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17 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
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RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 8th December, 2009/17 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 261.

*261. * [The questioner (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was absent. For answer *vide* page 30 *infra*.]

*262. * [The questioner (Dr. Prabha Thakur) was absent. For answer *vide* page 31 *infra*.]

Is there a virus?

*263. * [The questioner (Shri Nand Kumar Sai) was absent. For answer *vide* page 38 *infra*.]

*264. * [The questioner (Shri Sabir Ali) was absent. For answer *vide* page 38-40 *infra*.]

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, Lok Sabha virus has come here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is what I thought.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, yesterday the hon. Chair had made a comment to bring a change in the rules. I want to request you, going by this, there is a very wrong message going across the country. At the earliest, you please see to it that the rule is amended. The entire House will stand by the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

*265. * [The questioner (Shri S. Anbalagan) was absent. For answer *vide* page 41-44 *infra*.]

*266. * [The questioner (Shri Rajeev Shukla) was absent. For answer *vide* page 45 *infra*.]

‘एड्स’ संबंधी कार्यक्रमों पर व्यय की गई धनराशि

*267. श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विगत तीन वर्षों में एक्वायर्ड एम्यूनो डिफिसेंसी सिन्ड्रोम (एड्स) संबंधी कार्यक्रमों पर व्यय की गई धनराशि का क्रमशः राज्य-वार, जिला-वार और वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) 'एड्स' के पहचान किए गए रोगियों की कुल संख्या का राज्य-वार, जिला-वार और वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार की 'एड्स' से पीड़ित रोगियों के नामों तथा उनके पत्तों संबंधी सूची को सार्वजनिक करने की कोई योजना है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): (क) से (ङ) विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण संगठन वर्तमान में राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम-III कार्यान्वित कर रहा है जो 2007 से 2012 तक चलेगा तथा जिसका उद्देश्य भारत में एड्स की महामारी को रोकना और उसे प्रत्यावर्तित करना है। विगत 3 वर्षों के दौरान राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम-III के अधीन किया गया व्यय इस प्रकार था;

(रुपए लाख में)

वर्ष	बजट आवंटन	व्यय
2006-2007	7,05,67	6,68,49
2007-2008	9,53,89	9,17,59
2008-2009	11,23,36	10,36,87
2009-2010 (नवम्बर, 09 तक)	11,00,00	6,57,91

व्यय का ब्यौरा राज्यवार रखा जाता है।

विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान किए गए राज्यवार व्यय का ब्यौरा विवरण-I में है।

राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम-III के अंतर्गत निधियां 38 राज्य एड्स नियंत्रण सोसायटियों को जारी की जाती हैं जो कार्यक्रम के अधीन विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों को कार्यान्वित करती हैं, जैसे:

- निवारण, जिसमें पता लगाए गए अत्याधिक जोखिम वाले समूह, यौन संचारी संक्रमणों का नियंत्रण, रक्त निरापदता और परामर्श तथा जांच की बुनियादी सेवाएं प्रदान करना और एचआईवी/एड्स संबंधी सूचना का प्रसार-प्रचार करने के लिए सूचना, शिक्षा तथा सम्प्रेषण शामिल हैं।
- परिचर्या सहायता और उपचार जिसमें रिट्रोवायरल-रोधी उपचार शामिल है।
- निगरानी प्रणाली के जरिए महामारी की मानीटरिंग और कार्यक्रम की प्रभावकारिता का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए कार्यनीति संबंधी सूचना प्रबंधन।

राज्य एड्स नियंत्रण सोसायटियां विभिन्न गैर-सरकारी संगठनों/सीबीओ को लक्षित कार्यक्रमों, यौन संचारित संक्रमणों के लिए सहायता, समेकित परामर्श और जांच केन्द्रों, रिट्रोवायरल रोधी उपचार और रक्त बैंकों के लिए सहायता तथा उपकरणों, जांच किटों, औषधों और उपभोग्य सामग्री के प्रापण के लिए धन का भुगतान करती हैं।

राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम-III एक केंद्रीय प्रायोजित योजना है जिसमें केंद्र द्वारा राज्यों को निधियां उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं। व्यय लेखों का अनुरक्षण किया जाता है और उनकी सूचना राज्य स्तर पर दी जाती है। राज्य बजट और लेखा की इकाई है।

राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम-III के अलावा राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन जैसे अन्य स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र के कार्यक्रमों के अन्तर्गत किया गया कुछ व्यय एड्स नियंत्रण से संबंधित भी है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान इन घटकों का व्यय नीचे दिया गया है:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (11/2009 तक)
कंडोम का सामाजिक विपणन		3200	2573	666

(ख) पता लगाये गए एड्स रोगियों का ब्यौरा विवरण-II में दिया गया है।

(ग) सरकार की एचआईवी संक्रमित/एड्स के रोगियों के नामों और ब्यौरों को सार्वजनिक करने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

(घ) लागू नहीं होता।

(ङ) गोपनीयता हमारी एड्स नियंत्रण नीति का एक आधार है। एचआईवी जांच के परिणाम गोपनीय होते हैं। एचआईवी स्थिति को भी कलंक तथा भेदभाव को रोकने के लिए गोपनीय रखा जाता है।

विवरण-I

राज्यवार व्यय को दर्शाने वाला विवरण

(लाख रुपए में)

क्र.सं.	राज्य	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	अंडमान व निकोबार द्वीपसमूह	228.00	0.00	159.00	3.06
2.	आंध्र प्रदेश	7079.55	7082.65	7414.69	2472.92
3.	अहमदाबाद	260.37	48.96	408.09	0
4.	बिहार	1475.75	1145.47	970.13	0
5.	चंडीगढ़	411.55	300.00	361.65	145
6.	छत्तीसगढ़	475.00	269.27	820.76	331.03
7.	चेन्नई एमसी	678.00	0.00	700.00	0
8.	डी एंड डी	130.20	149.73	99.87	82.16
9.	दिल्ली	1355.60	2378.45	2296.37	929.22
10.	डीएनएच	100.60	115.69	62.30	53.06
11.	गोवा	415.00	321.52	436.99	240.39
12.	गुजरात	1471.09	3126.14	3630.50	2936.4
13.	हरियाणा	615.00	326.79	840.30	1002.98
14.	हिमाचल प्रदेश	603.90	644.77	445.81	751.89

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	जम्मू व कश्मीर	420.70	103.03	210.07	102.45
16.	झारखंड	582.00	598.91	1388.50	1007
17.	कर्नाटक	3414.45	4276.87	3424.95	2451.71
18.	केरल	1521.98	1770.83	2302.25	1068
19.	लक्षद्वीप	41.80	0.00	0.00	0
20.	मध्य प्रदेश	790.50	1310.09	1583.96	1328.4
21.	महाराष्ट्र	3984.57	6923.83	5921.77	1820.38
22.	जिला मुम्बई	1603.43	0.00	822.76	901
23.	उड़ीसा	909.20	1015.43	1907.92	1300.22
24.	पुदुचेरी	319.00	230.16	282.96	0
25.	पंजाब	713.90	264.60	1028.76	1313.02
26.	राजस्थान	946.30	1088.25	1155.95	1263.33
27.	तमिलनाडु	5449.66	7003.84	7462.82	4669.57
28.	उत्तर प्रदेश	2361.12	3463.50	1151.90	1719.17
29.	उत्तराखंड	529.60	404.17	705.20	495.16
30.	पश्चिम बंगाल	3620.72	4923.92	999.38	2754.83
उपयोग		42508.54	49286.87	48995.61	31142.35
पूर्वोत्तर राज्य					
31.	अरुणाचल प्रदेश	448.20	543.91	609.18	575.11
32.	असम	1351.30	2024.35	1036.68	960.05
33.	मणिपुर	2134.53	2837.65	1865.93	1762.81
34.	मेघालय	10.10	41.94	371.95	0
35.	मिजोरम	885.40	1142.99	1155.72	640.36
36.	नागालैंड	1625.01	1921.37	1793.35	104.91
37.	सिक्किम	330.40	358.06	218.21	103.43
38.	त्रिपुरा	398.25	60.00	574.58	355.31
उपयोग (एनई)		7183.19	8930.27	7625.60	4501.98
राज्यों का कुल		49691.73	58217.14	56621.21	35644.33
नाको का व्यय		17157.27	33541.86	47065.79	30146.67
महायोग		66849	91759	103687	65791

नोट: *नवम्बर, 2009 तक व्यय

विवरण-II

रोगी जिन्हें कभी न कभी एआरटी पर रखा गया (एड्स के रूप में निदान किए गए)

क्र. सं.	राज्य का नाम	2007	2008	2009 (सितम्बर, 09 तक)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	तमिलनाडु	27,697	41,442	55,536
2.	महाराष्ट्र	34,472	63,577	91,769
3.	आंध्र प्रदेश	35,557	66,540	92,865
4.	कर्नाटक	16,651	31,339	49,235
5.	मणिपुर	4,735	6,227	7,298
6.	नागालैंड	781	1,223	1,813
7.	दिल्ली	6,030	7,972	11,140
	अध्यधिक व्याप्तता वाले राज्य (योग)	1,25,923	2,18,320	3,09,656
8.	चण्डीगढ़	2,016	2,510	2,956
9.	राजस्थान	4,084	7,052	9,652
10.	गुजरात	6,454	9,291	18,620
11.	पश्चिम बंगाल	3,012	4,983	7,268
12.	उत्तर प्रदेश	5,786	10,560	14,860
13.	गोवा	673	981	1,253
14.	केरल	3,445	4,579	5,881
15.	हिमाचल प्रदेश	383	669	1,233
16.	पुदुचेरी	495	660	837
17.	बिहार	1,777	4,276	6,478
18.	मध्य प्रदेश	2,467	3,880	5,455
19.	असम	462	810	1,145
20.	अरुणाचल प्रदेश	17	37	44
21.	मिजोरम	162	360	702
22.	पंजाब	1,833	4,138	5,801
23.	सिक्किम	22	45	57
24.	झारखंड	692	1,242	1,957

1	2	3	4	5
25.	हरियाणा	989	1,658	2,277
26.	उत्तराखंड	275	477	728
27.	त्रिपुरा	391	674	151
28.	जम्मू और कश्मीर	653	1,646	897
29.	छत्तीसगढ़	853	1,612	2,380
30.	उड़ीसा	1	89	3,219
31.	मेघालय	14	44	87
	निम्न व्याप्तता वाले राज्य (योग)	36,956	62,273	93,938
	महायोग	1,62,879	2,80,593	4,03,563

जिलावार आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं क्योंकि एआरटी केंद्र सभी राज्यों में नहीं हैं। 31 राज्यों में 226 एआरटी केंद्र हैं (सितम्बर, 2009 के स्थिति के अनुसार)

Expenditure on AIDS related programmes

† *267. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total expenditure incurred on Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) related programmes during the last three years, State-wise, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of total number of AIDS patients identified, State-wise, District-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government has any plan to make public the names and details of AIDS patients;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) NACO is currently implementing National AIDS Control Programme III which runs from 2007 to 2012 with the aim of halting and reversing the AIDS epidemic in India.

The expenditure incurred under the NACP III during the last three years was:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. in lacs)

Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure
2006-2007	7,05,67	6,68,49
2007-2008	9,53,89	9,17,59
2008-2009	11,23,36	10,36,87
2009-2010 (upto Nov. 09)	11,00,00	6,57,91

Expenditure are maintained State-wise. Details of state-wise expenditure in the last three years are given in the Statement-I.

Under NACP III, funds are released to 38 State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) who implement various activities under the programme like:

- (i) Prevention, which includes Targeted Interventions for identified High Risk Groups, Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections, Blood Safety and provision of Basic Services of counselling and Testing, and Information, Education and Communication to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS;
- (ii) Care Support and Treatment, which includes Anti Retroviral Treatment; and,
- (iii) Strategic Information Management to monitor the epidemic through a surveillance system and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme.

SACS disburse the money to various NGOs/CBOs for Targeted Interventions, support for STI clinics, Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs), Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres and Blood Banks, as well as for procurement of equipment, test kits, drugs and other consumables.

NACP III is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme where funds are made available by the Centre to the States. Accounts of expenditure are maintained and reported at State level. The state is the unit of budgeting and accounting.

In addition to NACO III, some of the expenditure incurred under other Health sector programmes, like NRHM, is also related to AIDS control. The expenditure of these elements during the last three years is given below:

(In Rs. Lakhs)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 11/2009)
Social Marketing of condoms		3200	2573	666

- (b) Details of AIDS patients identified is in given in the Statement-II. (*See below*)

(c) Government has no plan to make public names and details of the HIV infected/AIDS patients.

- (d) Not Applicable.

(e) Confidentiality is one of the cornerstones of our AIDS control policy. Results of HIV testing are confidential. HIV status is also kept confidential to prevent stigma and discrimination.

Statement-I

State-Wise Expenditure

		(in Rs. Lakhs)			
Sl.No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	*2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	228.00	0.00	159.00	3.06
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7079.55	7082.65	7414.69	2472.92
3.	Ahmedabad	260.37	48.96	408.09	0
4.	Bihar	1475.75	1145.47	970.13	0
5.	Chandigarh	411.55	300.00	361.65	145
6.	Chhattisgarh	475.00	269.27	820.76	331.03
7.	Chennai MC	678.00	0.00	700.00	0
8.	D and D	130.20	149.73	99.87	82.16
9.	Delhi	1355.60	2378.45	2296.37	929.22
10.	DNH	100.60	115.69	62.30	53.06
11.	Goa	415.00	321.52	436.99	240.39
12.	Gujarat	1471.09	3126.14	3630.50	2936.4
13.	Haryana	615.00	326.79	840.30	1002.98
14.	Himachal Pradesh	603.90	644.77	445.81	751.89
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	420.70	103.03	210.07	102.45
16.	Jharkhand	582.00	598.91	1388.50	1007
17.	Karnataka	3414.45	4276.87	3424.95	2451.71
18.	Kerala	1521.98	1770.83	2302.25	1068
19.	Lakshadweep	41.80	0.00	0.00	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	790.50	1310.09	1583.96	1328.4
21.	Maharashtra	3984.57	6923.83	5921.77	1820.38
22.	Mumbai District	1603.43	0.00	822.76	901
23.	Orissa	909.20	1015.43	1907.92	1300.22

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Pondicherry	319.00	230.16	282.96	0
25.	Punjab	713.90	264.60	1028.76	1313.02
26.	Rajasthan	946.30	1088.25	1155.95	1263.33
27.	Tamil Nadu	5449.66	7003.84	7462.82	4669.57
28.	UP	2361.12	3463.50	1151.90	1719.17
29.	Uttarakhand	529.60	404.17	705.20	495.16
30.	West Bengal	3620.72	4923.92	999.38	2754.83
SUB TOTAL		42508.54	49286.87	48995.61	31142.35
NE States					
31.	Arunachal Pradesh	448.20	543.91	609.18	575.11
32.	Assam	1351.30	2024.35	1036.68	960.05
33.	Manipur	2134.53	2837.65	1865.93	1762.81
34.	Meghalaya	10.10	41.94	371.95	0
35.	Mizoram	885.40	1142.99	1155.72	640.36
36.	Nagaland	1625.01	1921.37	1793.35	104.91
37.	Sikkim	330.40	358.06	218.21	103.43
38.	Tripura	398.25	60.00	574.58	355.31
SUB TOTAL (NE)		7183.19	8930.27	7625.60	4501.98
Total for States		49691.73	58217.14	56621.21	35644.33
NACO Expenditure		17157.27	33541.86	47065.79	30146.67
GRAND TOTAL		66849	91759	103687	65791

Note: *expenditure upto Nov. 2009

Statement-II

Identified AIDS patients

Patients ever started on ART (Diagnosed as AIDS)

Sl. No.	State Name	2007	2008	2009 (Upto Sept, 09)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tamil Nadu	27,697	41,442	55,536

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Maharashtra	34,472	63,577	91,769
3.	Andhra Pradesh	35,557	66,540	92,865
4.	Karnataka	16,651	31,339	49,235
5.	Manipur	4,735	6,227	7,298
6.	Nagaland	781	1,223	1,813
7.	Delhi	6,030	7,972	11,140
High prevalence State (TOTAL)		1,25,923	2,18,320	3,09,656
8.	Chandigarh	2,016	2,510	2,956
9.	Rajasthan	4,084	7,052	9,652
10.	Gujarat	6,454	9,291	18,620
11.	West Bengal	3,012	4,983	7,268
12.	Uttar Pradesh	5,786	10,560	14,860
13.	Goa	673	981	1,253
14.	Kerala	3,445	4,579	5,881
15.	Himachal Pradesh	383	669	1,233
16.	Puducherry	495	660	837
17.	Bihar	1,777	4,276	6,478
18.	Madhya Pradesh	2,467	3,880	5,455
19.	Assam	462	810	1,145
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	17	37	44
21.	Mizoram	162	360	702
22.	Punjab	1,833	4,138	5,801
23.	Sikkim	22	45	57
24.	Jharkhand	692	1,242	1,957
25.	Haryana	989	1,658	2,277
26.	Uttarakhand	275	477	728
27.	Tripura	391	674	151
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	653	1,646	897

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Chhattisgarh	853	1,612	2,380
30.	Orissa	1	89	3,219
31.	Meghalaya	14	44	87
	Low prevalence	36,956	62,273	93,938
State (TOTAL)				
	GRAND TOTAL	1,62,879	2,80,593	4,03,563

Districts-wise data not available as ART Centre is not in all Districts. There are 226 ART Centres in 31 States. (As on Sept, 2009).

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, आदरणीय मंत्री जी का जो जवाब है, वह देश के लिए बहुत ही चिन्ताजनक है, क्योंकि एड्स के patients, जो 2007 में 1,62,879 थे, वे 2009 में अभी तक 4,03,563 हो चुके हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से यह clarification चाहता हूँ कि मैंने अपने सवाल में पूछा था कि जो HIV + एड्स के patients हैं, उनके नाम सार्वजनिक करने का कोई proposal under consideration है, तो जवाब 'नहीं' में है। इतनी preventive measures लेने के बावजूद एड्स patients की संख्या में इतनी बढ़ोतरी हो रही है और सरकार का कहना है कि उसने इसके बारे में awareness और education देने के लिए कई तरह की campaigns launch की हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद उड़ीसा, जहाँ 2007 में HIV का एक patient था, इस साल अब 3,219 patients हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि जब इनकी सारी awakening campaigns fail हो गई हैं, तो इन्होंने जो ground दिया है कि stigma की वजह से और समाज में उनका रुतबा बना रहे, इसलिए वे नाम disclose नहीं करना चाहते हैं, क्या वे देश की जनता को बचाने के लिए अब इस पर विचार करेंगे कि उनके नाम सार्वजनिक किए जाएँ और जनता में भी एक campaign launch करेंगे कि जिनके नाम सार्वजनिक किए जाएँ, उनके साथ कोई भेदभाव न किया जाए?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Hon. Chairman, Sir, first of all मैं माननीय सदस्य और हाउस को भी यह बताना चाहूँगा कि हमारे ये campaigns fail नहीं हुए हैं। यदि आप आँकड़े देखें, तो prevalence rate में जरूर कमी आई है। यह चिन्ता का विषय अवश्य है, मगर इन्होंने सवाल किया है कि आप confidentiality क्यों रख रहे हैं और इसको सार्वजनिक क्यों नहीं करते। Sir, the problem is — you and the House will appreciate — the stigma attached and anybody who suffers from any disease has the right of confidentiality. It is a question of human rights as such.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: I don't think there is any issue involved. Even the international bodies have always emphasize कि जिसे भी कुछ हुआ है, उसको stigma नहीं होना चाहिए। उसे पूरा human right protection मिलनी चाहिए। उनको भी dignity के साथ जीने का पूरा अधिकार है। इसके लिए हम इस बात को गोपनीय रखेंगे।

श्री सभापति: दूसरा सवाल पूछिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी: महोदय, मैं दूसरा supplementary कर रहा हूँ। इस बात पर मेरा फिर से यह कहना है, I do agree, कि हमें उनके साथ safety रखनी चाहिए और हमें उनका social status बना कर रखना चाहिए, लेकिन इसके कारण जो नुकसान हो रहा है, उसके ऊपर सरकार को जरूर सोचना चाहिए, नहीं तो आने वाले समय में यह एक बड़ा challenge हो जाएगा।

सर, मेरा दूसरा supplementary यह है कि हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि अगर यह HIV positive लोगों के नाम अभी declare करना नहीं चाहते तो क्या सरकार यह प्रावधान करने का कोई विचार करेगी कि वह marriage से पहले HIV positive का कोई टेस्ट compulsory बनाए? क्योंकि यह बहुत संजीदगी का विषय है, इसको ज्यादा गैर संजीदगी में लेने की जरूरत नहीं है। हम यह इसलिए कह रहे हैं कि जो बच्चे एड्स-पीड़ित पैदा होंगे, उनके भविष्य के लिए कौन जिम्मेवार है? तो क्या इसके ऊपर कोई नीति बनाने का या इसके ऊपर कोई कानून लाने का या इस पर कोई विचार करने का सरकार के पास कोई proposal है? हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि सरकार को यह करना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: आपने सवाल पूछ लिया, thank you.

श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी: सर, यह एक सोच जरूर है, मगर इसके लिए एक व्यापक discussion होना चाहिए। इस पर पार्लियामेंट में और पार्लियामेंट के बाहर भी चर्चा होनी चाहिए, उसके बाद ही सरकार कुछ सोच सकती है। फिलहाल सरकार के पास ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that confidentiality has to be maintained and has also mentioned about the human rights. All the details are supposed to be included in the Act that the Government is going to bring before the House. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the status of the HIV/AIDS Bill. It is pending for a long-time. Would the hon. Minister throw some light on that? Can he fix up some specific timeframe? We have been hearing about this Bill for a long-time. We would like to know about these details.

And, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Health for coming and participating on the World AIDS Day organised by the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS. I wish to know the status of the Bill with timeframe.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, it is a process. All these things, first, are weighed by the Legal Department and then it goes to the Cabinet. So, at this point of time, it is not possible to pinpoint a timeframe. But, we are, certainly, aware of these things and it is a continuous process of discussions.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, six years have already been lapsed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI H.K. DUA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether instances at hospitals where doctors refused to give even first aid to HIV/AIDS patients have come to his notice. If there are, how many such instances in the country have come to his notice?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, it is a criminal offence. We are all aware that this is unacceptable. As far as instances are concerned, I do not have readymade figures at the moment. But, I will be very happy to provide the same to the hon. Member. The Question is on the expenditure.

डॉ० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए० हेपतुल्ला: सर, क्यूबा एक ऐसी country है, जहाँ HIV/AIDS पर तकरीबन पूरी तरह से काबू पा लिया गया है। तीन-चार साल पहले एक conference के सिलसिले में मेरा वहाँ जाना हुआ था। डॉक्टर से बात करने के बाद हमें पता लगा कि वहाँ पर गिनती के तीन cases थे। किस तरीके से बच्चों को यह disease transmit नहीं हो, they have been able to find a way out. So, will the

Government consider either going there or discussing with any of those people in Cuba to control HIV/AIDS or transfer of HIV/AIDS from pregnant women to children?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member. Certainly, we will take all these points in a positive manner. Whatever is going to be effective in controlling this dreadful disease, we certainly take notice and whatever is required to be done, we will, certainly, do it.

Security Audit by FAA

*268. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:††
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) conducts a security audit of the domestic airlines of India;
- (b) if so, the agreement under which such an audit is allowed;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that FAA has indicated its reservation regarding security measures taken by certain domestic airlines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) and (d) Do not arise.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India is following any international standards of security audit by which our security system is in tact in the context of the terrorist attack in various positions.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I think, all of us are equally concerned about the security as the rest of the world, and, therefore, we do follow the best possible security measures. In fact, after the hijacking of our aircraft, the entire security at all major airports has been handed over to the CISF so that there are uniform standards which are applicable. Also, we have a Bureau of Civil Aviation Security which monitors security at all airports across the country, and thus, try to adopt best practices which are followed elsewhere. It is an on-going process. I cannot give any specific details until asked for. But I can only assure the House that over a period of time, our security systems have gone better. We have more modernisation; we have more technological upgradation also, including better manpower training at the airports.

However, in our context, security at airports is of prime concern, and with the increasing activity which we witness in many of our cities and across the country, I

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan.

think, we need to be even more vigilant; and we are taking all possible measures in our context.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, for practical purposes, we find that under the system, which is followed now, the CISF is not treating the passengers with proper respect and honour. They are treating everybody in a manner as if he is a terrorist. So, I would like to know how they can be trained in a proper way. Their manpower has been increased but the security measures should be taken without harassing the passengers. So, what new methods are being followed by the system to find out the real culprits and not harassing the regular passengers?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, if there is any specific instance which the hon. Member would like to point out, I will be happy to get it corrected. But, to say in general that in our security systems all passengers are being harassed at the airports would be unfair to the security personnel also for the simple reason that we have all travelled across many countries in the world, and, I think, our system is quite relatively user and passenger friendly. In fact, it is not as cumbersome as in many other countries. So, I do not wish to say in generality that it is not in line with the best practices. However, if there is any area for improvement, if you have any suggestions or if you have come across any ill-treatment, please bring it our notice. We will be happy to try to get it corrected.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, on earlier occasions also and the Minister is also aware, the Regulator as far as airport security is concerned, is the Bureau of Civil Aviation Safety which is a small organisation which looks after the overall security of the airports. But the operational level and the field level is controlled by the CISF which was inducted during the NDA regime. Now, the question here is that the CISF, the controlling authority of the CISF, is the Ministry of Home. It is not responsible. Even if the Minister wants to take an action against a constable of the CISF, he doesn't have the authority for that. So, there is a complete dichotomy in the situation where the Civil Aviation Minister of the Ministry has no control on the CISF. I have nothing to say about the performance of the CISF; it is doing well. But if the Minister is accountable for the action of CISF, what is the authority of the Minister on that organisation because they report to the Home Ministry and the Home Secretary? And there is a very loose coordination, because there is a regulator called COSCA who heads this organisation in the Civil Aviation Ministry. The entire field force is that of the CISF, which has nothing to do. I would just like to ask the Minister whether he is thinking of devising, or requesting the Government, to create a stronger channel of control as far as the airport security and CISF are concerned, which is related to his Ministry. Or, is the Minister thinking of setting up a separate force, or co-opting force from the CISF to be responsible to the Civil Aviation Department? Has the Minister something in mind about this?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Well, technically you are right that CISF is in the domain of the Home Ministry. However, I do not think it is completely at arm's length from the Civil Aviation Ministry. After all, the BCAS is in charge of overall security. CISF also reports to the...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: No, it does not report...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I said, technically you may be right but it does not work like that. After all, there is an interface. It is not as if the CISF would not listen to the suggestions or any issues which the Civil Aviation Ministry or the BCAS may raise. So, there is a dialogue; there is an interface. Technically speaking, that is true, but overall security of the airport cannot be in isolation. After all, it is part of a city and it is part of our country. Therefore, the Home Ministry also has to look after the other facets of security. Anything outside the airport precincts falls in the domain of the local police and, therefore, the Home Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry have to work together.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, most countries in the world do not have any exempted categories based on a VIP culture where they are exempted from security frisking. We are one of the few countries in the world which has it. Therefore, the security personnel at the security checks are always faced with a Hobson's choice as to whom to frisk and whom not to frisk. Is the Minister willing to consider a regime where everybody is subjected to the same security treatment, irrespective of any special preferred status of individuals?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Well, I think this decision has to be taken by everybody including the Members of Parliament. I recall, in this very House, there was an incident where the security of a very important person became such a big issue that all... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No Member of Parliament can seek this immunity.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Please, I am not trying to defend anybody. I am only trying to say that these are decisions that all of us, in our collective wisdom, have to take. I follow a protocol laid down as per the rules of business, and there are certain categories which are exempt, and I only follow what has been given to me. I do not devise categories. Our Ministry is only following the protocol which has been spelt out. If there is any change to be made, I think it would involve a larger discussion.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Protocol spelt out by whom?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: As far as I am concerned, I cannot say anything on this because I am nobody to decide on my own whether the 'x' category or 'y' category of people should be exempted or not.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Mr. Chairman Sir, who sets these categories?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. I think, the procedure is known.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: No, Sir. It is not known. We would like the hon. Minister to educate us on that.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Minister said that he got this exercise in legacy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I hope, at least, most of you know that there is an order of precedence which has been set out. It is not decided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and that is notified...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: You are speaking for the Government of India. It is decided by the Government and you are speaking on behalf of the Government of India.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I mean to say that it is an order of precedence which is notified.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: We all know what you are saying and the question is very clear to you. You know what we are asking. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, recently, there were two unpleasant incidents where the former President of India, Shri Abdul Kalam, and veteran actor, Shri Shahrukh Khan, were frisked by officials of a foreign airlines at one of their airports. Shri Abdul Kalam and veteran actor, Shri Shahrukh Khan, were frisked and humiliated. A lot of noise about the incident was raised even in the House. The Minister had assured that appropriate measures would be taken in this regard. I would like to know from the Minister about the follow-up action he has taken after former President, Shri Abdul Kalam, and actor Shahrukh Khan were frisked and humiliated.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, these are all security audits. I can only say that in the case of the former President, we had taken up this issue and I think, after an apology has been tendered, that matter has been put to rest. I do not think we should rake up these issues again and again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 269.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I know that I am late. But kindly give me a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid you were not here.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Kindly give me a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to, but I can't.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: It is still going on. Give me a chance this time. One question only. I came before the question was over and my colleague was already there. Give me a chance. I will quickly ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Can I?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. I give you one minute. Ask the relevant question.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you, Sir. I will not take more time. I just want to know from the hon. Minister: Is it also a fact that audit by FAA is going on in the country? If it is going on for air-worthiness, whether he has details of such airlines and what corrective steps are being taken on that?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the question pertains to security audit by FAA. I have only answered that there is no security audit which is conducted by FAA. We are not under their jurisdiction for conducting security audit. That is our view. We are to follow international best practices and norms. The question that you are trying to ask me is about FAA audit of the procedures which are being followed by the DGCA. There is an IASA Certification which is required. It is an International Airworthiness Certification. The norm which is to be followed by most countries, that FAA audit for India has been completed and we have got an IASA Category-1 Certification which means that all our systems are in place according to the best practices prevalent anywhere else in the world.

Investment in infrastructure

*269. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:††

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has emphasized the need to increase investment in infrastructure to more than nine per cent of GDP by 2014; and

(b) if so, the details of proposed investments sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) For sustaining a growth rate of 9% in GDP in the Eleventh Plan, investment in physical infrastructure has been targeted to increase from around 5% of GDP in the base year of the plan 2006-07 to 9% by the terminal year 2011.12. However, no targets have so far been set for the period beyond 2011-12.

(b) Sector-wise investments projected for the Eleventh Plan are as under:

(Amount in Rs crore at 2006-07 prices)

Sector	Eleventh Plan (Projected investment)		
	Amount		Share (%)
	Rs. (crore)	US\$ billion	
		(@ Rs 40/\$)	
1	2	3	4
Electricity (incl. NCE)	666525.00	166.63	32.42

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Moinul Hassan.

1	2	3	4
Roads and Bridges	314152.00	78.54	15.28
Telecommunications	258439.00	64.61	12.57
Railways (incl. MRTS)	261808.00	65.45	12.73
Irrigation (incl. Watershed)	253301.00	63.32	12.32
Water Supply and Sanitation	143730.00	35.93	6.99
Ports	87995.00	22.00	4.28
Airports	30968.00	7.74	1.51
Storage	22378.00	5.59	1.09
Gas	16855.00	4.21	0.82
TOTAL	2056150.00	514.04	100.00

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, power generation is one of the important sectors so far as the infrastructure is concerned. As we know, Sir, in the 11th Plan power generation in this infrastructure sector was targeted at 78,000 MW. Sir, report comes that 11th Plan is to be completed in 2012 and only 50 per cent of the target is completed which is by the public sector generation companies. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the present status of it? Is it possible that before completing the 11th Plan in 2012 full capacity or full targeted generation power will be completed?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am afraid it may not be possible to reach the target of 78,000 MW's addition to the existing power generation capacity. Though the Mid-Term Appraisal has not been finalised, but from the information which we are having, it appears that, of course, they have lowered the target from 78,000 MW to 62,000 MW. We are trying to reach that target, but after the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Plan being completed, then it would be possible to arrive at the firm figure.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, from the table which is supplied as an answer I can see that the investment in gas infrastructure happens to be the least though the inter-eastern region and also the major part of the southern region is starved of gas supply. Kindly let me know what the progress of the Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline is which is aimed to connect the eastern region with gas supply channel? I am asking this because this project was taken up before the 11th Plan. Is there any possibility of completing this project in this Plan period so that eastern India, at least, can get gas?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the question relates to the investment in the infrastructures. But the question relating to specific projects and conducted by the particular Department or Ministry will have to be addressed by ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the Minister may know this. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is all right. But we have to put the notice and they will have to prepare and answer the question. But the general allocation in respects of the gas, as the hon. Member started by observing that it is minimum, is least. It is natural because regarding exploration work, we entered into the new Exploration Policy with the private sector - gas and oil - that if you strike it, you get it. You may try to get it at 40 places, 50 places, 60 places, but when it actually strikes, then, you get it. Therefore, we do not spend substantially of our own public sector resources for exploration. Exploration work is left to the private sector. And, thereafter, as per the New Exploration Licensing Policy, the administrative Ministry - Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry - conduct and thereafter, the Government enters into arrangements with the private contractors and private sector. So far as the availability of gas is concerned, experts are saying, but unless we strike and identify the zones and are in a position, after exploration, for going to the exploitation, it would be difficult to continue.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister that you have a policy called 'Look East Policy'. It is a very good Policy. We appreciate it very much. But, for the development of the economy, infrastructure of ports is very much important. What we are observing is that one of the major ports is a riverine port, that is, Kolkata-Haldia, but dredging is very much inadequate. That is why, the Kolkata and Haldia port system is in distressed condition. So, the economic activity is coming down in Eastern India, particularly in West Bengal. Why inadequate money has been allocated for that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is also a specific question in respect to the Department of Shipping and Transport who undertakes the job of dredging of different ports. My responsibility, as the Finance Minister, is to provide money for investment in infrastructure. And, thereafter, infrastructure which is spread in large number of administrative Ministries, they ought to spend project wise, and the Planning Commission makes allocations. Therefore, if you want to expand the canvas of the question, it would be extremely difficult. I can give the figure in respect of the allocation during the current Plan, that is, the Eleventh Five Year Plan. In terms of percentage, port allocation is 4.28 per cent. In absolute terms, it is Rs.87,995 crores. That would be the allocation for development of infrastructure facilities in ports during the Eleventh Plan starting from 2006-07 and coming to an end on 31st March, 2012.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to know about airports, which is also a very important sector. Though the hon. Finance Minister does not deal directly, but I would like to know that why this sector's share in projected investment is only 1.51 per cent. The amount is hardly Rs.30,968 crores.

