे में अपनी नीति स्पष्ट करनी पड़ेगी क्योंकि अगर तमिल वहां सताए जाएंगे, वहां मारे जाएंगे, उनके सेटलमेंट का कोई इंतजाम नहीं होगा तो उसका असर हमारे ऊपर भी पड़ेगा। यही स्थिति हमारी चारों तरफ है - यही स्थिति बर्मा में है, यही स्थिति पाकिस्तान में है। आप जानते हैं कि जिस तरीके से श्रीलंका की सरकार अपने बंदरगाहों का इस्तेमाल खुले आम चीन और पाकिस्तान को दे रही है तो आखिर उसकी स्थिति क्या है? इसमें हमारी सुरक्षा का मामला आता है या नहीं आता है? क्या हम श्रीलंका के प्रश्न को इन सारी पृष्ठभूमियों में देखकर कोई नीति तय करेंगे या नहीं तय करेंगे, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN Sir, this is a very emotional and sensitive issue. I have to appreciate the UPA Government for taking on all the international pressure and domestic pressure and properly handling the issues concerning China and Pakistan. Originally, Sri Lanka was more or less a part of India because the Sinhalese had migrated from India. Similarly, the about 15 lakh people of Indian origin who are living there are originally from the districts of Pudukottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, the eastern part of Sri Lanka is occupied by Muslims who came from the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, more or less, 15 lakh people of Indian origin are residing in the central and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. If you add up people living in all those parts together, that comes to about 22 lakh people who are living there. But the Jaffna region, which forms the Northern part of Sri Lanka, has people who were originally very ancient Tamil people who had migrated from Tirunelveli district. They were *Shaivaites*, they were intelligent and looked after the management of affairs of entire Sri Lanka before the Independence Movement and subsequent to the Independence Movement. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had gone to Sri Lanka...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please put your question. You need to put your point of clarification.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I wish to make a clear picture about Sri Lanka.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I appreciate that. But we are short of time.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, we need to first appreciate the issues; it is not...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The hon. Minister has to be in the Lok Sabha at 2 p.m. So, we need to give him sufficient time to answer.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, the usual time you permit is five minutes; I shall conclude within that time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, two minutes more.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, there should be some equality; when only one person from the Treasury Bench has...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Siva has already put forth his views.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Don't repeat what has already been said. Just put your question.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, we need to put forth our ideas clearly.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had gone there in 1938 and started the Ceylon Workers Congress to protect the interests of the people of Indian origin. At that time and subsequent to the Independence of Sri Lanka, our people were not given citizenship. Therefore, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru initiated the citizenship issue and there was an end to the Shastry-Bhandaranaike Agreement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, seek your clarification.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Five lakh people were given citizenship and now their number has gone up to 15 lakh. At that time, Jaffna...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, seek your clarification.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, you have given me time. Please let me put forth my ideas. I shall conclude within the time you have permitted me.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, there is a Calling Attention Motion which is listed for discussion in the other House. We just have 15 more minutes here. So, I don't think that I would have enough time to answer the various points which have been raised by the hon. Members. So, I could go to the other House, finish the Calling Attention Motion and come back here, or, the House will have to be satisfied with a reply that will last for ten minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Don't make it like that. It should not be a short reply. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Let it be on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Let it be a clear reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is okay. Put your question.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Let it be a clear reply. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I have got two or three points which I want to put forward. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, we want immediately the resettlement of three lakh Sri Lankan internally displaced Tamils. There are already three categories of people. One is people who have got their own house and land. They are already migrated and they are around one lakh. The other type of one lakh people are those who got no

house but they have got some hosts to protect them, but, at the same time, they do not have money for their protection. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, this is very sensitive *..(Interruptions)..*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Siva, please. *..(Interruptions)..* Everybody wants to speak as much as one can. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We have given the notice. *..(Interruptions)..*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please take your seat. *..(Interruptions)..* You want to speak and there are one or two other Members who also want to speak. After that, the reply can be postponed to the next working day. That is one suggestion if the House agrees.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I agree with the peculiar situation that has arisen. The other House is also equally important. We cannot deny that. But, at the same time, a reply of five or ten minutes will not suffice the seriousness of the subject. So, I request that it can be taken up on Monday afternoon after lunch and then we can have an elaborate detailed response from the Minister. Now, Sudarsanaji can complete it and the Minister can reply on Monday.

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 V. NARAYANASAMY): If hon. Members want to postpone if for Monday, it is okay.

SHRI D. RAJA: In fact, we want a structured discussion on this. *..(Interruptions)..* Minister can reply on Monday, we have no problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Minister will meet every point raised by hon. Members. Mr. Natchiappan, be brief.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: The third type of people are those who are orphans; they have got nobody to look after. More than 20,000 widows are there. Handicap people are there; blind people are there; mentally retarded people are there and children are there. These types of people are living there in camps. We have seen them there and that is why I am giving the firsthand information. We discussed this with the top-level officers, even to the President of Sri Lanka, we came to know that Jaffna Tamils who have migrated from Jaffna and settled in Canada — more than two lakh people settled in Canada, 1.5 lakh people settled in the UK and European Union and more than one lakh people settled in the United States of America —

are all very well-settled people and highly placed people ..(*Interruptions*).. They are very intelligent people. They are living out of Jaffna. Jaffna people told us that they are not worried about them and they are creating problems for them sitting in well-placed positions in Canada, Europe and the USA. Their money is pressurising all the NGOs, the Governments of Europe and the USA not to help the displaced persons in Sri Lanka.

These three lakh people want to treat this issue just like any other issue. So, the affected people do not have any proper habitation, proper skill-development and other things. Therefore, none of the NGOs from Europe and USA is coming forward to help the Tamil people. The only country, which is now helping them, is India. India has to help; India has to see that, at least, one lakh houses are built for these people. Pre-fabricated houses can be constructed within thirty days. They have to be rehabilitated there and there should hospital positioned for them, there should be schools for their children. About 20,000 teachers are there in the camps. They are given a salary and they are teaching the children there. But, these people are to be shifted to their own places Vayuniya, Mulai Theevu, Jaffna area and the Mannar area, they have to be shifted. And, they should be given all the facilities. In the same way, they were having the agricultural land. That land should be again given back to the same Tamils who had vacated those places. These are the things which are to be looked after by the Government immediately.

Regarding fishermen issue, I want to submit that fishermen problem is continuously happening. To solve this problem, Indian Fishermen Federation and the Sri Lankan Fishermen Federation should have a joint committee. We put up the same proposal before the Sri Lankan President, who also accepted it. They are considering it. The Government of India should also quickly come out with a joint committee by which they can decide that today we will have the fishing; tomorrow, they can have the fishing. (*Time-bell rings*) In that way, the problem can be solved. I want to explain it. We are having a certain type of fishing in Kachchatheevu area. But, they are not in favour of that. At the same time, they are doing fishing in our area which is not for us. Therefore, they can very easily settle this problem if we have a joint committee for them.

Regarding the Kachchatheevu matter, it is a 25-acre island. That island can be made as a permanent centre of trade for India and Sri Lanka. It can be notified as a Special Economic Zone. It can be treated as a tourist spot so that both the countries can help in that matter.

Then, Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has made a very good statement about the 13th Amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution. We want to have the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardene Accord to be implemented and more so, we want to see a Government there, the State Governments, which should have powers just like our own State Governments in India. They have

to follow their Constitution. They take part now in the election, and also in the President's Election, the same process is going on. Therefore, India should facilitate and see that these people are settled properly. (*Time-bell rings*)

Sir, finally, I would like to submit that it is not the way to act on issues which are cropping up with Sri Lanka. We have to take immediate steps. There should be a committee which should immediately look into the matter and solve the problems whenever a fishermen problem is reported. We are taking our own time for solving the problem. (*Time-bell rings*) But, Tamil Nadu State and other States are having disturbance due to this issue.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, जिन लोगों ने श्री लंका के तमिलों की समस्याओं के बारे में बताया है, मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, खासकर राजा जी और श्री वेंकैया नायडु जी को, क्योंकि वे सेंटिमेंटल थे। मैं यह भी दरखास्त करूंगा कि इनकी समस्याओं को जल्दी सुलझाने का काम करें, क्योंकि वे निहत्थे लोग हैं, इसलिए उन लोगों की समस्याओं का समाधान होना चाहिए।

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Thank you, Sir, I would limit myself to only one question. As my dear brother from my Party, Shri Tiruchi Siva, said, I stand here with all tears. But, so far, there was cold war going within Sri Lanka, but our people, Tamils, are left with nothing. They are living like dead grass, worms, sands and trees. They are still there like worms. They are left out only with their lives; no dreams of Tamil Elam, nobody to relieve them or anything. Now, they are having only their lives. They are put up within the barbed wire fence. Now, all that they need is rehabilitation. For this, Tamil Nadu Government has been very meticulously doing their own...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Don't say all this. If you have any question, just ask the question.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Rs.500 crores have been allotted. I would like to know in what way it has been sent. Rs.52 crores have been collected as donation for Sri Lankan people and already, we have spent Rs.40 crores by sending four shipments in that. I want the Minister to tell us in what ways this Rs.500 crores has been spent or is proposed to be spent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Then, I would like to appreciate our opposition leader, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. (*Interruptions*) What are the steps that the Government has taken to ensure as to what the Sri Lankan Government will be doing for us?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am being considerate. Please don't exploit that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Please, Sir. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I would also request the Central Government to extend the citizenship to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees as requested by our Chief Minister. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please don't exploit my consideration. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Anbalagan, please take only one minute.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, what I want to say is that the Government of Tamil Nadu sent a delegation, which is not a real delegation. I request that a parliamentary delegation comprising of Members of Parliament of all parties and the party leaders should go from the Centre to know the real situation. *(Interruptions)* Sir, they are receiving gifts from the side of President Rajapakse ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, one of the Members, Shri Natchiappan, is not able to express his ideas because his hands are tightened. So, I want only real parliamentary delegation to visit that place. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I thank all the members for participating in this good discussion. Clarifications on the statement made by the External Affairs Minister are over. The Minister of External Affairs will reply to the discussion on Monday, the 7th December, 2009. Now, the House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at fifty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-four minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now we shall take up Private Member's Legislative Business.

BILLS INTRODUCED

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend article 51-A) by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; not present.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend articles 124 and 217) by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; not present. Shri Kumar Deepak Das. He is not here.

**The Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees, Girl Students, Inmates of
Women Protection Homes, Housewives and Girls Bill, 2009**

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of sexual harassment and exploitation of women employees at their work places by their employers, superiors, or colleagues and of girl students in schools, colleges, universities by their teachers or by the employees or research guides and of inmates of women protection homes or *naari niketans* by their in-charges and employees and of housewives and girls at homes by their near and dear ones through deterrent punishment and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Infirm Destitute and Neglected Old Women and Widow
(Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2009**

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare measures to be undertaken by the State for the infirm, destitute and neglected old women and the widows by extending financial assistance, rehabilitation, medical care and other facilities through a Welfare Board and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Prevention of Trafficking and Abuse of Children Bill, 2009

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of abuse of children in any form be it forcing them to work, beg, or physical and sexual abuse, for trafficking of girl child for commercial purposes by pushing or forcing her for prostitution after procuring, luring or kidnapping and making her available for hiring or for taking possession by her client for promiscuous sexual acts for by providing deterrent punishment including capital punishment for trafficking and abuse of children and for the rescue, rehabilitation and welfare of such hapless children who have been forced to become child sex workers by the State and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(To amend Article 37)**

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(Insertion of New Section 44A)**

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Consumer Products Safety Authority Bill, 2009

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a Consumer Products Safety Authority as an independent authority to protect the consumer from unsafe and hazardous products; to constantly monitor safety of various consumer products; to make mandatory for consumers, retailers, distributors and manufacturers to report product-related accidents and injuries; to direct the distributors and manufacturers to recall the defective products and to prevent supply of defective and spurious products in the market and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Professional Courses (Common Entrance Examinations and
Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2009**

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a common entrance examination for each professional course for admission into various Government and private professional institutions offering higher education in the country and to regulate the fee structure of the private institutions offering professional courses including the application fee charged before admission and for matter connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Handloom Weavers (Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2009, Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi. Not present. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (insertion of new article 16A and amendment of article 39), Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi. Not present. The Booming Population Control Bill, 2009, Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi. Not present. The Naxalite Affected Areas (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009, Ms. Mabel Rebello. Not present. The Quality and Accountability in Education Bill, 2009, Ms. Mabel Rebello. Not present. The Prevention of Hunger and Malnutrition and Right to Food Bill, 2009, Ms. Mabel Rebello. Not present.

The Acid (Control) Bill, 2009

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि लोगों पर, विशेषकर महिलाओं और बालिकाओं पर, तेज़ाबी हमलों को रोकने के लिए तेज़ाबों की बिक्री और वितरण को नियंत्रित करने तथा तत्संसक्त अथवा उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Uniform Syllabus in Schools Bill, 2009, Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, not present. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2009, Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda. Not present. The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2009, Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda. Not present.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(To amend Article 16)**

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): The High Court at Allahabad (Establishment of a Permanent Bench in Meerut) Bill, 2009, Shri Amir Alam Khan. Not present. The Sugarcane Grower (Remunerative Price and Welfare) Bill, 2009, Shri Amir Alam Khan. Not present.