Secondly, I would like to know about irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one point please.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Allocation for irrigation, including watersheds, is Rs.2,53,301 crores. Irrigation comes under Central Government funds and State Government funds. I would like know that for irrigation, whether this amount of Rs.2,53,301 crores is exclusively invested by the Government of India. So, what is the modality? Every year, what is the approximate investment that we can expect in irrigation?

And, also, I want to know why such an insignificant investment is proposed in airports.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the question was for the investment during the Eleventh Plan in the infrastructure sectors, and the Plan investment consists of State-sector Plan and Centre-sector Plan. Therefore, this figure, which we are giving, that is, Rs.20,56,150 crores, the total investment, that is consisting of the Centre-sector investment and the State-sector investment in the infrastructure. And, when you distribute a hundred, when you talk of percentage, you cannot go beyond hundred, and if you give 32 per cent to power, then 15 per cent to road, 12.5 per cent to other important sectors, naturally, for certain other sectors, in the kitty of percentage, it will come down. Secondly, at the airports, substantial modernisation, expansion works and infrastructural activities are going on through the private sector routes.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important question. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards increasing the targets fixed for investment in physical infrastructure, from five per cent of GDP to nine per cent of GDP. But, Sir, on the expenditure side, on the implementation side, according to the answer given by the hon. Minister yesterday, we are lagging behind, for instance, in some projects, by 40 months, and, in some projects, by 60 months. The cost overrun is also increasing by leaps and bounds. That being the case, what is the mechanism, what is the system that has been evolved by the Ministry of Finance or the Prime Minister's Office — we read something about it in the newspapers — to see that they are regularly monitored and the targets are achieved. What is the system that has been adopted; what is the response so far; and, what are the results so far?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is true that we are not so good and efficient in delivering, particularly, in implementing these projects. Particularly, from the conceptual stage to the implementation stage, there is a big gap. At the same time, with the establishment of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure and regular monitoring through the Prime Minister's Office in that Cabinet Committee, which is chaired by the Prime Minister himself, some improvement is noticeable. Already, there is some slippage, which is visible. For instance, there is an expectation, and, some sort of commitment has been made, with regard to construction of 20-kilometres road per day. If we want to construct 20-kilometres road a day, naturally, in the

pipeline, there should be almost 20,000-kilometres road for the year so that we can complete it. 20-kilometres a day means more than 7,000-kilometres a year, which means a minimum of 14,000-kilometres in two years. The preparation of the project report in a road takes almost twelve to fourteen months. Therefore, an attempt should be made to reduce this period, and, at different stages, these types of exercises are being made. Some improvement has taken place but it is not to the desirable extent.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, while appreciating the target increase of the investment in physical infrastructure from five per cent of GDP to nine per cent of GDP, I would like to say that the share towards water supply and sanitation is only 6.99 per cent, which aims at fulfilling the basic needs of the common man. Would the Ministry of Finance consider enhancing the share towards water supply and sanitation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, these targets are fixed by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission proposals are approved by the NDC. The NDC consists of the State Chief Ministers and the Cabinet Ministers. Therefore, it is not possible for any individual Ministry just to say that we will increase this, or, we will decrease this. During the course of five years, as and when we find, and, it is proved, that in certain sectors, the expenditure is not up to the expectations, or, in some areas, expenditure is picking up, in the mid-term appraisal, we make a course correction. That mid-term course correction is possible but that will have to be done in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Tax exemption of Obulapuram Mining Corporation

*270. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether service and other taxes have been collected from the Obulapuram Mining Corporation in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07, 2007-08 and current fiscal year upto October 31, 2009;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has granted diverse exemptions to the Obulapuram Mining Corporation in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details of such concessions granted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has not granted any specific exemption exclusively for M/s. Obulapuram Mining Company Ltd.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, our respected Finance Minister is the most senior Minister in the Government. He is a very experienced Minister. He will appreciate my question in the interest of the nation and in the interest of the democratic polity in the country. The Obulapuram Mining Corporation has earned the notoriety to be called as mines mafia in the recent times. The people of Andhra Pradesh and the people of Karnataka are agitated and are in a campaign against the illegal activities of these mines. My question is, Sir, this Obulapuram Mining Corporation had earned a whopping more than Rs. 10,000 crore, if my figures are correct. If they are not correct, I stand to be corrected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI D. RAJA: Illegal mining of iron ore by two companies in the border areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is depriving the Government revenue to the tune of Rs. 300 crores every year. My question is, whether the Finance Ministry is considering to institute a kind of CBI inquiry or Income Tax authorities inquiry into the illegal fudging of funds and accounts by this Corporation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far Income Tax inquiry is concerned, if we find out any case of tax evasion or tax avoidance, the Income Tax Department can definitely set in motion. They do not require any permission. It is their routine job. This is based on the intelligence collected. As and when the Economic Intelligence Collection Unit collects information, they set the motion in operation and do so. So, if any such things come to the notice of the Government, they will do so. And, if the hon. Member has any specific information, he can send it and we can act on it, so far as income tax is concerned.

The CBI does not come within the purview of the Finance Ministry. First there must be a request from the State Government concerned for specifically identifying the criminality which is involved to institute a CBI investigation.

So far the question was related to whether they have been given any tax exemptions from different taxes by the Central Government, my answer is, Central Government has not given any tax exemption in respect of this particular concern and whatever taxes are due from them, we have collected them.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, again the answer is related to service tax, I agree. But illegal activities of this Mining Corporation is in public domain. I would like the Government to take *suo motu* notice of this and try to address the concerns of the people. Having said that, Sir, my second question is, I have some copies related to code of conduct for Ministers. Some of the Ministers in some State Governments are related to this Mining Corporation, and when the accusations are made, they flew down to the capital of other States, justify their activities and challenge the very questions raised with regard to their illegal activities. I would like to ask the senior Minister, our very respected Finance Minister, whether they can continue as Ministers when they are related to these Mining Corporations, or, they are having shares in these Mining Corporations. Being in position as Ministers, they try to influence the political development and repeatedly show or demonstrate the dirty role of money power which *..(Interruptions)..* clearly jeopardises our democratic process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the subject.

SHRI D. RAJA: This question is not related to service tax; it relates to Obulapuram Mining Corporation. Being the senior Minister, we would like him to respond in the interest of democratic polity in our country.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, if somebody violates any norm or any code, there are remedial measures. There is a regularly, duly-constituted Government in the State. If any Minister in the State Government violates code of conduct, it can be brought to the notice of the Governor. He can exercise his Constitutional power, whatever has been vested in him. Therefore, if something merely appears in the media or if somebody has some perception..*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence, please.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: On the basis of that, I cannot make any commitment on the floor of the House. I can go on the basis of facts. And the fact here is that when we sent a team of officers to a State to assess the situation there, immediately attacks were made against the Central Government that we were interfering in the normal domain of the State Government. Therefore, these issues, where we can interfere and where we cannot interfere, also have to be kept in view. Simply because some hon. Members say that they want Centre's intervention in the matter, it is not possible. Therefore, if there is any violation in the mining sector, or if it is illegal mining, the Department of Mines will look into it. There are regular institutional arrangements for it. Mines inspectors are there and their job is to look into illegal mining. If some Ministers have violated the code of conduct or have unduly exercised their influence in the decision-making of the State Government, the proper place to agitate is not Parliament but State Assembly and the Governor of the State. *(Interruptions)*

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, your turn is over. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, as the hon. Minister has rightly said, the Centre has not given any tax exemption to the mining industry. There are traditional miners in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Now they have almost closed it and the mafia have taken over the mining industry in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. They are a threat to the democratic set-up as rightly stated by Mr. Raja and it is true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary, please.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Environment Minister has given any clearance for mining in Obulapuram. Second part of my question is, whether any tax exemption has been given by the State Government. And which Government has given the tax exemption?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as environment clearance is concerned, the information, which we have got from the authorities concerned, is that the environment clearance has been taken by the concerned authorities who are conducting environment clearance.

So far as the State Government is concerned, yes, I have the information that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has not given any concession in respect of Obulapuram Mining Corporation or their activities; but they are participating in building up a steel plant where some

concessions have been given by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. This is for Brahmani Steel. Concessions which the State Government has given to it include 25 per cent of VAT for five years; reimbursement of power charges to the tune of 75 per cent at the rate of 75 paisa per unit for five years; 100 per cent waiver for registration and mortgage fee; and they have allocated Rs. one crore for the development of infrastructural facilities at the plant site.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, the basic issue is tax evasion. This Obulapuram Mining Corporation is exporting iron ore to China by under-invoicing and whatever the differential amount is there, they are parking it in tax haven state. I request the Minister, through you, to investigate into this matter through the IT Department and the Vigilance Department. It is a clear violation of FEMA.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, all violations of FEMA and over-invoicing or under-invoicing are offences under Customs Act and due action should be taken.

श्री आर०सी० सिंह : सर, हमारे देश में ऑयरन ओर लिमिटेड है और हमारे यहां जो स्टील फैक्ट्रीज हैं, उनमें खपत 78 मिलियन टन की है, जबकि प्रोडक्शन 300 मिलियन टन का हो रहा है। तो रेस्ट ऑयरन ओर किन शर्तों पर कहा जा रहा है, इसके बारे में सरकार से जानकारी चाहता हूँ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is correct that we require it for our own steel production. It is also correct that it is one of the important export items. But, if the hon. Member wants to ban export of iron ore, that is a policy matter and Question Hour is not meant for discussion on policy matters.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, उड़ीसा में भी इललीगल माइनिंग हो रही है.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान) पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए। प्लीज, पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान). You are violating the Rules of the House. आप बैठ जाइए।.....(व्यवधान) आई एम सॉरी। (*Interruptions*)

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : #

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. I will have to invoke the Rule against the Member if you don't sit down. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. (*Interruptions*) Please resume your place. (*Interruptions*) I would request the party whip. (*Interruptions*) Please bring me the Rule Book. I invoke Rule...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Pany, will you please resume your place? This indiscipline is not permissible. Please resume your place. (*Interruptions*)

*271. [The questioner (Shri N. Balaganga) was absent. For answer *vide* page 45-46 *infra*.]

Misuse of funds under NREGS

*272. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sizeable funds under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are being misused;

#Not recorded.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some of the officers have been punished for misusing the funds;
- (d) if so, the details therefor; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) No, Sir. However, 242 complaints have been received in the Ministry regarding alleged misappropriation of NREGA funds. Such cases when brought to the notice of the Ministry are sent to the concerned State Governments for investigation of the matter and taking action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. In addition, National Level Monitors (NLMs) are also deputed to enquire into the specific complaints. As per the information available in this Ministry, FIRs have been lodged in 22 cases. State Governments have also taken disciplinary actions against the delinquent officials.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रथम प्रश्न के उत्तर में “नो, सर” कहा है। लेकिन रिप्लाई में मंत्री जी ने बोला है कि उनके पास मिसयूज करने से संबंधित 242 कंप्लेंट्स हैं। सर, मुझे इसकी जानकारी नहीं हो पाई कि यह मिसयूज है या कंप्लेंट किया है, जबकि दोनों चीज अलग-अलग हैं। मंत्री जी, इसको क्लेरिफाई करें? क्योंकि उनके पास 242 कंप्लेंट्स होने के बाद भी there is no misuse of funds meant for energy. सर, क्या राज्य सरकारों के ऊपर सब कुछ निर्भर करके इन्वेस्टिगेशन और मिसयूज ऑफ फंड्स के लिए राज्य सरकारों को कहा जाता है तथा राष्ट्रस्तरीय निगरानीकर्ता भी नियुक्त किए जाते हैं, ऐसा रिप्लाई माननीय मंत्री जी ने दिया है। तो इस तरह से उड़ीसा के लिए राष्ट्रस्तरीय निगरानी कर्ता नियुक्त किया गया है या नहीं, यह मेरा प्रश्न है?

श्री सी0पी0 जोशी : सभापति महोदय, माननीया सदस्या ने पूछा कि साइजेबिल फंड्स के बारे में कितनी कंप्लेंट्स हैं। हमें कुल 1010 कंप्लेंट रिसीव हुई हैं। इनमें से 483 को डिस्पोज किया गया तथा 529 पेंडिंग हैं। जो कंप्लेंट रजिस्टर है, उसमें 242 कंप्लेंट में से 93 कंप्लेंट डिस्पोज हुई हैं और उसमें 13 कंप्लेंट्स ऐसी हैं, जहां पर 7.72 करोड़ का मामला embezzlement के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। इसलिए माननीया सदस्या ने जो प्रश्न पूछा, उस संदर्भ में यह उत्तर दिया गया है। जहां तक NLMs अपोइंट करने का सवाल है, बेसिकली ऐक्ट के हिसाब से पहले ग्रिवेंसेज को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को एड्रेस करना है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कानून के अन्तर्गत सारी कंप्लेंट को एड्रेस करती है और जो कंप्लेंट हमारे पास आती है और ग्रेव नेचर की होती है, उसके संबंध में हम NLMs अपोइंट करते हैं।

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री है। उड़ीसा में आदिवासी और एस0सी0, एस0टी0 महिलाओं को NREGA अच्छी तरह से कवर करता है। सर, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि जहां पर आदिवासी, * और महिलाएं काम करती हैं.....(व्यवधान)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर,.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए, आपकी टर्न नहीं है। Please resume your place. (Interruptions)

#Not recorded.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, * शब्द अनपार्लियामेंट्री है।.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : अगर है तो वह रिकार्ड में नहीं जाएगा। आप बैठ जाइए, वह रिकार्ड में नहीं जाएगा।...
(व्यवधान)

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मैं खुद दलित हूँ, इसलिए एस0सी0, एस0टी0 बोल रही हूँ।... (व्यवधान)

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : दलित होने से आपको इस तरह बोलने का लाइसेंस थोड़ी मिल जाता है।.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए।

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : ठीक है, मैं संशोधन कर रही हूँ। सांसद महोदय को अगर कुछ तकलीफ हुई है तो मैं खुद दलित हूँ, इसलिए मैं इसमें संशोधन कर रही हूँ, एस0सी0, एस0टी0 कह रही हूँ। जहाँ पर महिला एस0सी0, एस0टी0 हैं, उधर जॉब कार्ड होल्डिंग बहुत ज्यादा संख्या में होता है। सर, उड़ीसा में जॉब कार्ड होल्डिंग्स की कितनी कम्प्लेंट्स हैं, उनमें से कितनी डिसपॉज-ऑफ हुई हैं ? मुझे जानकारी है कि हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स और इंडियन एक्सप्रेस के द्वारा ऑन-लाइन कम्प्लेंट्स लॉज होने के बावजूद अभी तक कोई डिस्मिशन नहीं हो पाया है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इन कम्प्लेंट्स को डिसपॉज-ऑफ करने के लिए, इन पर डिस्मिशन लेने के लिए कितना समय चाहिए ? सर, जो 7000 अभी तक ऑन लाइन रिकार्ड में जॉब कार्ड होल्डर्स हैं, उनको अभी तक काम नहीं दिया गया है, उनको अलाउंस देने के लिए आप क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, उड़ीसा से 33 कम्प्लेंट्स रिसीव हुई हैं, उनमें से 16 कम्प्लेंट्स डिसपॉज-ऑफ हुई हैं और 17 कम्प्लेंट्स बाकी हैं। जहाँ तक जॉब कार्ड का सम्बन्ध है, जॉब कार्ड का पंचायत लेवल पर जितने आदमी काम पर जाते हैं, डिमांड करते हैं, तो उतने आदमियों को काम मिलता है। हमारे पास जो जानकारी उपलब्ध है, उसमें उड़ीसा की मात्र 33 कम्प्लेंट्स रिसीव हुई थीं, उनमें से 16 हमने डिसपॉज की हैं और 17 की जानकारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से मांग रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Malaisamy, please go ahead.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I have seen from the reply that a number of complaints have been received, and they have been rightly referred to the State Governments which are the implementing agencies. Sir, when, in States, the persons involved in complaints are likely to be the ruling party men, will there be a free and fair inquiry and corrective measures? For that, what is your way out?

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Sir, recently, we have given instructions to States and we have also given them a direction that they should have a concept of 'Ombudsman'. We are asking the State Governments to appoint Ombudsmen in every district of their States, and this process is continuing. In due course of time, we will review it and see to it that this takes place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajniti Prasad.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो क्वेश्चन का जवाब दिया है, तो टोटल negate कर दिया है और कहा है कि (a) से लेकर (e) तक इनका आन्स्वर "No" है। सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह

*Not recorded.

जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब 242 कम्प्लेंट्स इनको मिली हैं, तो (a) से लेकर (e) तक यह कहना कि कुछ भी नहीं है, आन्स्वर “No” है, तो उनमें पनिशमेंट देंगे या नहीं देंगे, क्योंकि आन्स्वर No है? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सिर्फ इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूँ कि NREGA का कार्य बहुत पवित्र कार्य है और जिसके कारण आप लोग सरकार में आ गए। उसी का मामला इतना गंभीर है, तो क्या ऐसे राज्यों में जहां NREGA ठीक से काम नहीं कर रहा है, तो उसके लिए वहां पर कोई आब्जर्वर आप भेजने का काम करेंगे ? यही मेरा सवाल है और कोई सवाल नहीं है।

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, NREGA में एक साल का funds करीब Rs.40,000 crores है। माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न यह पूछा है कि sizeable fund का उपयोग नहीं हुआ है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि Rs.40,000 crores के प्रपोशनेट में 1010 कम्प्लेंट्स हमें रिसीव हुई हैं। इन 1010 कम्प्लेंट्स में 242 कम्प्लेंट्स में से मात्र 13 कम्प्लेंट्स ऐसी हैं, जहां पर amount 7.72 crores का है, इसलिए हमने पहले वाले उत्तर में No कहा है। जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि NREGA को ठीक ढंग से implement करने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं। सभापति महोदय, हर एक माननीय सदस्य district level Monitoring Committee का सदस्य है। हमने कहा है कि वह तीन महीने में मीटिंग करे, इसकी जानकारी ले और हमें सूचना दे। Ombudsman के संबंध में हमने राज्य सरकारों को निवेदन किया है। हमने MIS का सिस्टम प्लेस कर रखा है। ये सब प्रयास करने के बाद हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट तुरन्त गति से काम करेगी और Ombudsman के माध्यम से यदि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कम्प्लेंट्स को ठीक ढंग से address नहीं कर पा रही है, तो Lokpal की नियुक्ति उस चीज को ठीक ढंग से address कर पाएगी और यह स्कीम ठीक ढंग से लागू हो पाएगी।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सभापति जी, जो हमारा सवाल था, वह भी इसी से संबंधित था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो 40 per cent siphoning off की बात है जिसके बारे में उन्होंने कहा है कि सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी शिकायतें ज्यादातर किन राज्यों से हैं? और जब राज्य सरकारें अपने स्तर पर monitoring नहीं कर पा रही हैं, तो क्या Central Monitoring Agency बनाने का विचार है, क्योंकि NREGA के मामले में सफलता बहुत जरूरी है ?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, मध्य प्रदेश की एक कम्प्लेंट के संबंध में IBN में डिस्प्ले हुआ कि इस के अंतर्गत बहुत ज्यादा भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है। उस कम्प्लेंट के बाद हमने मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार को इसकी जांच करने के लिए लिखा और CAG को भी लिखा कि वह इसकी जांच करें। हमने NLM में अपॉइंटमेंट करके पता लगाने का काम किया। We are addressing this problem. जो यह 30 से 40 परसेंट फंड को siphon करने की बात कर रहे हैं, यह सत्य नहीं है। हमने इसके बारे में पूरी जानकारी प्राप्त करके CAG को इन्वॉल्व करने की कोशिश की है, हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से भी सूचना ले रहे हैं और Obudsman के लागू करने के बाद, हम समझते हैं कि इस तरह की सूचना आ रही है, उसके बारे में जनता के सामने सही तथ्य सामने आ पाएंगे। जो जनरल कमेंट 30-40 फंड का जो करने का है, मैं समझता हूँ कि यह स्थिति सही नहीं है।

Dividend remitted by Nationalised Banks

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

(a) The total amount of dividend remitted to Government by the Nationalised Banks in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009;

(b) whether Government has allocated any funds to the Nationalised Banks during this period; and

(c) if so, the value thereof?

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

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

Statement

(a) The nationalised banks have paid dividend amounting to Rs. 1,660 crore, Rs. 1,863 crore and Rs. 2,178 crore to the Government for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(b) and (c) To enable the public sector banks (PSBs) to meet the credit requirements of the economy while maintaining a healthy and comfortable level of regulatory Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR), the Government infused a sum of Rs. 1,900 crore (Central Bank of India — Rs. 700 crore, Vijaya Bank — Rs. 500 crore, UCO Bend — Rs. 450 crore and United Bank of India — Rs. 250 crore) as Tier I capital during the year 2008-09.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. Please observe decorum in the House.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, my first supplementary is: What is the total value and percentage of the NPA, Non-Performing Assets, of these banks? What efforts are under way to reduce these outstanding liabilities?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the NPA of the nationalised banks is around 2.8 per cent at present, and efforts are being made to reduce this NPA by issuing various circulars and instructions by the Government, as well as, by the Reserve Bank of India.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, it is 2.8 per cent. By merely issuing circulars will you be able to recover those monies? Big people, heavyweights, have borrowed. There are 101 ways to escape from that NPA and finally you will write them off. What exactly are you doing?

My second supplementary is this. I think there is a uniform policy. What are you doing, as a Minister? Every Ministry is having the same type of Non-Performing Assets. Take, for example, Indian Oil Corporation. Its Non-Performing Assets are to the tune of Rs.530 crores. There are two big people involved. I know who they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary, please.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: My supplementary is this. What is the method that you are going to adopt?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are running out of time. Do you want an answer to your question or do you want to make a statement out of turn?

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: The question is: What are the immediate steps taken by you to recover the money and to reduce the NPA?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, several steps have been taken to reduce the NPA, and there are guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India to reduce the NPA and to recover the money. The banks are using the OTS, One Time Settlement Scheme, as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. The hon. Member would be happy to know that by taking several steps, the NPA of the various banks is coming down every year. The banks are recovering. The SARFAESI Act is being followed in all the cases.

Cost cutting measures in Air India

*274. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:††

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India reported huge losses during 2008-09 even as the airlines appointed consulting firm Booz and Allen to formulate a plan to cut costs and enhance revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the factors attributing the rise in losses of Air India have been examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to adopt cost cutting measures in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Air India is expected to incur a loss of Rs.5,000 crores approximately (Prov.) during the year 2008-09. The consulting firm Booz and Allen has not yet been appointed by Air India.

(c) and (d) The reasons for losses are mainly due to prevalent economic recession and low yields and load factors. Air India has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, my first supplementary is: What major steps are you going to take to recover the losses? Have you prepared any plan?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, there are various measures which have been initiated to stem the extent of loss, that is, first to reduce the quantum of expenditure and to make sure that there is revenue enhancement. There is a difficult time for the aviation industry as also for our national carrier. I am sure that various steps have been taken. Since the time is less, I will send a proper answer in writing to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Janardhan Waghmare.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Medical treatment of VVIPs in Foreign Countries

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

(a) the number of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiary VVIPs including high ranking politicians and bureaucrats, who were allowed to receive treatment abroad during the last three years ending 31 March, 2009 and whose treatment has been completed so far this year;

(b) the extent of expenditure incurred by Government both on the treatment and on the travel and stay of their attendants, year-wise, separately; and

(c) the specific ailments for which treatment in foreign countries was allowed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) does not provide for obtaining treatment abroad by its beneficiaries. The CGHS does not maintain any separate categories of VVIP beneficiaries. However, Central Government employees, sitting MPs, Ministers and their family members can obtain treatment abroad under the CS(MA) Rules, 1944, only after the Standing Committee constituted under the aforesaid rules recommends treatment abroad. Expenditure in such cases is borne by the respective Departments/Ministries and is not charged to the CGHS. Only in the cases of Ex-Prime Ministers, whose medical care arrangements are regulated by a separate scheme of medical care for the Prime Ministers and former Prime Ministers, expenditure on treatment abroad is borne by the CGHS. The specific ailments for which cases for treatment abroad can be considered by the Standing Committee are as given below:

- (i) Complex/high risk Cardio Vascular Surgery cases for treatment at centers with extensive experiences;
- (ii) Bone Marrow Transplant;
- (iii) Complex medical and oncological disorders, such as Leukaemia and Neo-plastic conditions;
- (iv) Complex high risk cases in Micro Vascular and Neuro Surgery for treatment at Centers with extensive experience;
- (v) Treatment of extremely complex ailments other than those mentioned above which in the opinion of Standing Committee can only be treated abroad and fall in the high risk category.

Drop in female foeticide cases

†*262. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the drop in percentage of female foeticide cases consequent upon legislation enacted and measures adopted by Government to prevent the same; and

(b) the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) It is difficult to determine the exact number of female foeticide cases in the country as these are conducted surreptitiously with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such services.

Stringent punishments have been prescribed under the PC and PNDT Act, 1994, for using pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques to illegally determine the sex of the foetus. The Appropriate Authorities at the District and State levels are empowered to search, seize and seal the machines, equipments and records of the violators. The sale of certain diagnostic equipment is restricted only to the bodies registered under the Act.

The Government has also taken various steps to support implementation of the legislation, including through constitution of a National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC), Central and State Supervisory Boards, capacity building of implementing agencies, including the judiciary and public prosecutors and community awareness generation through PRIs and community health workers such as Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

State/UT wise details of cases of foeticide and infanticide during the last three years, as reported by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), are given in Statement-I and Statement-II, respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted, Cases Convicted, Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) Under Foeticide During 2006-08

Sl. No.	State	2006						2007						2008*					
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	5	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	1	0	1	1	0	10	4	2	8	7	3	9	6	4	3	4	2
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	6	2	0	5	5	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
8.	Haryana	9	2	0	9	9	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	5	3	0	7	7	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	15	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

12. Karnataka	13	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	1	0
13. Kerala	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Madhya Pradesh	14	4	2	6	6	1	10	7	0	11	11	0	8	4	3	12	12	6
15. Maharashtra	10	5	0	11	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0
16. Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Punjab	22	2	0	7	2	0	35	8	0	9	8	0	24	3	2	8	4	1
22. Rajasthan	25	3	1	8	8	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
23. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
24. Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Uttar Pradesh	2	2	1	5	5	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	5	5	0
27. Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL STATE	118	30	5	77	73	5	92	26	3	40	39	4	71	22	10	44	37	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi UT	7	5	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UT		7	5	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ALL INDIA		125	35	5	77	73	5	96	27	3	41	40	4	73	22	10	44	37	10

Sources : China in India

Note: Information on disposal by police and courts includes the information on pending cases from previous year also.

*Provisional Data.

Statement-II

Cases registered (CR), cases chargesheeted, cases convicted, person arrested (PAR), persons chargesheeted (PCS) and persons convicted (PCV) under infanticide during 2006-2008

Sl. No.	State	2006						2007						2008*					
		CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	7	3	15	15	5	8	6	4	11	11	3	7	7	1	6	6	2
6.	Goa	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	6	0	5	5	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	9	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	0	3	3	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
13. Kerala		1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0
14. Madhya Pradesh		43	15	2	17	18	1	29	7	4	10	12	5	22	2	3	1	1	3
15. Maharashtra		4	3	0	3	3	0	2	2	2	5	5	2	3	1	0	6	3	0
16. Manipur		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Meghalaya		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Mizoram		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Nagaland		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Orissa		1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Punjab		2	1	0	4	1	3	3	2	0	3	4	0	2	1	0	1	1	0
22. Rajasthan		6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
23. Sikkim		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	2
24. Tamil Nadu		1	1	0	1	1	4	10	1	0	6	0	0	20	0	0	4	0	0
25. Tripura		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Uttar Pradesh		32	32	9	42	40	13	61	53	15	90	83	20	60	52	24	90	79	34
27. Uttarakhand		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. West Bengal		0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL States		126	66	15	87	85	29	134	87	26	147	134	31	140	75	29	118	104	41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UT		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ALL INDIA		126	66	15	87	85	29	134	87	26	147	134	31	140	75	29	118	104	41

Source: Crime in India

Note: Information on disposal by police and courts includes the information on pending cases from previous years also

*Provisional Data

VRS Scheme in AAI

*263. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) proposed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) with some modifications;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of AAI employees who opted for VRS after approval of said scheme?

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

(a) and (b) Government of India has approved the Voluntary Retirement Scheme proposed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for those general employees, upto the level of DGM, who were working at IGI airport, Delhi and CSI airport, Mumbai. The details of the scheme are given below:

- (i) *Ex-gratia* - @60 days salary for each completed year of service rendered or salary for the number of months service left, whichever is less.
- (ii) Additional monthly benefit @100% of the Basic Pay (BP) drawn on date of voluntary retirement for those employees whose age is 58 years and above; 80% of BP for above 50 years and upto 58 years and 60% of BP for below 50 years of age to be paid for a period equivalent to the service rendered or till notional date of superannuation or 10 years whichever is least.
- (iii) The compensation under VRS will be in addition to the terminal benefits.
- (iv) Cash equivalent of accumulated Earned Leave and Half Pay Leave as applicable as per the existing rules of Authority.
- (v) Encashment of un-availed Casual Leave on pro-rata basis upto the date of relieve of employee.
- (vi) Gratuity as per AAI Gratuity Regulations, 2003.
- (vii) Transfer benefit for self and family by the entitled class as per AAI TA/DA Regulations, 2003.
- (viii) Medical facilities for self and spouse as per AAI Medical Attendance Regulations, 2003 on attaining the age of superannuation.
- (c) 601.

Allocation of funds for different systems of Medicine

*264. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated for Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine during the last two years and the current year;
- (b) how much of the funds were utilized in each case, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken to develop Unani system of medicine and to increase allocation for the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The information regarding funds allocated and utilized during the last two years and the allocation for the current year under different systems of medicine is given in the Statement. (See below)

The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) has a dedicated Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine for promoting research in the Unani System. The National Institute of Unani Medicine is an autonomous body mandated to impart Post Graduate Education in Unani. In addition, Reorientation of Training Programmes (ROTP), Extra-Mural Research (EMR) Projects, a Number of Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, National/State Campaign for skin disorders/RCH/Geriatric Care have been initiated by the Department for popularizing the Unani System of Medicine. The approved Plan outlay for Unani System increased from Rs. 57 crore during the Tenth Plan to Rs. 110 crore during Eleventh Plan.

Statement

Funds Allocated and Utilized in Different Systems of medicine

(Rs. in crores)

Systems	2007-08						2008-09					
	Allocation			Expenditure			Allocation			Expenditure		
	Plan	Non Plan	Total	Plan	Non Plan	Total	Plan	Non Plan	Total	Plan	Non Plan	Total
Allopathy	841.75	669.16	1510.91	871.61	682.20	1553.81	973.86	587.35	1561.21	1173.16	914.27	2087.43
Homoeopathy	32.10	8.96	41.06	28.83	9.59	38.42	30.98	10.93	41.91	40.38	13.41	53.79
Ayurveda	53.82	48.34	102.16	40.19	49.46	89.57	68.02	54.72	122.74	56.70	76.93	133.63
Unani	26.70	13.00	39.70	24.08	16.00	40.08	26.00	17.10	43.10	36.63	25.07	61.70
System						2009-10 Allocation						
						Plan		Non Plan		Total		
Allopathy						1892.27		1175.65		3067.92		
Homoeopathy						52.03		21.61		73.64		
Ayurveda						92.05		115.58		207.93		
Unani						42.00		40.00		82.00		

Upgradation of Ports on Eastern Coast

265. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bulk of the cargo meant for Indian ports on the Eastern Coast is diverted to Colombo port due to better facilities there;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the difference in the facilities offered by Indian ports and Colombo port; and

(c) the steps proposed to upgrade Indian ports on the Eastern Coast?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The cargo meant for Indian Ports on the Eastern Coast is not diverted to Colombo Port. However, the containerized cargo coming to Indian Ports often get transshipped at Colombo Port as Colombo is located closer to the International navigation channel.

(c) Ports have taken various initiatives for development of various projects and upgrading the existing facilities through public private partnership. The projects under implementations are given in the Statement-I and Projects under bidding are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Private sector/captive port projects under implementation

Sl. No.	Project Name	Department/ Agency	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Structure (BOOT/BOT)	Date of Award	Likely date of Completion	Remark, If any
1.	Coal Terminal	Ennore Port Limited	399	BOT	9/7/2006	August 2010	Chettinad International Coal Terminal (P) Ltd.
2.	Iron Ore Terminal	Ennore Port Limited	480	BOT	9/7/2006	August 2010	SICAL Iron Ore Terminals Ltd.
3.	Construction of Coal Berth at NBW for NLC-TNEB	Tuticorin Port Trust	49	BOT	Dec-2009	Dec-2011	
4.	Construction of Deep Draft Iron Ore Berth	Paradip Port Trust	591	BOT	1/7/2009	July 2012	Concession Agreement signed on 01/07/2009
5.	Construction of Deep Draft Coal Berth	Paradip Port Trust	479	BOT	21/8/2009	Aug. 2012	
TOTAL			1998				

Statement-II

Projects under bidding

S. No.	Project Name	Port Name	Est. Cost (In Rs. Crore)	Structure (BOOT/BOT)	Likely Date of Award
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of 1 riverine jetty downstream of 2nd Oil Jetty/47.11	Kolkata Port Trust	47	BOT	Feb 2011
2.	Construction of 1 riverine jetty upstream of 2nd Oil Jetty/ 99.46	Kolkata Port Trust	99	BOT	Feb 2011
3.	Multi purpose berth at Port Trust Project-1	Paradip Port Trust	387.3	BOT	March-10
4.	Mechanization of Central Quay-III Berth *Single stage bidding	Paradip Port Trust	40.00	BOT	March-10
5.	Installation of Mechanised handling facilities for fertilizers at EQ 7 in the Inner Harbour	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	223.80	BOT	March-10
6.	Mechanised Coal handling facilities at General cum Cargo Berth (GCB) in the Outer Harbour	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	461.57	BOT	March-10
7.	Development of EQ1 in East Dock	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	284.27	BOT	March-10

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Development of EQ-A in East Dock at Vizag	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	284.27	BOT	March-10
9.	Installation of Mechanised handling facilities at WQ 8 at Vizag	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	222.43	BOT	March-10
10.	Installation of Mechanised handling facilities at WQ 7 at Vizag	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	227.64	BOT	March-10
11.	Development of EQ-10 berth in Inner Harbour for handling liquid cargo	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	55.38	BOT	March-10
12.	Development of Western quay (WQ-6) in the northern arm of Inner harbour of VPT for handling Dry bulk cargo	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	114.37	BOT	March-10
13.	Development of Container Terminal	Ennore	1407	BOT	March-10
14.	Creation of Mega Container Terminal	Chennai	3686	BOT	March-10
15.	Construction of North Cargo Berth No-II at Tuticorin	Tuticorin	319.45	BOT	March-10
16.	Constn. of shallow draught Berth (3 Nos)	Tuticorin	50	BOT	Feb 2011
17.	Mechanization of Construction of Berth 9	Tuticorin	20	BOT	Feb-11
18.	Conversion of berth no-8 as Container Terminal	Tuticorin	312.23	BOT	March-10
TOTAL:			8246.24 Cr.		

Siphoning off of NREGS funds

*266. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government investigation into the working of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has revealed siphoning off of a whopping 40 per cent of this allocation and inadequate implementation in the districts where it is needed most;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the directions given by Centre to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

(c) With a view to check the occurrence of such instances, the Ministry has taken the following steps:

(i) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.

(ii) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (www.nrega.nic.in) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information.

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers.

(iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.

(v) Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.

(vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

Upgradation of Waterways

*271. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of waterways in the country;

(b) when they were made national waterways; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to upgrade the national waterways to the international standard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) There are 14500 km of navigable inland waterways in the country of which five stretches have been declared as National Waterways. The year of declaration of each stretch as National Waterway is given below:

- (i) **National Waterway-1:** Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1986.
- (ii) **National Waterway-2:** Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1988.
- (iii) **National Waterway-3:** Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1993.
- (iv) **National Waterway-4:** Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of canals and Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1095 km). Declared as National Waterway in 2008.
- (v) **National Waterway-5:** Talcher-Dhamra stretch of rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers (620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 2008.

(c) The National Waterways in our country are developed keeping in view the terrain, silting pattern, topography and regional transportation needs etc. The first three National Waterways *i.e.* National Waterways-1, 2 and 3 are being developed as per the projected requirement of shipping and navigation by providing basic inland transport infrastructural facilities including navigational channel with targeted depth and width for most part of the year, aids for day and night navigation and terminals at selected locations for berthing and loading/unloading of vessels. For National Waterway-4 and 5, declared as National Waterways in November 2008, proposals for development of these Waterways have been initiated.

Target under PMGSY

†*275. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of roads constructed *vis-a-vis* target for the same under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the last three years;

(b) the agencies which have been entrusted with the responsibility of construction of roads under this scheme and the officers who are responsible for the quality of roads;

(c) whether Government has received complaints of reconstruction of already constructed roads at some places under PMGSY;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government will provide immediate information pertaining to the roads being constructed under PMGSY on internet so that the public could get information about them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), length of the roads constructed *vis-a-vis* target during the last three years is as under:

Year	Target (in Km)	Length completed (in km)
2006-07	45395	30710
2007-08	55020	41231
2008-09	64440	52405

(b) Rural Road is a State subject. Hence State Government has the responsibility of construction of roads under PMGSY. The State Governments have entrusted their responsibilities to respective State Rural Road Development Agencies (SRRDA). At the field level programme is implemented by the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) under the supervision and direction of SRRDA. Central agencies such as M/s IRCON International Limited, M/s National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, M/s National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, M/s National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Limited, Central Public Works Department and Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited have also been engaged in some States for construction of rural roads under PMGSY.

Officers of the implementing agencies are responsible for the quality of roads.

- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The detailed information pertaining to the roads being constructed under PMGSY is available for the public on the website www.omms.nic.in.

Mass leave by pilots of Domestic Airlines

*276. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the recent mass leave taken by pilots of domestic airlines, the passengers had to face hardships due to uncertainty about scheduling or cancellation of flights;
- (b) if so, whether certain norms have been prescribed for the airlines to provide credible and timely information to the passengers in such situations;
- (c) if so, the details of such norms; and

(d) whether Government has ascertained with the concerned airlines if those norms were followed during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (d) In view of the mass leave taken by the pilots of Jet Airways recently, Directorate General of Civil Aviation directed the airline to set up control rooms at the airports, make arrangements to transfer passengers to other airlines, refund of air tickets to be made immediately and provide information of cancellation to all concerned passengers. In addition, in pursuance of sub-rule (4) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued directions to all the scheduled domestic airlines to charge tariff prevalent just before the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave, which were complied with by all scheduled domestic airlines.

Expenditure on core gas transmission segment by GAIL

*277. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) plans Rs. 49,000 crores capex for 2010-14 with a substantial part of it, *i.e.* around 70 per cent, to be incurred in core gas transmission segment;

(b) whether plan is to double the length of pipelines and transmission capacity apart from expanding company's petrochemical business;

(c) whether company is planning to double current transmission pipeline length of around 7000 km. to 14000 km. by fiscal year 2013; and

(d) if so, what are the concrete measures and steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) GAIL (India) Ltd. has a planned Capex (Capital Expenditure) of around Rs. 49,000 crore for the period 2010-14. Out of the mentioned amount, around 70% is in the core gas transmission segment. However, this expenditure is subject to due diligence and Board approval.

(b) to (d) The mentioned Capital Expenditure is based on GAIL (India) Ltd. doubling its pipeline length from the present level of 7,000 km to 14,000 km by 2014, apart from expanding Company's petrochemicals business. The commissioning of these pipeline would also entail more than doubling the present level of transmission capacity. The approved projects are in various stages of execution, for which GAIL (India) Ltd. is also augmenting its manpower. As regards the remaining projects, due diligence is being undertaken and approvals are being taken.

New flights from Rajkot Airport

*278. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajkot airport has vast traffic potential for Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to start extra flights from Rajkot airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Air India and Jet Airways are presently operating Scheduled air services on Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai routes. However, there is no direct flight from Delhi to Rajkot.

(b) and (c) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Separate Stock Exchange for SMEs

*279. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up separate stock exchange for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);

(b) if so, whether Government has commissioned any study to measure the feasibility of such scheme with the stakeholders;

(c) if so, the rationale for such an exchange considering that there are separate indices for the midcap and small cap segments in the existing National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE);

(d) by when such exchange is likely to begin trading; and

(e) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has framed the guidelines for listing and trading in the upcoming stock exchange of SMEs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recognises and regulates Stock Exchanges. SEBI has decided to facilitate the setting up of separate stock exchanges or a platform in the existing stock exchanges dedicated to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the objective of making available equity capital at lower cost for small and medium scale industries.

(b) A discussion paper on developing market for Small and Medium Enterprises in India was put up on the SEBI web-site on May 26, 2008 for inviting public comments. Based on the public comments received and discussions with various market participants, the framework for

recognition and supervision of stock exchanges/platforms of stock exchanges for small and medium enterprises was placed in the public domain.

(c) The need and criteria of listing at SME exchange/platform are different from those for listing on BSE and NSE. Therefore, it is felt that separate SME exchange/platform of existing stock exchange are required.

(d) No timeline has been set by SEBI for the setting up of such an exchange/platform and for trading to commence.

(e) SEBI Board in the meeting held on 9th November 2009, approved the broad operational guidelines for SME exchange/platform.

Impact of economic slow down

*280. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that economic slow down has hit plan resources;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The economic slowdown in 2008-09 was largely on account of global shocks; the first half of the year, witnessed steep rise in international commodity prices while the global financial crisis emerged in the second half of the year whose impact spilled over to the current year as well. To minimise the adverse impact on the economy, the Reserve Bank of India took a number of monetary measures and the Government under took a fiscal expansion including through stimulus measures announced in December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009. Due to this conscious fiscal expansion, resources flow to plan schemes increased in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (BE) as detailed in the Table below.

Year	Total Expenditure (Rs. crore)	Plan Expenditure	Total Expenditure (As per cent of GDP)	Plan Expenditure
2007-08	7,12,671	2,05,082	15.1	4.3
2008-09 (Prov. Act)	8,81,469	2,75,450	16.6	5.2
2009-10(BE)	10,20,838	3,25,149	17.4	5.6

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of IA and AI

1997. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what were the objectives of the merger of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI);
- (b) whether those objectives have been met;
- (c) what was the extent of profit/loss of Air India at the time of merger;
- (d) what is the extent of losses now;
- (e) whether the losses have increased ever since merger;
- (f) if so, the details of annual losses ever since merger; and
- (g) the reasons for increase in losses?

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

(a) The integration of the two airlines was done with the objectives of developing seamless connectivity, network of regional operations, short to medium haul trunk operations and long haul operations resulting in an improved product offering through wider network coverage. The merger would also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for leveraging common assets.

(b) Fulfilment of the objectives of the merger is an on-going process.

(c) At the time of merger *i.e.* 2006-07, the loss of Air India was Rs.447.93 crores.

(d) The loss for 2008-09 is Rs.5000 crores (approximately).

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The loss for the year 2007-08 was Rs.2226.16 crores and it is expected to be of the order of Rs.5,000 crores (Prov.) during the year 2008-09. The main reasons for the losses are prevalent economic recession, low yields, load factors, decline in cargo and freight revenue, Increase in fuel expenditure in 2008-09 and increase in aircraft maintenance expenditure.

Setting up small airports

†1998. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has carried out any survey to find out the possibility of starting small airports of linking local areas with the capitals of the respective States;

(b) if so, the details of such survey; and

(c) the details of new air-routes started during each of the last three years and new air-routes proposed during the year 2009-10, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of new sectors started during last three years and proposed air routes during 2009-10 are as under: 2006-07-Chennai-Tuticorin-Chennai; 2007-08-Kolkata-Jamshedpur-Kolkata; 2008-09-Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi, Mumbai-Latur-Nanded-Mumbai, Mumbai-Nasik-Mumbai, Mumbai-Sholapur-Mumbai; and 2009-10-Chennai-Salem-Chennai.

Safety measures for Civil Aviation

1999. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated an audit of maintenance procedure of major airlines to check whether the projected losses this fiscal year are leading to a compromise on passenger safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some airlines are not following proper safety measures in view of losses; and

(d) if so, how Government is going to ensure that the airlines are adopting all safety measures?

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

(a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducts technical audits of the maintenance procedures of major airlines. During these technical audits, it is checked whether any compromise is made with regard to spare parts, components etc. and whether it is due to shortage of funds.

(c) DGCA audit has shown no such compromise.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of aerospace SEZ in the country

2000. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed agreements with major international players to set up aerospace Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and under what terms and conditions;

(c) whether Government has allowed international players to set up aerospace SEZ in the country; and

(d) if so, the likely impact on civil aviation sector of setting up aerospace SEZ in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has not signed any agreement with International players to setup aerospace Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country.

Aviation grid

2001. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would have 125 operational airports in the next five years if the momentum of building private airports continues;

(b) whether Government would continue its effort to build an aviation grid of one airport in every 50-100 kilometer amid global recession;

(c) whether Rs. 15,000 crore is to be invested in Eleventh Five Year Plan by Government and Rs. 30,000 crore is to come in through Public Private Partnership (PPP) route; and

(d) if so, by when these projects are likely to be completed and what is the present position of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) operates and maintains 87 operational and 29 non-operational airports including 23 civil enclaves at defence airfields and private airports for air traffic operations. In addition to above, Government of India have given 'in-principle' approval for setting up of new Greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa, Bijapur, Simoga, Hassan and Gulbarga in Karnataka, Pakyong in Sikkim, Durgapur in West Bengal and Datia/Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government wishes to encourage the use of all available infrastructure in the country whether it be airfield which are not operational presently as well as the airfields owned by State Governments or Ministry of Defence. A Policy to promote greenfield airports is already in place.

(c) and (d) There is no such estimation made. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plan to incur expenditure of Rs.12434 crores for modernisation of airports and air traffic services across the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan period (2007-2012). Two Greenfield Airports each at Bangalore and Hyderabad with an investment of Rs. 2400 Crores and Rs. 2920 crores have been made operational in 2008 under PPP. Besides, development of IGI Airport, New Delhi and CSI Airport, Mumbai with estimated cost of Rs. 8975 crores and Rs. 9802 crores respectively has been undertaken under PPP. The details of development works completed by AAI at various non-metro airports are as follows: Vizag (Andhra Pradesh)-construction of new

integrated terminal building; Guwahati (Assam)-extension of runway; Mangalore (Karnataka)-construction of new integrated terminal Building; Agati (Lakshadweep)-construction of new integrated terminal building; Raipur (Madhya Pradesh)-construction of new apron; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)-construction of new apron at; Aurangabad (Maharashtra)-construction of new integrated terminal building; Nagpur (Maharashtra)-construction of new international arrival hall and expansion of existing terminal building; Amritsar (Punjab)-extension of runway, expansion of apron and terminal building, construction of new terminal building; Jaipur (Rajasthan)-construction of new international terminal complex; Udaipur (Rajasthan)-construction of new terminal building complex and new apron; Madurai (Tamil Nadu)-extension of new apron; Trichy (Tamil Nadu)--construction of new integrated terminal building; Agartala (Tripura)-expansion of apron, strengthening of existing runway and construction of technical block; Agra (Uttar Pradesh)-renovation of terminal building; Dehradun (Uttarakhand)-construction of new terminal building, apron and strengthening and extension of runway.

Development works scheduled to be completed in Financial Year 2009-10 at various non-metro airports are as under:

Portblair (Andaman and Nicobar Island)-extension and strengthening of apron; Raipur (Chhattisgarh)-construction of new terminal building; Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-construction of new international terminal building; Ranchi (Jharkhand)-construction of new integrated terminal building; Trivandrum (Kerala)-construction of new international terminal building; Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)-construction of new integrated terminal building; Indore (Madhya Pradesh)-construction of new integrated terminal building; Pune (Maharashtra)-extension and modification of terminal building; Imphal (Manipur)-extension of apron; Dimapur (Nagaland)-extension of apron and construction of link Taxiway. Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)-expansion and modification of existing terminal building, construction of part parallel taxi way and extension of apron; Madurai (Tamil Nadu)-construction of new integrated terminal building; Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)-construction of new international terminal building and new apron, expansion of existing apron; Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)-construction of new integrated terminal building including aerobridge and extension of apron; Chandigarh (Union Territory)-construction of new terminal building; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)-construction of terminal building.

Job for commercial pilots

2002. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are 3000 commercial pilot licence holders who have spent upto rupees 35 lakhs to become pilots and are looking for jobs in aviation sector in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government had increased flying age of pilots from 60 to 65, three years ago as there was a shortage of pilots and also engaged 900 pilots from foreign countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to reduce the flying age of pilots to 60 years in order to give job opportunities for young unemployed pilots; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
 (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation does not maintain records of employed/unemployed pilots. Moreover, issuing of licence is not linked with demand for employment of pilots.

(c) and (d) Government had increased the flying age from 60 to 65 years in comply with the provision of Annexure-I of International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Jharsuguda airport in Orissa

† 2003. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the requirement of providing land by the State Government of Orissa to make Jharsuguda airport operational has been fulfilled;
- (b) if not, the reasons for this undue delay;
- (c) the remaining work to make this airport operational from commercial point of view; and
- (d) whether there is any planning of cargo transportation apart from passenger transportation from Jharsuguda airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) had requested the State Government of Orissa for their willingness to make this airport operational and to provide required additional land of 815 acres free of cost and free from all encumbrances in this regard to AAI along with signing of MOU which was forwarded by AAI to Government of Orissa in 2007. State Government of Orissa has neither provided the requisite land nor their comments in the matter so far.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The Master Plan forwarded to Government of Orissa, includes passenger and cargo facilities.

Agreement with global aviation organizations

2004. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two top global aviation bodies—International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Air Transport Association (IATA)—have appealed Government to allow open market access to their airlines;

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

(c) whether Government has signed any agreement to liberalize State-control on airlines industry;

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

(e) the manner in which Government is going to protect the interest of domestic airlines companies after the implementation of said agreement?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Schedule of private airlines

2005. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prime time and prime sector have been allotted to private airlines; and

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

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Time slots for operation of flight and routes to be flown are filed by the airlines on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility.

However, the flight schedules are approved after receipt of slot clearance from the airport operator concerned, who examine the feasibility to handle the flights at that time keeping in view runway capacity, terminal building capacity, availability of parking stands, watch hours, etc.

Upgradation of airports in Madhya Pradesh

†2006. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any proposal to make the airports at Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho of international level;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether this proposal is still pending and any time frame has been fixed to clear this proposal;

(c) whether the expenditure on this work is likely to be increased due to long delay in approval of the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (d) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has provided land to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for developing Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho airports to international level. In this regard, AAI has taken up various development and upgradation works to provide facilities of international standards at Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho airports. At Bhopal airport-strengthening and extension of runway upto 2744 m, extension of runway for wide bodied aircraft and construction of new terminal building. At Indore airport-strengthening and extension of runway upto 2750 m, extension of apron to accommodate wide bodied aircraft and construction of new terminal building. At Khajuraho airport-strengthening new Terminal Building and extension of runway upto 2286 m besides extension of apron to accommodate wide bodied aircraft.

Runway at Mumbai airport

2007. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work on the third runway in Mumbai airport has not yet started;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government proposed to take in this regard to complete the third runway as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) As per the Master Plan prepared by M/s Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. for development of CSI Airport, Mumbai, there is no provision for construction of third runway at the airport due to physical and land constraints.

Enquiry against Pilots of IC 884

2008. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pilots of Indian Airlines grounded the aircraft IC 884, due to Midair Scuffle and the authorities have ordered for an enquiry besides ordering the concerned Pilots and the crew derosted;

(b) why the suspension of the concerned was not resorted to pending enquiry when there is a *prima facie* cases; and

(c) what is the reason to derost them when there is a scope for suspension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) Appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against the concerned crew.

Inquiry in Kingfisher aeroplane incident

2009. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Kingfisher aeroplane mishap at Mumbai airport on 10 November, 2009 is completed;

(b) if so, the persons held responsible for the incident;

(c) what are the long term measures DGCA and Airports Authority of India (AAI) propose to take to ensure that runways are maintained properly to minimize risk to lives and properties of passengers and airlines;

(d) whether National Aviation Company India Limited (NACIL) entered into any understanding with pilots who had gone on 'sick leave agitation' in October, 2009;

(e) what financial burden NACIL had to bear to meet demands of pilots; and

(f) whether NACIL would adopt similar attitude with other aviation staff also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides regular safety audits of airports, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has advised all Aerodrome operators to devise a preventive maintenance programme based on guidelines issued in the Civil Aviation Requirements on the subject, issued by DGCA, for ensuring continuous serviceability of runway.

(d) and (e) When the executive pilots of National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) went on mass sick leave, NACIL offered to re-examine the Board resolution regarding cuts in Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) and Flying Allowances of Executive Cadre Employees of NACIL.

(f) NACIL had to bear no extra financial burden as PLI and Flying Allowance were being paid earlier also. However, the cost reduction exercises and revenue enhancement measures initiated by NACIL were affected due to Executive Pilots going on mass sick leave, besides a revenue loss of Rs. 65 crore.

Cancellation of flights due to under booking

2010. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the private airlines particularly Kingfisher Red cancel their flights at the eleventh hour due to under booking;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against such airlines; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal for airlines operating in the country to compensate the passengers in case of last minute cancellation of flights?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) wherein airlines are required to refund the tickets in case of cancellation of flights.

All Weather landing System

2011. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that All Weather Landing System is essential in the North Eastern Region, considering the national exigency as and when it may arise;

(b) what are the special landing facilities available in the airports of the North Eastern Region; and

(c) whether night landing facilities would be made available at all the airports situated in the border areas of North Eastern Region?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The special landing facilities available in the airports of the North Eastern Region (NER) are Instrument Landing System (ILS), Ground Lighting Facility (GLF) and Night Operation. ILS facility is available at Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Agartala, Imphal, Silchar and Dimapur airports. GLF is available at Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Agartala, Lilabari, Dimapur Lengpui, Imphal, Shillong, Silchar, Tezpur and Jorhat airports. Night Operation is available at Guwahati and Agartala airports.

(c) All the airports managed by Airports Authority of India in the border areas of NER have been provided with GLF or ILS.

Exorbitant fare changed by private airlines

2012. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during vacation and festivals like Diwali, there is no control on the pricing by private airlines;

(b) whether Government is aware that recently during Diwali, Air India and Jet Airways were charging their normal fares, but airlines like Spice Jet, Indigo and Go Air were charging more than double the normal rates; and

(c) what action Government plans to take against such Airlines exploiting such situations to keep them under control and whether Government is planning to introduce price regulatory mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) Air fares are not regulated and airlines are not required to file fares with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

Skidding of aircraft at Mumbai airport

2013. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of mishap at Mumbai airport on 10 November, 2009 causing skidding of an aircraft of a private airlines;

(b) whether it is due to just the short runway or a worrying lack of coordination between airlines, the airport operator and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(c) whether DGCA had issued instructions a day before the incident took place to the airlines and Mumbai International Airport Limited to suspend operations on shortened runway under wet conditions;

(d) the reasons of not complying the security measures by private airlines; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take against the pilots involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) Yes, Sir. An incident of M/s Kingfisher Airlines ATR-72 aircraft VT-KAC skidding off wet runway at Mumbai airport was reported on 10.11.2009, which is being investigated as per the provision contained in the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(c) All the scheduled operators were informed on 09.11.2009 about the precautions to be observed while using Runway 27A under wet condition, followed by issuance of circular dated 10.11.2009.

(d) and (e) The incident is under investigation and follow up action will be taken based on the recommendations made in the investigation report. Meanwhile, the privileges of licences held by operating crew have been suspended pending investigation under Aircraft Rules.

Subsidy for Haj pilgrims

2014. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides subsidized air travel by the national carrier to the Haj pilgrims sponsored by Haj Committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country carrier has entered into a bilateral agreement with the Saudi national carrier to carry Haj pilgrims;

(c) if so, the details of the passengers travelled by national carrier and Saudi carrier during the last three years; and

(d) the details of revenue sharing agreement between Indian and Saudi national carriers considering that Government provides subsidy for air travel to Hajis?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation enters into an MOU with Saudi Arabian Airlines to carry Haj pilgrims from different embarkation points. The number of pilgrims carried by Air India and Saudi Arabian Airlines during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Air India	Saudi Arabian Airlines
Haj 2008	64,247	57,448
Haj 2007	51,083	58,917
Haj 2006-II	49,327	59,191

(d) There is no such agreement.

Agitations against merger in Air India

2015. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the objectives of the merger of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI);

(b) whether those objectives have been met;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether recurrent agitations in Air India are one of the constraints in realizing the objectives of the merger; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to discount such agitations?

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

(a) The integration of the two airlines was done with the objectives of developing seamless connectivity, network of regional operations, short to medium haul trunk operations and long haul operations resulting in an improved product offering through wider network coverage. The merger would also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for leveraging common assets.

(b) Fulfilment of the objectives of the merger is an on-going process.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Acquisition of shares by Telenor

2016. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently given clearance to the Norwegian telecom giant Telenor to acquire 74 per cent stake in Unitech group of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this proposal had been vehemently opposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the ground that the Norwegian company has been operating in Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) under what circumstances the proposal has now been cleared by Government?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has given clearance to M/s. Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Private Limited, and seven licensee companies viz., Unitech Wireless (North) Private Limited; Unitech Wireless (South) Private Limited; Unitech Wireless (Kolkata) Private Limited; Unitech Wireless (Delhi) Private Limited; Unitech Wireless (East) Private Limited; Unitech Wireless (Mumbai) Private Limited; Unitech Wireless (West) Private Limited for foreign investment of upto 74% (initially to 67.25%) by M/s. Telenor Asia Pte. Ltd. Singapore for carrying on the activities of providing Unified Access Services.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) never opposed the proposal. After 4 (four) deferments for examining the proposal, MHA communicated their support to the proposal subject to the condition that no personnel who has worked in Telenor, Pakistan, should be allowed to work in Indian company. The condition was duly incorporated in the approval letter.

Interest on agricultural loan by SBI

†2017. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's leading bank the State Bank of India (SBI), still charges interest at a rate of 10 per cent from the farmers availing loan for crops;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rates charged by banks in the country for loans on different segments are lesser compared to the aforesaid rate; and

(d) if so, the segments and the criteria adopted for determining the rate of interest on loans offered by banks in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that it is charging interest from the farmers availing loan for crops at following rates depending upon the size of the limit :

Size of limit	Interest Rate effective from 29.06.2009
Upto Rs. 3.00 lacs	7% p.a. (fixed) as per Govt. of India's directives
Above Rs. 3.00 lacs but upto Rs. 5 lacs	SBAR <i>i.e.</i> 11.75% p.a.
Above Rs. 5 lacs but upto Rs. 25 lacs	1.00% above SBAR <i>i.e.</i> 12.75% p.a.

SBAR: State Bank Advance Rate

However, SBI has reported that Crop Loans/Production Loans above Rs. 3.00 lacs and upto Rs. 25.00 lacs are extended to the farmers affected by drought (natural calamity) across the county at 10% fixed for the loans sanctioned upto 31.03.2010.

(c) and (d) With effect from October 18, 1994 RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh, including housing loans, and these interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards subject to Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and Spread guidelines. Individual banks therefore determine interest rates to be charged to a particular borrower subject to BPLR and Spread guidelines. Loans upto Rs. 2 lakh carry the prescription of not exceeding the BPLR. However, banks have the freedom to determine the rate of interest, without reference to BPLR and regardless of size in respect of loans for purchase of consumer durables and other non-priority sector personal loans including credit cards dues.

Flow of FII

†2018. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the inflow and outflow of Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) in the country during the period April to September, 2009;

(b) whether this investment has mainly been made in secondary market;

(c) if so, the amount thereof in primary and secondary market separately;
and

(d) whether this inflow is a part of the strategy to acquire profit making industries by increasing their stake in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) As per report furnished by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Foreign

Institutional Investors (FII) investment (equity) during the period of April to September 2009 based on daily reports made by custodians is as under :

Gross Purchase (Rs. crores)	Gross Sale (Rs. crores)	Net Investment (Rs. crores)
372092	307323	64769

(b) SEBI has reported that 62.5 per cent of FII net investment has been done in the secondary market.

(c) The FII investment (equity) in secondary market and primary market and others reported for the period April to September, 2009 is as under :

Market	Gross Purchase (Rs. crores)	Gross Sale (Rs. crores)	Net Investment (Rs. crores)
Secondary Market (Equity)	347718.5	307196.3	40522.2
Primary market and Others * (Equity)	23027.2	1162.4	21865.8
Addition/omission **	1346.3	-1035.7	2382.0
TOTAL	372092	307323	64769

*Others include FIIs activities in right/bonus issues, private placement, merger and acquisition, buy-back etc.

**Addition/omission on account of amendments/deletions done in the contract notes, reported by custodians of the FIIs.

(d) Investment decisions by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are based on their commercial judgement.

Inflation and purchasing power of Rupee

†2019. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual inflation rate has been constantly increasing in the country from the year 2002-03 to 2008-09;

(b) if so, the assessment of growth rate of average inflation during the said years; and

(c) the assessment of decrease in the purchasing power of Rupee in the Indian market from the year 2002-03 to 2008-09 due to increased inflation?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) The inflation rate is the change (growth) in the level of price index between two reference periods. The annual rate of inflation from 2002-03 to 2008-09 based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI), (Base:1993-94=100) and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (Base:2001=100) are as under:

Annual average (year-on-year) WPI and CPI-IW inflation (%)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
WPI	3.38	5.48	6.47	4.42	5.43	4.67	8.41
CPI-IW	3.97	3.86	3.83	4.41	6.70	6.20	9.10

(c) The purchasing power of rupee in paise, in the Indian market from 2002-03 to 2008-09, measured by the reciprocal of the CPI-IW is given below:

Purchasing power of rupee in paise (Reciprocal of CPI-IW, 2002-03=100)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
100.00	96.29	92.73	88.82	83.24	78.38	71.84

Fixation of pay for teachers

2020. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of anomalies after fixation of pay, especially in cadre of teachers (like TGTs) due to Sixth Pay Commission resulting in juniors/new appointees drawing more pay than their seniors;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to rectify the anomalies; and

(c) by when the pay of seniors would be brought at par with that of their juniors and arrears paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) On receipt of references from some administrative ministries, including Ministry of Human Resources Development, which specifically related to School Teachers, Department of Expenditure has clarified that stepping up of pay of seniors can be permitted with reference to their directly recruited juniors subject to certain conditions.

Fall in revenue collection

†2021. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue collection has registered a shortfall of 4.2 lakh crores of rupees in the financial year 2008-09 on account of tax rebates given by Government;

(b) if not, the actual assessment regarding shortfall in revenue collection; and

(c) the names of the industries along with the quantum of economic relief given to them from the assessed revenue due to the tax rebate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) During the Financial Year 2008-09, Government's revenue collection was as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Nature of Duty/ Tax	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual collection (Provisional)
A	Direct Taxes	3,65,000	3,45,000	3,38,212
B	Indirect Taxes	3,21,264	2,81,359	2,69,879
	TOTAL	6,86,264	6,26,359	6,08,091

With actual collection of Rs.6,08,091 crore against the Revised Estimate of Rs.6,26,359 crore, the revenue shortfall was Rs.18,268 crore.

The shortfall in collection of Indirect Taxes was on account of the Government's foregoing of revenue of over Rs.40,000 crore to provide fiscal stimulus to the economy, as also the economic slowdown resulting from the global financial meltdown and consequent economic recession in developed economies. The economic slowdown dented the profits of companies and also resulted in lesser salary payouts, resulting in decrease in collection in Corporate Tax and Personal Income Tax. The stock market also remained subdued which impacted the collection of Securities Transaction Tax. Therefore, direct tax collections were below the Revised Estimate.

(c) So far as indirect taxes are concerned, no specific industry wise economic relief has been provided. With regard to direct taxes, any undertaking engaged in carrying on the [specified business] referred to in the various tax-relief provisions of the Income-tax Act is eligible for the tax benefit thereunder subject to the conditions specified therein. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the names of any public or private company likely to benefit from such provisions of the Income Tax Act.

Interest on Agricultural loan by SBI

2022. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 326 replied in Rajya Sabha on 7th July, 2009 and state:

- (a) what was average loan amount per rural household in the country as on 31 March, 2009;
- (b) whether near one third of loan taken by rural household is from moneylenders, which is more than loan taken from Bank;
- (c) if so, whether agriculture debt waiver has not been helpful and farmer continues be under debt in perpetuity; and
- (d) how a farmer would survive given the situation in Rajasthan, where average annual income per farmer household has been shown as Rs. 17,976 as against outstanding loan of Rs. 18,372?

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

(a) and (b) The average loan amount per rural household in the country as on 31 March, 2009 is not available. However, as per the Radhakrishna Committee Report on Indebtedness of Farmers, which Sourced the data from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers, 2003, state-wise the number of indebted farmers are given in the Statement-I and the state-wise position regarding proportion of debt from various sources are given in the Statement-II. (*See below*). The Report indicates that the percentage of loan obtained from banks/ institutional sources stood at 57.7% as against 25.7% from moneylenders.

(c) After the implementation of Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, (ADWDRS), 2008, the Government has constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of the Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to look into the issue of a large number of farmers, who had taken loans from private money lenders, in many parts of the country who were not covered by the Scheme. The Task Force is expected to submit its report by 31 March 2010.

(d) NABARD has reported that though, outstanding loan of the farmers is reported to be higher than the average annual income of per farmers household in Rajasthan, the entire income is not reckoned towards repayment of loan as the repayment of the loan is spread over 3 to 5 years in medium term agriculture loan and upto 9 years in long term agriculture loans. Further, in case of crop loans, the sanction of loan is done taking into account the income streams of the crops grown and the repayment capacity of the farmers.

Statement

Incidence of Indebtedness in major States-2003

State	Estimated number of Indebted Farmer Households (in hundred)	Percent of Indebted Farmer Households	Average Loan per Household, (Rupees)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	49493	82.0	23965

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	28954	74.5	23963
Punjab	12069	65.4	41576
Kerala	14126	64.4	33907
Karnataka	24897	61.6	18135
Maharashtra	36098	54.8	16973
Haryana	10330	53.1	26007
Rajasthan	27828	52.4	18372
Gujarat	19644	51.9	15526
Madhya Pradesh	32110	50.8	14218
West Bengal	34696	50.1	10931
Orissa	20250	47.8	5871
Uttar Pradesh	69199	40.3	7425
Himachal Pradesh	3030	33.4	9618
Bihar	23383	33.0	4476
Jammu and Kashmir	3003	31.8	1903
Assam	4536	18.1	813
ALL INDIA	434242	48.6	12585

Statement-II

Distribution of Debt by Sources across Major States : 2003

(In Percentages)

State	Institutional				Non-Institutional			Total	
	Gover- nment	Coope- ratives	Bank	All	Money Lenders	Traders	Others	All	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	1.2	48.5	34.1	83.8	6.8	0.8	8.6	16.2	100.0
Kerala	4.9	28.3	49.1	82.3	7.4	1.7	8.5	17.6	100.0
Uttaranchal	31.5	4.8	39.8	76.1	5.9	1.7	16.3	23.9	100.0
Orissa	13.0	18.1	43.7	74.8	14.8	0.8	9.5	25.1	100.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Chhattisgarh	1.3	20.6	50.5	72.4	13.0	4.2	10.5	27.7	100.0
Gujarat	0.5	41.8	27.2	69.5	6.5	4.4	19.6	30.5	100.0
Karnataka	1.9	16.9	50.1	68.9	20.0	1.9	9.3	31.2	100.0
Haryana	1.1	23.9	42.6	67.6	24.1	3.1	5.3	32.5	100.0
Jammu and Kashmir	13.1	0.2	54.3	67.6	1.1	15.5	15.7	32.3	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	6.1	11.6	47.6	65.3	7.2	5.5	22.0	34.7	100.0
Jharkhand	3.9	4.5	55.7	64.1	19.0	1.7	15.2	35.9	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	2.4	6.7	51.2	60.3	19.1	2.9	17.7	39.7	100.0
West Bengal	10.3	19.2	28.5	58.0	13.0	10.7	18.4	42.1	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	1.9	16.9	38.1	56.9	22.6	9.0	11.4	43.0	100.0
Tamil Nadu	2.0	23.3	28.1	53.4	39.7	0.4	6.4	46.5	100.0
Punjab	1.9	17.6	28.4	47.9	36.3	8.2	7.6	52.1	100.0
Bihar	2.2	2.5	37.0	41.7	32.8	1.1	24.6	58.5	100.0
Assam	7.0	2.7	27.8	37.5	15.5	12.0	35.1	62.6	100.0
Rajasthan	1.3	5.9	27.0	34.2	36.5	19.2	10.1	65.8	100.0
Andhra Pradesh.	1.0	10.4	20.0	31.4	53.4	4.8	10.4	68.6	100.0
ALL INDIA	2.5	19.6	35.6	57.7	25.7	5.2	11.5	42.4	100.0

Source: NSSO, Situation assessment Survey of Farmers-2003

Violation of IRDA guidelines by banks

2023. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the nationalized banks are insisting that loanees, including farmers, should take insurance policy for getting loans sanctioned from banks;
- (b) if so, whether any such case has come to the notice of his Ministry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action that has been contemplated in this regard;

(d) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) guidelines does not insist that one should take an insurance policy for getting loan sanctioned from banks; and

(e) if not, how it would be ensured that the loanees, including farmers, are not mandated to take insurance policy for obtaining loan from banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (e) In terms of the Master Circular on para-banking activities (circular DBOD. No. FSD.BC.18/24.01.001/2009-10 dated July 1, 2009) issued by the Reserve Bank of India, banks have been advised as under:

- (i) The bank should comply with IRDA regulations for acting as 'composite corporate agent' or referral arrangement with insurance companies.
- (ii) The bank should not adopt any restrictive practice of forcing its customers to go in only for a particular insurance company in respect of assets financed by the bank. The customers should be allowed to exercise their own choice.
- (iii) As the participation by a bank's customer in insurance products is purely on a voluntary basis, it should be stated in all publicity material distributed by the bank in a prominent way. There should be no 'linkage' either direct or indirect between the provision of banking services offered by the bank to its customers and use of the insurance products.