**The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(To amend Section 66)**

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(To amend Article 324)**

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, we shall continue with the discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 moved by Shri Mahendra Mohan on 3rd July, 2009. Shri Rajniti Prasad to continue his speech.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(To amend Articles 85 and 174)**

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, यह Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, जिसे महेन्द्र मोहन जी ने लाया है, उसका मैं सपोर्ट करता हूँ। मैं इस मायने में इसे सपोर्ट करता हूँ क्योंकि a lot of water has flown out of the Ganga. ऐसा नहीं है कि जो बहुत पुरानी चीज है, उसको हम चलाते रहें। अब हम लोगों की समस्याएँ बढ़ गयी हैं और चीजों का attraction बढ़ गया है। अब बहुत सारी समस्याएँ हम लोगों के सामने आती हैं। सर, हम लोग जनता को represent करते हैं, लेकिन मैंने देखा है कि हाउस में जो बहुत महत्वपूर्ण चीज होती है, जैसे क्वेश्चन आवर बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होता है, उसमें पता नहीं क्या हो जाता है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्वेश्चन आवर जितना important है, उसे उतनी importance न देकर हमारी कई पार्टियों के लोग उसको adjourn करा देते हैं। इससे उस वक्त का जो क्वेश्चन रहता है, जो लोग मेहनत करके उसको डालते हैं और वह लॉटरी में आता है, यह उनका luck है कि वह लॉटरी में आता है, तो समझिए कि वह तो उस दिन गया, वह फिर वापिस नहीं आता। Time and tide do not wait for a man. वे समस्याएँ तो उस वक्त रह गईं, वे कहीं जाती नहीं हैं।

सर, अब मैं एक और बात कहना चाहूँगा कि इसके लिए एक नियम बनाना चाहिए। आपके पास बहुत सारे नियम हैं। आप सभी पार्टियों के नेताओं को बुलाकर एक मिटिंग कर लीजिए और उनसे कहिए कि क्वेश्चन आवर को आप किसी भी हालत में खत्म मत कीजिए, adjourn मत कीजिए। आपकी चाहे जो भी समस्या हो, उसका समाधान हाउस में बातचीत करके कीजिए। अगर आप वेल में चले जाएंगे और क्वेश्चन आवर में हंगामा करेंगे तो जो मिनिस्टर्स हैं, जिन्हें क्वेश्चंस का जवाब देना है, उन्हें तो बड़ी मस्ती आ जाती है कि चलो, आज क्वेश्चंस नहीं हैं, आज हम जवाब नहीं देंगे। बहुत से ऐसे मिनिस्टर भी होते हैं, जो अपना जवाब बहुत ही ईमानदारी से तैयार करते हैं, लेकिन वह जवाब नहीं दे पाते हैं। इससे हम लोगों को कठिनाई होती है। इसके लिए हमें जनता को जवाब देना पड़ता है कि ये आपने क्वेश्चन किया, इसका जवाब तो आया ही नहीं। हालांकि क्वेश्चन का लिखित जवाब आता है और हमारे पास वह जवाब रहता है, लेकिन फिर भी उसमें और भी समस्याएँ होती हैं, जैसे उसमें supplementary questions पूछने की बात होती है, वह भी नहीं हो पाती है।

सर, मैं एक बात यह कहना चाहूँगा कि क्वेश्चन आवर को adjourn नहीं करें। दूसरी बात यह कि जब से मुझे याद है तब से क्वेश्चन आवर एक घंटा ही चलता है। I don't know why? कल हम लोगों ने BAC की मिटिंग में यह discuss किया है कि आप इसको 6 या 7 बजे तक कर सकते हैं। जब हम यहाँ बैठने आये हैं, जब हमने पैर में घुंघरू बांधा है तो हम नाचने से परहेज क्यों करें? हम लोग तो घुंघरू बांधे हुए हैं, यहाँ बैठते हैं, हम पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर्स हैं तो आप क्वेश्चन आवर को 6 बजे, 7 बजे या 8 बजे तक कीजिए। एक और बात यह कि इस दौरान

पाँच-छः क्वेश्चंस से ज्यादा नहीं लिये जाते हैं और दूसरा यह कि जो लोग ये क्वेश्चंस पूछते हैं, वे इस अंदाज में रह जाते हैं कि पता नहीं मेरा क्वेश्चन आएगा या नहीं आएगा। मान लीजिए, उनका पाँचवां क्वेश्चन है तो वे यह सोचते हैं कि पता नहीं मेरा क्वेश्चन आएगा या नहीं आएगा। इसके लिए एक नियम बनाना चाहिए कि क्वेश्चन आवर दो घंटे का हो और सारे क्वेश्चंस का जवाब समुचित तरीके से हम लोगों को मिलना चाहिए। अगर कोई मैम्बर किसी प्रश्न पर query करना चाहे या वह supplementary question पूछना चाहे तो इसके लिए उसको इजाजत होनी चाहिए। इसके लिए आप जो तीन का नंबर देते हैं कि तीन supplementary questions पूछे जाएं, इससे यह होता है कि हमारे दिमाग में या अन्य मैम्बर्स के दिमाग में जो बातें रहती हैं, वे पूरी नहीं हो पाती हैं।

सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि संविधान में यह लिखा है कि आपको छः महीने के अंदर हाउस की बैठक बुलानी पड़ेगी। यही बात संविधान के अनुच्छेद 174 में भी है, जो कि स्टेट के लिए है। जैसा मैंने पहले कहा है कि गंगा से बहुत पानी निकल चुका है, समस्याएँ बहुत बढ़ चुकी हैं। Internal security, महंगाई और बेरोजगारी जैसी कई चीजें हैं, जिनके बारे में भी अब हमें सोचना पड़ेगा। आप छः महीने का intervening period मत रखिए, बल्कि उसको घटाइये।

क्योंकि पार्लियामेंट में हम लोग केवल सुख-सुविधा लेने के लिए नहीं बैठे हैं, हम इसलिए बैठे हैं ताकि जनता की समस्या को हम लोग उठाएं और जनता की समस्याओं का हम लोग निबटारा करें, इसलिए हम लोग यहां पर रहते हैं। सर, 10-10, 12-12 कानून, बहुत महत्वपूर्ण कानून होते हैं, जो वॉयस वोट से पास हो जाते हैं। पता नहीं कब क्या होता है, हम लोगों को भी पता नहीं चलता है कि कब कौन सा कानून खत्म हो गया और कौन सा बिल पास हो गया। हमसे लोग बाहर पूछते हैं कि वह बिल पास हुआ, हम बोलते हैं कि हमको मालूम नहीं है। उदाहरण के लिए, सर, आप मुझे माफ करेंगे, मैं चेरर के बारे में कुछ नहीं कह रहा हूँ, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि महिला आरक्षण का बिल, जो यहां लाया गया, उसमें कितना इंटरवेंशन हुआ, हमने लिखकर दिया कि हमको सुनिए, हमारी बात को सुनिए, लेकिन नहीं सुना गया और हवा में, आवाज में बातें हो गईं। आपको जो करना है, वह करिए, लेकिन हमारी बात को तो आपको सुनना पड़ेगा, सुनना चाहिए, लेकिन नहीं हुआ और haste में सारी बात खत्म हो गई और हम लोगों को सुना नहीं गया। हम लोग जब बाहर जाते हैं तो लोग पूछते हैं कि आपने क्या किया, आपका तो हाथ ही नहीं उठता है, आप तो पार्लियामेंट में बोलते ही नहीं हैं। इसलिए, सर, हमारी दोहरी जिम्मेवारी है, हमारी राज्य सभा के प्रति भी जिम्मेवारी है और बाहर की जनता के प्रति भी हमारी जिम्मेवारी है, ऐसा नहीं है कि केवल एक जिम्मेवारी है। लोग पूछते हैं कि आपको राज्य सभा में भेजा गया है, आपने क्या कंट्रिब्यूशन दिया, आपने क्या किया? लेकिन, मैं किस-किस को बताऊँ कि वहां हाथ उठाने पर हाथ दर्द कर जाता है लेकिन आपका नम्बर नहीं आ सकता है। अब पता नहीं हाथ उठाने का मामला क्या है! अब अगर यहां कोई स्विच हो तो उसे दबाकर बोलें कि हमारा नाम लिख दीजिए। हंगामा नहीं कर सकते, मर्यादा का सवाल होता है। इसलिए, सर, इसके बारे में आप थोड़ा विचार करिए, यह विचार होना चाहिए और इसे दुरुस्त होना चाहिए। आपने कितने अमेंडमेंट किए हैं, यहां पर कई-कई अमेंडमेंट आते हैं, एक यह भी अमेंडमेंट आना चाहिए। मैं एक उदाहरण के तौर पर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हाऊस की, लोक सभा और राज्य सभा की, कितनी सिटिंग्स होती हैं, इसका मैं आपको एक उदाहरण दे रहा हूँ। 1974 में, जब कि हमारी आबादी कम थी, समस्याएं कम थीं, उस वक्त राज्य सभा की 109 सिटिंग्स हुईं, जबकि 2001 में केवल 46 सिटिंग्स हुईं! Is it the way to deal with the matter? सर, क्या कभी ऐसा होता है? 1974 में तो 109 सिटिंग्स हों और बाद में कम, तो क्या 2008 में हमारी समस्याएं खत्म हो गई हैं? इसलिए, सर, इसकी मर्यादा रखनी होगी। राज्य सभा की, इस हाऊस की प्रोसिडिंग की मर्यादा रखनी होगी। अगर मर्यादा नहीं रखेंगे तो जनता में आक्रोश होगा और हम लोग जनता

के प्रतिनिधि हैं, इसलिए, सर, इस बारे में जरूर विचार करना पड़ेगा। अगर विचार नहीं करेंगे तो लोगों के sentiments खत्म होंगे और तब नक्सलवादी लोग जो कहते हैं कि हमको पार्लियामेंट नहीं चाहिए, हमको लोक सभा नहीं चाहिए, उनकी इस बात का जवाब देने के लिए हमको यहां बैठना पड़ेगा, क्योंकि उनकी समस्याएं खत्म नहीं होती हैं, वे जहां हैं, वहीं रहते हैं। वे जिस घर में पैदा होते हैं, जिस झोंपड़ी में पैदा होते हैं, वहीं उसका दादा, पोता, नाती, नातिन सब मर जाते हैं, लेकिन उनकी समस्याओं के बारे में हम कुछ भी नहीं कर पाते हैं। तो, सर, उनके बारे में हमको यहां विचार करना पड़ेगा। हम लोग यहां बैठेंगे, विचार करेंगे कि नक्सलवादियों की क्या समस्या है, तो वह खत्म हो जाएगी। हम लोग अगर दिल से चाहेंगे, हम लोग उनसे प्रार्थना करेंगे, बात करेंगे, विचार करेंगे तो उनकी समस्या खत्म हो जाएगी। आज पानी के लिए झगड़ा हो रहा है। हमने कहा चेरमैन साहब को, तो बोले कि यह स्टेट का विषय है। पानी का विषय स्टेट का कैसे हो सकता है? मुझको अगर हवा लेनी है, तो यह स्टेट का विषय कैसे हो सकता है? यह तो आम लोगों की समस्या है, लेकिन आप कहते हैं कि स्टेट का सबजेक्ट है। तो सर, इसके बारे में हम लोगों को लेंथ में बात करनी पड़ेगी।

अगर length से बात नहीं करेंगे, तो फिर आए दिन हम लोगों को जरूर पछताना पड़ेगा और जो समस्याएं बक रही हैं, पूरे प्रदेश में जो हलचल मच रही है, माओवादी और नक्सलाइट आ रहे हैं, हमें उन लोगों को lesson देना होगा कि हम आपकी समस्याओं के बारे में बात करते हैं, हम ठीक से बात करते हैं, इसके बारे में हमें उनको lesson देना होगा।

इसलिए मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करते हुए इस हाउस से अनुरोध करता हूं, आप लोगों से और सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूं कि इसका अमेंडमेंट आना चाहिए, number of days बढ़ने चाहिए और जो 6 महीने का intervening period रखा है, उसको थोड़ा और कम करना चाहिए तथा हम लोगों को बोलने की पूरी आजयदी होनी चाहिए। बहुत लोग तो यहां 6 बरस रहते हैं, वे अपना मुंह तक नहीं खोल पाते हैं, क्योंकि उनको हाथ उठाने की आदत ही नहीं होती है। वे अपना मुंह तक नहीं खोल पाते हैं और चले जाते हैं, पता नहीं आए या गए। हम लोग तो थोड़ा लड़ने-झगड़ने वाले आदमी हैं, हाथ उठाया, फिर उठाया, तीन-चार बार हाथ उठाया। हम थोड़ा लड़ने-झगड़ने वाले आदमी हैं, इसलिए कभी उधर गए, झुककर प्रणाम किया, कमर झुकाकर प्रणाम किया और पूछा कि मेरा नंबर कब आएगा? यह कोई चैरिटी नहीं है, we have got right, हमारा fundamental right है कि हम पार्लियामेंट में बोलेंगे, लेकिन आपने कानून से ऐसा बांध दिया कि आपके पास समय ही नहीं है, आपने कानून से बांध दिया है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह बहुत अच्छा अमेंडमेंट है और इसे लाने के लिए मैं महेन्द्र जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। आप इसके बारे में जरूर विचार करिए, सोचिए और नए परिवेश में, नए आयाम में इसका फैसला करिए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Mahendra Mohanji who brought about this Bill in the House to focus the attention of the House, all the Members of Parliament, the Government and the people, at large, about the need to have quality debate and meaningful debate in the Parliament and the State Legislatures. Sir, in a Parliamentary system of Government, the Parliament is an institution through which the yearnings, the aspirations of the people manifest themselves through their elected representatives. What happens outside is given vent to by the Members in the Parliament or the State Legislatures. And, what, in fact, the Parliament or the State Legislatures discuss become a subject matter of

3.00 P.M.

discussion outside. This we have seen since the advent of or the introduction of the television in the two Houses, the live telecasting of the proceedings of the two Houses which do attract people's attention.

Sir, democracy gives wings to the wingless. People who are downtrodden, who were ignored, who were exploited for generations have now been given a voice, and that voice is the voice of democracy. They come to Parliament, they go to the State Legislatures and express and fight for what their constituents want. And, therefore, there is no denying the fact that we all have to put our heads together to see that the Parliament and the State Legislatures become a meaningful vehicle for democracy to move forward. And, it is with this spirit that this Bill has been introduced by Shri Mahendra Mohanji. Besides him, I thank all the other hon. Members who participated in this discussion with seriousness and sincerity. And, Sir, the discussion which has gone over for more than four hours, in fact, reflects the urge which has otherwise been expressed through the letter of this Amendment Bill.

That is, we must have serious discussion on any matter which comes before us. Through my own experience for all these days here, I find that the level of discussion that has taken place on this Bill, in fact, should become a trend-setter for our quality of debate on any other matter that comes before the House. Therefore, I thank the hon. Members, Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shri Sarkar, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Shri Mohammad Shafi, Dr. Natchiappan, Shri Kalraj Mishra, Shri T. Siva, Shri Shreegopal Vyas, Shri Rajeev Shukla, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, Dr. Keshava Rao, and today, Shri Rajniti Prasad. Without any exception, Sir, all the hon. Members who participated in this discussion have pointed to the need of making our deliberations more meaningful. And, for that, it has been felt that it is the number of days for which the Parliament sits that needs to be increased. Sir, I would come to that point and express the viewpoint of the Government before the House.

What I would again want to emphasise is, why are we asking for that? I began by that and I again immediately refer to that point, and, maybe, for adding emphasis to that I refer to that repeatedly. Why are we asking that the Constitution should be amended, for Parliament, to sit for at least 100 days? Why are we asking for it? Because, we have felt that over the years—and that is a cause of concern for each one of us, a cause of concern for all the protagonists of democracy, for people who believe in democracy as really a charter of faith. It is a cause of concern for each one of us that the standard of our debate over the years has deteriorated. We must accept that.

And, I am sure, that is what has led all the hon. Members to participate in this discussion. Therefore, it has been, perhaps, felt that we must increase the number of days of sitting because statistics are given and nobody can find fault with those statistics that over the years the number of

actual sittings in the two Houses has come down. That is a matter of fact. Why so? I would try to explain it a little later. But, I am coming to a basic point. I feel that the first concern of each one of us is not for how many days to sit but as to what is the quality of business that we transact. That is the most important thing. Today, my hon. friends would forgive me if I say — of course, that was the sentiment echoed by some of the hon. Members who participated in the discussion also; I particularly recall Mohammad Shafiji in that regard; he said, over the years, our credibility with the people has gone down. I earlier said that people watch the television with interest. Some Members are of the view that people turn off or switch off, they would not go for this channel because what they find here, they can find that anywhere on a street.