IRDA guidelines do not insist that any borrower requires to take an insurance policy for getting loans sanctioned from banks. However, as regards agricultural loans, the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY), {National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS)} is being implemented by the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture.

The objective of NAIS is to provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers in the event of failure of crops as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases and to encourage progressive farming practices, transformation of technology, etc. besides stabilizing the farm incomes of the farmers in the agriculturally bad years.

As per the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, the Government at the beginning of the cultivation cycle/year issues a notification giving the name of districts and types of crops for coverage under NAIS. It is mandatory on part of the loanee farmer to have crop insurance for the district and crops types notified. However, Banks in order to protect the assets financed through loans, granted by it may impose a condition that those assets should be insured against perils, such as, Fire, Flood, Drought, etc.

Restructuring of NABARD

2024. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a study to look into the restructuring of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference for such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not undertaken any specific study for restructuring of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). However, the Board of Directors of NABARD, during its Meeting on 18 September 2008, has approved a proposal to undertake a strategic action plan 'Repositioning NABARD' for furthering the objectives mandated in the NABARD Act, 1981.

The Action Plan proposes to cover aspects, such as, articulating an aspirational vision for NABARD in 2020, preparing benchmarks to be achieved by 2012 and 2015 on various areas including Products and Services, Delivery Mechanisms, Structures and Processes, etc.

Pre-Budget Statement

2025. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started preparation work for the Budget 2010-11;

(b) if so, the details of the process of preparation of Budget proposal;

(c) whether Government is preparing the Pre-Budget Statement;

(d) if so, the details in this regard along with the details and date on which the Pre-Budget Statement is likely to be tabled in the Parliament; and

(e) if not, the reason for the non-circulation of the Pre-Budget Statement?

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

(b) Details of process of preparation of budget is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) Does not arise, as no document like 'Pre-Budget Statement' is prepared.

Statement

The Broad Process of Preparation of Budget

1. Issue of Budget Circular to all Ministries/Departments regarding framing of estimates of receipts and expenditure, time schedule, etc.
2. Pre-budget meetings taken by Secretary (Expenditure) with Financial Advisers.
3. Finalizing ceilings of expenditure.
4. Plan and Non-Plan RE for the current year and Non-Plan BE for the next year.
5. Communication of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for Plan BE of next year to Planning Commission.

6. Communication of Plan allocation to Ministries/Departments by the Planning Commission.
7. Receipt of Plan and Non plan estimates (SBEs) from Ministries along with write-up.
8. Processing and finalization of the estimates of Tax and Non-Tax Revenue Receipts.
9. Finance Minister's Meetings with Stakeholders/ Groups/ Chambers of Commerce/Associations etc.
10. Pre Budget Meeting of FM with State Finance Ministers.
11. Proposals for Finance Bill.
12. Railways Estimates.
13. Presentation of Budget in Lok Sabha.
14. Introduction of the Finance Bill in Lok Sabha.
15. Laying of Budget documents in the Rajya Sabha.

Purchase of gold from IMF

2026. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has purchased 200 tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

(b) if so, the cost of gold purchased;

(c) how far the latest purchase of gold has lifted India's share of gold holding in the world and the countries position among gold holders; and

(d) how far this transaction has impacted the purchasing power of Rupee in international market?

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

(a) and (b) RBI has purchased 200 metric tonnes of gold from the IMF at a total consideration of Rs.31,463 crores. Such purchase was undertaken by RBI as part of its reserves management operations.

(c) RBI's gold holding has increased to 557.7 metric tonnes as a result of this purchase. This is about 6.1% of total foreign exchange reserves. India is now the 10th largest official gold holding country in the world according to the data from World Gold Council.

(d) The purchasing power of rupee in the international market is affected by a combination of various factors like relative rate of inflation in various countries, current account deficit, capital flows, level of foreign exchange reserves, confidence in the Indian market, etc.

With the above purchase of gold, the overall level of foreign exchange reserves have however remained unaffected and only a small portion of foreign currency assets have been replaced by gold.

Fraud risk management in Banks

2027. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the incidence of frauds in the banks has been showing an increasing trend over the recent years both in terms of number of frauds and the amounts involved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of increase in incidence of frauds in the banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised banks to frame internal policy for fraud risk management and fraud investigation function; and

(d) if so, to what extent the banks have framed policy and put a check on frauds in retail banking?

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

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that the total number of cases of frauds and amounts involved, as reported by the commercial banks during the last three calendar years (2006-08) and upto June 30, 2009 are as under.

Amount rupees in crores							
2006		2007		2008		2009 (upto June 2009)	
No. of frauds	Amount	No. of frauds	Amount	No. of frauds	Amount	No. of frauds	Amount
21687	1200.87	22280	1077.84	21980	1431.11	13038	1130.92

From the above data on total number of frauds, it may be observed that during 2006-07 it had shown an increasing trend but during 2007-08 it had shown a decreasing trend. However, the first half of 2009 shows an increasing trend again.

(c) and (d) RBI has issued a circular to all Scheduled Commercial Banks on September 16, 2009 advising them to frame, with the approval of their respective Boards an internal policy for fraud risk management and fraud investigation function, based on the governance standards relating to the ownership of the function and accountability for malfunctioning of fraud risk management process in their banks. The effectiveness of the policies framed by the banks in containing the frauds would be assessed by the Reserve Bank of India during the periodical inspections of banks.

Consolidation of banking sector

2028. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PM's honorary economic advisor Mr. Raghuram Rajan has advised against his Ministry's proposed consolidation in the banking sector particularly in the context of the Public Sector Banks; and

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

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Raghuram Rajan Committee, in general, has recommended to encourage, but not force, consolidation amongst Public Sector Banks (PSBs). The Committee has observed that given the fragmented nature of the Indian banking system and the small size of the typical bank, some consolidation may be in order for banks that aim to play on a larger stage. Government is of the view that the initiatives for consolidation amongst the PSBs should emanate from the management of the banks themselves with Government playing a supportive role as the common stakeholder.

Income tax slabs for industries

2029. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the income tax slabs are similar for the big, medium and small and micro industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a policy; and

(c) whether Government proposes to have separate slabs of income tax for micro and small enterprises to promote and sustain this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Income tax slabs for the big, medium, small and micro industries are dependent on the 'status' of the industry. The details of income tax slabs for different status are as under:-

(i) In the case of individual (proprietary concern) the rates are as follows :-

Upto Rs. 1,60,000/-	Nil.
Rs. 1,60,001/- to Rs. 3,00,000/-	10 per cent.
Rs. 3,00,001/- to Rs. 5,00,000/-	20 per cent.
Above Rs. 5,00,000/-	30 per cent.

No surcharge is levied in the cases of individual assessee.

(ii) In the case of firms, the rate of income-tax is 30 percent on whole of the total income. However the salary and interest on capital received by a partner is allowed

as a deduction while working taxable income in this case. No surcharge is levied in the case of a firm.

- (iii) In the case of a domestic company, the rate of income-tax is 30% on whole of the total income. In the case of every domestic company having total income exceeding one crore rupees, a surcharge calculated at the rate of 10 per cent, of such income tax is levied. However, in such cases, the total amount payable as income-tax and surcharge on total income exceeding one crore rupees shall not exceed the total amount payable as income-tax on a total income of one crore rupees by more than the amount of income that exceeds one crore rupees.

Different tax slabs are provided to achieve vertical equity and progressive taxation system.

- (c) As the tax slabs are based on the income of the entity and not on the basis of whether it is classified as micro or small enterprise, the Government has no plans to change slabs based on the classification of the entity.

Drive against plantation firms

2030. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has stepped up its drive against collective investment schemes launched by various plantation firms;

- (b) whether, the SEBI has estimated that the quantum of funds raised by such entities could be around 3 lakh crores;

- (c) whether SEBI had directed in 1998 that no existing collective investment schemes could mobilize money from public unless certified by credit rating agencies; and

- (d) if so, the number of defaulting companies identified and the action proposed by SEBI against them?

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

- (a) SEBI had issued directions to 610 Collective Investment Scheme entities (CIS) to refund the money collected under the schemes.

- (b) No, Sir. As per SEBI's record, 664 entities had reportedly mobilized Rs. 3518 crore from the investors.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

- (d) According to SEBI 570 entities failed to wind up their schemes and repay the investors. SEBI had debarred these entities and the concerned officials from operating in the capital market for a period of 5 years. Further SEBI has requested Chief Secretaries of the concerned State Governments to initiate Civil/Criminal action against these entities for apparent offences of fraud and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to initiate the winding up process of these CIS entities under Section 433 of the Companies Act. Criminal prosecution cases have been launched by SEBI against 551 CIS entities.

Shortage of notes of small denomination

†2031. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of notes of small denominations like one rupee, two rupees, five rupees, ten rupees, twenty rupees and fifty rupees in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has discontinued the circulation or stopped the printing of notes of small denominations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to meet the shortage of notes of small denomination in the country?

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

(a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in view of the short life span of the lower denomination notes of Rs.1, Rs.2/- and Rs.5/- and the high cost involved in printing and processing of soiled notes of these denomination, the Government has decided to discontinue the printing of lower denomination notes. The notes of these denomination have been coined. However, due to inadequate production capacity of Government Mints, it was decided to re-introduce Rs.5/- bank note to supplement the Rs.5/- coins. There is no shortage of Rs.10/- Rs.20 bank notes and Rs.50/- in the country.

Activities of Hawala operation

†2032. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that around five hundred companies in the country are fearlessly engaged in Hawala operation;
- (b) whether a Mumbai-based fake pharmaceutical company had withdrawn an amount of more than two crores of rupees during the 2008-09 from a nationalized bank using forged documents based on fake reports; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Satyam Computers services has already remitted crores of rupees abroad using Hawala route under the pretext of giving salaries to its ten thousand employees?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Impact of deficiency of monsoon

2033. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the deficiency of monsoon by about 20-25 per cent has resulted in the contraction in agriculture output and GDP growth this year; and

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

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

(a) and (b) As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2009 (1.6.2009 to 30.9.2009), the country as a whole received 689.8 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 892.2 mm which represents a deviation of -23%. The following table gives the deficit in kharif agricultural production in 2009-10 based on the First Advance Estimates of Agricultural Production, 2009-10 released by the Ministry of Agriculture on 3.11.2009 and the fourth Advance Estimates for 2008-09.

Table : Kharif Production (Million Tonnes)

Crop	2009-10 (First Advance Estimates)	2008-09 (Fourth Advance Estimates)	Difference
Rice	69.45	84.58	-15.13
Coarse Cereals	22.76	28.34	-5.58
Total Kharif Pulses	4.42	4.78	-0.36
Total Foodgrains	96.63	117.70	-21.07
Oilseeds	15.23	17.88	-2.65
Sugarcane	249.48	273.93	-24.45
Cotton \$	23.66	23.16	0.50
Jute and Mesta \$\$	10.25	10.40	-0.15

\$Production in '000 bales of 170 kg. each

\$\$Production in '000 bales of 180 kg. each

The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) on 30.11.2009 for the second quarter of 2009-10 indicate that combined group of agriculture, forestry and fishing has grown by 1.7 percent during the first half of 2009-10 (on 1999-2000 constant prices), as compared to the growth of 2.9 per cent recorded during the same period of last year. Government of India has taken a number of steps to protect the standing crops and to ensure that no land remains unsown for want of inputs so that the losses

in kharif can partially be offset by augmented production in rabi season. The following are some of the important measures taken to reduce the impact of deficit in rainfall:

- (i) States were requested to prepare alternate plan for unsown/germination failed areas with short duration/alternate crops.
- (ii) Use of Truthfully Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation of age for seed varieties and distribution of minikits allowed under the Government Programmes (National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana).
- (iii) Fund made available under the Centrally Sponsored Programmes to enable taking up of agriculture re-construction programme.
- (iv) Additional *ad-hoc* monthly allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category under Public Distribution System (PDS) to drought affected States, for October to December, 2009 was made.
- (v) A scheme of Diesel Subsidy for drought and deficit rainfall affected areas was announced for the drought affected States and districts with deficit rainfall of more than 50% as on 15th July, 2009, for the period upto 30/9/09. The scheme was subsequently relaxed to include areas with prolonged dry-spell for any continuous 15 days period starting from 15.7.2009 for those areas with scanty rainfall (<60% or more).

Discussion on protectionism in G-20

2034. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister urged the participants of G-20 Meeting to shun protectionism;
- (b) whether G-20 summit has laid ground work for long term prosperity and financial reforms;
- (c) the other main points that were discussed during the summit and to what extent these measures helped India to improve economy;
- (d) to what extent the suggestions made by the Prime Minister in G-20 have been welcomed by all; and
- (e) the overall outcome of the talks held?

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

(a) Yes sir.

(b) Yes sir.

(c) Statement is laid on the table on the house.

(d) The Statements made were generally welcomed by all the G-20 countries.

(e) This is contained in the statement laid at (c) above.

Statement on the points that were discussed during the summit and to what extent these measures helped India to improve economy:

In the Pittsburgh Summit the following issues were discussed:

1. Framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth.
2. Progress and priorities on strengthening the International Financial Regulatory Systems
3. Reforms in the International Financial Institutions
4. Food, fuel and Finance for the poor of the world
5. Energy Efficiency and climate change
6. Putting Quality jobs at the heart of the recovery
7. An open Global Economy
8. Future role of the G-20

The G-20 countries agreed for a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth and a mutual assessment process to assess whether policies are consistent with the shared objectives. In addition, the countries agreed to continue the stimulus till recovery is assured.

There was a renewal of the commitment to carry on the strengthening of the International Financial Regulatory System and not return to the scenario of banking as usual. To this end the G-20 countries agreed to act together to raise capital standards, implement strong international compensation standards aimed at ending practices that leads to excessive risk taking, improve over the counter derivative markets, and to create powerful tools to hold large global firms to account for the risks that they take.

The Leaders agreed for an at least 5 percent shift in quotas to dynamic emerging market and developing countries in the IMF by January 2011. The Leaders also agreed for a similar shift of at least 3 percent in voting power in the world Bank for developing and transition countries by the 2010 Spring Meetings.

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

There was agreement that G-20 countries will fight protectionism and aim for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round as also reach agreement in Copenhagen through the UNFCCC negotiations.

One of the other major outcomes of the Pittsburgh Leaders' Summit has been to make the G-20 the premier multilateral forum for global economic cooperation.

Major benefits of India:

Indian Economy's return to trend growth also depends on the turnaround in the economy of the developed countries. Commitment to continue the stimulus till recovery is assured (and thereby avoid the risk of double dip) coupled with the pledge to shun protectionism will help the Indian economy through the trade channel.

The framework for strong sustainable and balanced growth while covering all G-20 countries will also bring the actions and policies of systemically important economies under multilateral mutual assessment and will help all as actions/policies that encourage global imbalances (including development imbalances) will be subject matter for debate and corrections.

The steps for strengthening the International Financial Regulatory Systems are aimed at avoiding another financial crisis and this will help in the long run by avoiding the volatility of capital flows that follows a financial crisis. In addition, the international policy development will help in making the Indian Financial Regulatory Systems further strong.

The shift in quotas in the IMF and of the voice and representation in the World Bank in favour of the dynamic emerging markets and the developing countries will also benefit India and correct to some extent the legitimacy and governance deficit in these international financial institutions.

The primacy of the UNFCCC for the climate change negotiations has been confirmed by the Leaders and this reinforces the positions of the developing countries in the negotiations. On the energy front, increasing market transparency and market stability for achieving the objective of avoiding excessive volatility will be of immense help as India imports a large amount of fossil fuel.

Reforms in banking sector

2035. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering far reaching reforms in banking sector including giving banks freedom to open branches in Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities and granting 15 new licences to smaller banks for first time in almost 11 years;

(b) whether Prime Minister also has discussed several reforms measures with the RBI Governor;

(c) whether Prime Minister also discussed idea of giving foreign banks full national treatment by suggesting that the incorporate in India as wholly owned subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard will be taken and to what extent banking reforms planned have been implemented?

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) *vide* its circular DBOD.No.BL.BC.65/22.01.001/2009-10 dated December 1, 2009, has permitted all Scheduled Commercial Banks, (excluding Regional Rural Banks) to open branches in Tier 3 to Tier 6 centres (with population upto 49,999 as per Census 2001) without having the need to take permission from Reserve Bank of India in each case, subject to reporting. Further, banks have been permitted to open branches in rural, semi urban and urban centres in the North Eastern States and Sikkim, without prior permission from the Reserve Bank of India. At present Reserve Bank is not considering issuing new licenses to smaller banks.

(b) to (d) The banking reforms are undertaken by the Government and RBI on a regular basis and is a continuous process. Reserve Bank of India, in its Annual Policy Statement for the year 2009-10, has reviewed the presence of foreign banks in India. In view of the current global financial market turmoil, there are uncertainties surrounding the financial strength of banks around the world. In view of this, it is considered advisable, for the time being, to continue with the current policy and procedures governing the presence of foreign banks in India.

Impact of strengthening of Rupee

2036. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether economic recovery is pushing up value of rupee against dollar which might affect country's export sector, which is going through tough time due to slowdown in global economy;

(b) whether rupee has appreciated by around Rs. 1.75 per dollar in last fortnight of October around Rs. 46.25 on back of high industrial production of over 10 per cent and huge inflow of foreign institutional investors fund in stock market;

(c) whether according to a report expectation that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would tighten monetary policy following two recent interest rate hikes by Reserve Bank of Australia has affected dollar which in turn provided an impetus to the rupee; and

(d) if so, to what extent strengthening of rupee has impacted recovery of export sector?

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

(a) There is no one to one relationship between nominal exchange rate movement and trade flows since the latter depends on a number of factors.

(b) No Sir, the reference rate of US dollar and Indian rupee was at Rs.45.91 per US dollar on October 15, 2009 and increased to Rs.46.96 per US dollar as at end-October 2009, reflecting a depreciation of 2.2 per cent during the last fortnight of October 2009. However, rupee appreciated by 3.7 percent in October 2009 over September 2009.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s monetary policy stance is calibrated based on the emerging domestic and external environment, without any specific bearing on the actions of the central banks of other nations.

(d) Exports are dependent on many factors. Even though the rupee appreciated by 3.7 percent, exports performed better in October 2009 at (-) 6.6 percent compared to September 2009 at (-) 13.8 percent.

Fall in bank credit

2037. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that growth in bank credit has dropped to single digit level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the performance of nationalized bank in this regard; and
- (d) what action Government proposes to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The year-on-year growth in bank credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) as on 6th November, 2009 was 9.8 per cent as compared to 27.7 per cent during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on 23rd October, 2009, credit growth on year-on-year basis for public Sector Banks (PSBs) was 14% compared to 1.8% for private sector banks and (-) 16.3% for foreign banks.

(d) The RBI has been taking necessary steps through its monetary policy to provide an enabling environment for credit growth. With increase in economic growth including growth in manufacturing sector, credit growth is expected to pick up further in the coming months.

Levying of user charges by SBI

2038. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) has started levying pass book updation charge, fee for depositing cash at branches other than the one where the account is opened, cheque book charge, minimum balance charge etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the bank is thus depriving the customers of whatever little rates of interest it pays;

(d) whether it is causing hardships to senior citizens and pensioners necessitating them to visit their branch to escape these charges;

(e) whether the SBI proposes to review these unpopular arrangements; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that no charges have been levied for cheque book, minimum balance etc. at other branches. A minor charge for deposit of cash at non-home branch and updation of passbook at non-home branch are levied by the bank as deposit of cash at non-home branch amounts to remittance which the customer would have paid for anyway by way of a draft. Updation of passbook would also fall in the same category.

(c) to (f) According to SBI no hardships are being faced, especially since the bank can transfer accounts to the nearest branch of the pensioner, if he so desires without costs. The SBI constantly reviews all the various charges, from time to time.

Manpower in RRBs

2039. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the key parameters including the manpower of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) as on 31 March, 1991;

(b) what is the rate of increase in all such key parameters and rate of decrease in the manpower as on 31 March, 2009;

(c) what has been the rate of promotion from each cadre and recruitment in the RRBs during this period; and

(d) what is the rate of attrition in case of recruitment during the last three years in case of RRBs and what are the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) At present there are 84 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country. RRBs are sponsored by scheduled commercial banks. Information relating to the rate of increase of attrition of the workforce, recruitment, promotion, etc. in RRBs is not maintained centrally by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). However, the key parameters for RRBs for the last two years are given below:-

(Amt. Rs. in crore)

Parameters	2007-08	2008-09#
1	2	3
No. of RRBs	91*	86*

1	2	3
No. of Branches	14761	15158
Districts covered by RRBs	594	617
Staff	68005	68509
Owned Fund	8732.59	10895.73
Deposit	99093.46	120184.46
Borrowings	11494.00	12733.80
Investments	48559.54	62629.45
Gross Loan (O/s)	58984.27	67858.48
Loan Issued	38581.97	43445.59
Branch Productivity	10.75	12.41
Staff Productivity	2.33	2.74

*No of RRBs are reducing on account of amalgamation. #provisional data

Loan schemes for meritorious students

‡2040. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the loan schemes available for the poor but meritorious students for completion of their education and the provisions therein;
- (b) the number of students along with the amount of loan made available during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the banks are reluctant to provide education loans to poor students and they ask for a guarantee etc.; and
- (d) whether Government would consider to take any action to ask the banks to liberalise their policy and simplify the rules for providing education loan to poor students for their higher education?

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

(a) The Model Educational Loan Scheme formulated by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has the main emphasis that every meritorious student though poor is provided with an opportunity to pursue education, in India or Abroad, with the financial support from the banking system, with affordable terms and conditions. The objective is that no deserving student is denied an opportunity to pursue higher education for want of financial support.

The Model Education Loan Scheme is available on the web site of IBA at www.iba.org.in.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), details of State-wise education loans (number of accounts and amount outstanding) as on last reporting Friday of March, 2007, 2008 and 2009 under Priority Sector Advances of Public Sector Banks is given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) The banks are required to follow the broad operational guidelines provided in the Model Educational Loan Scheme, which include security norms as below:

Security	
Upto Rs. 4 lakh	No security. Co-obligation of parents
Above Rs. 4 lakh and	Co-obligation of parents together with collateral
Upto Rs. 7.5 lakh	security in the form of suitable third party guarantee.
Above Rs. 7.5 lakh	Co-obligation of parents together with tangible collateral security of suitable value alongwith the assignment of future income of the student for payment of installments.

However, with a view to provide better services to students across the country, the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been advised to institute an on-line system, not to reject/ pass on loan applications to other banks/branches on the grounds of age/area of operation. Further, the performance of PSBs under Education Loan Scheme is reviewed in quarterly meetings of Finance Minister with Chief Executives of Banks.

Statement

Education loans under Priority Sector Advances of Public Sector Banks

Sl. No.	State	Education loans as on last reporting Friday of March (Amount in Rs. in Thousands and Accounts in actual)					
		2007		2008		2009	
		No. of A/cs.	Amount O/s.	No. of A/cs.	Amount O/s.	No. of A/cs.	Amount O/s.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Northern Eastern Region	5857	1085934	9036	1951208	12443	2771458
1.	Assam	4163	773964	6821	1469911	8842	1923347
2.	Meghalaya	438	85245	572	125040	755	173691
3.	Mizoram	123	25685	18	4862	339	119429
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	71	11648	113	19352	421	88266

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Nagaland	128	24672	154	45025	222	63904
6.	Manipur Goa	472	100501	704	178893	1093	251356
7.	Tripura	462	64219	654	108125	771	151465
	Eastern Region	103164	13325462	116098	20377706	152519	28679380
8.	Bihar	29219	2769786	23095	4203393	34539	6579334
9.	Jharkhand	13397	2244782	18701	3676491	24329	5104071
10.	West Bengal	34882	4969149	41892	7240149	52404	9561485
11.	Orissa	25281	3265341	31560	5101840	40708	7313110
12.	Sikkim	227	51261	660	108567	293	74417
13.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	158	25143	190	47266	246	46963
	Central Region	104140	14598800	132616	22082929	176610	31437651
14.	Uttar Pradesh	50497	7449401	68350	11994055	91547	16591184
15.	Uttarakhand	8745	1436027	12205	2114630	16027	2927347
16.	Madhya Pradesh	38796	4740974	43733	6660495	60145	10217844
17.	Chhattisgarh	6102	972398	8328	1313749	8891	1701276
	Northern Region	81651	17320591	105087	23597338	142640	32096275
18.	Delhi	21313	5776296	23709	6912039	31945	9996546
19.	Punjab	16710	3250992	22305	5131135	30830	6195149
20.	Haryana	13234	2856841	19480	4077910	26624	5419979
21.	Chandigarh	4692	1260656	4505	1192001	5363	1542322
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	1662	329131	2304	550840	2991	690332
23.	Himachal Pradesh	3663	641473	5452	935427	8660	1367096
24.	Rajasthan	20347	3205202	27332	4797986	36227	6884851
	Western Region	104276	18836381	120102	25283466	142934	32237161
25.	Gujarat	26561	5873143	33646	7681141	35575	9390220
26.	Maharashtra	75185	12577581	84362	17170339	103410	21974334
27.	Daman, Diu	44	9382	25	5963	429	130765
28.	Goa	2428	362696	2003	406425	3106	644793
29.	Dadra, Nagar	58	13579	66	19598	414	97049

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Southern Region	602971	74953087	731944	104188134	940845	142800750
30.	Andhra Pradesh	148248	23020307	164838	29379501	193399	39070661
31.	Karnataka	83704	11081813	110188	16968126	134548	23530016
32.	Lakshadweep	6	1156	11	1900	13	1558
33.	Tamil Nadu	219323	22854901	306895	34921514	405270	50211989
34.	Kerala	146871	17479043	144099	22336788	199746	28990025
35.	Puducherry	4819	515867	5913	580305	7869	996501
	All India	1002059	140120255	1214883	197480781	1567991	270022675

Source: RBI (RPCD)

Revision of norms regarding LIC agents

2041. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) agents working in the country;
- (b) the total amount of business canvassed by the LIC agents in the last three years;
- (c) whether the guidelines and norms with regard to LIC agents have been revised recently;
- (d) if so, the reasons for such revision;
- (e) whether these revised guidelines and norms are disadvantageous to the LIC agents;
- (f) the likely number of LIC agents who would have to leave the LIC following implementation of the revised guidelines; and
- (g) the reasons for taking such a step, detrimental to both the LIC and its agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that the total number of LIC agents as on 31st October, 2009 is 14,15,369 and the total amount of business achieved by LIC Agents in the last three years is as follows:

Financial Year	First Premium Year (Rs. in lakh)
2006-07	38,87,873
2007-08	43,00,465
2008-09	34,24,462

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Agents) Rules, 1972 which contains terms and conditions of service of agents have been revised by the Central Government under Section 48(2) (cc) of Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. The amendments in LIC (Agents) Rules 1972 were made with the objective to achieve growth, productivity and retention of agents by arresting the trend of termination of their services.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Non-declaration of dividends by Mutual Fund Companies

2042. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Mutual Funds have not declared dividend for years inspite of their earnings being more than 10 per cent for a particular year/ period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number thereof for the last three years ending 30 November, 2009; and

(c) what type of supervision is exercised by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on such mutual funds to ensure that the small investors get dividends which are due on a regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) As per extant SEBI regulations, it is not mandatory for mutual fund schemes to provide for and to declare dividend. A mutual fund may declare dividend in accordance with the offer document and subject to specified guidelines. The quantum of dividend is fixed by trustees and is paid subject to availability of distributable surplus.

According to SEBI regulations a mutual fund may declare dividend after making appropriate disclosure through notice or advertisements where applicable as per SEBI regulations. Every mutual fund and Asset Management Company is required to dispatch to the unit holders the dividend warrants within 30 days of the declaration of the dividend.

Cut in lending rates by banks

2043. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the public sector banks to examine the possibility of cutting lending rates in the present period of recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the common man especially the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would benefit from such measures in the country especially the SC/ST people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
 (a) and (b) In response to cut in Policy Rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the comfortable liquidity position, the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have reduced their lending rates. According to the 2nd Quarter Review of Monetary Policy by the RBI, the PSBs reduced their Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLRs) by 125-275 basis points as on 15th October, 2009 over the corresponding period of last year.

(c) As a measure to ensure that credit flows to the common man and the BPL families at reasonable rates, interest is capped at BPLR for loans upto Rs.2 lakhs. In addition, there are special credit linked poverty alleviation programmes with sub-targets for SCs/STs through which credit is disbursed at subsidised rates to benefit poor families. These include, among others, Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozjar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), etc.

Housing loan by LICHFL

2044. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total housing loan sanctioned and disbursed by the Life Insurance Corporation Housing Finance Ltd. (LICHFL) during the years 2008 and 2009 till date in the country especially for Delhi zone;

(b) whether the LICHFL is charging a processing and documentation fee @ 1 per cent from the applicants for home loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the LICHFL offers any discount in the processing and documentation fee to the Government servants, autonomous bodies, corporate clients and PSU employees;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there are different slabs of fee for officer category and staff category employees of these organizations;

(g) whether LICHFL proposes to refund the excess fee charged from these categories of people; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
 (a) As per the information provided by LICHFL, total housing loan sanctioned and disbursed during 2008 and 2009 (up to 31.10.2009) in the country and for Delhi zone is as per statement given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) As is the industry practice, LICHFL charges the normal processing fee @ 1% of the sanctioned loan. This has the approval of the Board of the Company.

(d) and (e) Employees of large organizations in the approved list of LICHFL are charged 50% of normal processing fee irrespective whether they belong to Government/Public Sector or

Private Sector. However, the Board has authorized officials in certain positions to reduce the processing fee on a discretionary basis irrespective whether the borrowers are employed with large organizations or not.

(f) to (h) As no such practice exists, question of refund of the excess fee does not arise.

Statement

Details from sanctioned and Disbursed

For the Country	For the year 2008 (01.01.08 to 31.12.08)	For the year 2009 (01.01.09 to 31.10.09)
Sanction	10252.93	14025.43
Disbursement	8204.7	10585.55
FOR DELHI ZONE		
Sanction	2432.44	2750.27
Disbursement	2025.74	2292.18

Disinvestment of NTPC

‡2045. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds Government proposes to mop up from the capital disinvestment of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) whether there was any absolute requirement of capital disinvestment from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);

(c) the measures to be taken by Government to resolve the discontent caused by this disinvestment among the NTPC employees; and

(d) the names of the undertakings and amount of capital disinvestment therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No targets to raise funds from disinvestment have been fixed.

(b) The disinvestment in NTPC is in accordance with the disinvestment policy articulated in the President's Speech to Joint Session of Parliament on 4.6.2009 and Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 6.7.2009 requiring the development of people-ownership of Central Public Sector Undertakings to share in their wealth and prosperity, with Government retaining majority shareholding and control.

(c) No discontentment among the employees of NTPC on account of disinvestment has been reported.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Disinvestment of Government shareholding in NTPC Limited (5%) and SJVN Limited (10%) and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (5%) through Public Offering in domestic market, is under implementation. These Public Offerings are likely to be completed by 31st March 2010.

Exempting customs duty on ship-breaking

2046. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the request of the State Government of Gujarat for reducing customs duty on ship-breaking from 5 per cent to 0 per cent and whether the aforesaid request has been examined as part of the budgetary proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that imposition of customs duty is adversely affecting the industry to compete with neighbouring countries as these countries offered liberal concessions; and

(d) by when the exemption on customs duty would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of the budgetary process for the budget 2009-10, the Union Government re-examined the representation of Government of Gujarat that ship breaking industry in Gujarat was facing stiff competition and decline due to increase in price of ships, liberal duty concessions in neighbouring countries, environmental regulations and internal competition from finished steel and melting scrap. However, it was not found Possible to accede to the request for full exemption.

(d) There is no proposal to grant this exemption under the consideration of Government.

Increase in maximum withdrawal limit from ATM

2047. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the common people in the country are preferring to carry cash during journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof compared to credit card;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the minimum withdrawal from the ATM to atleast Rs. 50,000 per day to carry cash;

(d) the demands received in this regard; and

(e) the comments of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The data base maintained by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information as requested.

(c) to (e) Presently ATM has been designed to withdraw 40 notes at a time, therefore, maximum withdrawal allowed per single transactions is Rs.40,000/- only. Further, RBI and Indian Bank's Association have reported that they have not received any demands to increase minimum withdrawal from ATM to atleast Rs.50,000/- per day.

Wage revision in LIC

2048. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wage revision for employees and officers of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is due since August, 2007;

(b) if so, what are reasons for such delay in wage settlement; and

(c) when Government is expected to reach an agreement for wage settlement?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Life Insurance corporation Act, 1956, the Central Government is empowered to notify revision of wages for various classes of employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). For this purpose, the LIC management in consultation with various employees' unions/associations submits a detailed proposal for wage revision to the Government. Presently, the consultation process is underway and LIC is yet to submit a proposal to Government.

India's bid for office in ADB

2049. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China toppled India's bid for the post of Vice President (Operations) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for India not being able to lobby effectively for garnering necessary support for the position; and

(d) whether this would have an effect on the quantum of ADB lending to this country?

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

(a) to (d) Article 35 of ADB Charter stipulates that Vice Presidents (VPs) are appointed by the Board of Directors of the ADB on the recommendation of the President. The Post of VP (Operations) fell vacant on July 31, 2008. In addition to India, there were candidates from five other countries, namely, China, Korea, Thailand. Malaysia and Chinese Taipei, The Board appointed Mr. Zhao Xiaoyu, a Chinese national to this post. Appointment of a Vice President and lending to India by ADB are not related.

Release of Central funds for Orissa

2050. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released by his Ministry to Orissa during the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of utilization of Central funds in Orissa for various schemes of rural development during last three years, scheme-wise, year-wise and district-wise?

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

(a) Details of central assistance given to Orissa scheme-wise, year-wise, for the last three years are given in the Statement-I (*See below*)

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements several schemes for rural development and poverty alleviation, through the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations. These include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas of the country. The other major schemes of the Ministry are Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)/National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Details of scheme-wise funds released by the Ministry of Rural Development and utilized by the Government of Orissa during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Central Assistance to the State of Orissa

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/Year	Plan Scheme (Rs. in Crores)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Normal Central Assistance	336.00	378.24	441.84
2.	Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme	139.80	629.82	800.10
3.	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects	141.84	130.14	154.51
4.	A.C.A. for Externally Aided Projects (Back to Back)	700.49	105.78	512.71
5.	National Social Assistance Programme including Annapurna	170.22	184.79	208.03
6.	National E-Governance Plan	16.75	12.99	11.29
7.	Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls	2.95	2.95	1.26
8.	A.C.A. for other Projects	20.40	24.00	130.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Backward Regions Grants fund	250.00	130.00	130.00
10.	Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	23.55	151.24	143.58
TOTAL		1801.98	1749.94	2533.32
Non Plan			(Rs. in Crores)	
Sl. No.	Name of scheme/Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Investment in Special State Government Securities	1085.28	169.09	160.95
2.	Share in Central Taxes	6220.42	7846.50	8279.96
3.	Assistance to State Government from N.C.C.F.	25.00		98.87
4.	Grants for Upgradation of Services and Special Projects	5.98		
5.	Contribution to Calamity Relief Fund	291.34	180.87	324.50
6.	Grants for Local Bodies	171.00	160.60	212.60
7.	Equalisation Grant for Education Sector	58.57	64.13	35.11
8.	Equalisation Grant for Health Sector	34.81	19.41	21.64
9.	Grants in Aid for Maintenance for Roads and Bridges	368.77	368.77	368.77
10.	Grants in-Aid for Maintenance of Public Buildings	48.64	145.92	48.65
11.	Maintenance of Forests	15.00	15.00	15.00
12.	Grant in-Aid for Heritage Conservation	12.50	12.50	9.37
13.	State Specific Needs	40.50	39.50	51.44
14.	Releases on account of VAT Compensation	0.00	0.00	18.93
15.	Releases on account of CST Compensation		131.53	5.49
TOTAL		8377.81	9153.82	9651.27
GRAND TOTAL		10179.80	10903.76	12184.59

Statement-II

Financial Performance of Rural Development Programmes-

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Programme	Central Allocation	Central Release	Total Available Funds**	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
Year 2006-07				
NREGS	Not made***	76230.49	89018.66	73346.62
PMGSY	Not made	26548.00	26548.00	147521.00
SGRY	9623.95	11931.45	15638.43	13222.67
SGSY	6729.73	6724.76	9251.89	8611.11
IAY	15042.66	15042.66	23866.18	21534.98
DRDA Admn.	1182.71	1790.12	1835.40	355.27
DPAP	Not made	1480.72	1480.72	0.00
IWDP	Not made	2060.00	2060.00	0.00
CLR	93.22	93.22	93.22	0.00
SRA and ULR	467.50	467.50	467.50	0.00
ARWSP	10332.00	9722.58	16120.33	9954.61
TSC	68921.72	15910.27	15910.27	12760.82
Year 2007-08				
NREGA	Not made	53695.69	81471.83	57956.90
PMGSY	Not made	191984.00	191984.00	174883.00
SGRY	4691.19	4492.37	6515.12	6864.87
SGSY	10271.49	10036.46	13315.46	11694.96
IAY	20893.26	20280.32	31644.75	34394.63
DRDA Admn.	1136.60	1855.76	1855.76	0.00
DDP*	—	—	—	—
DPAP	Not made	2393.00	2393.00	0.00
IWDP	Not made	1793.91	1793.91	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
ARWSP	16885.00	17194.55	23360.27	14577.48
TSC	69942.03	21432.61	21432.61	20406.23
Year 2008-09				
NREGA	Not made	76297.49	100807.24	58780.58
PMGSY	97300.00	115908.00	133196.00	231372.00
SGSY	12141.96	12132.09	17172.55	14818.29
IAY	29248.20	46082.17	66133.76	25709.24
DRDA Admn.	1269.91	647.16	669.45	485.62
DDP *	—	—	—	—
DPAP	Not made	2513.33	6014.73	1716.97
IWDP	Not made	3354.04	5949.06	2072.79
ARWSP	29868.00	29868.00	64389.14	51056.67
TSC	84902.24	28636.94	40645.50	28020.23

*Desert Development Programme (DDP) is not being implemented in Orissa.

**Total available funds include the State share also.

***Central allocation not made as these are demand-based schemes.

Merger and acquisitions of Public Sector Banks

2051. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has held a discussion in New Delhi recently with leading Public Sector Banks to explore the possibility of creating a few large banks through merger and acquisitions;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) In one of the meetings with the Chief Executives of the some select nationalised banks, the issue of merger was also discussed amongst other subjects to understand their view in this regard. However, no specific decision was taken in this meeting.

(c) So far, the Government has not given any direction to any specific bank to consider proposal for merger/amalgamation with a particular bank. Government is also of the view that the initiatives for consolidation amongst the Public Sector Banks should emanate from the

managements of the banks themselves with Government playing a supportive role as the common stakeholder. While supporting any merger proposal of the public sector banks, Government keeps in view the interests of the stakeholders and employees of the merging banks by incorporating appropriate provisions in the terms and conditions for such merger.

Misutilisation of FCCBs

2052. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of Indian companies to whom Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) were issued in the past three years;
- (b) whether the authorities have monitored the use of proceeds in all such cases;
- (c) the number of cases in which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) found irregularities;
- (d) if so, the details of the companies on which notices have been issued by the RBI and ED;
- (e) the current status of the investigations carried out by RBI and ED; and
- (f) the steps being taken to ensure that FCCBs are not misutilised by the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) The details of the companies which have issued Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) in the past three financial years and up to October, 2009 are furnished in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) The policy for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) is also applicable to FCCBs in all respects. As per the extant policy, the drawal and utilization of the ECB are monitored through monthly submission of form ECB-2 by the borrowers duly certified by the designated Authorized Dealer (AD) banks.

(c) RBI has reported that there are 17 cases of FCCBs since April, 2005, where irregularities were observed and actions under the compounding procedure of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) have been taken/initiated against the companies for the irregularities by the RBI. The information pertaining to Enforcement Directorate (ED) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Compounding is a voluntary process under Section 15 of FEMA 1999. Reserve Bank does not issue any notices to borrowers who have violated the provisions of FEMA 1999 in regard to ECBs. Reserve Bank merely brings to the notice of the borrowers through the designated Authorised Dealer banks, the irregularities observed in the ECBs. The details of those 17 cases are given in Statement-II (See below). The information pertaining to Enforcement Directorate (ED) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Reserve Bank does not carry out any investigation into the irregularities pertaining to ECBs. Where the borrower does not honour the obligations under the compounding procedure, such borrowings are referred to Enforcement Directorate for adjudication as per provisions of FEMA 1999. The information pertaining to Enforcement Directorate is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The policy on External Commercial Borrowing is transparent and administered in an environment that encourages and facilitates adherence to the guidelines. The number of contraventions compounded by the Reserve Bank has been few. The information pertaining to Enforcement Directorate is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

FCCBs details from 2006-07 to 2009-10 (Upto October 2009)

Year	Borrower's Name	Amount_USD
1	2	3
2006-07	Bharati Shipyard Ltd.	100,000,000
	Dolphin Offshore Enterprises (I) Ltd.	15,000,000
	McNally Bharat Engineering Co. Ltd.	7,000,000
	Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd.	200,000,000
	S.Kumars Nationwide Ltd.	50,000,000
	Rasandik Engineering Industries India Ltd.	10,000,000
	Sical Logistics Ltd.	75,000,000
	Shringar Cinemas Ltd.	20,000,000
	Gujarat NRE Coke Limited	60,000,000
	JCT Ltd.	30,000,000
	Venus Remedies Limited	12,000,000
	Nectar Life Sciences Ltd.	35,000,000
	Jindal Saw Ltd.	81,365,242
	Aurobindo Pharma Ltd.	50,000,000
	Aurobindo Pharma Ltd.	150,000,000
	Jubilant Organosys Ltd.	200,000,000
	Karur K.C.P. Packagings Ltd.	10,000,000
	The India Cements Ltd.	75,000,000
	Electrosteel Castings Ltd.	75,000,000

1	2	3
	Reliance Natural Resources Ltd.	300,000,000
	Kanoria Chemicals and Industries	20,000,000
	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.	100,000,000
	Ankur Drugs and Pharma Ltd.	16,000,000
	Sakthi Sugars Ltd.	40,000,000
	Sakthi Sugars Ltd.	20,000,000
	Sayaji Hotels Ltd.	7,500,000
	Amtek Auto Ltd.	250,000,000
	Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd.	60,000,000
	Bharat Forge Limited.	40,000,000
	Bharat Forge Limited.	39,900,000
	3i Infotech Ltd.	50,000,000
	Videocon Industries Ltd.	105,000,000
	Helios and Matheson Information Technology	25,000,000
	Zenith Computers Ltd.	20,000,000
	Genus Power Infrastructure Ltd.	7,500,000
	Radico Khaitan Ltd.	50,000,000
	Shah Alloys Limited	10,000,000
	Nava Bharat Ventures Ltd.	51,255,928
	Zenith Infotech Ltd.	33,000,000
	Bhagya Nagar India Ltd.	15,000,000
	Educomp Solutions Ltd.	25,000,000
	Gati Ltd.	20,000,000
	ISMT Ltd.	20,000,000
	Assam Company Ltd.	48,000,000
	KEI Industries Ltd.	36,000,000
	Paramount Communications Ltd.	27,000,000
	Core Projects and Technologies Ltd.	12,250,000
	Financial Technologies (India) Ltd.	100,000,000

1	2	3
	Faze Three Limited	8,000,000
	Shrenuj and Company Ltd.	15,000,000
	ERA Infra Engineering Limited	75,000,000
	Ruchi Infrastructure Ltd.	40,000,000
	Adani Enterprises Limited	250,000,000
	Rajesh Exports Ltd.	150,000,000
	Grabal Alok Impex Ltd.	25,000,000
	Kalindee Rail Nirman (Engineer) Ltd.	7,000,000
	Suryajyoti Spinning Mills Ltd.	10,000,000
	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	124,388,280
	Reliance Communications Ltd.	500,000,000
	Reliance Communications Ltd.	500,000,000
	Aksh Optifibre Ltd.	8,750,000
	Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	200,000,000
	Uflex Industries Ltd.	85,000,000
	Prithvi Information Solutions Ltd.	50,000,000
	Kamat Hotels (India) Ltd.	18,000,000
	KLG Systel Ltd.	22,000,000
	ICSA (India) Ltd.	22,000,000
	Pokarna Ltd.	12,000,000
	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	125,000,000
	3i Infotech Ltd.	39,704,924
	TOTAL	5,090,614,375
2007-08	Subex Azure Limited	180,000,000
	Aarvee Denims and Exports Ltd.	20,000,000
	ANG Auto Limited	12,000,000
	Sterling Biotech Ltd.	250,000,000
	Wanbury Ltd.	20,271,293
	Pioneer Embroideries Ltd.	30,000,000

1	2	3
	Vivimed Labs Ltd.	15,000,000
	GTL Infrastructure Ltd.	300,000,000
	South Asian Petrochem Ltd.	20,000,000
	Plethico Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	75,000,000
	Mascon Global Ltd.	50,000,000
	Karuturi Networks Ltd.	50,000,000
	Gremach Infrastructure Equip and Proj Ltd.	50,000,000
	Vardhman Polytex Limited	12,000,000
	Kinetic Engineering Ltd.	18,000,000
	Indowind Energy Ltd.	35,000,000
	TOTAL	5,680,316,243
2008-09	Shree Ashtavinayak Cinevision Ltd.	34,250,000
	Sharon Bio-Medicine Ltd.	16,500,000
	Geodesic Information Systems Ltd.	125,000,000
	Brushman (India) Ltd.	15,000,000
	Sintex Industries Ltd.	300,000,000
	Tyche Peripheral Systems Ltd.	12,000,000
	Aban Offshore Ltd.	200,000,000
	Temptation Foods Ltd.	200,000,000
	TOTAL	902,750,000
2009-10	Suzlon Energy Ltd.	35,592,000
	Himadri Chemicals and Industries Ltd.	12,500,000
	Suzlon Energy Ltd.	20,796,000
	Suzlon Energy Ltd.	90,000,000
	Apollo Hospitals Entrp. Ltd.	15,000,000
	Amtek Auto Ltd.	175,000,000
	Welspun Gujarat Stahl Rohren Ltd.	150,000,000
	Patel Engineering Ltd.	100,000,000

1	2	3
	Tata Motors Ltd.	375,000,000
	Prakash Industries Ltd.	50,000,000
	Larsen and Toubro Limited	200,000,000
	Sesa Goa Limited	500,000,000
	Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd.	500,000,000
	Total	2,223,888,000
	Core Project and Technologies Ltd.	80,000,000
	ICSA (India) Ltd.	24,000,000
	Sri Adhikari Brothers Tele Networks Ltd.	10,000,000
	Karuturi Networks Ltd.	25,000,000
	Electrotherm (India) Ltd.	10,000,000
	Suzlon Energy Ltd.	300,000,000
	Shakti Pumps (India) Ltd.	6,500,000
	Man Industries (India) Ltd.	50,000,000
	JSW Steel Ltd.	325,000,000
	KSL Reality and Infrastructure Ltd.	80,000,000
	Strides Arcolab Limited	100,000,000
	Rolta India Ltd.	150,000,000
	Moser Bear India Ltd.	150,000,000
	Educomp Solutions Ltd.	80,000,000
	Tata Motors Ltd.	490,000,000
	Micro Technologies (India) Ltd.	15,000,000
	Surana Industries Limited	14,000,000
	Tantia Constructions Ltd.	7,500,000
	Hotel Leelaventure Ltd.	100,000,000
	Tulip Telecom Ltd.	150,000,000
	3i Infotech Ltd.	100,000,000
	Gayatri Projects Ltd.	25,116,742
	Pyramid Saimira Theatre Ltd. (Banned)	90,000,000

1	2	3
	Shri Lakshmi Cotsyn Ltd.	15,000,000
	Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.	400,000,000
	Tata Steel Ltd.	375,000,000
	Tata Steel Ltd.	500,000,000
	Great Offshore Ltd.	42,000,000
	Suzlon Energy Ltd.	200,000,000
	Everest Kanto Cylinder Ltd.	35,000,000
	Gemini Communication Ltd.	20,128,208
	XL Telecom and Energy Ltd.	40,000,000
	Webel -SL Energy Systems Ltd.	16,800,000
	Surana Industries Limited	11,000,000
	First Source Solutions Ltd.	275,000,000
	Easun Reyrolle Ltd.	35,000,000
	ORG Informatics Ltd.	16,000,000
	Pidilite Industries Ltd.	40,000,000
	Ankur Drugs and Pharma Ltd.	20,000,000
	Bartronics India Ltd.	50,000,000
	Zenith Infotech Ltd.	50,000,000
	Aksh Optifibre Ltd.	20,000,000

Statement-II

Details of action taken against companies for irregularities

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Amount of FCCB (in USD million)	Date of FCCB	Irregularities observed	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Country Club (India) Ltd.	25	December 27, 2006	Ineligible borrower End-use not permissible LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Hotel Leela Venture	100	April 24, 2007	Ineligible borrower End-use not permissible LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order
3.	Kamat Hotels	18	March 13, 2007	Ineligible borrower End-use not permissible LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order
4.	Sharon Bio- Medicine Ltd.	16.5	November 27, 2007	Rupee capital expenditure required approval LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order
5.	Shree Ashtavinayak Cinevision Ltd.	34.25	December 21, 2007	Ineligible borrower LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order
6.	Gitanjali Gems	110	November 21, 2006	USD 42.22 mn was used for development of SEZs, which is not a permissible end-use	Compounding application received and is under processing
7.	Plethico Pharmaceuticals Limited	75	October 18, 2007	all-in-cost more than the permissible limit LRN not obtained	Compounding application not received
8.	Marg Constructions Ltd.	12.50	June 22, 2006	Investment in a wholly owned subsidiary in India which is not a permissible end-use	Compounding application not received — referred to Directorate of Enforcement for necessary action

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Prime Focus Ltd.	55	December 12, 2007	Ineligible borrower LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order
10.	Educomp Solutions Ltd.	80	June 21, 2007	Ineligible borrower Partial End-use not permissible (setting up computer labs) LRN not obtained	Contravention Compounded by issuing Compounding order
11.	Educomp Solutions Ltd.	25	November 9, 2006	Ineligible borrower End-use not permissible (setting up computer labs)	Compounding application received and is under processing
12.	Cranes Software International Ltd.	42	March 17, 2006	Ineligible borrower End-use not permissible (business development and promotion)	Compounding application not received
13.	3i Infotech Ltd.	30	April 3, 2007	Ineligible borrower	Compounding application received and is under processing
14.	3i Infotech Ltd.	100	July 26, 2007	Ineligible borrower	Compounding application received and is under processing
15.	3i Infotech Ltd.	50	March 16, 2006	Ineligible borrower	Compounding application received and is under processing

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Subex Ltd.	180	March 8, 2007	Ineligible borrower	Compounding application received and is under processing
17.	Reliance Communication Ltd.	Rs. 5142 crore	Various FCCBs	End-use violation	The company has been advised to approach Reserve Bank for voluntary compounding

Appointment on compassionate grounds in RRBs

2053. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases for compassionate appointment in each Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) before the introduction of new *ex-gratia* scheme in the year 2006;

(b) whether it is a fact that six Hon. High Courts have already issued directions to honour the earlier scheme which was applicable on the date of death of each incumbent before the introduction of new scheme; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to honour the directions of the Hon. High Courts?

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

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

Payment of Provident Fund by RRBs

2054. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are complying with the statutory provisions Section 40, 40A, 59, 72 and 73 of EPF Act 1952 and Section 17A and 23 of Employees Pension Scheme 1995; and

(b) the details of RRBs, who failed to pay the balance of Provident Fund of Pension to the staff members who have retired or expired in the last three years?

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

(a) As informed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), no such incidence of non-compliance of the provisions of Employees provident fund (EPF) Act, 1952 (Section 40, 40A, 59, 72 and 73) and Employees Pension Scheme 1995 (Section 17A and 23) has been reported.

- (b) NABARD has informed that no such case has been reported.

Fake currency

2055. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that majority of fake currency is entering into the country is from Pakistan;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the German Government which is supplying currency paper machines to India is also supplying identical machines to Pakistan; and
- (c) if so, what are the reasons for Government planning to still place orders with Germany to purchase currency machines?

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

- (a) Available inputs indicate that high quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) are printed in a neighbouring country and pushed into India through neighbouring countries.
- (b) and (c) As per information provided by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), the Government of Germany has not supplied any currency machines to India.

Change of logos of Banks

2056. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the logos of many public sector banks were changed in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of banks which have changed their logos during the last three years; and
- (c) what are the reasons in each case for changing the logos by these banks and the amount spent by these banks in changing the logos throughout the country?

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

- (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The following public sector banks, namely Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank Limited have changed their logos in the recent past. However, only Union Bank of India and Canara Bank have changed their logos in the last three years. The reasons given by banks to change the logo, *inter alia*, include meeting the requirement of market place, facilitating easy brand recall, to attract customers of younger generation and creating value for all its stakeholders.

The expenditure incurred by Union Bank and Canara Bank, which includes fee paid to consultants, expenditure incurred towards change of signage, media campaign and branch launch is Rs. 22.36 crores and Rs. 39.30 crores, respectively.

Wage revision for bank employees

2057. SHRIMATI RENUMBALA PRADHAN:

SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the negotiations between Government and bank employees union regarding wage revision and other related matters of bank employees have concluded;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement reached between the two sides;

(c) whether another option for choice of pension has been given to employees who earlier not opted for it;

(d) whether this option would also be given to those who have taken voluntary retirements; and

(e) the reasons for delay in implementing the agreement?

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

(a) to (d) The Indian Banks' Association (IBA), representing management of such Banks which have mandated it to negotiate on their behalf and the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) representing 9 Associations/Union of officers/workmen employees of Banks have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27.11.2009 for implementing the wage revision with effect from 01.11.2007 and extending another option to the non-optee serving employees and eligible retirees to join the Pension Scheme. Details of agreed terms will be worked out within 90 days of signing of MoU.

(e) There is no delay. As per MoU signed on 27.11.2009, the agreement is to be implemented within a period of 90 days.

Core Banking Solutions

2058. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seven public sector banks are not in a position to provide Core Banking Solutions (CBS) to their customers;

(b) the name of these banks and the details of reasons as due to which these banks are not able to provide CBS; and

(c) by when these banks would provide CBS to their customers?

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

(a) to (c) Indian Banks' Association has reported that all the public sector banks have implemented Core Banking Solutions (CBS). However, many of the bank are yet to connect

100% of its branches under core banking. Infrastructure constraint is one of the major bottlenecks in implementing the Core Banking Solution. It will depend upon the factors like availability of infrastructure and cost of the facility. Banks prioritise technology investments keeping in mind the business strategy.

Cheap loans to drought affected farmers

2059. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to provide cheap loans to farmers in view of serious situation in the country due to drought and large number of suicide by farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) what percentage of total loans sanctioned were given to farmers, public sector bank-wise and year-wise for last three years; and
- (e) the steps taken to make banks more accountable to the poor farmers of the country?

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

(a) to (c) In terms of the Budget announcement for 2009-10, the Government of India has approved the Interest Subvention Scheme for Short Term Crop Loans of farmers for 2009-10, with the following stipulations:

- (i) Interest subvention of 2% per annum is applicable to Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on their own funds used for short term crop loans upto Rs. 3,00,000/- per farmer provided the lending institutions lend such loans @7% per annum.
- (ii) An additional interest subvention @1% has been given to those prompt paying farmers who repay their short term crop loans within the period of interest subvention *i.e.* within one year of disbursement of such loans. This also implies that the prompt paying farmers would now get short term crop loans @6% per annum during the year 2009-10. This benefit would not accrue to those farmers who repay after one year of availing such loans.
- (iii) Interest subvention is available to farmers from the date of disbursement till the date of repayment, subject to a maximum period of one year.
- (d) The quantum of agricultural loans outstanding and its proportion to total credit outstanding during the last three years is given in the Statement-I and the details of total agricultural advances outstanding by banks during the last three years are given in the Statement-II. (See below)

(e) A number of steps have been taken to ensure the proper availability of credit to farmers by banks in the country. These include according priority sector status to agriculture and stipulating a target of 18 per cent of the Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) (within the overall target of 40 per cent of ANBC for priority sector lending) for lending to agriculture by domestic scheduled commercial banks; introduction of Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP), under which the banks are required to fix self-set targets (a certain percentage higher than previous year's disbursements) and also strive to achieve disbursements to that level; introduction of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to address the credit needs of the farmers in a more holistic manner; simplification of procedural aspects of farm credit thereby encouraging the farmers to approach the institutional sources for credit; loans upto Rs. 50,000 have been made collateral and margin free; introduction of the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 for farmers for flow of institutional credit, which had become clogged due to the debt burden on the farmers. Further, Banks have been advised to dispense with the requirement of "no due" certificate for small loans up to Rs.50,000 to small and marginal farmers, share-croppers and the like and, instead, obtain self-declaration from the borrower. Banks have been advised to accept certificates provided by local administration/panchayati raj institutions regarding the cultivation of crops in case of loans to landless labourers, share-croppers and oral lessees. Banks (including RRBs) were advised in August 2008 that, where there are difficulties in getting certification from local administration/panchayati raj institutions regarding the cultivation of crops, etc., banks may accept an affidavit submitted by landless labourers, share croppers and oral lessees giving occupational status (*i.e.*, details of land tilled/crops grown) for loans up to Rs.50,000. In addition Banks were also asked to encourage the Joint Liability Group (JLG)/SHG mode of lending for such persons.

Statement-I

Sectoral Deployment of Gross Bank Credit

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	Sector	Outstanding as on				Variation			Year-on-Year growth (%)		
		March 31, 2006	March 31, 2007	March 28, 2008	March 27, 2009	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
I.	Gross Bank Credit (II + III)	1,445,531	18,48,187	22,47,289	26,48,501	402,656	3,99,102	4,01,212	27.86	21.59	17.85
II.	Food Credit	40691	46,947	44,399	46,211	6,256	-2,548	1,812			
III.	Non-Food Gross Bank Credit	1,404,840 (100.0)	18,01,240 (100.0)	22,02,890 (100.0)	26,02,290 (100.0)	396,400 (100.0)	4,01,650 (100.0)	3,99,400 (100.0)	28.22	22.30	18.13
IV.	Agriculture and Allied Activities	173,972 (12.4)	2,30,377 (12.8)	2,75,343 (12.5)	3,38,656 (13.0)	56,405 (14.2)	44,966 (11.2)	63,313 (15.9)	32.42	19.52	22.99
V.	Non-Agricultural Credit (III-IV)	1,230,868	1570863	1927547	2263634	339,995	356684	336087	27.62	22.71	17.44

Source: RBI Reports on Trends and Progress.

- Note: 1. Data are provisional and relate to select scheduled commercial banks which account for more than 90 per cent of bank credit of all scheduled commercial banks. Data include the figures of Bharat Overseas Bank, which was merged with Indian Overseas Bank of March 31, 2007.
2. Gross bank credit data include bills rediscounted with Reserve Bank, Exim Bank, other financial institutions and inter-bank participations.
3. Figures in parentheses represent the share in total non-food gross bank credit.

Statement-II

Advances of Public Sector Banks to Agriculture

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	Total Agricultural Advances (As on the last reporting Friday of)					
		Mar-07		Mar-08		Mar-09	
		Amount	Per cent to ANBC as against the target of 18% of ANBC or credit equivalent of OBE, whichever is higher	Amount	Per cent to ANBC as against the target of 18% of ANBC or credit equivalent of OBE, whichever is higher	Amount	Per cent to ANBC as against the target of 18% of ANBC or credit equivalent of OBE, whichever is higher
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Public Sector Banks							
1.	Allahabad Bank	7,692.00	18.3	9145.67	20.4	8,989	18.1
2.	Andhra Bank	5,149.78	15.5	6156.72	21.8	6,834	19.8
3.	Bank of Baroda	10,366.39	15.9	13268.93	16.8	16,964	16.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bank of India	11,289.00	18.4	13128.00	18.5	16,346	18.2
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	3,884.12	14.0	4841.01	15.4	4,522	15.2
6.	Canara Bank	15,521.00	15.7	17996.00	17.7	20,144	19.0
7.	Central Bank of India	9,251.89	15.8	11104.06	17.6	13,639	16.5
8.	Corporation Bank	2,621.74	9.2	3529.79	10.0	4,330	11.1
9.	Dena Bank	3,344.70	15.2	2764.64	14.7	3,851	15.5
10.	Indian Bank	5,656.08	21.0	6214.87	22.1	7,618	19.9
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	7,890.22	18.7	8688.90	18.9	10,573	18.5
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	5,732.28	11.1	6592.00	12.3	8,565	13.3
13.	Punjab National Bank	18,571.00	18.9	19946.40	18.9	23,806	19.7
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2,502.12	16.0	2438.22	17.9	2,969	14.1
15.	Syndicate Bank	8,049.60	17.46	9331.81	19.9	10,796	18.4
16.	Union Bank of India	10,674.76	16.8	11392.87	17.2	13,233	16.0
17.	United Bank of India	2,713.00	12.0	3172.00	13.2	3,869	13.0
18.	UCO Bank	6,154.00	13.9	7948.00	16.2	11,038	19.0
19.	Vijaya Bank	3,230.63	12.4	3942.16	12.9	4,513	14.0
20.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	1,377.98	2.2	4526.00	6.7	8,311	10.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
State Bank Groups							
21.	State Bank of India	41,661.32	14.5	56432.00	18.6	69,279	18.3
22.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	3,754.59	18.3	4589.58	22.1	4,828	19.1
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	3,798.65	13.7	5147.71	18.1	6,932	18.8
24.	State Bank of Indore	2,644.56	17.2	3018.47	19.1	3,343	18.2
25.	State Bank of Mysore	2,180.94	13.8	2911.36	18.1	3,571	16.8
26.	State Bank of Patiala	4,961.00	15.8	4573.71	15.7	5,040	13.7
27.	State Bank of Travancore	1,936.61	18.1	2194.76	19.5	2,953	10.3

Notes: 1. Data are provisional

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

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

Source: RBI Reports on Trends and Progress.

OBE — Off Balancesheet Exposure.

Disinvestments in PSUs

2060. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the plan to disinvest the power sector Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details of these PSUs and the total amount likely to be raised from disinvestment; and

(c) the manner in which the amount so raised is likely to be utilised for the development of power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has decided that

(i) already listed profitable CPSUs not meeting the mandatory public shareholding of 10% are to be made compliant;

(ii) all CPSUs having positive networth, no accumulated losses and having earned net profit for three preceding consecutive years, are to be listed through public offerings out of Government shareholding or issue of fresh equity by the company or a combination of both.

(b) In pursuance of above policy, the Department of Disinvestment is in dialogue with the administrative Ministries and the CPSUs to assess their capital expenditure requirements to be raised through issue of fresh equity. The composition of the 'public offering' will be based on this input and each case will be considered on merits and submitted to Government for approval. No targets to raise funds from disinvestment have been fixed.

(c) The proceeds from disinvestment would be channelised into National Investment Fund and during April 2009 to March 2012 would be available in full for meeting the capital expenditure requirements of selected Social Sector Programmes decided by the Planning Commission/Department of Expenditure. The status quo ante will be restored from April 2012.

Penalty for repaying loan in advance

2061. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a customer has to pay a penalty to the bank for repaying its loans in advance;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is against such penalty;

(c) if so, whether the banks are still penalizing the customers;

(d) if so, the rationale thereof, despite RBI's views to the contrary on the matter; and

(e) what steps Government proposes to safeguard the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that pre-payment/foreclosure charges are normally levied by banks as pre-payment of loans affects their Asset Liability Management. RBI has not issued any guidelines regarding pre-payment/foreclosure charges of loans. However, some of the banks have reported that they do not levy any penalty for repaying the loan in advance, if the loan is repaid by the borrower out of his/her own sources/internal accruals.

(e) In terms of extant instructions, in the context of granting greater functional autonomy to banks, operational freedom has been given to scheduled commercial banks on all matters pertaining to banking transactions, including pre-payment/foreclosure charges on loans. With effect from September 7, 1999, banks have been given freedom to fix service charges for various types of services rendered by them. While fixing service charges, banks should ensure that the charges are reasonable and not out of line with the average cost of providing these services. In order to ensure transparency, banks have been advised to display and update on their websites the details of various service charges in a prescribed format.

Further, in terms of the 'Guidelines of Fair Practices Code for Leaders' banks have been advised by RBI that loan application forms should be comprehensive and should include information about the fees/charges, if any, payable for processing, the amount of such fees refundable in the case of non-acceptance of applications, pre-payment options and any other matter which affects the interest of the borrower, so that a meaningful comparison with other banks can be made and an informed decision can be taken by the borrower.

Ayurvedic treatment for swine flu

†2062. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the claim of successfully treating swine flu has been made by the Indian system of Ayurvedic medicine;

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

(c) whether Government had also made efforts to create awareness among masses towards these claims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Swine-flu is a recently reported condition caused by a new strain of the virus (H1N1 virus) and as such, no research study has been taken up by the Research Councils to determine the efficacy of Ayurveda, Yoga

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy in tackling this disease. Through, Ayurveda has a positive role in prevention of Swine flu, no scientific data is available to justify the claim of successfully treating Swine-flu till date.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Ban on sale of tobacco products near educational institutions

2063. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

(a) whether Government has banned selling of tobacco and tobacco products near schools and colleges by an Act of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ever conducted survey to ascertain the number of people displaced and unemployed due to enforcement of this law;

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

(e) whether there is any provision in this act for compensation and rehabilitation of those who were displaced and unemployed; and

(f) if not, the reasons why poor people are harassed while Government hesitate to ban tobacco completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) Yes. As per section 6 (b) of "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA, 2003), no person shall sell, offer for sale, or permit sale of, cigarette or any other tobacco products in an area within a radius of one hundred yards of any educational institution.

(c) and (d) No such survey has been conducted.

(e) and (f) There is no such provision under COTPA, 2003. This Ministry is working closely with Ministry of Rural Development for providing alternative income generating activities for bidi workers.

Rural MBBS course

2064. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

(a) whether Government has proposed for any rural MBBS course; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic hospitals

†2065. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

- (a) the number of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic hospitals and dispensaries in the country, State-wise as on date;
- (b) whether Government proposes to open new Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic hospitals and dispensaries in the country during the current financial year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the names of places identified for this purpose State-wise and amount allocated during the current financial year;
- (d) whether Government has received any proposal from the private sector companies in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) what efforts have been made by Government to popularize the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic system of medicine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) A Statement indicating the State-wise position, is attached in the Statement-I. (*See below*)

(b) and (c) No. However under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), States/UTs Government are being assisted for collocation of AYUSH facilities in the existing the Primary Health Centres (PHC), Community Health Centres (CHC) and District Hospitals (DH).