Therefore, I think, our primary concern has got to be to convince the people that howsoever or how long we sit, we make maximum use of every minute of this House. Sir, it is in this connection; maybe, I come to that later; I must hasten to add that I respect the sentiment with which this Bill has been moved, the concern with which this has been expressed by the hon. Member, Shri Mahendra Mohanji. But, Sir, if I were to just give, again, the statistics, I think, it would be a little impractical to make it mandatory in the Constitution that the Parliament must have at least a hundred days of sitting. I do not doubt and I do not dispute that we must try to work for a situation where we meet for a hundred days and we work hard for all those hundred days. But, Sir, to make a provision in the Constitution may not be desirable because, what happens at times is, that for days together, not always but some times that is there, the Parliament is unable to meet.

It is because of some strong sentiments which prevail or one could say that would lead to a situation where the sound of democracy prevails over the reason of democracy. In fact, in an ideal democracy, it is the reason of democracy which should prevail over the sound. That leads to disruptions. That leads to adjournments after adjournments. Then, we see what critical or adverse comments that we have from outside, media and everybody else in the country and if a situation like that were to happen, would you just say that we come to the House, just to mark our presence outside in the register, meet here only to adjourn and we say we have had one day's sitting? Do we want hundred days' sittings like this in the House? Would people not be more critical of us? Will they not turn more sceptical about the working of the Parliament and the system as such?

Therefore, the first thing is that we must convince the people that whatever be the number of days we sit, we transact business. We take care of the sentiments of the people. I know, people would say, whenever we raise our voice here, it is to express the sentiments of the people. But, in a democracy — Parliament in particular — we have to discuss matters here. When we contest elections, when we go to the people, we say, 'vote for me, send me to the Parliament. I would

represent you. I would take up your cause.’ How are we able to take up the cause when the Parliament does not sit and the Parliament has to be repeatedly adjourned for whatever reasons?

Therefore, our first primary resolve is that we all have to really work today; we ensure that the Parliament works. There are ways of expressing our differences of opinion and differences of opinion have to be expressed in the best possible ways and when I was a student at school I remember when I used to read newspapers, about 45 or 50 years ago, walk-out was considered to be the most potent weapon of expressing or registering your protest, your concern against the policies of the Government. If the Opposition felt that the Government was not receptive or responsive to what the Opposition said, they would stage a walk-out. They would go out for a minute, come back and join the deliberations again. Why should we not do that? I think, that is a perfectly valid tool that the Members have in their hands to express their opposition to the Government’s views. It is only through discussion; it is only when we hear each other’s views that we will be able to influence the Government. You can somehow see that your point makes some impact on the others who get to hear you. But, if we only adjourn and if we only shout in the House saying that, ‘we will not let the House run,’ — I am sorry, I should not be taken anywhere to mean that I am representing a particular party when I talk of this — I am talking here now about the sanctity of the working of the Parliament. This is the greatness of our democracy. Perhaps we are the only country in the world, in this side of the world where Governments change in the most peaceful manner. Such a big functional democracy which has made us to be recognised as a power, by the most powerful nations of the world, it is only because of that strong functional democracy that India is! It is the idea of India that strikes everybody. Therefore, it becomes our foremost duty; it becomes our sacred duty to see that the business is conducted. Once that happens a question would arise, ‘yes, we need more days’.

Today perhaps, as I said, if there is a provision in the Constitution that we have to sit for hundred days, come to think of it, Sir, the House is repeatedly adjourned and a finding comes somewhere, ‘well we have not sat for hundred days, what would be the consequence thereof. That means the Constitution has not been followed in letter and spirit’. That Constitution has been violated if we have not sat for hundred days and in this context, Sir, the provision that our founding fathers while framing the Constitution incorporated, I think, was with a foresight. That provision is article 85. I will only read, “The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one Session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.”

It is not that we are just following the Constitution in its letter and spirit. If we are following that, after one Session, we need not meet for six months. That is not the position. For all these years, what has come to be known as the Budget Session — the Parliament meets first for the Budget Session — then we have the Monsoon Session and the Winter Session, though these words do not find mention anywhere. But, that is how we describe these three Sessions. I have seen over the years that not more than three months have ever lapsed between any two Session. The Constitution asks for six months. All the Governments that I have seen have not taken more than three months between two Sessions. Sometimes, as we have seen recently, we have called the next Session even before the lapse of two months.

So, Sir, if any business is to be transacted by the Government, it has to come to Parliament. Without coming to Parliament or without getting the nod of Parliament, the Government cannot make legislation. Without coming to Parliament, we cannot get the Budget passed. The expenditure of the Government has to be voted by Parliament for the entire machinery to function in the country. And, therefore, the Government has to come to Parliament. But, then we have to see what the business before the House is. As per the exigencies of the Government business, we have been meeting more often than what the Constitution provides for. If the Constitution mandates that we must sit for 100 days, Sir, I would only request our hon. Members to think how it reflects. What kind of situation would arise in that case? And, I would be referring to that. Similarly, there is a provision — needless to say — for the State Assemblies.

I come to the first point regarding quality. I want to emphasize and the hon. Members have said that for a meaningful discussion on the matters of urgent public importance Parliament must function smoothly. Shri Mahendra Mohanji himself has emphasized upon the need to maintain the prestige and dignity of Parliament. It has been said that since the Government is accountable to the people through their elected representatives in Parliament, we must have very fruitful discussions here and it is lamented by Members that many times legislation are passed without any discussion. One important thing, which I have experienced myself over the years, is our Members work conscientiously to make a small draft, as required by the rules, for their Special Mentions. They never get a chance to read that out here and, invariably, it has become the practice of laying it on the Table of the House. That is the point which Shri Matilal Sarkar referred to. Dr. Najma Heptullah, who had the distinction of presiding over this House for many, many long years, dwelt at length about the past and the present and said that the number of Member of both the Houses should also be increased. All these points have been made.

Though I wish to refer to every hon. Member individually, I may be pardoned for not referring in detail to what the hon. Members have said. I have taken note of all those points, as I said, seriously. The level of debate was, indeed, very high. Sir, due to time constraint, I would not like

to refer to those in detail. But, I would only like to make two points which I was referring to. Firstly, I would like to bring it on record that the time we have taken; or, the people outside call the time that has been wasted by both the Houses. In this short Session also — and I should not be taken a miss again — in four days only Rajya Sabha lost 12 hours.

In the last Session, in six days alone, Sir, Rajya Sabha lost ten hours. Now, ten hours are equivalent to two days work. Sir, I will quickly give a reference to the adjournments of Lok Sabha due to interruptions. Indeed, I have a very long list for each Lok Sabha Session, but I would read out just the percentage : Number of hours lost : 10 hours, 15 minutes in one Session; 45 hours and 26 minutes, five hours, 34 hours, eight hours, 26 hours, 33 hours, 33 hours, 24 hours, 40 hours, 26 hours, 40 hours, 19 hours and 33 hours, ranging between 5.9, that is, 6 per cent to as much as 31.5 per cent of the total time.

Obviously, with the freedom of Press, with the strength, the vibrancy that we see in our Press, this news would attract the greatest attention. And, immediately, the calculation is done in terms of money lost, money wasted. I do not know how the calculation has been carried out. Perhaps, the total Budget of the two Houses of Parliament for the year is divided by 365 days to make it one day and then divided by, perhaps, five hours or six hours to work out the cost of one hour. Because the entire staff, the entire logistics is there only for Parliament to run; otherwise, there would be no need. Therefore, this has to be worked out that way. Whether Parliament is, actually, in Session or not, the cost has to be worked out that way, I think. And, that is how, perhaps, it has been worked out. I read in the papers the other day that it, perhaps, comes to Rs.14,00,000/- per hour. Obviously, the people would be critical of this, if time is lost. Sir, I have the entire details with me about all the Sessions, as to how much time was wasted and what the percentage is. In certain cases, even in Rajya Sabha, I now find, — this is my original House, Sir. I began my career as a Member of Parliament from here — that 46 per cent of the time was lost, 45 per cent of the time was lost. This is one aspect, Sir, which I want to highlight, I want to flag for building up my argument.

Having said that, Sir, I would like to just come to the practicality of time. Sir, you would appreciate that in 52 weeks of the year, there are 104 Saturdays and Sundays. Out of 365 days, 104 days knocked off. Then, there are 22 Gazetted holidays. And, Sir, now after the introduction of the Committee system that we have and which has been appreciated all over because in the Committees, it is the experience of each one of us that we cut across party lines and discuss the issues threadbare. There was no Committee system, when I came here and the Parliament used to be summoned in February for the Budget Session and the Session would go up to the end of May. Now, we do not do that because after the first part of the Budget Session, after having a general discussion on the General Budget, the general discussion on the Railway Budget, etc. the

House is adjourned. It is in those 28 days I was working out the number of those days, that we have a meaningful discussion in the Committees. Therefore, Committees are there to sit, deliberate and discuss not only the new year's Demands for Grants, but, at the same time, to also discuss the Performance Budget, the Outcome Budget, the programmes of the Government, how the money was utilised last year and what money a particular Department is asking for this year.

All these things are discussed there. I think, in my own view, 28 days is not a long period for that and, that also if you sit everyday. Unfortunately, we do not. Here, we want 100 days sitting should be there. There, we say, Sir, well, if today we have had a sitting of that Committee, we can adjourn and meet after three, four days.

Sir, I say, if the Committees have to meet regularly, then also, in this period, it cannot be not less than 28 days. I would reduce 28 days; from a month, I will take out 8 days — those are Saturdays and Sundays again. So, the Committees must have, at least, 20 sittings to present a report which would be the basis of our further voting on the Demands for Grants.

Sir, 104 days plus 22 days Gazetted holidays plus these 20 days, which I say should be the working days for the Committees, takes us to 150 days or so. After that, Sir, if you have the 100 days' sittings, all right, it goes to 255 days, 250 days. Now, Sir, look at the House today. How many times, Sir, we do not have the number of Members present in the House that we need? Why? Not that they are always playing truant. Sir, when the Members of Parliament come from their Constituencies to Delhi, they have lot many other matters to attend to. They have to go to — whether they come for the Session or whether they come for the meetings of the Committee — the various offices; they have to visit the Ministers to take up the cause of their constituencies, and, Sir, also during the Inter-Session period, they have to go to their constituencies.

We all receive calls here every day about every matter. In a developing society, it has got to be so. People expect everything from the Member of Parliament. The expectations are high. You are wanted to be present on everything that in the village, in the constituency is taking place, and, therefore, Members need time for that also. They have to go to their constituencies; they have to attend to their work there. Every Member of the Parliament, irrespective of the party, irrespective of the place where he comes from, feels that he is always running short of time. He is to attend to the Parliament; he has to go to his constituency; and this is particularly more difficult for the Members who come from far off areas. They have to go to the constituency, rush back; go back again; come back again. This is how they have to keep doing. Therefore, it, Sir, cannot really be practical for us to have 100 days' sittings today. 100 days was all right when I said there were no Committee sittings for those 20 days. Now, you add those 20 days or you subtract those now for a moment. 100 days is the demand. Sir, the Committees

have those 20 days' sittings. I am not yet coming to the other time when the Committees meet during the inter-session period.

I will be referring to that very shortly, Sir. I am taking firstly only during the Session period, only during the Budget Session period when they meet for those 20 days. Is that not supposed to be part of that? It is because all the Members are meeting in one Committee or the other. Is not that doing the work of the Parliament? That is the most important work we are doing. When this Committee system was not there, we take that figure to say that that was a time when we were meeting for so many days. It is said like this.

Therefore, Sir, I feel that if we want the Committee system to be strengthened, we have to emphasise more on the work, on the quality of work that the Committees are also undertaking.

Besides these Committees, Sir, there are so many other bodies. Every day we are moving those motions for election for sending our Members to those Committees. During the short experience that I have had in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, what I found is that every Member has got to be a Member of a Standing Committee, has got to be a Member of a Consultative Committee; and it is mandatory that every Consultative Committee meets at least four times a year during the Session period, during the inter-session period. Our endeavour is that we meet more during the inter-session period so that the Members can come and we can have good meaningful discussions during that time.

Besides that, Sir, every Member is the Member of one or the other Government body in whatever form; and besides that there are various House Committees, the Estimates Committee, etc. Imagine the work, the amount of work that the Estimates Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Committee and all other Committees have to do. Voluminous records come to you. The Members have to study those before they have come to participate in the discussions there. Is that not the parliamentary work? Then, there are so many other Committees that we have here. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation, which somebody feels, perhaps, is not that important. If we apply our mind slightly to it, Sir, how important that Committee is! In every Act, there is a provision that the Government has to frame rules under the Act and place those before the Parliament.

And, unless the Parliament clears those, they don't become rules. And then there are the Subordinate Legislation Committees supposed to be looking into delegated legislations. There is a plethora of laws which is much more than the voluminous work that we have in the form of Parliament Acts, that we have in the form of the delegated legislations.

If Subordinate Legislation Committee has to work on that, just think what amount of work they have. The ultimate idea is, people have sent us as their representatives to the Parliament;

what do we do here? That is the question that we have to answer. That answer, I suppose, is not really provided by only increasing the number of days. Sir, as I said, I appreciate the spirit. I just cannot differ on that; we have to go in for more days. I have seen different parts of the world. Once, immediately after the demise of the then Soviet Union, I was sent by this Parliament to go and interact with the newly elected members of Khazakistan for one week. The first thing that they did, without really having much idea about the Parliamentary system, was that it was made a whole time business. Like a Government servant, once you are elected, you are in the Parliament only and there is nothing else to do. We cannot have a system like that. As I said, we are wanted in our constituencies always. There are so many demands on our time and our energy otherwise, on tasks which, as representatives of people, we are supposed to be performing.

Therefore, given the nuances, given the peculiarities of our democracy, of the system in which we work, I think, our system is working well. Nevertheless, every endeavour must always be made and I am at one with that, that we must first take it upon ourselves. Let me sum it up. Shri Rajniti Prasad lamented over the loss of Question Hour every day. Now, I have been a Member for all these years and have been in Government only recently. I have also always felt bad about one thing. As a Minister perhaps one feels all right if the Question Hour is knocked out, but Question Hour is one time when you really test the Ministers. That is the time when we can talk of accountability, when we can talk of extracting something from the Government. The Question Hour is that important a tool in the democratic system. Every day, the first casualty that we find is the Question Hour. For anything, we want the Question Hour to be suspended. Now, Question Hour is not Government business; it is the Members' business. But everyday, the first thing that happens is, we want the Question Hour to go. I have seen now as Minister in the Government; when we were talking of the costs involved, for one Starred Question sometimes we have to call people or officers from all over the country.

Some question is formulated in such a language that to elicit or collect information, one person may have to be called from Kolkata, another from Chennai and yet another from Pune. We have to call those officers here to prepare for the Questions. They come with their records. How much money goes waste on that if the Question is not taken up in the Parliament, Sir? So, why should we not first resolve that Question Hour shall never be wasted; that come what may, we shall stick to the Question Hour? Let us prove that for the world; let us prove that to the people; then we can ask for something more than that. Thereafter, comes the Zero Hour. Now, when I was talking of the sound of democracy and the reason of democracy, this is the Hour when we can even exhibit our sounds!