As per the NRHM Programme Implementation Plan. (PIP), states wise position of AYUSH units proposed to be collocated and amount allocated for the purpose during 2009-10 is enclosed in the Statement-II. (*See below*)

- (d) No.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) (i) Department of AYUSH is providing assistance to the States and UTs Government for collocation of AYUSH facilities in the PHCs/CHCs/DHs, supply of essential medicine and upgradation of the existing Government AYUSH Hospitals.
- (ii) A number of National Campaigns such as for Geriatric Health Care in Ayurveda, Mother and Child Health Care in Homoeopathy have been taken up for extending benefits of AYUSH health care of proven efficacy to the people at large.
- (iii) Information, education and coordination activities have been taken up through print and electronic media as well as organization of AROGYA fair for generating mass awareness on the benefits of the AYUSH health care system.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

State-wise/System-wise Number of Hospitals and Dispensaries under Ayurveda and Homoeopathy (As on 1.4.2008)

Sl. No.	States/UTs/ Others	Ayurveda			Homoeopathy		
		Hosp.	Beds	Dispen- saries	Hosp.	Beds	Dispen- saries
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
A. States/UTs							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	604	557	6	300	286
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	10	2	2	100	44
3.	Assam	1	100	380	3	105	75
4.	Bihar	11	1356	311	11	510	179
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	605	634	3	100	52
6.	Delhi	10	643	148	2	150	98
7.	Goa	1	25	77	1	25	59
8.	Gujarat	47	1855	1046	16	873	216
9.	Haryana	8	835	472	1	50	20
10.	Himachal Pradesh	25	480	1109	1	25	14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	155	273			
12.	Jharkhand	1	160	122	2	82	54
13.	Karnataka	130	8567	561	21	697	43
14.	Kerala	124	3987	740	33	1130	525
15.	Madhya Pradesh	34	1726	1427	22	1055	146
16.	Maharashtra	55	7871	469	45	3105	
17.	Manipur				1	10	9
18.	Meghalaya	4	40	20	7	70	40
19.	Mizoram						1
20.	Nagaland			85	1	10	115
21.	Orissa	8	488	624	6	185	603
22.	Punjab	15	1434	507	5	240	107

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
23.	Rajasthan	100	914	3539	9	232	177
24.	Sikkim	1	10	1			1
25.	Tamil Nadu	7	580	43	9	460	46
26.	Tripura	1	10	55	1	10	93
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1771	10288	340	8	650	1482
28.	Uttarakhand	7	319	467	1	50	60
29.	West Bengal	4	409	295	12	630	1220
30.	A and N Islands	1	15	5	1	15	8
31.	Chandigarh	1	120	6	1	25	5
32.	D and N Haveli			3			1
33.	Daman and Diu			1			
34.	Lakshadweep			2			1
35.	Puducherry	1	10	16			7
TOTAL (A)		2389	43616	14337	231	10594	5787
B.	CGHS and Central Government	27	900	223	5	195	223
TOTAL (A+B)		2416	44516	14560	236	10789	6010

Source: State Governments and concerned agencies.

Statement-II

AYUSH facilities to provided in PHCs/CHCs/DHs to be collocated during 2009-10

Sl. No.	State	APHC/ PHC/ BPHC (no.s)	CHC/ SDH (nos.)	DHs (nos.)	Financial assistance (in lakhs Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island				
2.	Andhra Pradesh				

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh				
4.	Assam				
5.	Bihar	250			2500.00
6.	Chandigarh				
7.	Chhattisgarh				
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli				
9.	Daman and Diu				
10.	Delhi				
11.	Goa				
12.	Gujarat				
13.	Haryana		40	21	1615.00
14.	Himachal Pradesh				
15.	Jammu and Kashmir				
16.	Jharkhand	97	48		2026.00
17.	Karnataka				
18.	Kerala				
19.	Lakshadweep				
20.	Madhya Pradesh				
21.	Maharashtra				
22.	Manipur				
23.	Meghalaya	17	9		323.00
24.	Mizoram	68	5	8	81.00
25.	Nagaland				
26.	Orissa				
27.	Puducherry	16	3		45.30
28.	Punjab	61			605.00
29.	Rajasthan	910			932.00
30.	Sikkim				
31.	Tamil Nadu	300			4666.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Tripura				
33.	Uttar Pradesh				
34.	Uttarakhand	116	23		463.00
35.	West Bengal				
	TOTAL	1835	128	29	13256.80

Note: 1* Mizoram has been approved Rs. 17.00 Lakhs for Medicines to 68 PHC/CHC/DH

Maternal mortality rate

2066. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that estimated 78 thousand women die due to pregnancy and child birth related complications every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the maternal mortality rate in some States are higher and the various authorities have failed to check such rising trend; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to check such maternal mortality rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Based on the official estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 301 per 100,000 live births (2001-2003) to 254 per 100,000 live births (2004-06). This translates into approximately 67000 maternal deaths per year.

MMR as estimated for major states by the Registrar General of India (RGI) for the year 2001-2003 and 2004-06 is given in the Statement. (See below).

The reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II (RCH-II) under the umbrella of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), aims to improve access for rural people, especially poor women and children to equitable, affordable accountable and effective primary health care, with a special focus on 18 States, with the ultimate objective of reducing Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Total Fertility Rates.

The key strategies and interventions under the NRHM for reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio are:

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;

- Operationalizing round the clock facilities for delivery services in the 24x7 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and First Referral Units (FRUs) including District Hospitals, Sub-district Hospitals, Community Health Centres and other institutions.
- Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower thorough various skill-based trainings of Skilled Birth Attendants; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section.
- Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services including prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation.
- Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) at anganwadi Centres to impart health and nutrition education to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Systems strengthening of health facilities through flexible funds at Sub Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals.

Statement

Maternal Mortality Ratio

India and State wise

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

Major States	MMR (2001-03)	MMR (2004-06)
1	2	3
India Total*	301	254
Assam	490	480
Bihar/Jharkhand	371	312
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	379	335
Orissa	358	303
Rajasthan	445	388
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	517	440
Andhra Pradesh	195	154
Karnataka	228	213
Kerala	110	95
Tamil Nadu	134	111
Gujarat	172	160

1	2	3
Haryana	162	186
Maharashtra	149	130
Punjab	178	192
West Bengal	194	141
Others	235	206

*Includes Others

Under five mortality rate

2067. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India alone accounts for 21 per cent of the under five mortality of the world;

(b) if so, whether nearly one third of the total number of under five deaths worldwide are reported in India;

(c) if so, whether the mortality rate of children in the country is higher in comparison to the other under developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to bring down the mortality rate of children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the Progress for Children Report, 'A Statistical Review' December 2007, India contributes 21% of the global burden of child deaths.

(c) and (d) Under Five Mortality rate is 72 per 1000 live births in India. As per the States of the World's Children UNICEF Report, 2009 India ranks as 49th out of 191 countries in the descending order of the Under Five Mortality Rate.

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

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

- Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI)
- Facility Based Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI).
- Early detection and appropriate management of Diarrhoea disease

- Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections and other infections
- Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK), a programme for Basic newborn care and resuscitation
- Infant and young child feeding
- Immunization
- Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation.

Eradication of Kala-Azar

2068. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

- whether Government has assessed the number of people suffering from Kala- Azar in the country;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether Kala-Azar is affecting more and more people in the country and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have not taken any effective step to check its spread;
- if so, whether the target to eliminate Kala-Azar has not been achieved so far; and
- if so, the plans at the national level formulated by Government to eliminate Kala-Azar disease within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Government of India regularly collects information about the number of people suffering from Kala-Azar in the country. The cases of Kala-Azar reported in the last five years are given below:

Year	No. of reported cases
2005	32,803
2006	39,178
2007	44,533
2008	33,234
2009 (upto October)	20,691

(c) No, The number of Kala-Azar cases are declining since 2007, as indicated in table in reply to (a) and (b) above.

India Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and its institution viz. Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (RMRIMS), Patna are taking effective steps to check the

spread of Kala-Azar by carrying out research activities for elimination of the disease in respect of epidemiological aspects as well as diagnosis, treatment and vector control. However, the Directorate of NVBDCP under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, deals with all vector-borne diseases including Kala-Azar in the country and is the national level technical and nodal point for developing strategies and guidelines, to guide the States for Kala-Azar elimination. Research related inputs provided by RMRIMS are used by NVBDCP in evolving strategies and guidelines for Kala-Azar elimination.

(d) and (e) The National Health Policy (2002) envisages the elimination of Kala-Azar (*i.e.* to reduce the number of cases to less than 1 per 10,000 population at sub-district level) by 2010. Kala-Azar elimination is an integral component of the programme on vector-borne diseases. The main strategies for Kala-Azar elimination are-

- (i) Early case Detection and Completed Treatment (EDCT).
- (ii) Vector Control with DDT spray.
- (iii) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for community awareness specially during pre-spray activities.

Besides, source reduction of vector is being done by constructing pucca houses for Mushar Community with assistance from Ministry of Rural Development.

Non-availability of doctors and paramedics

2069. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in its recent report has found that nearly 80 per cent of the country's total primary health centres, the doctors or para-medical staff do not exist;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also aware that the condition of such primary health centres is appalling and no concrete steps are taken to set them right; and

(d) if so, the details of the plans formulated by Government to ensure availability of doctors and para-medical staff at primary health centres?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No. Out of a total of 23458 functioning across the nation, only 2533 PHCs are functioning without a regular doctor, 7617 PHCs are functioning without lab technician, 3279 PHCs are functioning without pharmacists as on March, 2008.

(d) Human resource engagement is a major thrust area under NRHM and is a priority being pursued with the States. The various initiatives include contractual engagement of health

staff based on local residence criteria, multi-skilling of doctors and para-medics, provision of incentives to serve in rural areas like blended payments, difficulty area allowances, PG allowance, case based payments, improved accommodation arrangements, provision of Ayush doctors and paramedics in PHCs and CHCs as additional doctors in rural areas, block pooling of doctors in underserved areas, engaging with the non-Government sector for underserved areas through contracting in or contracting out of human resources, empowering the community to exercise greater control over health care facilities, provision of untied and flexible funds are a few of the many measures being undertaken to ensure proper health care facilities for the rural poor in the country.

Bi-valent Oral Polio Vaccine

2070. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government plans to introduce Bi-valent Oral Polio Vaccine (BOPV) to deal with the fresh outbreak of type 3 virus of Polio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the special drives launched by Government to wipe out polio from the country have proved ineffective and the number of Polio cases are still rising ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the use of this new polio vaccine will be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes. Based on the recommendations of India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), the advisory body to the Government of India on Polio Eradication, it has been decided to administer Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) in specific areas depending on the availability.

(c) and (d) As per the IEAG, virologic, genetic, operational and technical evidence show that India is on the right path for polio eradication. Although the number of polio cases has increased in 2009 as compared to 2008, the geographic scope of both poliovirus type1 and type3 has reduced further.

Trials in India with bOPV has shown the vaccine to be more efficacious than the traditionally used trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) and almost as good as the currently used monovalent oral polio vaccines mOPV1 and mOPV - which protect against the corresponding poliovirus type.

As per the opinion of the IEAG the use of the bivalent OPV is expected to achieve interruption of transmission of polio type1 while maintaining control of polio type3 and once this is achieved, the strategy will shift to interruption of polio type 3.

Navjat Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram

2071. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched a new scheme called 'Navjat Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram' to reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the new scheme;
- (c) whether the implementation norms of the scheme has been discussed with the State Governments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched the Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK), a Basic New Born Care and Resuscitation programme on 15th of September 2009.

This programme addresses important interventions of care at birth *i.e.* Prevention of Hypothermia, Prevention of Infection, Early initiation of Breast feeding and Basic Newborn Resuscitation. The objective of this new initiative is to have at least one person trained in Basic newborn care and resuscitation at every institutional delivery.

(c) and (d) Yes, the states have been consulted about this programme which is essentially meant to upgrade the skills of Medical Officers, Staff Nurses and ANMs at the health facilities where institutional deliveries are taking place.

Public health spending

2072. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether as per a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) study, India ranks 171 out of the 175 countries in the World in public health spending;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for poor performance on the public health spending by Government;
- (c) whether Government is spending only 0.9 per cent of the GDP on the public health whereas in developed countries it is in double digits; and
- (d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to increase its public health spending in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) According to World Health Organization (WHO), no study has been conducted during the recent past, which ranks the countries by public health spending.

(c) According to World Health Statistics, 2009 published by World Health Organization (WHO), Government is spending 0.9% of the GDP on the Public health in India as compared to 8.77% in France, 8.15% in Germany, 7.16% in UK, 7.04% in Canada, 7.00% in USA and 6.95% in Italy in 2006.

(d) To increase the public health spending and to support the public health system in the States, Government of India had launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 and this has an outlay of Rs. 90,558 crore during the Eleventh Plan period. The Mission aims to provide quality health services which are accessible, affordable and accountable. It also strengthens the primary health care in the country. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) also aims to raise public health spending to at least 2% of GDP during the Plan period.

Postings of doctors in rural areas

2073. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out the modalities for the posting of doctors in rural areas as per the recommendations of Sambasiva Rao Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of doctors posted in rural areas in the current academic session, State-wise;

(d) the extent to which the issue of availability of doctors in rural areas has been solved thereafter; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the health services in rural areas of the country expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (e) The Sambasiva Rao Committee had recommended that one year rural posting may be made mandatory for the MBBS doctors desirous of pursuing Postgraduate Medical Degree courses. While the Central Government has not made the rural posting mandatory to pursue postgraduate medical Degree courses, the following Medical Council of India's Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations have been amended to encourage doctors to serve in the rural areas:

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

Control on commercial surrogacy

2074. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any legislation on controlling commercial surrogacy in India;
- (b) if so, what are the measures taken to protect the reproductive rights of women;
- (c) whether the legislation had incorporated the recommendations of the 28th report of the 18th Law Commission; and
- (d) whether the enactment lays down conditions for entering into surrogacy contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) No legislation on commercial surrogacy has been framed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, this Ministry has issued National Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Guidelines- 2005 for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Achievements under NRHM

2075. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that all major development indicators like immunization, ante-natal care, family planning in the health sector have shown negative growth in the year 2008-09 suggesting that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) failed to make desired impact;
- (b) if so, the details of the target fixed for immunization , ante-natal care and to provide easy access to family planning methods and NRHM for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the actual achievements for the aforesaid years; and
- (c) what are the reasons for negative growth and remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NAVI AZAD): (a) No. It is not correct to conclude that the major development indicators like immunization, ante-natal care, family planning in the health sector have shown negative growth in the year 2008-09. On the other hand the NRHM has succeeded in rejuvenating the public health delivery system and has accelerated the creation of accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities in remote, rural areas of the country.

(b) and (c) The NRHM is a decentralised initiative for comprehensive rejuvenation of the health delivery system in partnership with the states. The states propose the activities as per local needs in the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) which are appraised and approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) under NRHM. As such, a wide range of activities are taken up in various states and overall goal is to address the key gaps in the system. The targets and achievements for immunization, ante-natal care and to provide easy access to family planning methods are as follows:

Parameter	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (till September, 2009)
(Source:- HMIS Report, MoHFW)			
Antenatal care	22414991	26153523	12603835
Family Planning	5019000	5291000	698911 (till August 2009)
Parameter	HLHS-II (2002-04)DLHS-II (2007-08)		
Full Immunization	45.9%		54.1%

Under the NRHM, the thrust is on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels. The NRHM seeks to converge with other sectoral programmes like drinking water, education, sanitation, environment, local self Government etc. To ensure a holistic approach towards healthcare. As such, the timeline targets under NRHM relate mainly to the systemic reforms undertaken in the health sector.

The states have taken several steps to improve the coverage of immunization including strengthening of cold chain, mandatory use of auto disabled syringes, setting up alternate vaccine delivery systems etc. Similarly several steps have been taken to improve the antenatal coverage including strengthening of the outreach activities at Sub Centres, monthly Health and Nutrition days at the Aanganwadi centres, use of untied funds to ensure availability of basic equipments and furniture at Sub Centres, enhanced IEC/BCC efforts to generate awareness etc. Several steps have been undertaken to improve the family planning performance. These include establishing the loss of wages compensation packages, family welfare linked insurance scheme, insuring availability of fixed day services, additional trainings in IUCD, NSV and lap sterilisations. The availability of the bouquet of family planning services at all levels has expanded the choice for the users and improved compliance. The close involvement of ASHAs and additional ANMs at Sub Centres under NRHM have greatly improved the performance of the health system towards delivery of the basic maternal and child health services and family planning services.

Seizure and testing of spurious drugs

†2076. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) the quantum of spurious drugs seized in the country during last one year;
- (b) the number of chemist shops and the number of drug inspectors in Delhi;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there are 27 drug testing laboratories in the country and only seven out of them are available for proper testing facilities;
- (d) whether Government is satisfied with the number of drug inspectors and the number of laboratories; and
- (e) the number of chemist shops inspected during last one year and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Information is being collected from the State Licensing Authorities.

(b) There are 14667 chemist shops in Delhi. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has 28 Drugs Inspectors. Apart from that, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) also has 6 Drugs Inspectors in their North Zone, which include Delhi.

(c) No, There are 6 Central Drug Testing Laboratories in the country. As per information maintained by the Government, the State/UT Governments also have about 72 laboratories for testing of samples of drugs and food.

(d) Yes, the CDSCO had earlier 32 posts of Drugs Inspectors, out of which 22 are in position. 137 more posts of Drugs Inspectors have been created and the vacant posts are in different stages of filling up. The State/UT Governments have also been requested time and again to further strengthen the infrastructure by recruiting more number of Inspectors and upgrade the testing facility to test more number of samples.

(e) As per the information received from the concerned State Drugs Control Organizations 183020 chemist shops were inspected during the last year and 8418 licenses were suspended/cancelled.

Establishment of medical, dental and ayurvedic colleges

2077. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently given permission to start more than 150 medical, dental and ayurvedic colleges in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has ensured that students belonging to SC/ST, Backward Society and economically weak classes also get the chance for admission in these colleges;
- (d) whether out of these 150 colleges, some are in the North-Eastern States;
- (e) whether Government has received some proposal for permission from North Eastern States to open medical, dental or ayurvedic colleges;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has granted permission for setting up of 11 (eleven) medical colleges, 10 (ten) dental colleges, and 5 (five) Ayurveda Medical colleges in the country in the year 2009. The list of such colleges is given in the Statement-I. (See below)

(c) At the State level, the State Governments follow their own reservation policy.

(d) No.

(e) to (g) The details of proposals received from North Eastern States to open medical and dental colleges is given in the Statement-II. (See below) No proposal for establishment of ayurvedic medical college in North Eastern States has been received. As per the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and the Regulations made thereunder, it is for the State Government to decide the need to start an ayurvedic medical college. The Central Government grants permission for establishment of ayurvedic medical college on the Essentiality Certificate given by the respective State Government and availability of infrastructural facilities.

Statement-I

List of Medical Colleges

Sl. No.	Name of applicant	No. of seats
1	2	3
1.	Gujarat Adani Institute of Medical Sciences, G.K. Hospital, Bhuj, Gujarat by Adani Institute of Medical Sciences Society.	150
2.	K.J. Mehta T.B. Hospital and College of Medical Sciences, Bhavnagar, Gujarat by K.J Mehta T.B. Hospital.	150
3.	A.M.C. Medical Education Trust Medical College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation Medical College Society.	150

1	2	3
4.	Hindustan Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh by Sharda Educational Trust, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.	100
5.	Hind Institute of Medical Sciences, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh by Hind Charitable Trust, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.	100
6.	Sree Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences, Chalakka, Ernakulam, Kerala by Gurudeva Charitable Trust.	100
7.	Karpaga Vinayaga Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu by Karpaga Vinayaga Educational Trust, Tamil Nadu	100
8.	Chennai Medical College and Hospital, Trichurapallai, Tamil Nadu by SRM University.	150
9.	L.N. Medical College and Research Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh by H.K. Kalchuri Educational Trust, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.	150
10.	Travancore Medical College, Kollam, Kerala by Quilon Medical Trust, Kollam, Kerala	100
11.	Sagar Medical College, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh by Government of Madhya Pradesh.	100
TOTAL		1350

List of Dental Colleges

Sl. No.	Name of the dental college	No. of seats
1	2	3
1.	Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	50
2.	Sathyabama University Dental College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	100
3.	College of Dental Sciences, Shri K.J. Mehta T.B. Hospital, Amargadh, Bhavnagar, Gujarat	100
4.	AMC Dental College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	100
5.	Mahe Institute of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Mahe, Puducherry	100
6.	Government Dental College, Burdwan, West Bengal	100
7.	Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha Dental College, Sarabha, Ludhiana, Punjab	50

1	2	3
8.	Vaidik Dental College and Research Centre, Daman	100
9.	D.Y. Patil Dental College, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	100
10.	Guardian College of Dental Science and Research, Thane, Maharashtra	100
TOTAL		900

List of Ayurveda Medical College

Sl. No.	Name of the Ayurveda college	No. of seats
1.	Bharat Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	50
2.	Sekhawati Ayurvedic College, Pillani, Rajasthan	50
3.	Patanjali Bhartiya Ayurvigyan Avam Anusandhan Sansthan, Haridwar, Uttarakhand	50
4.	Dhanwantri Ayurvedic Medical College, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	50
5.	Government Ayurveda Medical College, Kottar, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu	50
TOTAL		250

Statement-II

Proposals received for establishment of new medical/dental college in North Eastern States

Sl.No.	Dental College
1.	Dental College, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur.
2.	Assam Dental College, Guwahati, Assam

Medical College

1.	Down Town Charity Trust, Guwahati, Assam
2.	Society for Medical Education, Barpeta, Assam
3.	Society for Medical Education, Jorhat, Assam
4.	Government Medical College, Imphal by Government of Manipur
5.	Government Medical College, Dimapur by Government of Nagaland.

Underweight and anaemic infants

2078. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey conducted under the stewardship of his Ministry 83 per cent infants of six months to three years in Haryana and 80 per cent of the infants in Punjab are anaemic;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in Punjab 37 per cent of the children under 5 are stunted, one in ten are wasted and almost one fourth are underweight; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) According to the National Family Health Survey 3(2005-06), 72 and 66 percent of infants in the age group of 6-59 months are anaemic in the states of Haryana and Punjab, respectively. Among the children under the age of five years in Punjab, 37 percent are stunted, 9 percent are wasted and 25 percent are underweight.

(c) The Government of India is implementing the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme through State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education. To address the problem of malnutrition and ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the Government has recently Universalised the Scheme with special focus on SC/ST and minority habitations, revised the cost norms as well as the Nutritional and Feeding norms of the Supplementary Nutrition Component of ICDS. The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) through its 43 field extension units also provides wide range of Nutrition Education and Training programmes with the objective of overcoming the difficult barrier of ignorance, prejudice and superstition.

Government is implementing a number of other schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly affect the nutritional status of children. These are as follows:

- Reproductive and Child Health Programme and National Iodine Deficiency Disease Control programme under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
- Vitamin A and IFA supplementation,
- Mid-day meal programme of Department of Elementary Education and Literacy,
- Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojna of Ministry of Women and Child Development,
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System and Antodaya Anna Yojna by Department of Food and Consumer affairs.

Female foeticide/infanticide

2079. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to stop female foeticide and infanticide particularly in the northern States of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that male-female ratio in certain northern States is alarmingly unbalanced and as a result there is spurt in the cases of sex related crimes; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by Government to disseminate the awareness among the common people about the alarming situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) To combat the practice of female foeticide and infanticide in the country through misuse of technology, done surreptitiously with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such service, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was enacted on September 20, 1994 by the Government of India.

The Act was amended in 2003 to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection and to arrest the decline in the child sex ratio as revealed by the Census 2001 and with effect from 14.02.2003, due to the amendments, the Act is known as the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of sex Selection) Act, 1994.

The main purpose of enacting the PC and PNDT (prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has been to:

- (i) Ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception
- (ii) Prevent the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortions
- (iii) Regulate such techniques

Stringent punishments have been prescribed under the Act for using pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques to illegally determine the sex of the foetus. The appropriate Authorities at the District and State levels are empowered to search, seize and seal the machines, equipments and records of the violators. The sale of certain diagnostic equipment is restricted only to the bodies registered under the Act.

The Government has also taken various steps to support implementation of the legislation, including through constitution of a National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC), Central and State Supervisory Boards, capacity building of implementing agencies, including the judiciary and public prosecutors and community awareness generation through PRIs and community health workers such as Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

The Census 2001 figures reveal that the child sex ration for the age group of 0-6 years is comparatively lower in Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883), Himachal Pradesh (896) and Rajasthan (909) as compared to the national average of 927 girls per thousand boys.

Though there is no established casual relationship between adverse sex ratio and spurt in cases of sex related crimes, this could be one of the factors resulting in some forms of violence against women.

Issue of substitute medicines by CGHS dispensary

2080. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines prescribed by the Specialists and Government Hospitals with remarks on the prescription - no substitute to the beneficiaries are being issued alternative medicines by the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Dispensaries, particularly Aram Bagh, Chitra Gupta Road, Sector - 12, R.K. Puram dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is permitted under rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken against the doctors of the dispensaries who have issued substitute medicines to the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As a matter of policy, on prescription specialists, the CGHS dispensaries are required to supply to beneficiaries, as far as possible, medicines of same formulation and therapeutic value available with them and is not treated as "substitute". If such medicines are not available then only these are indented for procurement from Authorised Local Chemist or through the Medical Store Depot.

Shortage of anti-rabies vaccine

2081. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of anti-rabies vaccine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production of anti-rabies vaccine by PSUs was suspended by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI);

(c) whether after the stoppage of production by the PSUs, the private pharmaceutical

companies who manufacture and market the anti-rabies vaccine have increased the prices; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government to restart the production of anti-rabies vaccine by PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Anti-rabies vaccines are available in sufficient quantities in the country.

(b) Yes. The manufacturing licenses of the three Public Sector vaccines institutes which are under the administrative control of the Ministry were suspended by Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) in January, 2008 since they were not found in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. However, only Pasteur Institute of India (PII), Coonoor was producing anti rabies vaccine.

(c) No, since the installed capacity of Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor was only 5 lakh doses annually (1.76% of the total installed capacity) with production of only 3 lakh doses (2.3% of the total production) in 2007-2008, rise in market price of vaccine can not be attributed to the closure of this unit.

(d) Government has decided to revive the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor. The license of this unit can be revived and production of vaccine can be restarted after compliance with GMP requirement.

Grants made by CCRYN

2082. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the grantee institutions, under the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) since 2005 stating names of their CEOs, treating doctors and grants being given to them since 2005;

(b) the reasons for giving them grant for purchase of equipments every year;

(c) whether these grants were approved by the Governing Body of CCRYN; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) The information is given at Statement I, II and III (*See below*), and Annexure No 8. [*See Appendix 228 Annexure No 8*]

(b) Grants for purchase of equipment are given every year since 2009 to upgrade and to replace old and obsolete hydrotherapy and other equipments.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

List of Institutions Given Grant under Research Scheme of CCRYN in the year 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the principal Investigator/CEO/ Doctor	Amount Released in Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. K.K. Deepak	60,000/-
2.	ALN Rao Memorial Ayurvedic Medical College, KOPPA, Karnataka	Dr. D.S. Lucas	1,08,900/-
3.	Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Fourth Cross Street, Ramakrishna Nagar, Chennai	Dr. Chandrashekhra	2,03,513/-
4.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. K.K. Deepak	4,18,686/-
5.	Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan, Gavipuram Circle, KG Nagar, Bangalore	Dr. Shirley Telles Dr. Manjunath N.K.	2,04,050/-
6.	Holistic Medicine and Stress Research Unit, Deptt. of Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram	Dr. Jayarus	2,80,000/-
7.	Shri Nath Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Bhagwatdas Ghat Road, Kanpur, U.P.	Dr. Ravinder Porwal	5,45,400/-
8.	Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan, Gavipuram Circle, KG Nagar, Bangalore	Dr. H.R. Nagendra	4,41,605/-
9.	Department of Biophysics, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Krishna Dalal	13,89,586/-
10.	Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM), Howrah, W.B.	Dr. D. Bakshi	4,61,100/-
11.	Department of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore	Dr. Bindu Kutty,	1,90,666/-

1	2	3	4
12.	Department of Psychiatry, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi	Dr. Smita N. Deshpande	75,000/-
13.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Ratna Sharma	5,00,000/-

List of Institutions Given Grant under Research Scheme of CCRYN in the year 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the principal Investigator/CEO/ Doctor	Amount Released in Rs.
1.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. K.K. Deepak	56,796/-
2.	Holistic Medicine and Stress Research Unit, Deptt. of Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram	Dr. Jayarus	51,000/-
3.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. K.K. Deepak	1,21,950/-
4.	Shri Nath Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Bhagwatdas Ghat Road, Kanpur, U.P.	Dr. Ravinder Porwal	2,70,000/-
5.	Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan, Gavipuram Circle, KG Nagar, Bangalore	Dr. H.R. Nagendra	2,27,683/-
6.	Department of Biophysics, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Krishna Dalal	3,16,018/-
7.	Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM), Howrah, W.B.	Dr. D. Bakshi	5,87,700/-
8.	Department of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore	Dr. Bindu Kutty,	2,52,986/-
9.	Department of Psychiatry, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi	Dr. Smita N. Deshpande	16,85,600/-
10.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Ratna Sharma	3,15,000/-

List of Institutions Given Grant under Research Scheme of CCRYN in the year 2007-08

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the principal Investigator/CEO/ Doctor	Amount Released in Rs.
1.	Department of Biophysics, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Krishna Dalal	7,31,487/-
2.	Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM), Howrah, W.B.	Dr. D. Bakshi	5,88,000/-
3.	Department of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore	Dr. Bindu Kutty,	2,10,500/-
4.	Department of Psychiatry,, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi	Dr. Smita N. Deshpande	15,38,012/-
5.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Ratna Sharma	2,76,762/-
6.	Shri Nath Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Bhagwatdas Ghat Road, Kanpur, U.P.	Dr. Ravinder Porwal	2,57,112/-
7.	Nature Cure, Yoga, Acupuncture & Physiotherapy Hospital, Nisarga Trust (R), Nadig Galli, Sirsi - 581401 (N.K.), Karnataka	Dr. Raghavendra Rao	4,09,000/-
8.	ALN Rao Memorial Ayurvedic Medical College, Koppa-577126, Chikmagalur Dist., Karnataka	Dr. Sanjay K.S.	22,000/-
9.	Deptt. of Physiology, King George Medical University, Lucknow (U.P.)	Dr. Sunita Tiwari	4,95,000/-

List of Institutions Given Grant under Research Scheme of CCRYN in the year 2008-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the principal Investigator/CEO/ Doctor	Amount Released in Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Department of Biophysics, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Krishna Dalal	3,25,842/-

1	2	3	4
2.	Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM), Howrah, W.B.	Dr. D. Bakshi	2,49,325/-
3.	Department of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore	Dr. Bindu Kutty,	3,29,000/-
4.	Department of Psychiatry,, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi	Dr. Smita N. Deshpande	15,51,300/-
5.	Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. Ratna Sharma	5,49,350/-
6.	Nature Cure, Yoga, Acupuncture & Physiotherapy Hospital, Nisarga Trust (R), Nadig Galli, Sirsi - 581401 (N.K.), Karnataka	Dr. Raghavendra Rao	10,44,350/-
7.	ALN Rao Memorial Ayurvedic Medical College, KOPPA - 577126, Chikmagalur Dist., Karnataka	Dr. Sanjay K.S.	5,77,425/-
8.	Deptt. of Physiology, King George Medical University, Lucknow (U.P.)	Dr. Sunita Tiwari	4,53,300/-
9.	Department of Laboratory Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi	Dr. A.K. Mukhopadhyay	4,18,700/-
10.	Yoga and Nature Cure Home, Khundrakpam Awang Leikai, Imphal East, Imphal Saikul Road, P.O. Pangei - 795114, Manipur	Dr. Agni Singh	8,07,294/-
11.	Bharath Charitable Cancer Hospital and Institute, 18-19, Hebbal Industrial Area, Metagally Post, Mysore-570016	Dr. Raghavendra Rao M.	9,61,000/-
12.	Deptt. of Neurology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi	Dr. Manvir Bhatia	1,05,700/-

*List of Institutions Given Grant under Research Scheme of CCRYN in the
year 2009-10 (Upto Nov., 2009)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the principal Investigator/CEO/ Doctor	Amount Released in Rs.
1.	Department of Biophysics, AllMS, New Delhi	Dr. Krishna Dalal	2,98,956/-
2.	Nature Cure, Yoga, Acupuncture & Physiotherapy Hospital, Nisarga Trust (R), Nadig Galli, Sirsi - 581401 (N.K.), Karnataka	Dr. Raghavendra Rao	5,26,650/-
3.	ALN Rao Memorial Ayurvedic Medical College, KOPPA - 577126, Chikmagalur Dist., Karnataka	Dr. Sanjay K.S.	3,08,288/-
4.	Deptt. of Physiology, King George Medical University, Lucknow (U.P.)	Dr. Sunita Tiwari	3,03,889/-
5.	Yoga and Nature Cure Home, Khundrakpam Awang Leikai, Imphal East, Imphal Saikul Road, P.O. Pangei - 795114, Manipur	Dr. Agni Singh	4,62,835/-
6.	Department of Laboratory Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi	Dr. A.K. Mukhopadhyay	5,27,332/-
7.	Deptt. of Neurology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi	Dr. Manvir Bhatia	1,61,500/-
8.	Department of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Hosur Road, Bangalore	Dr. T.N. Sathyaprabha	6,05,500/-
9.	Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	Dr. Jagdish Prasad	8,47,800/-

Statement-II

*List of Institutions Given Grant under Literary Research Scheme of CCRYN
in the year 2005-06 to 2009-10*

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the Principal Investigator/CEO/ Doctor	Amount Released in Rs.
2005-06			
1.	Swami Vivekanand Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan, Bangalore	Dr. H.R. Nagendra	1,64,000/-
2006-07			
1.	The Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla-410401, Distt. Pune	Dr. M.M. Gharote	59,500/-
2.	Swami Vivekanand Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan, Bangalore	Dr. H.R. Nagendra	25,000/-
2007-08			
1.	The Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla-410401, Distt. Pune	Dr. M.M. Gharote	2,33,000/-
2008-09			
1.	The Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla-410401, Distt. Pune	Dr. M.M. Gharote	1,78,500/-
2009-10			
1.	The Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla-410401, Pune	Dr. M.M. Gharote	3,02,500/-

Statement-III

*Funds released in the Year 2006-07 and 2007-08 Name of the Scheme — EMR
of Department of AYUSH*

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Title of the Project	Amount Released in Rs.
1	2	3	4
2006-07			
1.	Department of Neurophysiology, Div. of Yoga Life Sciences, Swami Vivekanand Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore, Karnataka	Cognitive changes following specific yoga breathing . practices	3,20,500/-

1	2	3	4
2.	Deptt. of Physiology, King George Medical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Effect of yogic practices on cardiac autonomic and metabolic parameters in patients of coronary artery diseases.	8,31,550/-
3.	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, (NIMHANS), Bangalore, Karnataka	Efficacy of yoga as an add-on treatment in Schizophrenia	8,66,800/-
4.	Deptt. of Physiology and Nutrition, St. John Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka	Assessment of Insulin Sensitivity in Yoga Practitioners and non Yoga practitioners using euglycemic hyper insulinemic clamps.	6,82,700/-
5.	Lonavala Yoga Institute, Lonavala, Pune, Maharashtra	Critical Edition of Yogaupanishad (Yogakundalyupanisad, Yogacudamanyupanisad and Trisikha-brahmanopanisad).	4,13,300/-
2007-08			
1.	Department of Psychology, University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Holistic Health Intervention in Pre-adolescent Children-A Yogic Approach.	2,69,800/-
2.	Scientific Research Deptt., Kaivalyadhama, Lonavalal, Pune, Maharashtra	Yoga for Prevention and Control of Suicidal-Tendency and Restoring Mental Health in Indian Adolescent Students.	9,68,000/-
3.	Bio-Medical Engineering Unit, AIIMS, New Delhi, NCT Delhi	Analysis of Autonomic Nervous System Cor-relates and Health Benefits of Pranayama Practices	15,92,700/-
4.	Deptt. of Physiology and Nutrition, St. Johan Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka	Assessment of Insulin Sensitivity in Yoga practitioners and non Yoga practitioners using euglycemic hyper insulinemic clamps.	5,19,700/-
5.	Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Sansthan, Bangalore, Karnataka	Efficacy of Yoga based life style interventions in preventive Cardiology and Diabetology	8,30,000/-

1	2	3	4
6.	International Board of yoga, Mumbai, Maharashtra	Stress management in mothers of students appearing for competitive examinations through yoga.	14,41,800/-
7.	The Lonavla Institute of Yoga Lonavla, Distt. Pune, Maharashtra	Encyclopedia of Traditional Asanas	1,00,000/-
8.	The Lonavla Institute of Yoga Lonavla, Distt. Pune, Maharashtra	Hathatatvakaumudi of Sundardeve - A Critical Edition.	50,000/-

Duration of MD course in Unani system of medicine

2083. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per decision of the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), MD in Unani is a three year course;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some doctors of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) have done two-year M.D. course in Unani by availing study leave and that the two-year course was never recognised by CCIM;

(c) if so, the names of those Unani doctors who availed study leave and did two-year M.D. course; and

(d) the steps being taken to derecognize their degrees and to effect recoveries in respect of the study leave?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

HIV-affected children in Maharashtra

†2084. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent survey in the country children affected with HIV have been found in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the position of Maharashtra in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce it?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) The Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres and Ant-retroviral Treatment Centres in Maharashtra have identified 14,345 HIV positive children. The State has the largest number of HIV positive children in the country.

- (c) Following steps are being taken to prevent and control HIV infection in children;
- (i) Identification, counselling and prophylactic treatment to HIV positive pregnant women and new born babies;
- (ii) Diagnosis of HIV positive children and provision of anti-retroviral drugs to those children eligible for treatment; and
- (iii) Public awareness through various media regarding prevention of HIV transmission.

Increase in cancer cases

2085. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cancer cases are on the increase, but the treatment is beyond the reach of the common people, especially in the rural areas;
- (b) whether Government is making concerted efforts for making the cancer treatment affordable and its availability even in primary health centres in the rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (d) According to the population based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there are about nine lakh new cancer cases occurring every year in the country. The trend of cancer cases occurrence in India is rising.

The Central Government is providing financial assistance for setting up Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical colleges/hospitals for providing treatment facilities under National Cancer Control Programme. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities are provided by 27 Regional Cancer Centres across the country. The treatment of cancer is either free or subsidized in the Government institutions. The Government has also set up the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (CPF) to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) cancer patients.

Increase in AIDS cases in slum areas of Delhi

†2086. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people affected with Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is increasing every year in the slum areas of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for failure of Government programmes in this respect;

(c) the details of achievements of nationwide programmes to control AIDS in the country; and

(d) the immediate steps being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) No information is available about increase in number of people affected by AIDS in slum areas of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The steps taken to prevent and control HIV/AIDS and major achievements of the National AIDS Control Programme Phase III since July 2007 are as follows:

1. Scaling up HIV testing to 5089 ICTCs wherein 0.01 crore persons were tested in 2008-09.
2. Scaling up HIV treatment facilities to 227 ART centres where in 2,80,954 patients are receiving free treatment.
3. Scaling up STI treatment through public and private facilities; 66.7 lakh STI episodes treated in 2008-09.
4. Support to 1092 blood banks including 113 Blood Component Separation units and 10 Model Blood Banks established. A total of 74 lakh blood units collected in 2008-09.
5. A total of 212.31 crore condoms distributed in 2008-09 for preventing transmission HIV.
6. IEC activities launched focusing on behaviour change. The Red Ribbon Express project completed on 1st December 2008 after travelling over 27,000 kms. Covering 180 districts/halt stations. The project covered 41,334 villages and reached out to 62 lakh people. It has been relaunched again on 1st December 2009.
7. A total of 1247 Targeted Intervention have been launched in various States to cover different High Risk Groups.

Bill on HIV/AIDS

2087. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been proposing to introduce HIV/AIDS bill from 2006;

- (b) if so, the reasons for its delay; and
- (c) by when Government proposes to introduce the Bill in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes. The draft of the Bill on HIV/AIDS is, at present, under finalisation. However, no firm date can be indicated at this stage.

Acute shortage of vaccines

2088. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of vaccines in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to make available adequate quantity of vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of vaccines at present under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country. However, during the year 2008, there were some shortages of Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus (DPT), Tetanus Toxoid (TT) and Diphtheria Tetanus (DT) for few months in some States due to non-fulfillment of supply commitments by manufacturers.

(c) To meet the requirement of vaccines, procurement is made from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as well as indigenous private sector units through a competitive bidding process.

Efficacy of pictorial warnings on cigarette packets

2089. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Mumbai-based health research organisation's recent survey report reveals that pictorial warnings on tobacco products like cigarette have proved ineffective with sales of cigarettes growing in the last two quarters;
- (b) whether the habitual smokers deciphered the black and white X-ray picture of decaying lungs on cigarette packs as waterfalls between two mountains or hazy shadows of two people facing each other;
- (c) whether illegal and smuggling sector has grown dramatically, not complying with pictorial warning rules apart from evading excise and VAT duties; and
- (d) whether unlike India, western countries where graphic health warnings are carried on cigarettes have recorded decline on the number of tobacco users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) A survey was conducted by Healis Seksaria Institute of Public Health, Mumbai, and published in October, 2009 concluded that the pictorial warning do not serve desired purpose since they are not properly understood.

- (c) There is no such evidence available with this Ministry.

(d) The available evidence shows that countries who adopted strong pictorial warnings on tobacco products were able to show a decline in tobacco use.

Children orphaned by AIDS

2090. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children orphaned on account of spread of AIDS in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) how many of them are infected with this disease during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of budgetary and institutional support made and provided for their rehabilitation; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government/NGOs to protect the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Information on number of children orphaned on account of AIDS is not available. Number of HIV infected children during the last three years, State-wise is given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) Under National AIDS Control Programme Phase-III (NACP-III), five Community Care Center (CCC) for children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS, have been supported for providing, care, support, food, education and health care. Grant-in-aid of Rs.21.5 lakh has been given to each of these centers. In addition, care and support services are also being provided by HIV/AIDS Alliance to 18,405 children and Clinton Foundation to nearly 28,000 children affected by HIV/AIDS in selected high prevalence districts.

(d) Following steps are being taken to protect children from HIV infection:

(i) Identification, counselling and prophylactic treatment to HIV positive pregnant women and new born babies;

(ii) Diagnosis of HIV positive children and provision of anti-retroviral drugs to those children eligible for treatment; and

(iii) Public awareness through various media regarding prevention of HIV transmission.

Statement

Number of HIV+Children reported during the last three years

Sl. No.	State	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3191	7863	11505

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	3
4.	Assam	25	46	98
5.	Bihar	104	313	603
6.	Chandigarh	263	313	357
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	95	176
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	4
9.	Daman and Diu	0	1	7
10.	Delhi	722	1076	1633
11.	Goa	118	171	223
12.	Gujarat	189	754	1857
13.	Haryana	42	167	281
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17	84	145
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	41	82
16.	Jharkhand	0	131	253
17.	Karnataka	1634	4425	7006
18.	Kerala	283	462	569
19.	Lakshadweep			
20.	Madhya Pradesh	128	297	488
21.	Maharashtra	2787	7012	12036
22.	Manipur	783	1519	1748
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	6
24.	Mizoram	19	48	91
25.	Nagaland	121	271	379
26.	Orissa	30	166	405
27.	Pondicherry	30	60	103
28.	Punjab	78	360	648
29.	Rajasthan	201	549	996
30.	Sikkim	0	0	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	3056	5164	6862

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Tripura	0	0	7
33.	Uttar Pradesh	262	552	1252
34.	Uttaranchal	14	52	82
35.	West Bengal	146	287	510
TOTAL		14244	32281	50417

Focus on elders under NRHM

2091. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has any specific initiative to address the health problems of the elders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) provides a platform for interventions in the health sector, based on the priorities of the State Governments concerned. While there is a National Policy on Elder Persons (1999) and Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007, there is no national programme for the health care of the elderly at present.

Conversion of a public medical college to a self-finance college

2092. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware about conversion of the N.H. Municipal Medical College in the campus of V.S. Hospital Ahmedabad, from public medical college to self-finance college to be managed by the Trust of a political party; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to protect the poor students of Ahmedabad city in particular and Gujarat in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the State Government of Gujarat, Smt. NHL Municipal Medical College, Ahmedabad is managed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation Medical Education Trust and not by a political party. Subsidy in tuition fee is given to the local students at the time of admission.

Exorbitant prices of drugs

2093. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some pharmaceutical companies charge exorbitant prices of their drugs and formulations without any control or check;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to monitor the price of drugs;

(c) the number of cases detected by the drug regulator involving price violations during the last three years along with action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure availability of life saving drugs in sufficient quantity at reasonable price in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has stated that under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order {DPCO}, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulation containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

The NPPA has fixed/revised the prices of scheduled bulk drugs in 470 cases and 10253 formulations since its inception. Of these, the prices of 18 scheduled bulk drugs and derivatives and 1737 formulation were fixed/revised during the period from 1st April, 2009 to 30th November, 2009.

In respect of drugs — not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers 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 ORGIMS 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 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 formulation, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10 (b) of the DPCO, 1995 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.

(c) During the last three years, NPPA has detected 325 number of overcharging cases involving overcharging amount of Rs. 1368.06 crore (upto 31st October 2009). In all those cases, companies have been issued Demand Notice where ever applicable to recover the overcharged amount along with interest. As a result, Rs.78.88 crore have been recovered from various companies.

(d) Life saving drugs are not defined in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995. NPPA monitors the availability of the drugs in the country through State Drugs Control Administration. Wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of drugs by impressing upon the manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

Family planning as priority area

2094. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for changing the name of Ministry of Family Planning into "Family Welfare";

(b) whether Government considered that the family planning should have utmost priority in our Five Year Plans; and

(c) whether Government is considering two children family as a mandatory requirement for obtaining various Government grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) The Family Planning Programme upto 1970's was focussed mainly on terminal methods and the programme received a setback due to the rigid implementation of a target based approach. To approach the issue afresh, it was decided to enable a couple to adopt the family planning methods, voluntarily, best suited to them according to their choice, without any compulsion. To reflect this shift in focus whereby the programme became voluntary in nature, the nomenclature became "Family Welfare".

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Post of In-charge in CGHS dispensary

2095. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of the In-charge of the Central Government Health Scheme dispensary is substantiated or supernumerary;

(b) how many junior doctors are officiating as In-charges in Central Zone of Delhi and since when;

(c) the number of doctors who are senior to the junior officiating In-charges;

(d) whether these senior doctors are unfit to head the dispensaries;

(e) if not, the reasons for these senior doctors not being considered for heading the dispensaries;

(f) whether the same situation prevails in other zones of CGHS, Delhi; and

(g) whether there is any policy under which In-charges are appointed as per their Seniority?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (g) Senior most doctor posted in a dispensary is normally made Chief Medical Officer-in-charge (CMO-in-charge) of the dispensary. However, it is not mandatory for the senior most doctor in the dispensary to accept being made Chief Medical Officer in-charge. Some Medical Officer decided not to become CMO-in-charge on medical grounds. In two dispensaries, each in South Zone and Central Zone, comparatively junior Medical Officers are functioning as CMO-in-charges.

Regulatory authority for medical education

†2096. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to bring medical education under regulatory authority by closing various bodies associated to medical education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government admits that medical education needs to be developed to meet the health requirements; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to develop medical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry has proposed to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH) as a regulatory body for health sector to reform the current framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force was setup to workout the modalities of setting up the regulatory body to coordinate among various councils.

The Task Force has *inter alia* recommended creation of regulatory body in the field medical and paramedical education to achieve the objective of enhancing the supply of skilled human resources in the health sector by bringing in the required reforms in the regulatory framework. Comments and suggestions have been sought from State Governments and other stakeholders on the recommendations of the Task Force.

(c) and (d) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), the Central Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in under served States and also to upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College/Institutions in ten States.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

To facilitate setting up of more medical colleges, the Medical Council of India Regulations have been reviewed and amendments made in the criteria of land requirement, teacher-student ratio, bed-strength and incentives given to doctors serving in the rural areas. There is a scheme for strengthening and upgradation of State Government medical colleges through Central assistance of Rs. 1350 crore during Eleventh Plan for starting/increasing PG courses. The funds are envisaged to be allocated to the eligible State Government Medical Colleges after the finalization of the scheme.

Spurious Chinese malaria drugs

†2097. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any information that China is manufacturing spurious generic drugs for the treatment of malaria and selling the same by using 'made in India' levels on them;
- (b) whether these drugs have been seized by Drugs Regulatory Authority;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to check the recurring of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) Government of India's attention has been drawn to the press release issued by NAFDAC, Nigerian Government Drug Regulatory Authority, about detention and seizure of a large consignment of fake anti-malarial generic pharmaceuticals labelled "Made in India" but produced in China. Taking serious note of the contents of NAFDAC's Press Release, a strong protest was lodged with concerned Chinese authorities with a request to take stringent action against such unscrupulous elements. Consequent to India's strong protest, the Chinese Government conducted an investigation and found a nexus between Chinese drug manufacturers and importers in Nigeria. The principal suspects have been caught and their factories sealed. The Chinese Government is taking action against the accused as per their law.

- (d) Indian Missions abroad have been sensitised to be vigilant against such incidences.

Vigilance cases against officials of AYUSH

2098. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that vigilance cases are pending since May, 2005 against some of the Directors of the various Councils under the Department of AYUSH;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons why no final decision has been taken thereon so far; and

(c) whether Government proposes to fix responsibility on the officers who are responsible for not taking action on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) One vigilance case against Dr. BTC Murthy, former Director, National Institute for Naturopathy [presently Director, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN)] is pending. As per the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission dated 18.05.2005, major penalty proceeding was initiated in November, 2005. The Inquiry Report dated 17.8.2007 was processed and referred to the CVC for its 2nd stage advice. The Commission had given its advice on 07.08.2009. The advice of the Commission is presently under consideration of the Government.

Profiling of rural and urban smokers

2099. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the serious observations made by American Cancer Society and World Lung Foundation during August 2009 that female smokers in India die on an average 8 years earlier than their non-smoking peers;

(b) if so, whether any urban and rural profiles of smokers, both men and women have been prepared; and

(c) whether resorting to smoking is a situational compulsion or need-based requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Yes. As per the Tobacco Atlas (third edition-2009) released by American Cancer Society and World Lung Foundation, female smokers in India die on an average 8 years earlier than their non-smoking peers;

(b) As per National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-06), Tobacco use is more prevalent in the rural areas than in urban areas, among men and women. 35% of rural men in age 15-49 smoke cigarettes/bidis compared with 29% of urban men. About 40% of rural men chew tobacco while around 31% of urban men do so. 10% rural women chew tobacco in rural areas compared to 6% in the urban areas.

(c) As per available evidence, initiation into smoking particularly by Youth is influenced by several factors including smoking by parents, friends/peer group and watching celebrities smoking in films.

Notification of PNDT Act by Haryana

2100. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Haryana notified the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act only on 4 March, 2009, which it should have done in 1997;

(b) if so, whether monitoring is done by the Central Government especially in sensitive matters relating to aborting female foetus in early stages of pregnancy; and

(c) whether the Central Government has satisfied itself that all State Governments have duly notified PNDT Act 1997 and sex-determination activities are being curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act was enacted on September 20, 1994 by the Government of India. This Act came into force in February, 1996.

As per the information received from the Government of Haryana, "the appointments in respect of the District Appropriate Authorities for the whole of State of Haryana was done by Haryana Government *vide* notification No. 1/18/88-2HB-II-97 dated 24.10.1997. The notification was sent to Controller Printing and Stationary, Union Territory, Chandigarh but as per the office records of Controller Printing and Stationery, UT of Chandigarh, such notification was not received for publishing in extra-ordinary gazette. A fresh notification was issued on 4.3.2009 in the official gazette to be substituted for original notification dated 24.10.1997 with retrospective effect from the date on which original notification was sent for publication, *viz.* 24.10.1997. Since the main Act does not authorize the State Government to issue the notification with retrospective effect, the validation of certain appointments of Appropriate Authorities for the whole of the State of Haryana under the provisions of the PC and PNDT Act, 1994 and action taken by them has also been done by issuing an Ordinance on 21.7.2009."

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had, *inter alia*, directed the State Governments to furnish quarterly report containing certain vital information regarding the Genetic Clinics, etc. In pursuance of this direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, periodic reports are received from the State/UT Governments. The States/UTs defaulting in furnishing the reports are constantly reminded to furnish the same. The concerned State Governments are also regularly requested to take effective measures for speedy disposal of the ongoing cases.

As per the reports received from the States and UTs. 36477 bodies using ultrasound, image scanners etc. have been registered under the Act. 431 ultrasound machines have been sealed

and seized for violation of the law. There were 603 ongoing cases, *i.e.* 196 cases are for non-registration of the centre/clinic, 153 cases relate to non-maintenance of records, 123 cases relate to communication of sex of foetus, 37 cases relate to Advertisement about pre-natal/conception diagnostic facilities and 94 cases relate to other violations of Act/Rules.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 is a Central Act. It extends the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal, Sex Selection/Determination (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2002, (Act No.XXXI of 2002) on 23rd April 2002. Therefore States are not required to notify the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

Setting up of heavy industrial plant in Marathwada

2101. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has realized the necessity and importance of establishing heavy industries in backward regions like Marathwada in view of developing them by way of generating employment;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to start a heavy industrial plant in Marathwada region where industrialists dare not venture to invest money in a heavy industry; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations, which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating a conducive environment by way of providing infrastructural facilities and other incentives. The Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible by providing support/incentives under its various schemes. There is no proposal for setting up of heavy industrial plant in Marathwada at present.

Subject under ambit of Panchayats

2102. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the 29 subjects for which the Panchayats are responsible for under the Eleventh Schedule have actually been devolved to the Panchayats;

(b) if so, whether the envisaged targets have been fulfilled as the financial and administrative powers are still controlled by the higher tiers of Government; and

(c) whether the extant procedures and rustic wisdom of Sarpanches and Panches is adequate to deal with all the 29 subjects?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to the provisions of the Article 243G of the Constitution, the State Governments may endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to plan and implement schemes for social justice and economic development. The State Governments are accordingly to consider the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats. The number of subjects devolved to the Panchayats varies across the States/UTs.

(c) The elected representative of the Panchayats are provided training and capacity building under various schemes of the State and Central Governments to exercise powers and functions assigned to the Panchayats.

Production in KG-D6

†2103. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of production in Krishna- Godavari-D6 oil reserve has been entrusted to a joint enterprise;

(b) if so, names of partners in the Joint Venture alongwith the percentage of partnership of each partner, separately;

(c) whether the investments made till now in these oil reserves have been estimated finally; and

(d) if so, the total investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The KG-D6 block has been awarded to a Consortium consisting of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited with 90% and 10% of Participating interest respectively under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-I).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) is conducting the audit of this Block for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 with the option to take up the audit of earlier years.

Auction under NELP

2104. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many blocks have been auctioned in the eight rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) of these, in how many blocks oil and gas have been discovered and the block-wise estimates; and

(c) of these, in how many blocks exploration has started?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks were offered. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.

(b) So far, 73 discoveries have been made in 21 blocks under NELP regime. An in-place reserve of 642 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas has been established so far from these discoveries. The details of the block wise estimates are available with Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

(c) Exploration works have been carried out in 179 blocks, out of 203 blocks awarded under NELP.

Fall in profit of ONGC

2105. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reported a huge drop in its net profit for the first half of the ongoing fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and factors responsible for fall in net profit of ONGC;

(c) whether the sectors in which ONGC is facing fall in net profit would be checked; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)'s net profit has dropped by 13% from Rs.11,445 crore in first half (H1) 2008-2009 to Rs.9,938 crore in H1, 2009-10. The fall in net profit of ONGC in H1 2009-10 compared to H1 2008-09 is mainly due to:-

(i) Reduction in sales revenue on account of lower selling price due to steep fall in international prices of crude oil as well as reduced sales quantity due to less production of crude oil.

(ii) Steep fall in prices of Value Added Products as these are also linked to international prices of crude oil.

(iii) Increase in average exchange rate of Indian Rupees *vis-a-vis* US Dollar.

(iv) Increase in expenditure on dry wells.

(c) and (d) All out effort is being made to augment crude oil production by implementing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) in various fields of ONGC as well as technology induction/absorption/adoption to enhance oil/gas production. ONGC is also taking up some structural changes and creation of well-coordinated Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) to ensure better coordination in acquisition, processing, interpretation and drilling activities.

Extraction of crude oil by Cairn India Ltd.

†2106. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Cairn India Company has started the extraction of crude oil from the oil reserves of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the maximum capacity of extraction assessed by Government from these reserves;
- (c) the percentage of capacity being utilized presently by the company; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that presently the extraction of crude oil from these reserves costs five dollars per barrel to the company?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) yes, Sir. Crude Oil Production has started w.e.f. 29.08.2009 from the Mangla Field in the block RJ-ON-90/1 in Rajasthan, awarded to Cairn Energy India Pty Limited.

(b) Plateau rate of oil production from this block will be about 1,75,000 Barrels of Oil Per Day (BOPD) as per the approved Development Plan.

(c) The average production for the month of November 2009 from this field was 17,000 BOPD which is 9.7% of the estimated peak production of 1,75,000 BOPD.

(d) The estimated cost of production (Operating Cost) from this field, as calculated by the Contractor is about US \$ 5.5 per barrel.

Production of gas in KG Basin

2107. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the Director General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) the earlier estimates of gas produced from each of the 50 wells of KG D-6 Basin was 1.6 mmcmd;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that as per the recent estimates of the DGH each well can produce 6-7 mmcmd;
- (c) if so, the basis and details of earlier and the present estimates; and
- (d) the amount of royalty accruing to Government as per the previous estimate and the revised estimate, separately?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The Consortium of the block KG-DWN-98/3 (D6 Block), M/s Reliance Industries Limited and NIKO Resources Limited, have so far drilled 18 development wells in D1 and D3 Gas fields. It is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

estimated that a plateau rate of Gas production of 80 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) may be achieved from these 18 wells drilled so far. However, when the production declines from these existing wells, Contractor will be required to drill new wells to arrest the decline and maintain the plateau production rate of 80 MMSCMD. The Filed Development Plan of D1 and D3 approved by the Management Committee envisages drilling of maximum 50 development wells over the estimated field life of about 13 years. If more number of wells are required to be drilled, Contractor will have to submit new proposal in this regard for approval by the Management Committee.

(d) The recoverable reserves were initially estimated at 3.81 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) which are now revised at 10.03 TCF. Based on the price formula approved by the Government, the price of Gas is US \$ 4.2/mmbtu (Million Metric British Thermal Unit) at crude price of US \$ 60 or above per barrel. If royalty is calculated at this price *i.e.* US \$ 4.2/mmbtu, then royalty would be as under:

- (i) On initial estimate of 3.81 TCF gas=US \$ 0.7 billion (approx)
- (ii) On revised estimate of 10.03 TCF gas=US \$ 2 billion (approx).

Common pooled price of gas

2108. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans before Government to introduce a common pooled price of natural gas in the country to avoid litigation over pricing and allocation of gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has appointed consultant also for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has studied the gas pricing models of other countries, particularly Gulf countries; and

(f) if so, the details of mechanism followed by other countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) Government has asked GAIL (India) Ltd. to undertake a study on pooling of prices of natural gas in the country. GAIL (India) Ltd. has engaged M/s Mercados EMI Pvt. Ltd., a premier consultancy organization, for the same. The Terms of Reference of the study include, *inter alia*, international experiences/models prevalent in other countries.

Appointment of employees in ONGC

2109. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about eighty persons were appointed as Regular/ Permanent Employees to the posts of Stenographer, Attendants, Drivers and Security Guard by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Delhi Circle in 1998;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of these employees were made Temporary in 2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the fate of career and social security of such temporary employees; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for their welfare or to make them permanent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) 87 persons were absorbed as regular employees in temporary capacity in terms of interim order dated 27.07.1998 of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court passed in LPA No.7 of 1998 and other connected appeals filed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). However, their absorption was subject to the final decision in these appeals.

(b) Post-wise details are as under:-

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts
1.	Joint Stenographer	10
2.	Joint Assistant	2
3.	Joint Operator	14
4.	Joint Motor Vehicle Driver	9
5.	Junior Attendant	41
6.	Junior Security Guard	11
TOTAL:		87

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Gas pipeline from Jagadishpur to Haldia

2110. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has approved an investment of Rs. 7,600 crore for a 2050 km. pipeline from Jagadishpur to Haldia to meet the Natural Gas demands of various enroute consumers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof including the project schedule as well as the details of consumers and the source of natural gas to meet the demands; and
- (c) if not, the future planning of Government to meet the natural gas requirements of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The Board of GAIL (India) Ltd. has approved the laying of Jagadishpur-Haldia Pipeline along with spurlines/feeder lines in phases.

The trunk pipeline is envisaged on gas supply from KG and Mahanadi basins through Kakinada-Vizag-Haldia pipeline of Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd. (RGTIL). Hence, the completion of Jagadishpur-Haldia pipeline is to be synchronized with the completion of Kakinada-Vizag-Haldia pipeline.

Major customers enroute this pipeline are CSES Haldia, WBPDC Bandal, WBODC Katwa, DPL Durgapur, SAIL Durgapur, HFC Durgapur, FCI Sindri, HFC Barauni, Petrochemical Barauni, power plants at Barh and Betiah, FCI, Gorakhpur and City Gas networks in cities of Kolkatta, Jamshedpur, Ranchi Patna, Chapra, Siwan, Gopalganj and Allahabad.

Levy of extra rate of power petrol

2111. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the private petrol pump takes extra rate of power petrol; and
- (b) if so, the policy and guidelines, of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The private sector oil companies are free to take pricing decisions on commercial considerations and they are not subject to pricing restrictions by the Government.

Price of gas procured from KG Basin

2112. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested that the price decided by the ministerial panel for gas procured from KG field of Andhra coast should be the benchmark for state run explorers and all tradable commercial energy sources must be sold at trade parity price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the presentation of Planning Commission would help to strengthen the case of state run producers viz. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of rigs for drilling work

†2113. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to acute shortage of rigs, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) could not start drilling work in oil well of 14 blocks between years 2006 and 2009;

(b) whether it is also a fact that companies like ONGC and RIL have not been able to complete their work in the blocks allotted to them, under the new oil extraction policy;

(c) if so, the impact of this on oil and gas production; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate numbers of rig drilling machines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has not been able to commence exploratory drilling in 14 deep water blocks mainly due to shortage of deep water rigs.

(b) Yes, Sir. ONGC and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) could not complete their committed drilling programme in the deep water blocks allotted to them under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime.

(c) There is no direct impact on Oil and Gas production as drilling is delayed in exploration areas where oil and gas has not yet been discovered.

(d) Rigs are required to be mobilized by the Contractors from the local or International Markets. Government ensures expediting clearances, facilitating deployment of rigs once Contractors are able to mobilize the rigs.

Leakage incidents of oil depots

†2114. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where from the incidents of petroleum leakage have been reported to Government during the last month in addition to the leakage incidents in Jaipur, Rajasthan;

(b) whether no corrective measures have been taken despite complaints of leakage for the last three years in Jharkhand;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether there was a possibility of catching fire due to leakage in Mathura also;
- (d) whether an enquiry in all these incidents has been conducted;
- (e) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (f) whether any action has been taken against any body or anyone has been punished for these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) There has been no incident of leakage reported from any of the locations of the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the last three years in the country including the State of Jharkhand.

There was no incidence of leakage at Mathura installation. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that, there was only a minor flash on 31.10.2009 in the delicensed area resulting in smoke. The situation was brought under control immediately and the incident was over in 30 seconds.

Status of IPI gas pipeline

2115. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether it is a fact that satisfactory progress has not been made in the discussions with Iran and Pakistan on this project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that China has shown interest in this project; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) and (c) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the Project.

(d) and (e) No official communication has been received regarding China joining IPI gas pipeline project.

Oil security

2116. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures to address the issues of energy and oil security in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what are the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government regarding the strategic storages of crude oil; and
- (d) the details of annual consumption of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (b) Several measures have been taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities, which include the following:

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM).
- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vi) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol etc. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

(c) In September, 2005; the Government decided to set up a Strategic Crude Oil Reserve of 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) capacity at 3 locations viz., Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) through the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a 100% subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). The capacity at Vizag is proposed to be enhanced from 1 MMT to 1.3 MMT. This strategic storage of crude oil would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products maintained by the oil companies.

(d) The consumption of crude oil, as measured by crude through put of refineries, in the country during last 3 years is as given below:

Year	Quantity (MMT)
2006-07	141.46
2007-08	150.81
2008-09	160.71

Closing of retail petro-outlets

2117. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Retail Outlet in petroleum products sealed and closed by the Oil Companies in Gujarat as on 1 January, 2009;
- (b) the details about LPG distributor outlets in Gujarat as on 1 January, 2009; and
- (c) how many from above belong to SC and ST categories?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) In the State of Gujarat, as on 1st January, 2009, 15 Retail Outlets belonging to public sector oil marketing companies viz. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), have been sealed and closed under Marketing Discipline Guidelines. Out of these, 3 belong to SC category and 2 to ST category.

As on 1st January, 2009, there are 540 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distributorships belonging to public sector oil marketing companies, in the State of Gujarat. Out of these, 44 belong to SC category and 57 to ST category. A total number of 16 distributorships belonging to public sector oil marketing companies, in the State of Gujarat, have been sealed and closed under Marketing Discipline Guidelines. Out of these, 1 belongs to SC category and 5 to ST category.

New oil fields

2118. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the allocation of Blocks for exploration of petro-products which took place during the last three years; and
- (b) the details of new exploration oil fields found during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) During the last three years (2006-09), a total of 93 Production Sharing Contract (PSCs) have been signed under sixth and seventh bid rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The details are as under:-

	NELP-VI	NELP-VII	Total
Deepwater	21	11	32
Shallow water	6	7	13
Onland	25	23	48
GRAND TOTAL	52	41	93

(b) During the period 2006-07 to 2008-09, a total of 20 oil and 33 gas discoveries have been made under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime.

Shifting of oil depots to uninhabited area

2119. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to shift oil depots to places which are not thickly populated in order to prevent heavy damage due to accidents; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The setting up of oil depots depends on the supply-demand situation of the area to be served and the location is determined by various factors like mandatory clearances from Central/State and local authorities. Generally, the depots are set up in scarcely populated areas. However, it is observed that the density of population increases after the depot is commissioned. Shifting of oil and gas depots from any location depend on the recommendations of respective Chief Inspectorate of Factories of State Governments and State Pollution Control Board. It also, depends on the availability of suitable land from the State Government and financial viability of the new location.

Import of natural gas from Iran

2120. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had any plan to import natural gas from Iran;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed with Iranian authorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the project is still on the anvil;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) Government is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the Project. Finalization of the agreement can be achieved when satisfactory resolution of the issues

under discussion is reached by the countries participating in the project, viz., Iran, Pakistan and India.

Further, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), GAIL (India) Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have signed Sale Purchase Agreements for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) on June 13, 2005 for import of total quantity of 5 million tonnes per annum (mmtpa) for a period of 25 years. However, Iran has taken the stand that the Agreements are not effective because of lack of approval by National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Ban on bio-diesel sale

2121. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a circular has been issued to ban the sale of bio-diesel in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways and the Brihan-Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking have floated tenders for purchase of bio-diesel; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, all the State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to take suitable action in order to curb unauthorized marketing of bio-diesel for use as transportation fuel in terms of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Railways and the Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking have reported that they have floated tenders for the procurement of 50,000 KL and 3,300 KL of bio-diesel respectively.

This Ministry has clarified to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that Bio-diesel (B100) as per BIS specification IS 15607: 2005 is a blend stock for High Speed Diesel (HSD). As such, it is clear that B100, complying with IS 15607: 2005 is exclusively meant for being blended with diesel fuel (IS1460), within the prescribed limits. B100 is not a fuel authorized for use as fuel in any type of automobile vehicle fitted with spark ignition engine or compression ignition engine.

Rebate to BPL families on gas connection

†2122. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to give rebate of one thousand rupees to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families on gas connection;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of BPL families expected to be benefited consequently?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Government is examining the possibility of extending one time financial assistance to cover the security deposit for one LPG cylinder and one Pressure Regulator to BPL families for converting from kerosene to LPG usage. The scheme is still in a conceptual stage.

Gas exploration by OVL

2123. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium led by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has abandoned its plan for exploration of oil from the Farsi block in Iran due to high sulphur content in the crude which makes commercial production unviable;

(b) whether the consortium is considering the option to retain the block for possible gas production;

(c) if so, whether the Farsi block is assessed to have adequate gas reserves to justify the investment by the consortium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No Sir. High Sulphur Content is not the reason for the oil field to be non commercial. ONGC Videsh limited (OVL) led consortia consisting of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has submitted a Feasibility Report for the oil discovery based on techno-economic considerations to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 26th November, 2008.

(b) to (d) Commerciality of the gas find of Fazad-B gas field of Farsi Block established by the OVL led consortia has been accepted by NIOC. This Gas Initial In-Place (GIIP) is estimated to be 12.5 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Master Development Plan (MDP) to develop the field is under finalization in consultation with NIOC. Preliminary estimated Investment as per MDP would be about USD 5.5 billion for sales gas option wherein Gas production is contemplated for a period of 30 years.

Bid by oil PSU in Gulf region

2124. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Technip and a well-known and established company in the field of engineering technology and project management for oil and gas industry world-wide, has recently announced in October, 2009 that in the coming six to nine months projects worth \$21 billion would be awarded in Gulf region; and

(b) if so, the public sector companies like Engineers India Ltd. similarly recognized organisations, who have developed state-of-the-art capabilities in oil and gas industry, would be encouraged to compete for their relevant fields of activities or even for turn-key projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Engineers India Limited is aware of the projects which are coming up in Middle East region and the announcement made by Technip that projects upto US\$21 billion will be awarded in near future in UAE region. These are all EPC contracts wherein the size of each package is US\$ 1 billion plus.