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Question Hour is Members' Hour.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आप अनुमति दें तो मैं कुछ कहूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Don't make a speech now

श्री कलराज मिश्र : इन्होंने अभी जो बात कही, मैं समझता हूँ कि जब सभी सम्मानित सदस्यों ने इस विधेयक पर चर्चा की थी, आप उसकी स्पिरिट पर जाइए। हमने यह कहा कि इसकी अवधि कम से कम सौ दिन होनी चाहिए। सौ दिन के अंदर कौन-कौन क्या, किस प्रकार की समस्याओं को लेता है और सरकार कौन सा बिजनेस लाती है, इसके ऊपर आधारित रहता है। यह ठीक है, आपने कहा है कि सौ दिन हैं, उसमें होता क्या है, आपने सारी खामियाँ गिनाई कि लोग चलने नहीं देते, कम से कम होता है, यह एक अलग विषय है। इसके बारे में अलग से बैठकर विचार कीजिए। आपने कमेटी सिस्टम की बात कही है। कमेटी सिस्टम ठीक है, लेकिन कमेटी सिस्टम और यहां का बैठना, इसमें बहुत फर्क होता है। कमेटी के अंतर्गत क्या discuss होता है, यह आपने बताया है, लेकिन यहां तो सामान्य जन समस्याओं के साथ-साथ कानून बनाने तक की सारी बातें हैं। यहां सिर्फ गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस का ही प्रश्न नहीं है। गवर्नमेंट बिजनेस और उसके साथ-साथ आज की समस्याओं के बारे में व्यापक तौर पर चर्चा, ये सारी चीजें हैं, इसलिए यदि आप इसको एक साथ न जोड़ें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। यह मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि हम लोगों ने इस पर कार्य किया है। हमने कई देशों का और यहां का उदाहरण देते हुए भी कहा है। मैं केवल इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरीके से माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी बात कही है, इससे तो लोगों को लगेगा कि संख्या और कम करनी चाहिए। क्योंकि लोग करने नहीं देना चाहते हैं। इससे तो बड़ा खतरनाक हो जाएगा। पार्लियामेंट के साथ-साथ विधान सभाओं की जो हालत बनी हुई है, वह तो बिल्कुल 4 दिन, 5 दिन की हो गई है। मेरा यह कहना है कि जहाँ तक सम्मानित सदस्यों का प्रश्न है, इनके बारे में अलग से बैठ कर विचार करें।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : सर, मैं उनका धन्यवाद करता हूँ कि आज उन्होंने फिर उन बातों का जिक्र किया है। मैं फिर यह कह रहा हूँ कि मैं उनसे सहमत हूँ और उन भावनाओं की कद्र करता हूँ। शायद इसी बात पर हम सब कह रहे हैं, लेकिन मैं इतना मतभेद जरूर रखता हूँ कि सिर्फ यह कहना कि संविधान में इस चीज का प्रावधान कर लेना कि कम-से-कम 100 दिन यहाँ हाजिरी जरूर लगनी चाहिए, यह वाजिब नहीं होगा। जब तक हम इस बात के लिए लोगों को बिल्कुल स्पष्ट तौर पर बता नहीं देते कि 100 दिन में हम इतना काम करते हैं, तब तक यह वाजिब नहीं है। मेरी किसी बात से आप किसी तरह यह निचोड़ नहीं निकाल सकते कि मैं कम दिनों की बात कर रहा हूँ। आपने आखिरी में एक बात यह भी साथ में कह दी, जिससे बाहर ऐसा विचार जाएगा कि शायद मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि जितने दिन मिलते हैं, वे भी सही नहीं हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता। लेकिन बेशक जो हो रहा है और जो होता रहा है, मैं आज के लिए नहीं कह रहा हूँ, हम भी उधर थे, यह हमेशा से होता रहा है, उसके लिए लोग बाहर यही कहने के लिए बेबस हैं। यह आज हमारे सदस्यों ने कहा है।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : इस पर अलग से विचार कीजिए।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : यह हमारे सदस्यों ने कहा है कि हमारी credibility बाहर कम हो रही है। हम आँखें बन्द करके नहीं बैठ सकते। हमें इस बात पर विचार करना होगा कि ऐसा क्यों है, लेकिन मैं उस बात पर नहीं जा रहा हूँ। मैं कहता हूँ कि वह ठीक है, जैसा आप कह रहे हैं, लेकिन उसके साथ-साथ हमें जिक्र करना होगा, अगर हम ज्यादा दिन की बात करते हैं। मैंने दोनों ढंग से कहा है। अगर हम कमेटी में पूरा काम करना चाहते हैं, उसके बाद हम 80 दिन भी, सर, मैंने अभी तक दिन नहीं बताया था, लेकिन मैं आपको बताऊँ, अगर आप हिसाब लगाएंगे, तो तीन सेशन के बीच मैंने आपको जो दिन गिनाए, जिसमें 104 दिन Saturdays and Sundays, उसके बाद 22 छुट्टियाँ Gazetted Holidays, 20 दिन एक सेशन के बीच में, इस तरह 22 और 20 मिल कर 42 हुए और 42 और 104 मिल कर 146 दिन तो सिर्फ यही होते हैं। बाद में जब कमेटी मिलती है, मैं उस बात का जिक्र नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन शायद अब वह भी कहना जरूरी होगा कि हम एक कमेटी के बाद 7-8 दिन का

period क्यों डाल देते हैं, आप कमेटी में जाकर कभी बात कीजिए। हमें वे रूल बदल देने होंगे, अगर उनके लिए कोई जरूरत है। जब कमेटी की एक मीटिंग होती है, तो हम कहते हैं कि 8 दिन बाद अगली तारीख दीजिए। हम ऐसा क्यों कहते हैं? जब हम कमेटी में बैठते हैं, तो 4 दिन में इकट्ठा काम निबटा क्यों नहीं देते हैं? सर, मैं यहाँ एक बात का जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ, यह बहुत आवश्यक बात है। कितने दिन होंगे, इसके लिए गवर्नमेंट के पास बिजनेस क्या है, वह जरूरी है। जब से 15वीं लोक सभा शुरू हुई है, मेरी बात को और ढंग से नहीं लीजिए, 10 विधेयक स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज के पास गए हैं, उनमें से अभी तक एक की भी रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है। मान लीजिए अगर हम यहाँ 100 दिन के लिए सेशन लिख भी देंगे, यह तो मेरा पक्का विश्वास है कि इसके लिए Constitution की जरूरत नहीं है, सरकार इसके बिना भी ऐसा कर सकती है, 100 दिन इसके बिना भी बुलाए जा सकते हैं। संविधान हमें कहीं नहीं रोकता कि आप 100 दिन के लिए नहीं मिलिए, संविधान हमें नहीं रोकता कि आप 150 दिन के लिए नहीं मिलिए। मान लीजिए कि हम 100 दिन के लिए सेशन बुलाएँ, लेकिन अगर हमारे पास यहाँ विधेयक नहीं होंगे, स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज से विधेयक नहीं आए होंगे, स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज नहीं मिल सकेंगी, क्योंकि यहाँ सेशन चल रहा है, तो पार्लियामेंट काम क्या करेगी? यह मैं मानता हूँ कि बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय आते हैं, जो सिर्फ विधेयकों के जरिए नहीं आते। माननीय सदस्य अपनी- अपनी जगह से ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव के जरिए, Short Duration Discussion के जरिए, क्वेश्चन ऑवर के जरिए, Half an Hour Discussion के जरिए, हमारी प्रणाली में हमारे पास कितने और तरीके हैं, उनके जरिए हम उन बातों को उठाना चाहते हैं। उनके लिए समय चाहिए। मैं आपको यह विश्वास दिला सकता हूँ कि जब भी प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स किसी चीज के लिए समय चाहेंगे, वह समय नहीं रोका जाएगा। हम विधेयक के लिए समय और बढ़ाते रहेंगे। हम विधेयक के लिए आपके पास आकर दरखास्त करते रहेंगे। सर, यह बहुत बार हुआ है। जब Business Advisory Committee में यह महसूस किया जाता है कि समय कम है, आप पिछला रेकार्ड निकाल कर देखिए, कितनी बार सेशन का समय और बढ़ा दिया गया, क्योंकि हाउस के सामने जो बिजनेस था, वह पूरा नहीं हो पाया था। अगर Business Advisory Committee महसूस करती है कि समय और चाहिए, तो हाउस का समय बढ़ जाता है। इसे बढ़ाने के लिए संविधान की जरूरत नहीं है, मैं यह बात फिर कहता हूँ। उसमें कम-से-कम, न्यूनतम दिया हुआ है। उसमें तो यह दिया हुआ है कि छः महीने के अन्दर मिले। कलराज मिश्र जी कहते हैं कि काफी हो गया। मैं माफी चाहता हूँ, अगर मैंने समय ज्यादा ले लिया। मैं यही बात कहता हूँ कि सरकार चाहती है कि हर कोशिश हो कि जो-जो विषय आते रहे हैं, उन पर हाउस में एक अच्छी बहस हो और हाउस अच्छा चले। यह इस बार भी होता रहा है। मैम्बर्स discussion के लिए जो विषय देते रहे हैं, हम उन्हें ज्यादातर लगाते रहे हैं।

मैं आपकी भावनाओं के साथ सहमत हूँ। मैं श्री महेन्द्र मोहन जी से दरखास्त करता हूँ कि वह इस विधेयक को वापस लें, जो कि एक संवैधानिक संशोधन विधेयक है। वह जानते हैं कि इसके लिए प्रावधान है और क्या-क्या प्रावधान हैं, इस बारे में भी वह जानते हैं। सरकार की हमेशा यह हर संभव कोशिश रहेगी कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा दिन और ध्येय के साथ हम ऐसा कार्य करके दिखाते रहें, जिससे सभी कहें कि हां, हमें सौ दिन का सेशन चाहिए। हम एक ऐसा माहौल बना कर रखें कि सौ दिन में सार्थक तौर पर काम कर पाएं। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं श्री महेन्द्र मोहन जी एवं अन्य सभी सदस्यों का, जिन्होंने इस बहस में हिस्सा लिया, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सर्वप्रथम तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का आभार प्रकट करना चाहूंगा, लेकिन मैं दो लाइनों में इतना भी कहना चाहूंगा -

सिर्फ हंगामा खड़ा करना मेरा मकसद नहीं था।
मेरी कोशिश है कि सूरत बदलनी चाहिए॥

माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो कुछ भी अभी कहा है, मैं उससे बिल्कुल भी सहमत नहीं हूँ। जब संविधान बनाया गया था, अगर उसमें यही उचित समझा जाता कि 46 दिन की बैठकों से ही कार्य चल सकता है, तो संभवतः 1952 से लेकर 1974 तक हमेशा 100 दिन से अधिक बैठकें न हुई होती। वे बैठकें बहुत अच्छे रूप में हुईं, जिनमें बहुत अच्छी बहस हुई। जब समय ही नहीं होता है, तो बहस कहाँ होगी?

मैं उस मुद्दे पर अभी अलग से जाऊंगा, लेकिन सर्वप्रथम मैं अपने उन सभी साथियों का आभार प्रकट करना चाहूंगा, जिन्होंने इस विधेयक की चर्चा में भाग लिया। मैं श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक जी, श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया जी, श्री मतिलाल सरकार जी, श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी जी, श्री मोहम्मद शफी जी, डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा हेपतुल्ला जी, डा. सुदर्शन नाच्चीयप्पन जी, श्री कलराज मिश्र जी, श्री प्रवीण राष्ट्रपाल जी, श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास जी, श्री राजीव शुक्ल जी, श्री तिरुची शिवा जी, डा. के. केशव राव जी एवं साथ ही श्री राजनीति प्रसाद जी का बहुत आभार प्रकट करता हूँ, जिन्होंने पार्टी लाइन से अलग हो कर इस विधेयक का समर्थन किया। मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं आ रही है कि जब सभी पार्टियों से सभी सांसद इस विधेयक के समर्थन में हैं, तो सरकार क्यों ऐसा रास्ता अपना रही है कि ये बैठकें नहीं बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए? मंत्री महोदय ने गिनाया कि 365 दिन में 124 दिन निकल जाते हैं, तो 241 दिन बचते हैं। सेशन को कॉल करने में अगर 20 दिन का अंतर होता है, तो 40 दिन निकल गए, इस तरह 201 दिन बचते हैं। कमेटी की कार्यवाहियों के बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि कमेटी में बहुत सी चर्चाएं होती हैं, बहुत सी बातें होती हैं, बहुत सी रिक्मेंडेशन्स आती हैं। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उन कमेटीज के बारे में शायद यहां पर बैठे हुए संसद सदस्यों को और लोक सभा में बैठे हुए संसद सदस्यों को पता भी नहीं चल पाता है कि कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में से एक-दो अंश स्वीकार करके बाकी रिजैक्ट कर दिया जाता है और बातें समाप्त हो जाती हैं। जब यहां पर चर्चा होती है, तो वह चर्चा जनता तक पहुंचती है। कमेटी की चर्चाएं जनता तक नहीं पहुंचती हैं। जनता को पता नहीं चलता है कि कमेटियों में क्या चर्चाएं की गईं।

मंत्री जी ने कहा कि शायद मेरा इस विधेयक को लाने का उद्देश्य drawing of the attention of the Government or public था, किन्तु यह सच नहीं है। मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि क्वालिटी डिबेट होनी चाहिए, लेकिन क्वालिटी डिबेट के लिए समय भी तो होना चाहिए। जब बिज़नेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी मिलती है, तो वह महंगाई के ऊपर चार घंटे की चर्चा का समय एलोकेट करती है। इस देश की महंगाई पर क्या हम चार घंटे में चर्चा कर सकते हैं? इस प्रकार हम इस पर विचार करें कि कितना समय, किस कार्य के लिए दे रहे हैं।

Loss of hours के लिए उन्होंने कहा कि due to interruption, 40 लाख रुपये प्रति घंटा के हिसाब से कॉस्ट आती है। जब हम 365 दिनों को घंटों में डिवाइड करके इस कॉस्ट को निकालते हैं, तो हमें उसका सदुपयोग भी करना चाहिए कि अधिक से अधिक दिन बैठकें हों। इंटरप्शन तो आज भी होते हैं, आज से पहले भी होते रहे हैं, जब मंत्री जी उस तरफ बैठते थे, तब भी होते थे और आज यहां बैठे हैं, तब भी होते हैं। इंटरप्शन हमेशा हुआ करते हैं। लेकिन इसका अर्थ यह तो नहीं है कि हम मुद्दों पर चर्चा ही नहीं करें और मुद्दों पर कोई बात ही नहीं करें और इसके लिए समय ही नहीं रखें। मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि 1952 से 1974 तक जब 100 दिन से अधिक बैठकें हुआ करती थीं, तो कोई गलत कार्य किया जाता था।

पार्लियामेंट की एवं विधायिका की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि आज एकजीक्यूटिव पावर के ऊपर हमारा एक अंकुश होना चाहिए। जो कार्य करने वाले लोग हैं, उन पर अंकुश होना चाहिए। इस पार्लियामेंट के लिए सरकार की जवाबदेही होनी चाहिए। जब हम इस काम के लिए अधिक बैठेंगे, तो शायद उनकी जवाबदेही भी और अधिक बढ़ जाएगी। इसीलिए जो भी सत्ता पक्ष में बैठा होगा, वह यह चाहेगा कि कम से कम दिन बैठकें हों, कम से कम दिन उनके द्वारा की गई चीजों पर चर्चा हो, जिससे उनका क्रिटिसिज्म कम से कम हो और लोगों को

जानकारियां न मिलने पाए। जब 1974 में 119 दिन बैठकें हुई थीं, उसके बाद केवल दो वर्ष ही ऐसे हैं, एक तो 1978, जब 115 दिन बैठकें हुई और एक 1988, जब 102 दिन बैठकें हुई, अन्यथा हमारी हालत आज यह हो गई है कि 2008 में हम केवल 46 दिन ही मिले थे।

आज जबकि हमारी जनसंख्या बढ़ी है, हमारी समस्याएँ बढ़ी हैं, तो क्या यह उचित है कि जो कार्य हम पहले 100 दिनों में सम्पादित कर पाते थे, उसे कम दिनों में कर पायेंगे? सर्वप्रथम सरकार कितनी सीरियस है, यह मैं आपको बताता हूँ। मेरा जो विधेयक है, वह 100 दिनों के लिए नहीं था। मेरा विधेयक था कि 120 दिनों की बैठकें की जानी चाहिए और 65 दिनों के बारे में विधेयक में मैंने लिखा है कि इतने दिन Assemblies की मीटिंग्स होनी चाहिए। इस प्रकार वह 100 दिनों का भी नहीं है, मैं तो 120 दिनों की बैठकों की माँग कर रहा हूँ। मैं आज भी इस बात पर सहमत हूँ कि कम-से-कम 120 दिन मीटिंग्स होनी ही चाहिए, यदि हमें समस्याओं को हल करना है, यदि हमें भारतवर्ष की जनता को अच्छी सुविधाएँ प्रदान करनी हैं, यदि हम चाहते हैं कि इस देश से गरीबी हटे तथा यदि इस देश का हर व्यक्ति शिक्षित हो, तो हमारे लिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि हम अधिक-से-अधिक समय यहाँ दें।

हम लोगों को जो भी पैसे मिलते हैं या जो भी सरकारी खर्चा होता है, जब वह 365 दिनों का होता है, तो हम अपने यहाँ बैठने वाले सांसदों से या लोक सभा में बैठने वाले सांसदों से या राज्यों में बैठने वाले विधायकों से कैसे अधिक-से-अधिक काम लें, किस प्रकार हमारी डिबेट्स और अच्छी हों, किस प्रकार- जैसा राजनीति प्रसाद जी ने कहा, कब एक घंटे का समय हमारे प्रश्नों के लिए तय किया गया था! आज हम 20 प्रश्न क्यों भेजते हैं? अगर सरकार यही चाहती है, तो 20 प्रश्नों को circulate करके, Starred Questions ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्यों नहीं दे जाते हैं? इसका अर्थ यही है कि सरकार यह चाहती है कि उन 20 प्रश्नों के उत्तर यहाँ पर हों तथा उन पर पूरक प्रश्न पूछे जाएँ, ताकि हमारी जो executive power बैठी हुई है, उसके ऊपर जवाबदेही बने, वह सोचे कि वह क्या कार्य कर रही है। लेकिन नहीं, हमारे यहाँ 4 प्रश्न होते हैं या 5 प्रश्न ही होते हैं। आज भी मैं यहाँ बैठा रहा। आठवें नंबर का प्रश्न था, लेकिन सातवें नंबर पर ही समय खत्म हो गया। जब यहाँ पर सांसद नहीं होते हैं तब कहा जाता है कि प्रश्नों को पूछने के लिए सांसद ही नहीं हैं। सांसद भी तैयारी कर के आते हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जैसा अभी कहा कि एक प्रश्न का उत्तर तैयार करने में कितना धन व्यय होता है? लेकिन, अगर उनका लाभ आम जनता तक नहीं पहुँचेगा, तो फिर उन प्रश्नों को पूछे जाने का औचित्य ही क्या है? फिर तो हमें यह कह देना चाहिए कि Question Hour में पाँच प्रश्न ही होंगे, हम Question Hour को और कम करना चाहते हैं। इसे एक घंटा की जगह शायद 15 मिनट ही कर दें तो सरकार का उत्तरदायित्व तथा उसकी जवाबदेही और भी कम हो जाएगी। जब हम 20 Starred Questions रखते हैं, तो हमें किसी भी हालत में, चाहे हमें Question Hour का समय बढ़ाना पड़े या उसके लिए हमें और extension करना पड़े, जिस प्रकार अन्य कार्यों के लिए संसद देर तक बैठती है, उसी प्रकार जब तक 20 प्रश्न पूरे हों या जब तक उनके पूरे उत्तर नहीं हो जाते तब तक Question Hour को समाप्त नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। यह सरकार से मेरा अनुरोध है। इसके लिए Business Advisory Committee में, जहाँ सभी parties के लोग बैठते हैं, उन्हें इस पर निर्णय लेना चाहिए।

यहाँ Question Hour और Calling Attention ही वे चीजें हैं, जिनके माध्यम से हम जनता की समस्याओं को यहाँ उठा सकते हैं। जनता के पास इतनी समस्याएँ हैं, लेकिन मैं यह नहीं समझ पा रहा हूँ, जो मंत्री जी ने कहा कि नहीं साहब, ऐसा तो नहीं हो सकता है और यह सम्भव ही नहीं है। जब हमारी बैठकें ही नहीं होंगी, तो एक अरब के लगभग जो हमारी जनता है, जिसे हमारे ऊपर विश्वास है, जो यह सोचती है कि हम उसकी समस्याओं को यहाँ उठाएँगे, हम उसकी समस्याओं को हल करेंगे, हम महँगाई को समाप्त करेंगे, उसके जीवन-स्तर को, उसके रहने के ढंग को और तौर-तरीकों को आगे बढ़ाएँगे, यह सब कैसे होगा? यहाँ पर किसी भी बात पर हम चर्चा नहीं कर पाते हैं। उसका मुख्य कारण यही है कि हम इतने कम दिन मिलते हैं कि हमारे पास

समय ही नहीं होता है। सर, यहाँ व्यवधान तो होंगे ही। जब जनतंत्र है, तब व्यवधान होंगे। हम उन व्यवधानों को तो रोक नहीं सकते हैं, लेकिन ऐसा भी उचित नहीं है।

हम लोगों ने 23 दिसम्बर, 2008 को 8 विधेयकों को बगैर चर्चा के 17 मिनट में पास कर दिये। क्या हम यह चाहते हैं? तब तो इससे अच्छा यह है कि हम Democracy को समाप्त कर दें और कह दें कि यहाँ Democracy नहीं है। जब 8 विधेयक बगैर चर्चा के पास किए जा सकते हैं तब और विधेयक भी आप बगैर चर्चा के पास कर लीजिए। इन पर चर्चा करने की आवश्यकता ही क्या है? यह निश्चित बात है कि उन पर चर्चा के बावजूद भी होता वही है जो सत्ता पक्ष चाहता है। चाहे इस तरफ वाले सत्ता में बैठे हुए हों या उधर से कोई आकर सत्ता पक्ष में बैठ जाए, लेकिन होना वही है। लेकिन, जब चर्चा होती है तब कमसे-कम लोगों को जानकारीयाँ तो मिलती हैं कि उनके प्रतिनिधि जो यहाँ पर बैठे हुए हैं, उन्होंने उनकी बातों को यहाँ उठाया, उन कठिनाइयों को उठाया।

जहाँ तक माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि सांसदों को अपने क्षेत्रों में रहना होता है, तो उसके लिए शनिवार और इतवार दो दिन मिलते हैं। ऐसी भी क्या बात है? आज यह जो शुक्रवार का दिन है, तो उन्होंने कहा कि यहाँ इतनी कम संख्या है। निश्चित रूप से यह भी एक विचारणीय विषय है और इस पर मैं उनसे सहमत हूँ कि सांसदों को यहाँ पर और अधिक संख्या में उपस्थित होना चाहिए तथा मौजूद रहना चाहिए।

मैं तो यह कहता हूँ कि अटेंडेंस एक बार न की जाए, बल्कि यह सुबह भी की जाए और शाम को भी की जाए। अगर आप सांसद बने हैं तो you should have your duties and you should follow them. It is not that we are only enjoying the privileges and don't want to serve the people for which we have been sent here. यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि यह कार्य कैसे हो, इसको तो आप लोग देखें, लेकिन मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि जब इस बात को सभी पार्टियों का समर्थन है, इसका समर्थन हर सांसद ने किया है तो इसे किया जाए। यह तो हमारे संसद की बात हुई, लेकिन विधान सभाओं की स्थिति और भी खराब है। वहाँ भी यही बात है। जब तक सरकार की जवाबदेही न हो, जो हमारा Executive administration है, उसकी कम से कम जवाबदेही हो तो इसके लिए एक ही तरीका है कि आप संसद का सत्र मत बुलाइये और वहाँ पर विधान सभा के सत्र मत बुलाइये। क्योंकि अगर आप इनका सत्र बुलाएंगे तो फिर आपकी जवाबदेही होगी, आपसे यह पूछा जाएगा कि आपने यह काम कैसे किया, यह काम क्यों नहीं किया? जो संसद पहले 110 दिन और 115 दिन मिला करती थी, वह अब 48 दिन मिल रही है। जो विधान सभाएँ पहले 100 दिन मिलती थीं, आज वे 15 दिन, 16 दिन या कहीं-कहीं 10 दिन ही मिल रही हैं। अगर आप ऐसा ही चाहते हैं तो फिर यह कैसा जनतंत्र है? क्या हम जनतंत्र का मखौल बना रहे हैं? हम जनतंत्र में क्या चाहते हैं? क्या हम जनतंत्र में तानाशाही चाहते हैं? अगर हमें जनतंत्र को कायम रखना है तो हमें इन बैठकों को बढ़ाना होगा। मैं यही चाहूँगा कि हमारे मंत्री महोदय जो यहाँ पर बैठे हुए हैं, वे इस पर पुनर्विचार करें। मेरा उनसे अनुरोध है कि ऐसा कोई नियम नहीं है कि प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिल पास नहीं किये जाते हैं। संविधान के अंतर्गत इसका प्रावधान है और पहले भी यह परिपाटी रही है कि प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिल को पास किया गया है। मैंने केवल हंगामा करने के लिए यह प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिल नहीं रखा है, बल्कि इसके पीछे मेरी भावनाएँ हैं। इसके पीछे केवल मेरी ही भावना नहीं हैं, बल्कि यहाँ पर बैठे हुए सारी पार्टियों के सांसदों की भावना है कि ऐसा बिल आना चाहिए और इसमें अमेंडमेंट होना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही, मैं यह चाहूँगा कि इस अमेंडमेंट को स्वीकार किया जाए और इस बिल को यहाँ पर पारित किया जाए। यदि सत्ता पक्ष इसे पारित नहीं करना चाहता है, इन समस्याओं के प्रति अपने आपको ज्यादा उत्तरदायी बनाना नहीं चाहता है और यदि वह पूरे देश की जनता के प्रति उत्तरदायी नहीं बनना चाहता है तो वह इसे निश्चित रूप से यहाँ गिरा दे। मुझे इसमें कोई एतराज नहीं है। मेरा बहुत सीधा सा विचार है कि इसको पास किया जाना चाहिए और कम से कम 120 दिन पार्लियामेंट की मिटिंग्स हों। मैं यह नहीं जानता कि इसमें कितने लोग आ पाएंगे, उनके और क्या commitments हैं, लेकिन

मैं तो यह मानकर चलता हूँ कि हमारे जितने भी संसद सदस्य हैं, उनमें से अगर 60 प्रतिशत और 70 प्रतिशत भी इसे regularly attend कर लेंगे तो अच्छी debates होंगी। मेरा विचार यह है कि 100 प्रतिशत तो यह कभी भी नहीं हो सकता है। Business Advisory Committee में जो time allocation होता है उसमें हम महँगाई के ऊपर चर्चा के लिए 4 घंटे देते हैं। मुझे हंसी आती है कि इस देश की महँगाई, जिससे एक-एक आम आदमी और गरीब आदमी पीड़ित है, यहाँ पर बैठे हुए लोगों को महँगाई का असर नहीं दिखाई देता है, लेकिन उस गरीब आदमी से पूछिए, जो नौकरी कर रहे हैं, उनसे पूछिए, उस क्लर्क से पूछिए, बैंक के कर्मचारी से पूछिए, किसान से पूछिए जो महँगाई से प्रताड़ित है, वह हंसता है कि इस देश की महँगाई पर चर्चा के लिए केवल 4 घंटे! हमारे पास उनकी समस्याओं को सुलझाने के लिए यह समय है! मैं इन शब्दों के साथ माननीय मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे कृपया इस बिल को पारित करवाने का कष्ट करें। आपने मुझे समय दिया इसके लिए आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, normally, after the hon. Member who initiated the debate or moved the Bill won't have to say anything. Lest I misunderstood, Sir, one point has to be made abundantly clear. I have said that we have to work for that. I have also said that the Government stands for transparency and accountability. I mean, if a conclusion is sought to be drawn from my submission that the Government is shirking away from that, that is far from the truth. It is this Government which introduced the Right to Information Act. And, all that I said was, if we fix the number of days, it can cause Constitutional difficulties and it will compromise with the work of the Committees. I tried to explain as to when the Committees meet, how much time is required. That is all I wish to say, Sir. I would honestly further request the hon. Member, after he has made his points which, of course, we do respect, everybody respects, I only pointed out the practical difficulties in fixing a particular period like hundred days in the Constitution. Therefore, I would request him to withdraw the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Do you accept the spirit of the Bill?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I always, do whatever he says, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Then, Mr. Mohan, why don't you withdraw the Bill?

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : अगर माननीय मंत्री जी यह आश्वासन दे रहे हैं कि वे सरकार की तरफ से इस प्रकार का कोई प्रस्ताव लाएंगे...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, no. Please, please, please. I said that it has to be our endeavour always to keep increasing the number of days. मैंने ऐसा नहीं कहा कि मैं सरकार की तरफ से ऐसा प्रस्ताव लाऊंगा, मैं तो यह बता रहा हूँ कि ऐसा करना व्यावहारिक नहीं होगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Government will try everything possible.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : Govt will try, फिर तो यही होगा जो हो रहा है और यही होता रहेगा क्योंकि कोई भी सरकार, आज यह सरकार है, कल कोई दूसरी सरकार होगी, लेकिन हम यह जानते हैं कि हमारे पूरे देश और प्रदेश की जनता ऐसे ही प्रताड़ित होती रहेगी।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : मैं यही कह सकता हूँ कि इस सरकार का हर वक्त प्रयास रहेगा कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा दिन पार्लियामेंट के बढ़ाते रहें और वे बढ़ते रहें।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : मंत्री जी ने शुरु में कहा ..(व्यवधान) ..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप सुनिए महेन्द्र मोहन जी, you made your point. ..(Interruptions) ..

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: It was not for making the point, Sir.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप सुनिए, आपने जो बोलना था, बोल चुके, अच्छी तरह बोले, उसका इस तरफ असर भी है, इसलिए अभी आप बिल विदझा कर लीजिए।

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Sir, the Minister said in the beginning itself that my purpose was only to pinpoint, for making it a point. But my purpose was not at all for making a point. My purpose is very clear that when 1952 to 1978 ..(Interruptions) ..

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : उस समय committees नहीं थीं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is very clear. He has explained it.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: At least, I should get some categorical assurance from the Government that there will be more sittings and more time will be allocated to the problems of the people so that we can discuss them and no Bill will be passed without discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Government will make efforts.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, for more sittings we will always try. But when it comes to discussions, it is for the hon. Members to decide.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, correct. We have to decide about discussions. Why do you give it to the Government. महेन्द्र मोहन जी, डिस्कशन कितनी देर होना है, यह हम लोग BAC में डिस्कस करते हैं। Don't leave it to the Government. That is our privilege. लेकिन एश्योरेंस यह है कि गवर्नमेंट मैक्सिमम् एफर्ट करेगी ज्यादा डिस्कशन के लिए।

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Sir, through you, I would like to like communicate to the BAC also that please give more time for discussions. Why the BAC fixes just four hours for discussion on price rise and all that? The reason is, the BAC knows when we are meeting for such a short time, it cannot allot more time. So, for that purpose, once we meet for more time, The BAC will give more time. ..(Interruptions) ..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): We can not discuss here the BAC.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Through you, Sir, I am only sending them the message.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): सर, मैंने बहुत शांति से सब सुना है, मेरा विशेष आग्रह है कि जो independent members हैं, जो nominated members हैं, जो regional parties से आते हैं, दूर-दराज से आते हैं, नार्थ-ईस्ट से आते हैं, उन मैम्बर्स को कम सुना जाता है। दूसरे, सर, बड़ी पार्टियों के जो मैम्बर्स पीछे की कतार में बैठते हैं, उनको सुनने के लिए भी कोई तरकीब निकाली जाए।

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Okay, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with whatever assurances the Minister has given, that they will try for holding meetings and having better discussions and better debates and will look into solving the problems of the people of the country and with the hope that whatever he has said will be implemented and the Government will see that we meet for more time, not only here, but also the Government will find some ways so that at Assembly level also, what I suggested in my second amendment which was for the Assemblies meeting for 65 days, some positive steps will be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*... I withdraw this Bill.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): We shall now take up The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Shrimati Viplove Thakur to move the Bill.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, be taken into consideration.

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं जो यह अमेंडमेंट ला रही हूँ, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण अमेंडमेंट है। उपसभापति जी, मैं हिमाचल प्रदेश का थोड़ा सा बैकग्राउंड आपको बताना चाहती हूँ। 1966 से पहले जिला कांगड़ा, हमीरपुर, ऊना और शिमला के कुछ हिस्से पंजाब का भाग हुआ करते थे। 1966 में जब Reorganization Act आया, उसके बाद ये हिस्से हिमाचल प्रदेश में मिला दिए गए, वहीं से यह विसंगति शुरू हुई है। पंजाब में एक बाप के दो बेटे - एक बेटा, लुहार का काम करता था, लोहे का काम करता था, दूसरा बेटा लकड़ी का काम करता था, जिसको तरखान कहा जाता था, जिसको बढ़ई कहा जाता था, जब Reorganization हुआ, उसके बाद जो old Himachal था, जिसमें बिलासपुर, चम्बा, सिरमौर आते थे, वहां जो लुहार था, उसे जाति की वजह से नहीं, प्रोफेशन की वजह से SC कैटेगरी में लिया गया था, लेकिन जो पंजाब का हिस्सा था, उसमें ऐसा नहीं था, वहां तरखान और लुहार एक ही थे। इसके लिए मैं बताना चाहती हूँ कि Punjab District Gazetteers, Volume VII, Part A, Kangra District 1924-25 Page 235 which reads : "The village menials are first the tarkhan and Lohar: as a rule, the same man is both carpenter and blacksmith, repairs roofs and mends implements for which he is paid in grain." उन दिनों पेमेंट ग्रेन में ही दी जाती थी और जब ये हिस्से हिमाचल में गए, तो उन्होंने एक भाई, जो लुहार का काम करता था, उसको प्रोफेशन की वजह से SC कैटेगरी में डाल दिया और जो भाई कारपेंटर का काम करता था, रेवेन्यू रिकॉर्ड में उसको वैसे ही रखा गया। हमारे यहां इन जिलों में एक परंपरा चली आ रही है कि इनकी आपस में शादियां होती हैं - लुहार की बेटा, तरखान के यहां ब्याही जाती है, तरखान की बेटा, लुहार के यहां ब्याही जाती है, लेकिन फिर भी SC का दर्जा तरखान को नहीं मिल पा

4.00 P.M.

रहा है। इसके लिए उन्होंने बहुत बार representations भी दिए हैं, यहां तक कि हिमाचल प्रदेश की विधान सभा ने भी रेजियोल्यूशन भेजा और वह रेजियोल्यूशन, रजिस्ट्रार जनरल ऑफ इंडिया के पास गया, नेशनल कमीशन फॉर शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स के पास भी गया, लेकिन वहां से जवाब आया कि क्या ये untouchables हैं? मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि यह untouchability की प्रथा आजादी से पहले थी, जब से भारत आजाद हुआ है, ऐसी कोई प्रथा यहां नहीं है और यह वर्ष 2002 की बात हो रही है। जब कानून पास हो गया है, यहां untouchability नहीं रही है, फिर रजिस्ट्रार जनरल ऑफ इंडिया का यह पूछना कि क्या ये untouchable थे, यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है। वे दोनों भाई हैं, वे एक ही बाप के बेटे हैं, लेकिन केवल प्रोफेशन की वजह से एक को हक मिल जाए, दूसरे को वह हक न मिले, यह कहां तक ठीक है? इसीलिए आज मैं यह बिल यहां पर लाई हूँ ताकि यह जो विसंगति है, जो 1976 के बाद पैदा हुई है, उससे पहले नहीं थी, वह दूर हो सके। उससे पहले इन जिलों के लुहार और तरखान एक ही कैटेगरी में थे, दो कैटेगरी में नहीं थे, उनका एक ही दर्जा था, लेकिन 1976 के संशोधन के बाद उनको अलग-अलग कर दिया गया। आज मानसिक तौर पर उनके दिमाग में यह बात आ रही है कि हमारे साथ यह भेदभाव क्यों हो रहा है? एक भाई को तो आप सब कुछ दे रहे हैं, उसको सब सुविधाएं मिल रही हैं और दूसरा भाई उन चीजों का हकदार नहीं रहा है, उसको वे फायदे नहीं मिल रहे हैं जो SC कैटेगरी में आने की वजह से पहले भाई को मिल रहे हैं। इसी तरह मंडी स्टेट का जो Gazetteer है और सुकेत मंडी का जो Gazetteer है, उसमें भी यह बताया गया है। Gazetteer of the Mandi State 1920 at page 89 says, Lohar and Tarkhans of the plains are socially equal and intermarry. यहां यह बात नहीं है, क्योंकि RGI एक बात को लेकर, एक point को लेकर उनको इस बात से वंचित रखना चाह रही है। जब देश आजाद नहीं हुआ था, तो उस समय जो तरखान थे या जो लोहार थे, इनको भी ऊपर आने की इजाजत नहीं थी। इनको भी अलग ही रखा जाता था। देश की आजादी के बाद इन दोनों को ओबीसी का दर्जा दिया गया, लेकिन 1976 के बाद जब reorganisation हुई, तब से यह विसंगति पैदा हुई है। यह भेदभाव पैदा हुआ है, इसलिए आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से मेरा निवेदन है कि वे केवल यह कह कर न टाल दें कि RGI और National Commission for Scheduled Castes इस बात को नहीं मानती है। उनको यह मानने लिए कहा जाए, क्योंकि लोहारों और तरखानों में एक ही तरह की समानता है। आज उनके दिल में एक दर्द है। तरखानों के दिल में दर्द है। जब वह लोहार के साथ शादी करते हैं, तो सरकार ने जो 25 हजार रुपए की राशि इंटर कास्ट शादी के लिए रखी हुई है, वह भी उनको नहीं मिलती है। उस समय कहा जाता है कि आप एक ही हैं। आप एक ही बाप के दो बेटे हैं, आपकी जात एक ही है। आप सिर्फ professionally अलग-अलग हो गए हैं। Profession के आधार वह Scheduled Caste में नहीं आता है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहती हूँ कि हमारे यहां के जो गद्दी हैं, जिनको गुजरात में या राजस्थान में गडरिया कहते हैं, हमारे यहां उनको गद्दी कहते हैं। कांगड़ा जिले के जो गद्दी थे, उनको भी चम्बा के गद्दी की तरह tribal का स्टेटस नहीं था। चम्बा के गद्दी को tribal का स्टेटस था। हमारे यहां के लोगों ने representation दिया, शांता कुमार जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, वह इस बात को भलीभांति जानते हैं और इन्होंने भी कोशिश की कि उन गद्दियों को tribal का स्टेटस दिया जाए, जो आज उनको मिल गया है। इसी तरह मैं चाहूंगी कि माननीय मंत्री जी इन तरखानों को भी SC category में लाएं और RGI को बताएं कि आज का जमाना छुआछूत का नहीं रहा है। इसको पनपने मत दीजिए, और आप इस बात को नहीं कहिए कि क्या उनसे

छुआछूत होती है। सिर्फ इतनी सी बात के लिए उनको SC का दर्जा नहीं दिया जाए, यह मैं ठीक नहीं समझती हूँ। आपसे मेरा अनुरोध है कि आप इस काम को करें। उनकी सोशल कंडीशन भी ठीक नहीं है। उनको भी अपने काम के लिए टूल्स बनाने के लिए चमड़े का सहारा लेना पड़ता है, जैसे लोहार को धोकनी बनाने के लिए चमड़े का सहारा लेना पड़ता है, जिससे वह फूंक मार कर आग जलाता है। दोनों का एक ही प्रोफेशन है। एक लकड़ी की तरफ चला गया और दूसरा लोहे की तरफ चला गया। आज मैं जो बिल लाई हूँ, वह इसलिए लाई हूँ कि इनको भी SC का दर्जा दिया जाए। जो भाई-भाई मैं एक दीवार खड़ी हो गई है, एक बहुत बड़ी psychological दीवार खड़ी हो गई है, वह खत्म कर देनी चाहिए। जहां आप लोगों ने इतनी जातियों को SC में लाया है, इतने लोगों को SC में लाया है, तो इन तरखानों को भी SC category में लाइए। आप इसको sympathetically करके RGI और National Commission for Scheduled Castes को इस बात को बताएं। मैंने दोनों Gazetteers के हवाले भी दिए हैं कि ये दोनों हमेशा से एक ही रहे हैं। इनमें कोई भेदभाव नहीं था। केवल काम करने का भेद था। अगर आज एक बाप के तीन बेटे हैं और उनमें से एक वकील बन जाता है, एक डॉक्टर बन जाता है और एक इंजीनियर बन जाता है, तो आप उनको बांट नहीं सकते हैं। आप उनको एक ही रहने देंगे। इसी तरह यहां पर भी हुआ है। यहां पर जो लोहार का काम करता था और जो लकड़ी का काम यानी बढ़ई का काम करता था, इसको उसी तरह से रहने दिया और उसको SC बना दिया। मैं आपसे यही अनुरोध करूंगी कि इसके ऊपर ध्यान दीजिए। इसके ऊपर बिल्कुल ध्यान देकर इसको पास करवाएं। उन लोगों की हम लोगों से अपेक्षाएं हैं और वे लोग 1976 से इस बात के लिए लगे हुए हैं। हिमाचल प्रदेश विधान सभा ने भी resolution पास करवा कर भेजा हुआ है। वह भी यही चाहती है, इसलिए आप इसको जरूर पास करवाएं और उसको SC category में लाएं। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करती हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री शान्ता कुमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हिमाचल प्रदेश से संबंधित यह जो संशोधन विधेयक प्रस्तुत हुआ है, मैं इसका समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। जैसे आदरणीया विप्लव ठाकुर जी ने कहा कि हिमाचल प्रदेश पहले पुरानी रिसायतों का प्रदेश था। 1966 में पंजाब का बंटवारा हुआ और कुछ इलाके वहां चले गए। पुराने और नए इलाकों के बहुत से नियमों में आपस में अंतर थे, जिन अंतरों को ठीक करने की कोशिश लगातार वहां की सरकारों ने की है। यह जो तरखान और लोहार का मामला है, निश्चित रूप से इन दोनों के कामों में अंतर है और उनमें किसी बात में कोई अंतर नहीं है। किसी कारण यह जो विसंगति रह गई है, इस विसंगति को दूर करने के लिए लगातार हिमाचल प्रदेश में मांग आती रही, सभी दलों ने इसका समर्थन किया, जो भी सरकारें वहां थीं, उन सबने इसका बार-बार समर्थन किया। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि ये दोनों जातियां आर्थिक रूप से समान हैं, सामाजिक रूप से समान हैं, परंपरागत रूप से समान हैं। इनमें अंतर केवल काम का है, जन्म का नहीं है, कर्म का अंतर है और जैसा विप्लव जी ने कहा कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में इसी प्रकार की एक और विसंगति गद्दी और गुज्जरी के बारे में रह गई थी। बार बार उसकी मांग होती रही थी। हमने उस मामले को उठाया और उस विसंगति को भी भारत सरकार ने दूर किया और दूर करने के कारण उन लोगों को बहुत बड़ी राहत मिली।

महोदय, मैं एक और बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि तरखान और लोहार के संबंध में जो बात कही जा रही है कि छुआछूत का प्रश्न है, यह बात तो बिल्कुल ठीक है कि अब हम बहुत आगे आ चुके हैं, इसलिए इस प्रकार की बातों के कारण उन जातियों को उनके अधिकारों से वंचित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। गद्दी और गुज्जरी का जो मामला था, तो गदियों में भी छुआछूत नहीं है। वहां किसी प्रकार की छुआछूत का कोई सवाल नहीं है। छुआछूत का सवाल न होने पर यदि गदियों में रहने वाली विसंगति को भारत सरकार दूर कर चुकी है, तो केवल इस कारण तरखान और लोहार के बीच की जो विसंगति है, उसको दूर न करना, यह किसी प्रकार से न्यायोचित नहीं होगा। इसलिए

मैं संक्षेप में इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि वर्षों से जो विसंगति वहाँ चल रही है, मुझे याद है, जब गदियों का सवाल हम उठाते थे, तो हम कहते थे कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में एक धौलाधार है। धौलाधार से उधर रहने वाला गद्दी शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट है और धौलाधार से इधर रहने वाला गद्दी शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट नहीं है। उस समय तो एक पर्वत के आर-पार का सवाल था। यहाँ तो पर्वत के आर-पार का सवाल भी नहीं है। यहाँ एक ही परिवार में लोहार भी है और तरखान भी है। एक ही परिवार के अंदर हम एक को शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट का दर्जा दे रहे हैं और दूसरे को शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट का दर्जा नहीं दे रहे हैं। यह बिल्कुल अन्याय है, यह विसंगति है और बिल्कुल अव्यावहारिक है। पूरे का पूरा हिमाचल प्रदेश, वहाँ की विधान सभा, वहाँ की सरकार, वहाँ के सभी लोग इस विसंगति को दूर करना चाहते हैं। तो मैं इस संशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए आग्रह करूँगा कि यदि कारण केवल छुआछूत का दिया जा रहा है, तो सचमुच यह कोई कारण नहीं है और अगर छुआछूत नहीं है, तो यह बहुत खुशी की बात है। क्या हम फिर से भारत को पीछे ले जाना चाहते हैं? यदि कुछ जातियों ने अपने आप छुआछूत समाप्त कर दिया है, तो उसकी तो प्रशंसा और सराहना होनी चाहिए। उनको उनका अधिकार देने के लिए वही एक कारण नहीं होना चाहिए। इन दोनों जातियों की सामाजिक स्थिति एक है, एक रही है, आर्थिक स्थिति एक है, एक रही है, अंतर केवल काम करने का है, और कोई अंतर नहीं है, इसलिए यह विसंगति दूर होनी चाहिए। मैं संशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ और सरकार से निवेदन करता हूँ कि इस किस्म की किसी प्रकार की अड़चन के कारण हिमाचल प्रदेश के लोगों की इस अत्यंत आवश्यक मांग को अनदेखा न किया जाए, धन्यवाद।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this important Bill which my colleague has introduced. I congratulate Shrimati Viplove Thakur for bringing up this topic for the consideration of the Members here. I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, Sir, to the fact that this topic, which has been drawing the attention of the various sections of the society for the last thirty years, relates to the inclusion of some communities in the list of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, and the Government, from time to time, has evolved a procedure to address this request and demand.

Sir, my friends, Shri Shanta Kumar and Shrimati Viplove Thakur, have put forth some points saying that these two communities are similar in their nature; they marry each other; one is the Lohar community which is professionally linked to iron work and the other is the Tarkhan community which is professionally linked to wood. So, they should not be treated differently. I don't know how it happened and why Tarkhan should not have been placed in the list in the beginning. Sir, Article 366 defines "the Scheduled Castes". According to article 366 (24):

"Scheduled Castes" means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races, or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution".

What is stated in article 341 is:

"(1) The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the

purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union Territory, as the case may be.

- (2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.”

There are similar provisions in respect of the Scheduled Tribes. What was the criterion? You could have included or excluded any community. But the criterion, at that time, for including the schedule, means the list, was the traditional practice of untouchability. Strictly speaking the communities which were included were those who suffered from untouchability resulting in social and economic backwardness. This was the criterion adopted at the time of the formulation of this list and this list was prepared, for the first time, in the month of August, 1950.

The list was different for different States because these communities had suffered in varied degrees from place to place. For example, in the Southern part of India, the practice of untouchability was different, in the Western part of India, it was different, in the Eastern part, it was slightly different and in the Northern part, in its practice, in its form and in its adoptability, it was different. So far as this issue is concerned, basically, these communities were listed because they had suffered for centuries together. They were not allowed to be part of the fourfold Varna or the caste system. They were kept out of the pale of the fourfold Varna. They were denied access to education. They were denied access to temples. It is a combination of various forms of social disabilities, and it is called untouchability. Sir, untouchability is not merely a physical Phenomenon; it has various forms of practice. All those communities which were subjected to this extreme form of social disability have been identified by different communities. There were different criteria, like what was the location of the community, what was their food habit, what was their occupation, what was their linkage with the mainstream, etc.

Basically, these communities were identified in the village set up and then they were listed. This list of Scheduled Castes has undergone a lot of changes over a period of 50 to 60 years because some communities were left out. There was a provision to alter the list. From time to time, the list has been modified. For instance, there are certain communities in Karnataka which were included, subsequently, like Boya, Vaddaru, etc., which did not really suffer from this traditional practice of untouchability. But there were concerns expressed by the communities who were really subjected to this practice of untouchability, scavenging and manual scavenging. It is deplorable and it is shameful that even today, after India is boasting of so much advancement, we are ashamed to say that night soil is carried manually by the people. It is such a sad state of

affairs. We are ashamed to say that still people carry the night soil manually. So, this is the condition.

Sir, those communities have, however, opposed it saying that these communities do not suffer from the practice of untouchability. So it is very difficult to digest. If you start including these communities in the list, it becomes very, very difficult because these communities were provided with certain affirmative provisions, certain provisions relating to positive discrimination like reservation at the entry level in Government services, reservation in promotions and reservation in educational institutions. Thanks to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Of course, before to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, there were thinkers who thought that the society should do away with this inequality. This is the only country in the entire world where you are born unequal. This is also very peculiar. You can see any civilization. It is very unfortunate that in the Hindu religion, the interpretation given is people are born unequal. It is not there in any other religion. Dr. Ambedkar revolted against this practice of Hinduism and he took to Buddhism.

It is sad that the so-called Hindu reformers or Hindu priests were not able to address it properly and remove this discrimination. So, even after 60 years of independence, we are still haunted by this ghost of untouchability. It is not merely physical untouchability, but untouchability in their thinking, untouchability in their actions, in meting out differential treatment basing on their origin of birth. So, I think, this was the basis for the provision of this list as a special category and giving some facilities to those who are in that list. At this point of time, it is a good thing that the hon. Member has come up with a proposal to include a particular caste into the list of the Scheduled Castes along with Lohar community. I am not going by the merits of it because I am not competent to say on that. There is a technical agency. There are procedures laid down by the Government of India. It has to be fair to everybody. This is subjected to some procedures.

First of all, the State Government shall write to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. I had the privilege of working with that Ministry. It was then called the Ministry of Social Welfare. We took steps to change the name saying that the word 'welfare' was no longer appropriate. We felt that changing the name would also change the attitude of the people working in the Ministry. That is why the name has been changed from the Ministry of Social Welfare to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Ministry has evolved certain procedures. Anybody, from any community, can write to the concerned State Government. The concerned State Government, after due verification, would send a proposal to the Government of India. The Government, then, refers it to a technical agency. The technical agency is the Registrar General of India, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Registrar General of India will go into the sociological and other cultural aspects of the community. They will go into the antecedents of the community. They will find out what the social structure of the community has

been. They go back to the period a little beyond independence and then find out from various records as to how the community was treated by other communities, how the community's progress was measured in terms of various indices like human indices. Their social behaviour, their kinship pattern and sociological status will be assessed by the Registrar General of India. Basing on this study, they will give a report to the Ministry. Depending on the outcome of the Report, the Ministry would then refer it back to the State Government, or, refer it to another body called the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, which is a constitutional body. They give their opinion and, then, take a decision either to include or exclude it, and whether to agree with the recommendation of the State Government or not, and then, they refer it to the Cabinet.

Anyway, the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment will reply to that. But I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and the hon. Members, through you, Sir, that there are certain concerns. There are certain problems. There are certain issues. There are certain genuine concerns associated with this topic because there are different people asking for inclusion of different castes in the list of the Scheduled Castes. For instance, in the case of the Dalit Christians and the Dalit Muslims, that is another major area...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pani, I will give you a chance...*(Interruptions)* I will give you the time to speak. Why do you interrupt? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I stand by what I have said. I said, 'We have a feeling that Hindu religion still treats people unequally when you are born.' This is what I said. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, यह गलत बात है..*(व्यवधान)*.. यह उनकी फीलिंग हो सकती है..*(व्यवधान)*..सर, ये फीलिंग के आधार पर संसद के अंदर जिम्मेदारी के साथ ...*(व्यवधान)*... कैसे ...*(व्यवधान)*..कह सकते हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल (पंजाब) : आपको क्यों तकलीफ हो जाती है..*(व्यवधान)*..आप सुनिए..*(व्यवधान)*..

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : तकलीफ क्यों नहीं होगी..*(व्यवधान)*..सब बैठकर बोल रहे हैं..*(व्यवधान)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pany, please sit down, I will deal with it. *(Interruptions)* आप बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : मैं बैठ जाऊंगा...*(व्यवधान)*..मैं मान जाऊंगा...*(व्यवधान)*...लेकिन एक मैम्बर बैठकर टीका-टिप्पणी करते रहेंगे...*(व्यवधान)*..

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल : आप भी ऐसा करते रहते हो..*(व्यवधान)*..

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I would like to clarify... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Listen to me. The difference here is, Mr. Seelam, you are talking about the Hindu religion. You cannot say like that. It is a religion. In any religion, there can be some wrong practices. So, you should not discriminate; you can say that some wrong practices are there.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: That is what I mean, Sir. I stand corrected. The religion is not bad. Some people who practiced the religion give an impression... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I have corrected it, sit down please. मैंने बोल दिया है...(व्यवधान).. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I feel that those who practice untouchability, definitely they are not treating their brethren equally. This is what the essence of my saying is. Those who are practicing untouchability are not treating their Hindu brethren as equal. This is the essence of my formulation. So, I leave it at that. I do not mean to say that the entire Hindu religion is bad. I would not say that. Those people who practice untouchability are treating their own Hindu brothers and sisters as not born equal. पाणि जी, इसमें आपको कोई आपत्ति तो नहीं है?

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : नहीं है।

श्री जेसुदासु सीलम : ठीक है। I said, there is an issue of Dalit Christian and Dalit Muslim. They feel, Sir, that the same Presidential Order, 1950 excluded the Dalits from the list of Scheduled Castes on the ground that they are not practising religion other than Hinduism. After 1950, in 1956, those who profess Sikhism are also included in the list of Scheduled Castes. In 1990, those who profess Buddhism are also included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Sir, the demand of some of the Dalit Christians is that the reservation should not be based on religion. I agree with some of my friends; they also agree with me. The other day, Mr. Ali Anwar was raising the Dalit Christian, Dalit Muslim issue; some of the Members of the House said that they did not want reservations in the country based on religion. Sir, we also agree; we stand by that. We should not do any reservation based on religion. We should only give reservation based on only castes who suffered untouchability. They should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and nobody else should be included in the Scheduled Castes. So, the reservation should be extended to Dalits irrespective of whatever religion they profess. The reservation should be religion-neutral. That was the opinion of the Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims.

The Government in its fairness demanded for inclusion. (*Interruptions*) I am just trying to explain the situation and then come to a conclusion. Now, the Government of India was kind enough to bring an ordinance in 1996 to include Dalit Christians and because of the time and for technical reasons the ordinance could not be promulgated and then, the elections came. In 1998, the United Front Government came. They have listed it in the Common Minimum Programme. They have put up a Cabinet note, we were told, and the Cabinet discussed it and deferred but not

rejected it. The matter stands there. Meanwhile, some of the friends from the Dalit Christian Community have approached the hon. Supreme Court with a public interest litigation saying that they should be treated on a par with those brothers and sisters who took to Buddhism and Sikhism. Their plea is that the reservation of community should be based on social and economic backwardness and should be extended to those communities who suffer from traditional form of untouchability and not based on religion and thus the reservations should be religion-neutral. They have gone to the Supreme Court asking for that and the Supreme Court has asked for the comments from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in its due consideration examined the matter and thought they would take the help of a competent and technical agency and refer the matter along with other things to a Commission which is looking at the economic and social backwardness of linguistic minorities commonly known as the Ranganath Mishra Commission. The Ranganath Mishra Commission, apart from inquiring into the problems of other linguistic minorities also have gone into the details of the Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims and have submitted a Report to the Government. The issue was referred to, under the Commission of Inquiry Act. So, the Government is bound to place the findings of the Ranganath Mishra Commission in the House. The House has not seen the findings. We also request that the findings should be placed before the House. Among other things, it seems it is reported in the Press that the Ranganath Mishra Commission agreed with the genuine and legitimate aspirations of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims and recommended that the reservation in this country should be extended without any considerations of religion. That means Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes status should be religion-neutral. That is what our BJP friends are also saying that there should not be any religion based reservation.

We agree with our friends' contention. That is why it has more ramifications. In India, we have series of inequalities arising out of reservations among the Scheduled Castes. In Southern India, some of the Scheduled Castes are able to take advantage of the educational facilities and could take advantage of the reservation facilities and could come up educationally and also got into civil services and got into various positions of responsibilities when compared to other subcastes of the Scheduled Castes. Sir, there is a demand to categorise the Scheduled Castes because the lesser backward advanced Scheduled Castes and some of the sub-castes are backward. That is why they have asked for a sub-categorisation within the Scheduled Castes category. Again, the matter was referred to the Government of India. It is before the Government of India, the Ministry of Social Justice for consideration.

What I would like to submit, before including or excluding any community, is, there should be a criteria and it should be based on their socio-economic backwardness. One should not come to the conclusion that since Lohar is included other communities should also be included. I would

like to submit that this matter needs to be examined. My friend from Punjab, Prof. Sabarwal, who is a very, very committed, has also of the same opinion that the relative backwardness among the Sub-Castes of the SC should be removed by means of a positive action from the Government. We are all for removing the relative backwardness among the SC. Sir, in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh SCs are differently placed in their socio-economic advantage because of educational advancement. Sir, article 341 of the Constitution lists all such communities which suffer from the traditional practice of untouchability into one category. Dr. Ambedkar who could understand the psychological aspects of these communities, very cleverly, with foresight, identified and listed them as one category and placed safely at the hands of the Government of India. These communities, for any intervention, need the sanction of the Government of India. And, of course, it can be done only through Parliament. It is only Parliament which can either delete or include any community or categorise or subcategories these communities.

In the light of these provisions, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the hon. Member has come up with an important Bill. It is not merely one community of Punjab or one community of Himachal Pradesh. It is not the question of the community of Lohar or Tarkhan. It is a question of entire Scheduled Castes, because they all share a common disability called untouchability. So, we should not lose sight because Lohar was included in the SC. We should not jump to the conclusion that those who belonging to Tarkhan community, because they are similarly placed occupationally, should be included. It may not be a fit conclusion. The details have to be looked into keeping in view the various disadvantages a particular community has suffered over centuries and how they have been treated by the other members of the community. This should be the bottom line. The hon. Member is arguing that since this one community is included the other community should also be included. I have very great respect for Smt. Viplov Thakur's argument. But, I beg to differ with her my submission is that the criteria for categorising any community as SC or ST should be with a rider that a particular community has undergone sufferings for centuries. It is only then it qualifies to be included in the list of SC.

We are seeing demands coming from Karnataka that those communities which do not suffer from traditional practice should not be included. Some SC communities like Naiks are placed differently in different States. Similarly, Washermen is included in some States as SC and does not include in some other States as SC. Valmiki is included in the category of ST in the Southern part of India whereas in the Northern States Valmiki is included in the SC category. There is variation in the nomenclature of different communities being categorised either as SC or ST. So, I would like to submit, Sir, that some requests have been received from the State Governments that the authority to categorise ..(*Time-bell rings*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is one more speaker from your Party.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Then, I will conclude, Sir. Some requests have been received from the State Governments that the authority to deal all the issues relating to inclusion in and exclusion from the List should be delegated to the State Governments. Sir, this would be an injustice to the Scheduled Caste. It has happened in the case of Backward classes, when the authority to deal with the Backward classes, either to include in or exclude from the list of the Backward classes, was given to the States, as per the Constitution. Different State Governments have enacted different laws. For instance, if a person belonging to 'Reddy community' in Andhra Pradesh, crosses 2 Kilometres to go to Karnataka, he becomes a backward class. Then, if a person belonging to 'Kamma community' in Andhra Pradesh, which has powerful landlords, crosses two kilometres to Karnataka, he becomes a backward community. So, if you give this authority to the State Governments, it will go against the legitimate interests of the weaker sections.

So, I humbly submit that it is a sensitive issue. Before categorising or including any community in the lists of either the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, we should look into their sociological, cultural and socio-economic deprivedness. Then only, we should take a decision as per the procedure (*Time-bell rings*) established by the Government of India. With these few words, I would submit that this case should not be taken simply because the 'Lohar' community is to be included, but due procedure of law should be followed and all the social aspects should be looked into before taking any action. With these few words, I conclude, Sir.

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से संविधान (अनुसूचित जातियाँ) आदेश (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2009 का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

महोदय, अगर इन जातियों को सही मायने में आरक्षण का लाभ देना है, तो हमें कुछ बिन्दुओं पर ध्यान देना होगा। पहला बिन्दु यह है कि इन जातियों की सामाजिक स्थितियों को देखना पड़ेगा। दूसरा बिन्दु यह है कि इन जातियों की आर्थिक स्थितियों को देखना पड़ेगा। तीसरा बिन्दु यह है कि इन जातियों की राजनीतिक स्थितियों को देखना पड़ेगा। चौथा बिन्दु यह है कि इन जातियों की शिक्षा और प्रशासनिक स्थितियों को देखना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार को बताना चाहता हूँ कि भारतीय संविधान में इन जातियों की स्थिति के मद्दे नज़र संविधान-निर्माता डा० भीमराव अम्बेडकर ने आरक्षण का प्रावधान किया था। उनका उद्देश्य था कि जो जातियाँ आज भी उपेक्षित व अस्पृश्यता से ग्रस्त हैं, उनको समाज की मुख्य धारा में जोड़ने हेतु आरक्षण का प्रावधान किया जाए।

महोदय, आरक्षण को लागू हुए आज 58 वर्ष से अधिक हो चुके हैं। इतना समय किसी भी नीति को क्रियान्वित करने हेतु पर्याप्त होता है। यह सत्य है कि आरक्षण से अनुसूचित जाति को जितना लाभ मिलना चाहिए था, वह वास्तव में नहीं मिल पाया। आज आरक्षित वर्ग में भी एक अभिजात्य वर्ग पैदा हो गया है। यहाँ मैं बाल्मीकि व इसके समकक्ष जातियों की बात करना चाहूँगा, जिनकी जनसंख्या अनुसूचित जातियों की कुल

जनसंख्या के आधे से अधिक है, फिर भी इनके लगभग 90 प्रतिशत लोग इस लाभ से वंचित हैं। यदि हम पूरे देश में इस जाति के IAS, IPS एवं वर्ग ए के अधिकारियों की संख्या को देखें, तो वह दो की संख्या भी पार नहीं कर पा रही है। सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार पूरे भारत में अनुसूचित जातियों की संख्या लगभग 1207 है। इन 1207 में से केवल तीन या चार अनुसूचित जातियाँ ही आरक्षण का लाभ उठा रही हैं तथा अन्य जातियाँ वंचित हैं। इन तीन-चार जातियों ने उस पर इस तरह से अपना शिकंजा कस रखा है कि अन्य जातियाँ वहाँ तक पहुँच ही नहीं पातीं। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अनुसूचित जातियों में 1207 जातियाँ हैं और इन 1207 जातियों में विभिन्न वर्गों में कितने IAS, IPS या राज्य प्रशासनिक सेवा में हैं? राजनैतिक स्तर पर भी यही स्थिति है। इन विसंगतियों को देखते हुए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता में एक-सदस्यीय आयोग का गठन किया गया था। जैसी कि जानकारी है, उस आयोग की रिपोर्ट भी आ गयी है, लेकिन उस रिपोर्ट का क्या हुआ? मैंने गत सत्र में दिनांक 23.4.2008 को विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से यह मामला उठाया था कि अनुसूचित जातियों में सभी जातियों को आरक्षण का लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है और जिन जातियों को आरक्षण की सीमा से ज्यादा लाभ मिल गया है, उनको अलग श्रेणी में रखा जाए। पहले पंजाब, हरियाणा और आंध्र प्रदेश में अनुसूचित जातियों की उप-श्रेणी बनायी गयी थी, लेकिन उच्च न्यायालय के माध्यम से इसको समाप्त कर दिया गया। मैंने दिनांक 21.4.2008 को भी अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2919 के माध्यम से सामाजिक न्याय मंत्री जी से प्रश्न किया था कि क्या देश में अनुसूचित जातियों के आरक्षण की व्यवस्था का फायदा समान रूप से सभी जातियों को मिल रहा है? इस विषय पर सरकार क्या कार्रवाई कर रही है? उसका जवाब दिया गया कि भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 341(1) के अंतर्गत पारित और संविधान के अनुच्छेद 342 (2) के अंतर्गत संसद के अधिनियम के द्वारा समय-समय पर संशोधित राष्ट्रपति के आदेशों में सूचीबद्ध अनुसूचित जातियों के समग्र विकास करने का प्रयास किया जाता है। मैं इससे सहमत हूँ, पर मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सभी अनुसूचित जातियों का विकास हो रहा है या हो गया?

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज अनुसूचित जातियाँ ही अन्य अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों के साथ अस्पृश्यता का व्यवहार कर रही हैं। आज सफाई कर्मचारी अन्य अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों के यहाँ सफाई का कार्य कर अपना गुजारा चला रहे हैं और इन लोगों से ये लोग छुआछूत कर रहे हैं। क्या यह सरकार की जानकारी में नहीं है? यही हाल आर्थिक, राजनैतिक, शिक्षा व प्रशासनिक मामले में भी हो रहा है। आज कुछ जातियों को छोड़कर बाकी सभी जातियाँ आर्थिक दृष्टि से कमजोर हैं, उनको रोजगार उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। इसी तरह राजनीति में ले लीजिए। कोई तीन-चार जातियाँ ही राजनीति में आगे बढ़ रही हैं।

अभी यूनीसेफ के सहयोग से एक रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित हुई है, उसमें उल्लेख किया गया है कि बिहार में नालन्दा, उत्तर प्रदेश में हरदोई, राजस्थान में जोधपुर और महाराष्ट्र के बीड जिले के ग्रामीण स्कूलों में इन वर्गों के बच्चों को स्कूल में जाने से पहले शौचालयों की सफाई करनी पड़ती है। अभी मैं दिनांक 4.11.2009 को राजस्थान के करौली जिले की टोडाभीम तहसील के एक गांव महेशवा में गया था। वहाँ पर मैंने स्कूल में पढ़ने वाले इन वर्गों के बच्चों से पूछा कि आपके साथ किसी तरह का कोई दुर्व्यवहार तो नहीं किया जाता या आपको कोई कठिनाई तो नहीं है? उन्होंने तुरन्त मुझे बताया कि अक्सर हमसे छुआछूत किया जाता है व स्कूल में पढ़ने से पहले हमें शौचालय साफ करना पड़ता है। आज भी इस देश में 62 वर्षों के बाद भी इस समाज की यह स्थिति है।

यही हाल शिक्षा व प्रशासनिक मामलों में है। आज जाति प्रमाण-पत्र जारी करने में भी खामियाँ हैं। गैर अनुसूचित जातियों के उम्मीदवारों को जाति प्रमाण-पत्र जारी किए गए हैं व इन प्रमाण-पत्रों के माध्यम से वे नौकरियाँ भी हासिल कर रहे हैं। इनमें IAS अधिकारी भी शामिल हैं। कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत मंत्रालय द्वारा उपलब्ध कराई गई सूचना के आधार पर इस तरह से रोजगार हासिल करने के 268 मामले सी.बी.आई. के

संज्ञान में हैं, परन्तु उनपर कोई तत्पर कार्रवाई नहीं की जाती। इन जातियों को लाभ देने के लिए सरकार को ऐसे कानून व प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम बनाना चाहिए जिससे अनुसूचित जाति के अन्य लोगों को भी कानून व प्रशिक्षण का लाभ मिले। यह निश्चित करें कि अनुसूचित जाति के सभी लोगों को लाभ मिल रहा है या नहीं। सरकार जब जातियों को बिल के माध्यम से जोड़ती है तो यह देखने का किसका दायित्व है कि इन जातियों को आरक्षण का लाभ मिल रहा है या नहीं?

महोदय, 23 अप्रैल, 2008 को राज्य सभा में हुई चर्चा का संदर्भ लें, जिसमें मैंने अनुसूचित जातियों में आरक्षण का लाभ समान रूप से वितरित किये जाने की बात कही थी। उसके जवाब में सरकार ने बताया कि संविधान में विभिन्न अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए अलग-अलग कोटा निर्धारित करने का प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। मैं इससे सहमत हूँ, परन्तु साथ ही मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो जातियाँ आज भी देश की मुख्य धारा से नहीं जुड़ पाई हैं व छुआछूत का शिकार हो रही हैं, उन जातियों को संविधान में संशोधन कर अलग से आरक्षण का लाभ दिया जाए, तब जाकर बाबा साहब भीमराव अम्बेडकर का सपना पूरा होगा। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (Assam): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for allowing me to participate in the discussion on this Bill moved by my Party colleague, Shrimati Vipolve Thakur. I shall speak in support of the Bill.

Sir, talking of the matter that this Bill addresses, you would know that there are different regions in the country from where such demands have come up. And you know, Sir, about two years ago, I had moved a Bill for including the tea garden labour community of Assam in the List of Scheduled Tribes, and if necessary, in the Scheduled Castes also, as the case may merit. The then Minister, in a similar situation, had promised that they would look into it at the Government level. In the case of this Bill also, the same answer may be given. I don't grudge with the Government but I have a humble submission to the Government. By this time the Government is aware of these constitutional anomalies. So far, various communities throughout the country have been deprived of their legitimate rights under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories for very many reasons at the provincial level. There are some communities that are deprived of the facilities due to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories on the basis of religion in some areas and on the basis of area restriction in some others. There is also area restriction for some communities, like the tea garden labour community of Assam, who had migrated about 200 years ago, made to migrate rather, by the British rulers to work in the tea industry. And, during the scheduling of the communities after Independence, the Governments of West Bengal and Tripura were good enough to return these communities to the list of Scheduled Tribes. But the Assam Government had its own reasons — I do not wish to go into details — they kept them under area restriction and they were scheduled as 'more other backward class' community.

Nothing was done at the State level, there was no enactment of rules and regulations, to make provisions for their socio-economic upliftment, not to speak of their political rights. Hence, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. He may not get a chance to reply today

due to paucity of time but I would request him to consider the sentiments expressed by the Members who have raised the matter of constitutional anomalies, about deserving communities that are deprived of their constitutional rights — this has become necessary even after 60 years of Independence — through joint efforts of the Ministry dealing with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and see what justice the present Government can give. And if the Government is made to understand the problem by both the Ministries — I draw the attention of both the Ministries through the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment — to kindly bring it to the notice of the Cabinet that this issue desires genuine examination by the Government, and not to depend only on the opinion of the Registrar General of India. He is nothing but a bureaucrat. How can he know? And I do not expect our present Government to be guided by the opinion given by the RGI for such a big chunk of communities of our country's population to be deprived of their rights, howsoever genuine they may be. That cannot be.

The Government should not tolerate it. We are bringing this Bill, through our concerned Ministry, because it should be brought to the notice of the Government that they are undergoing sufferings because of the constitutional problems and Government should examine it and take steps to remove the anomalies. Sir, today, from this Bill we have come to know that the Government of Himachal and the Government of Assam recommended not only once but twice the removal of constitutional discrepancies against the tea garden tribes. But here RGI is the person who gives his opinion and the Government abides by it. This has to be stopped, and this issue will never come as it has come today, either from the Opposition side or the ruling side. This matter belongs to no side, but it is a human problem of Indian citizens. They have been deprived of their legitimate rights. Sir, I come from Assam. Two hundred years ago, my forefathers migrated from Orissa to work in the tea industry of Assam. My people who remained there in Orissa have been merrily branded as Scheduled Tribes and they are enjoying the status and privileges available to the Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution. Now, we, who belong to tea garden tribes, feel that it is a curse for us, for our group, that we came to Assam which fortunately remained as a part of India at the time of partition. It was almost on the brink of going. It was because of the farsightedness of the then Congress leaders under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and our Assam State leaders that we remained as part of India.

Today, we are part of it. But we are sorry that we have been deprived of constitutional rights because of the area restrictions that came in the form of constitutional provision. So, Sir, these are all genuine problems that I am bringing in here. They are neither political, nor are they new. As referred earlier, these Lohar and Tarkhan communities are somewhere Scheduled Castes and somewhere they are not; somewhere they are Scheduled Tribes and somewhere they are not. The Government need to seriously examine all these constitutional inequalities. It is a human problem. They know that if they had been on that side, they would have been Scheduled Tribes. Just because under certain circumstances their forefathers came there in Assam, they have no legal

provisions to come up and others are enjoying the status of Scheduled Tribes because they are guided by constitutional provisions. This is a very serious discrimination, and it is something which is in the knowledge of the Government. In the North- Eastern areas, Christian communities are there. They are very much Scheduled Tribes; there is no problem. I do not know the other parts of India where Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes have to leave their constitutional rights because they are Christians. These are very serious things prevailing in our country. No Government that came into power during the last sixty years has gone into it very seriously. I do not blame any Government. But, I want to bring...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Condpan, you can continue your speech next time when this Bill is taken up in the Private Members' Business.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 7th December, 2009.

The House then adjourned at five of the clock till eleven of the clock on
Monday, the 7th December, 2009.