(b) Although, EIL has not executed any EPC project overseas till date, however, we are examining the above opportunities and finding out ways and means to pre-qualify for the same.

Recycled blocks in NELP

2125. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recycled blocks were included in the eighth round of auction under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); and

(b) what was the response for such blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 38 recycled blocks offered in the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 21 blocks.

Auction under NELP

2126. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many blocks have been auctioned in the eight rounds of auctions under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) of them how many are deep sea blocks and how many are on-shore blocks;

(c) whether it is a fact that the most of the blocks have been won by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or their joint venture (JVs); and

(d) if so, whether it defeats the purpose of NELP?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.

(d) No, Sir. NELP rounds blocks are offered through international competitive bidding system on the basis of transparent and quantifiable Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) indicated in Notice Inviting Offers (NIO). There is a level playing field for award of blocks to public sector and private companies. The blocks are awarded to successful bidders based of BEC.

Gas contract to GSPCC

2127. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bids were invited by Panna Mukta Tapti (PMT) JV in April 2006 from various companies;

(b) whether the entire gas was sold to Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) in spite of the fact that the bid of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL) was the highest amongst the bidders; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Central Government to follow the rules of tender procedure and give the offer of gas to GSPCL; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Central Government on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Joint Venture (JV) provides that the entire gas would be sold to the Government nominee.

However, during 2004-05, Government allowed PMT JV to directly sell 4.6 mmscmd gas, while the remaining about 6 mmscmd gas continued to be supplied to power and fertilizer consumers through GAIL. Further, it was decided that the position would be reviewed at the end of the year. In the meantime, perhaps on the understanding that the gas being marketed by GAIL might be released for direct marketing to JV from 2006-07, PMT JV solicited Expression of Interests (EoI) from prospective buyers to purchase gas up to 4 mmscmd from 1st April, 2006 for a period of two years with a caveat that the JV reserved the right to decide the quantity to be sold. As informed by PMT JV, GSPC and another buyer offered the highest price for this gas. The issue of continuing gas supplies to the power and fertilizer sector consumers by GAIL beyond 31.3.2006 was reviewed in the Ministry in March 2006 and it was decided that this arrangement needed to be continued for a further period of 2 years, *i.e.*, up to 31.3.2008, as then there were no alternative sources of gas supplies and any disruption in gas supplies would have resulted in idling of the existing assets in these important sectors.

Subsequently, it was decided in 2007 that, in accordance with the provisions of the PSC, all gas produced by PMT JV would be sold to Government nominee, *i.e.*, GAIL, from 2008-09. Accordingly, the entire production of PMT JV is being supplied to GAIL from 1.4.2008.

(c) and (d) This Ministry had received through Prime Minister's Office a copy of the letter dated 8.3.06 addressed to the Prime Minister by Members of Parliament. As mentioned above, it has been decided in 2007 that, from 2008-09, all gas produced by PMT JV should be supplied to GAIL for marketing according to Government's directions.

Daily wage earning in rural household

2128. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2718 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2009 and state:

- (a) the reasons for wage inequalities;
- (b) whether the wage structure reflects gender and caste bias;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to alleviate the wage inequalities; and
- (d) what are current wage earnings of SC/ST/OBC categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Governments fix/revise minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The minimum wages are not fixed on the basis of gender or caste. However, there are different rates of minimum wages, across various employments, regions and States which is due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential conditions, paying capacity, productivity and local conditions influencing the wage rate.

In order to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the Central Government fixes a National Floor Level Minimum Wage. It is a non-statutory measure, whereby the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are requested to ensure that the minimum wages fixed/revised by them are atleast at par with the National floor Level Minimum wage.

(d) The current wage earning of Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST)/Other Backward Class (OBC) categories is given at Statement-I to III.

Statement-I

Average daily wage earnings of Men, Women and Children belonging to the Rural Labour Households in Agricultural Occupations-Scheduled Castes

(in Rupees)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Men				Women				Children			
		1999-2000	2004-05 (P)			1999-2000	2004-05 (P)			1999-2000	2004-05 (P)		
			Total	Cash	Kind		Total	Cash	Kind		Total	Cash	Kind
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Major States													
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.58	45.36	44.22	1.14	27.24	30.68	30.15	0.53	25.48	24.17	23.62	0.55
2.	Assam	38.91	57.56	49.50	8.06	34.26	52.66	44.48	7.78	34.83	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	34.93	43.40	29.03	14.37	31.64	36.63	20.67	15.96	22.79	25.71	15.64	10.07
4.	Gujarat	44.91	44.59	41.24	3.35	38.54	39.93	38.04	1.89	40.43	20.00	20.00	—
5.	Haryana	65.31	72.30	56.74	15.56	55.54	56.31	30.62	25.69	40.10	48.71	45.97	2.74
6.	Karnataka	38.72	44.73	42.72	2.01	26.74	31.11	28.66	2.45	21.14	25.54	24.37	1.17
7.	Kerala	97.25	116.02	107.37	8.65	62.37	79.58	70.40	9.18	—	—	—	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	29.85	37.09	30.93	6.16	26.05	30.67	25.11	5.56	19.60	29.22	23.16	6.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.	Maharashtra	37.32	44.25	42.96	1.29	23.59	26.16	25.22	0.94	25.33	26.10	24.40	1.70
10.	Orissa	28.50	41.37	38.07	3.30	23.38	30.83	27.71	3.12	14.92	14.26	8.52	5.74
11.	Punjab	62.90	70.90	62.65	8.25	72.70	50.80	40.60	10.20	59.29	35.44	31.99	3.45
12.	Rajasthan	55.43	66.47	56.02	10.45	47.17	59.43	44.09	15.34	—	41.04	38.28	2.76
13.	Tamil Nadu	50.40	62.79	57.12	5.67	30.19	36.40	33.03	3.37	27.17	50.00	24.46	25.54
14.	Uttar Pradesh	36.53	47.68	39.99	7.69	28.11	37.57	25.86	11.71	23.46	32.15	20.47	11.68
15.	West Bengal	43.85	45.60	40.53	5.07	36.38	38.50	32.34	6.16	42.25	30.57	21.91	8.66
Other States/UTs													
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Chhattisgarh	25.56	29.98	17.88	12.10	21.83	24.52	15.87	8.65	14.58	16.75	—	16.75
18.	Goa	—	110.07	110.07	—	—	75.00	75.00	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Himachal Pradesh	57.19	85.21	66.18	19.03	40.00	46.52	48.48	6.04	—	—	—	—
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	64.09	119.78	119.78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Jharkhand	35.23	42.22	37.75	4.47	26.21	39.46	37.14	2.32	35.38	9.87	7.96	1.91
22.	Manipur	—	42.86	42.86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	—	54.29	54.29	—	—	21.43	21.43	—	—	—	—	—

24. Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Sikkim	51.40	108.82	79.29	29.53	32.12	84.24	75.41	8.83	—	—	—	—
27. Tripura	51.13	59.16	59.06	0.10	33.97	42.12	42.12	—	40.00	—	—	—
28. Uttaranchal	63.64	61.39	59.39	2.00	65.50	52.30	51.42	0.88	—	34.44	34.44	—
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	80.71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38.57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Daman and Diu	80.71	—	—	—	142.86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35. Pondicherry	50.25	65.51	62.89	2.62	27.93	37.90	32.50	5.40	—	—	—	—
ALL INDIA	41.89	49.15	42.72	6.43	29.60	34.87	29.81	5.06	26.28	27.73	23.60	4.13

Statement-II

Average daily wage earnings of Men, Women and Children belonging to the rural labour households in agricultural occupations-Scheduled Tribes

(in Rupees)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Men				Women				Children			
		1999-2000	2004-05 (P)			1999-2000	2004-05 (P)			1999-2000	2004-05 (P)		
			Total	Cash	Kind		Total	Cash	Kind		Total	Cash	Kind
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Major States													
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39.14	47.48	44.92	2.56	29.77	29.87	27.07	2.80	28.89	26.31	24.53	1.78
2.	Assam	45.49	59.20	51.78	7.42	35.68	53.98	46.17	7.81	29.00	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	33.32	50.25	12.71	37.54	31.61	44.00	32.00	12.00	30.00	—	—	—
4.	Gujarat	31.24	44.48	38.94	5.54	27.58	35.22	30.54	4.68	18.48	32.04	24.56	7.48
5.	Haryana	62.87	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Karnataka	36.21	40.48	39.57	0.91	25.22	27.59	26.71	0.88	18.30	29.63	27.37	2.26
7.	Kerala	76.28	110.77	99.32	11.45	56.34	73.81	64.23	9.58	—	—	—	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	29.24	32.97	24.73	8.24	25.26	27.68	18.92	8.76	21.04	24.61	15.18	9.43

9. Maharashtra	35.84	42.25	39.30	2.95	24.87	28.72	26.19	2.53	19.82	26.76	24.99	1.77
10. Orissa	26.37	36.28	32.19	4.09	22.72	25.07	20.20	4.87	18.72	35.43	30.72	4.71
11. Punjab	48.88	80.00	80.00	—	124.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Rajasthan	39.68	49.80	45.35	4.45	30.45	38.38	35.86	2.52	19.58	—	—	—
13. Tamil Nadu	53.67	53.45	52.98	0.47	24.83	40.85	36.98	3.87	—	—	—	—
14. Uttar Pradesh	25.74	39.44	32.89	6.55	17.92	28.01	17.32	10.69	—	—	—	—
15. West Bengal	40.97	45.48	40.11	5.37	36.93	45.84	40.07	5.77	36.18	44.99	20.99	24.00
Other States/Uts												
16. Arunachal Pradesh	73.94	263.52	263.52	—	60.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Chhattisgarh	27.16	34.87	29.62	5.25	23.21	28.58	23.57	5.01	25.15	17.55	15.49	2.06
18. Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Himachal Pradesh	81.02	26.71	26.71	—	62.56	70.73	53.63	17.10	—	—	—	—
20. Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Jharkhand	32.73	38.47	33.54	4.93	30.01	32.82	28.71	4.11	36.25	—	—	—
22. Manipur	58.82	59.45	59.45	—	50.00	41.43	41.43	—	—	—	—	—
23. Meghalaya	50.16	62.02	60.17	1.85	35.48	47.20	45.46	1.74	31.72	41.64	41.64	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24.	Mizoram	87.57	101.19	101.19	—	114.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	135.91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Sikkim	52.09	89.19	75.47	13.72	30.00	55.69	47.72	7.97	—	—	—	—
27.	Tripura	37.77	68.85	67.62	1.23	38.97	54.36	54.36	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Uttaranchal	64.29	39.28	39.28	—	—	60.00	60.00	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	84.83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	39.35	54.87	46.00	8.87	28.66	51.48	41.46	10.02	—	40.00	40.00	—
32.	Daman and Diu	65.87	71.15	53.79	17.36	39.79	54.64	39.91	14.73	—	—	—	—
33.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	101.01	114.46	114.19	0.27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	40.60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL INDIA		33.19	41.79	36.39	5.40	26.44	31.67	26.89	4.78	22.41	29.37	24.08	5.29

Statement-III

Average daily earnings of Men, Women and Children belonging to the Rural Labour Households in Agricultural occupations—Other Backward Classes

(in Rupees)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Men				Women				Children			
		1999-2000	2004-05 (P)			1999-2000	2004-05 (P)			1999-2000	2004-05 (P)		
			Total	Cash	Kind		Total	Cash	Kind		Total	Cash	Kind
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Major States													
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38.24	45.50	44.53	0.97	25.08	29.70	28.73	0.97	21.02	28.57	28.00	0.57
2.	Assam	41.04	56.02	45.53	10.49	44.75	54.14	45.41	8.73	17.14	60.02	39.79	20.23
3.	Bihar	35.47	43.32	31.04	12.28	30.29	39.35	25.42	13.93	24.91	35.67	26.80	8.87
4.	Gujarat	41.35	47.36	44.74	2.62	34.53	48.47	44.05	4.42	38.76	38.65	34.80	3.85
5.	Haryana	48.89	70.65	56.03	14.62	47.02	70.88	36.04	34.84	—	—	—	—
6.	Karnataka	44.85	46.58	42.37	4.21	30.13	32.05	28.72	3.33	19.57	27.99	26.64	1.35
7.	Kerala	97.46	132.33	125.45	6.88	60.48	65.32	53.15	12.17	—	—	—	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	30.29	34.50	27.27	7.23	25.97	27.77	23.05	4.72	20.34	25.61	25.61	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.	Maharashtra	37.08	45.78	43.75	2.03	23.23	27.00	26.02	0.98	20.76	33.62	33.62	—
10.	Orissa	29.45	39.27	37.51	1.76	20.04	27.58	24.74	2.84	21.20	—	—	—
11.	Punjab	67.56	71.20	64.78	6.42	90.00	60.65	53.76	6.89	48.66	55.25	53.68	1.57
12.	Rajasthan	53.21	63.45	59.90	3.55	48.92	48.68	43.39	5.29	22.61	50.00	50.00	—
13.	Tamil Nadu	54.21	64.81	58.90	5.91	31.01	33.92	30.61	3.31	30.50	24.83	24.15	0.68
14.	Uttar Pradesh	39.40	48.30	43.32	4.98	30.83	38.23	28.61	9.62	25.69	32.92	27.70	5.22
15.	West Bengal	42.41	53.44	48.25	5.19	35.13	43.73	40.69	3.04	35.00	40.00	40.00	—
Other States/Uts													
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	88.11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Chhattisgarh	25.94	30.47	22.84	7.63	23.31	24.93	18.56	6.37	14.87	18.41	12.87	5.54
18.	Goa	—	75.76	70.18	5.58	—	53.57	53.57	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Himachal Pradesh	68.54	56.98	56.98	—	67.38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	117.24	97.92	81.78	16.14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Jharkhand	34.61	41.48	35.97	5.51	30.82	34.77	30.87	3.90	34.40	11.57	7.08	4.49
22.	Manipur	51.57	62.34	62.34	—	49.23	53.08	53.08	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

24. Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Nagaland	42.86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Sikkim	51.59	84.38	77.67	6.71	42.78	69.22	64.54	4.68	—	—	—	—
27. Tripura	62.62	58.41	58.07	0.34	51.99	43.13	40.46	2.67	35.00	—	—	—
28. Uttaranchal	55.46	61.47	58.26	3.21	40.00	50.05	47.92	4.13	—	50.00	42.66	7.34
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Chandigarh	122.37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37.41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Daman and Diu	—	87.79	76.80	10.99	—	150.00	120.00	30.00	—	—	—	—
33. Delhi	80.00	110.00	80.00	30.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. Lakshadweep	205.71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35. Pondicherry	46.36	67.35	55.71	11.64	34.24	41.68	25.72	15.96	—	—	—	—
ALL INDIA	40.93	49.64	44.03	5.61	28.42	33.63	29.70	3.93	22.72	31.70	29.19	2.51

Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra

2129. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra for each gram panchayat and appointment of permanent Lok Sevaks for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Construction of Bharat Nirman, Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act *vide* Notification dated 11.11.2009. No proposal for appointment of permanent Lok Sevaks for NREGS is under consideration of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Implementation of NREGS in Maharashtra

2130. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of irregularities such as people getting wages without working, violation of guidelines, lack of transparency and public accountabilities have been reported in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) during last six months till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any independent monitoring agency at district level as well as block level to check recurrence of such activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) During the last six months, a total of 337 complaints regarding irregularities in implementation of NREGA have been received in the Ministry out of which 3 complaints are from Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) To check the recurrence of such activities, the following independent monitoring and grievance redressal agency at district level have been set up:

(i) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been constituted for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

(ii) Order dated 7.9.2009 has been issued directing all State Governments to set up the office of district ombudsman for redressal of grievances.

Performance of CAPART in Andhra Pradesh

2131. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the rural development projects completed in Andhra Pradesh under Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) during the last three years and till date during the current year;
- (b) the total number of BPL/SC/ST people benefited therewith during this period;
- (c) the details of the ongoing projects under CAPART in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether functioning of NGOs implementing CAPART projects has been found satisfactory; and
- (e) if not, the names of NGOs not doing well and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Village sanitation campaign in Madhya Pradesh

‡2132. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of districts for whom the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent proposals to issue next instalments under village sanitation campaign;
- (b) the number of those districts whose proposals have been sanctioned and number of pending proposals alongwith reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when, these proposals would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) Proposals for release of funds to 34 eligible districts under Total Sanitation Campaign were received from the State of Madhya Pradesh and funds for all the 34 districts have been released during 2009-10.

- (c) Does not arise.

World Bank assistance for rural roads

2133. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the assistance from World Bank received for projects under the Rural Road Sector during 2007-08 and 2008-09;
- (b) what has been the share of Jharkhand out of this; and
- (c) the details of projects being implemented in Jharkhand through World Bank assistance?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The World Bank is assisting Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the State of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

State-wise details of the funds released, under World Bank, during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Funds Released	
	2007-08	2008-09
Himachal Pradesh	174.58	33.58
Jharkhand	—	14.582
Rajasthan	165.48	153.54
Uttar Pradesh	309.94	10.96

(c) In Jharkhand, two World Bank projects were cleared. Under World Bank Tranche I value of proposal cleared was Rs.29.15 crore having length of 130.07 km. Under World Bank Tranche II value of proposal cleared was Rs.44.90 crore having length of 150.62 km. Tranche-II has been converted into normal PMGSY.

Motorable link road in Uttarakhand

2134. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has undertaken construction of motorable link road between Gusgali Dhar and Pauri Kaleshwar in Gagvadsu Block in Uttarakhand under Road Development Programme;

(b) if so, the total length of the link-road, road completed so far and the target date for completion of remaining work;

(c) the amount of money required for remaining work and the allocation made for 2009-10; and

(d) by when the 25 local villages would enjoy the facility of motorable link road between Kotdwar railway station and the bus stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Construction of motorable link road between Gusgali Dhar and Pauri Kaleshwar in Gagvadsu Block has not been taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) of Government of India. However, Government of Uttarakhand has informed that total length of the link road is 6.50 km., out of which length of 4.50 km. has been sanctioned (from Gusgali Dhar to Koleshwar 2.00 km. and Khaproli bus stand to Bungaun Malla 2.50 km.) and the work is under progress. The cost of the remaining length of the road is estimated to be about Rs.70.00 lakh.

Rural water supply in Orissa

2135. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount allocated to Orissa under various rural water supply schemes during last three years till date;
- (b) the details of the amount utilized by the State during this period and achievements thereof;
- (c) the present status of rural water supply in Orissa;
- (d) the total number of villages having assured potable water supply there; and
- (e) the time frame for covering the remaining villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) The total amount allocated to Orissa under rural water supply scheme, its utilization and achievements during the last three years and current year is as:

Year	Financial (Rupees in crore)		Physical Achievement	
	Allocation	Utilization	Spot Sources installed	Piped Water Supply Schemes executed
2006-07	103.32	118.48	12142	65
2007-08	168.85	294.68	9008	1010
2008-09	298.68	298.68	13126	2020
2009-10 (Upto 31 Oct'09)	187.13	83.61	1252	150

(c) At present 2,08,957 Spot Sources and 5,308 Rural Piped Water Supply schemes are operative in the State.

(d) 1,34,454 habitations out of 1,41, 928 are having assured potable water supply.

(e) The remaining habitations are targeted to be covered in the coming five years, subject to availability of adequate funds.

Saxena Committee report on BPL

†2136. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the recommendations made in the report of Saxena Committee constituted to identify the BPL families;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government proposes to implement the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, whether any time-frame has been fixed therefor or there are some hurdles; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) The Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena recommended the methodology for identification of Below Poverty Line families, which involves automatic exclusion of rural households from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL list and grading of the remaining households. The report of the Expert Group has been posted on Ministry's website at www.rural.nic.in. The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the State Government/UT administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for their comments. The Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of persons below the Poverty Line in rural areas, taking into account the suggestions/comments received.

Fraud under NREGS in Badmer

†2137. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a fraud of approximately seventy two lakh fifty thousand rupees has taken place under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Gram Panchayat Sindhary in Badmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government against the alleged guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) There was a fraud of Rs.72 lakh under NREGA and other programmes in Sindhary gram Panchayat of Badmer district of Rajasthan. FIR has been lodged in Police Thana Sindhary. Gram Sewak has been dismissed from the service and Gram Panchayat Sarpanch has been jailed in this case.

NREGA works in Tamil Nadu

2138. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released to the State of Tamil Nadu for implementation of NREGA, 2005 during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of households benefited in the State, district-wise;

(c) whether durable assets have been created in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) For implementation of NREGA in the State of Tamil Nadu, Rs.18409.21 lakh during 2006-07, 51609.09 lakh during 2007-08, and Rs.140126.58 lakh during 2008-09 had been released by the Central Government.

(b) District-wise number of households provided employment during the last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*)

(c) and (d) Works to be taken up under NREGA have been stipulated in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act. As per reports received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, total of 6719 works were taken up during 2006-07, 18509 works during 2007-08 and 38862 works during 2008-09.

Statement

Households provided employment

(In Nos)

S. No.	States	No. of households provided employment		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Cuddalore	140263	248060	204510
2.	Dindigul	68708	134191	126181
3.	Nagapattinam	78139	113613	132442
4.	Sivagangai	35841	79546	59642
5.	Tiruvannamalai	141884	99865	185393
6.	Villupuram	218646	274328	270680
7.	Karur		24003	43110
8.	Thanjavur		157212	68950
9.	Tirunelveli		49757	138504
10.	Tiruvarur		54243	124683
11.	Ariyalur			86154
12.	Coimbatore			80367
13.	Dharmapuri			41732
14.	Erode			178519
15.	Kancheepuram			133353

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Kanniyakumari			40420
17.	Krishnagiri			62363
18.	Madurai			110767
19.	Namakkal			102400
20.	Perambalur			28305
21.	Pudukkottai			181221
22.	Ramanathapuram			259094
23.	Salem			72620
24.	The Nilgiris			9571
25.	Theni			24789
26.	Thiruvallur			153383
27.	Thoothukkudi (Tuticorin)			65512
28.	Tiruchirappalli			100303
29.	Vellore			199826
30.	Virudhunagar			60854
	TOTAL	683481	1234818	3345648

NREGS in Chhattisgarh

†2139. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received for Chhattisgarh under NREG Scheme in 2008-09;
- (b) the number of proposals approved and the names of the districts these proposals belong to; and
- (c) the total amount involved in the proposals, with amount sanctioned and released therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) NREGA is demand based. Central Government releases funds to the State for meeting the labour demand arising at the field level. 16 districts of Chhattisgarh were covered under NREGA in 2008-09. An amount of Rs.1664.49 crore was released during 2008-09 to all the districts based on the proposals received from the respective districts for release of funds under NREGA.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

NREGS works in Orissa

2140. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many allegations of corruption, favouritism, Nepotism and non payment of wages in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) work in Orissa;

(b) how many rupees the fund allocated to Orissa from NREGS; fund and the utilization year-wise from 2004 to 2009; and

(c) whether the State Government of Orissa is resorting to heavy machines, contractors for implementing NREGS work denying employment to needy workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (c) A total of 23 complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of NREGA in Orissa State have been received in the Ministry.

(b) NREGA was launched with effect from 2.2.2006. Funds released by the Central Government for implementation of the Act and their utilisation since inceptions of the Act are as under.

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Central release	Total available funds	Funds utilized.
2006-07	78380.49	89018.66	73346.62
2007-08	53695.69	81098.83	57956.9
2008-09	87843.67	105129.00	67829.00
2009-10 (so far)	14769.26	80324.23	31256.06

SJGSY in Madhya Pradesh

†2141. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received during the last three years from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SJGSY);

(b) the total amount involved in the proposals and their current status; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for disposal of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The proposals for release of central share of subsidy under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for the last three years have been received from all the 48 Zilla Panchayats of Madhya Pradesh involving a total amount of Rs. 28850.61 lacs against which an amount of Rs. 28549.69 lacs was released to these Zilla Panchayats. Since 2006-07,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Special Projects have been received from the State of Madhya Pradesh, out of which, 3 projects have been sanctioned/approved so far, 20 project proposals have been returned to the concerned State Governments or other sponsoring agencies for various reasons such as non compliance with the guidelines of SGSY special projects, non viability of projects, lack of focus on Below Poverty Line beneficiaries etc. and 15 project proposals are with the Government. Since appraisal and approval/clearance of proposals is a continuous process and depends on various factors like their fulfilling the prescribed guidelines, economic viability of the proposals, BPL focus of projects, etc., no time frame can be indicated for final clearance of such project proposals. Four proposals for organization of SARAS fair at Bhopal were received for which an amount of Rs. 73.45 lacs. has been released.

Rs. 40 lacs have also been released to four districts *i.e.* Datia, Rewa, Bhopal and Jabalpur for setting up Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in hired premises.

Credit issues under SGSY

2142. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry had set up a committee on credit related issues under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the terms of reference given to the committee;
- (d) whether the committee has since submitted its report; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Rural Development had set up a committee on "Credit related issues under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)" under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna to examine the constraints in the adequate flow of credit to Self Help Groups of SGSY and to suggest measures and strategy for effective credit linkages to the Self Help Groups.

- (c) the Terms of Reference for the Committee are as follows:-
 1. To review the status of credit flow to members of SHGs/individual beneficiaries under SGSY since inception *i.e.* 1.4.1999;
 2. To examine the policy environment and guidelines governing the credit under SGSY;
 3. To analyse ambiguities, constraints and causes for inadequate flow of credit;
 4. To analyse innovative experiments emanating both from public institutions as well as Non-Governmental Organisation for enhancing the flow of credit;

5. To suggest measures for enhancing the flow of credit and recovery;
6. To examine the merits and demerits of capital subsidy and back-ended subsidy including the issue of provision of interest subsidy in place of capital subsidy;
7. To suggest ways and means for training, sensitization, incentives and disincentives for bank officials;

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, the Committee has submitted its report in February, 2009. The details of the major recommendations of the report of the committee is enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

The main recommendations of Prof R. Radhakrishna's Committee

1. Need for Institutional Architecture.

- (i) Creation of a national agency, namely, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) with the creation of Rural Livelihood Fund having an initial corpus of Rs.1000 crore.
- (ii) Creation of State level Agency or Umbrella Organization.
- (iii) Creation of separate dedicated unit for managing all the processes under SGSY at District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) level.
- (iv) Federal Structure of Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Village level to National level.

2. Pro-Poor Financial Services.

- (i) Increasing the branch network in un-banked areas.
- (ii) Ensuring that the interest rates charged for SGSY is not more than Prim Lending Rate (PLR).
- (iii) Risk Mitigation through universal coverage of all the poor households for life and asset insurance and adequate resource provision by Ministry of Rural Development.

3. Capital and Interest Subsidy.

- (i) Continuation and Enhancement of amount of Revolving Fund and Capital Subsidy.
- (ii) Pilfer proof delivery of subsidy by linking subsidy with repayments of loans.
- (iii) Provision of interest subsidy.

4. Skill Development for Placement.

- (i) Making skill development and placement as subset of SGSY.

5. Increasing Financial Allocation for SGSY from the present level.

PMGSY in Kerala

2143. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of work taken up in Kerala under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the last three years;
- (b) the amount sanctioned so far, under the scheme;
- (c) whether there is large pendency in the implementation of PMGSY;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to ensure timely implementation of works under PMGSY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) the details of work taken up in Kerala under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the last three years is as under:-

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Roadworks completed	44	53	111
Length completed	77.27 Km.	100.54 Km.	240.215 Km.

(b) An amount of Rs.719.00 crore for 953 roadworks comprising 2089.03 Km has been sanctioned under the scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The reason for a large pendency in the implementation of PMGSY is:-

- (i) Balance unexecuted works in State are works Rs.430.00 crore having a length of 1268 Km.
- (ii) Weak institutional structure at the State level and district level and non availability of Senior Technical Officers for supervision and professional implementation of the programme.
- (iii) Non availability of land for proper geometrics and.
- (iv) Non availability of local suitable soil alongwith the alignment of proposed roads.

(e) As per PMGSY Guidelines, implementation of the PMGSY is the responsibility of the State Government. The State Governments have been advised to expedite the pace of execution of projects. On the part of the Ministry the following steps have been taken to facilitate timely completion of works under PMGSY:

- In order to improve contracting capacity in states, the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) has been amended to facilitate participation of small and medium as well as large contractors.
- The State Governments have been advised to deploy adequate number of dedicated Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) commensurate with their work load.
- The State Governments have been advised for e-tendering the projects under PMGSY to expedite the process of tendering and also to ensure transparency.

- Performance incentive for timely completion of projects has been introduced in September, 2006 under which contractors delivering projects within schedule are accorded higher weightage in qualification assessment in future contracts.
- State Governments have been advised to closely monitor the schedule of implementation and levy liquidated damages, wherever required.
- Review and monitoring meetings are being held regularly for proper monitoring of the progress.
- Ministry of Environmental and Forest approached to simplify procedures for forest clearance.
- Imparting training to the field personnel for building their capacity in programme implementation.
- State of Kerala has been allowed to use longitudinal gradient upto 1 to 10 in small stretches in place of the 12.5 prescribed in IRC standards.

SGSY in Chhattisgarh

† 2144. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposals received from Chhattisgarh for 2008-09 under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY);
- (b) the number and names of proposals pending therefrom; and
- (c) the status of their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The proposals for release of central share of subsidy under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for 2008-09 have been received from all the 16 Zilla Panchayats of Chhattisgarh. Two proposals have been received for Special Projects under SGSY during the same period.

(b) and (c) One Special Project proposal for sustainable livelihood through lift irrigation and fisheries development at Koria district of Chhattisgarh is pending as currently, only employment linked training and skill upgradation initiatives are being taken up under Special Project and projects relating to other activities have been put on hold pending restructuring of SGSY as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Statutory body for NREGS

2145. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the persons registered under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are neither given employment nor unemployment allowance under the Act;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the monitoring system in existence is adequate and effective; and
- (d) whether there would be a move to go for a National Commission, an autonomous statutory body which can take care of the entire scheme from the start to end for effective and independent implementation when the objective of the scheme is really laudable and important?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Ministry regularly monitors implementation of NREGA through Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) submitted on-line by the State Governments. The progress of NREGA is monitored through Performance Review Committee meetings and high level meetings with State Government officials. District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been constituted for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA. In addition independent monitoring is undertaken by National Level Monitors (NLMs), Professional Institutions such as IITs, IIMs and Agricultural Universities. Independent monitoring by eminent citizens had also been approved.
- (d) no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Proposals of PMGSY

2146. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI R. C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has slow track record with building roads;
- (b) whether Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is running five years behind schedule and has managed to complete only 59 per cent of works;
- (c) whether financing problems are major bottlenecks at State level that have pushed completion or target from 2007-08 to 2012-13;
- (d) whether Government has so far cleared proposals worth Rs. 55669 crores for projects since its inception in 2001; and
- (e) whether out of this 96.44 per cent of funds have been spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) As on 30th September, 2009, 2.36 lakh Km roads have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). During 2008-09, 52,404 km roads have been constructed with an average of 143 Km road per day.

- (b) Initially, it was envisaged that all eligible unconnected habitations would be provided with all weather road connectivity by the end of Tenth FiveYear Plan. This target has not been

achieved. Till September, 2009, 64,302 habitations out of net eligible 1.36 lakh habitations have been provided all weather road connectivity.

(c) Funds have been made available to the State Governments as per the requirement. Inadequate institutional capacity in some states, inadequate contracting capacity and issue related to availability of land for the construction of the roads including delay in forest clearance have been some of the major reasons for delay in completion of the projects.

(d) and (e) The Government has cleared the project proposals valued at Rs. 1,11,361 crore till 30th September 2009. Against the total sanctioned cost, an amount of Rs.57,483 crore has been released to State Governments out of which they have incurred expenditure of Rs. 54,976 crore, Expenditure as percentage of fund released to the States is about 96%.

TSC in Andhra Pradesh

2147. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) to improve the sanitation in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the present status of TSC in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the funds allocated to the State under TSC during the last three years, year-wise and results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main goal of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. The main components are incentive for Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE), assistance for Community Sanitary Complex, Anganwadi toilets and Solid and Liquid Waste Management. The incentive/assistance pattern for toilets is as follows:

S. No.	Component	Central share	State share (minimum)
1.	IHHL	Rs.1500 (Rs.2000 for hilly and difficult areas)	Rs.700
2.	School Toilet Unit	Rs.14,000	Rs.6,000
3.	Anganwadi Toilet	Rs.3,500	Rs.1,500
4.	Community Sanitary Complex	Rs.1,40,000	Rs.60,000

(c) The state has achieved a sanitation coverage of 67.51% as per online monitoring report provided by the state. 57.42% of Individual household latrine, 86.30% of school toilet units and 35.90% of Anganwadi toilets have been constructed against project objectives.

(d) The funds released to Andhra Pradesh under TSC during the last three years, year-wise and toilets constructed under TSC during this period as per online report provided by the State is as under :

Year	Funds Released (Rs. In lakh)	Number of Toilets Constructed			
		IHHL	Community Complex	School Toilets	Anganwadi Toilets
2006-07	9455.20	1383783	194	12624	1656
2007-08	878.78	389242	337	13888	957
2008-09	1391.81	292697	17	30727	1640
2009-10	11078.44 *	436445 *	12 *	1462 *	615 *

*(as reported Till 3.12.2009)

Utilization of NREGS funds

2148. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the district authorities are utilizing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) funds without consulting the Sarpanch and in some places the BDO and the District Authorities are not approving the proposal of Gram Panchayat; and

(b) whether Government has received such complaints particularly from Orissa and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) 2 such complaints from Bihar, 1 from Uttar Pradesh and 1 from Jharkhand have been received in this Ministry.

(b) No specific complaint in this regard has been received in this Ministry from Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

Hijacking of vessel by Somali pirates

2149. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the hijacking of a Pacific International Line vessel by Somali pirates on 15 October, 2009;

(b) the number of Indians who were on board and now are in the custody of Somali pirates;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with the appropriate authority to get the Indian citizens released from the custody of Somali pirates; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two Indian nationals on the board the vessel.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Shipping has requested the owners of the vessel to keep them informed about the position of the vessel, welfare of the crew members and status of negotiations with hijackers. As per information received, the hijacked vessel has reached the Somali coast close to Hobyo in Central Somalia and the owners are negotiating with the pirates for the safe release of the crew members.

Brahmaputra River as a National Waterways

2150. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state the actions so far taken to make the Brahmaputra River as National Waterway, a decision which was taken earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of river Brahmaputra has already been declared as a National Waterway with effect from 26.12.1988 and it is being developed and maintained by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for shipping and navigation. IWAI is developing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure namely navigation channel, terminals and navigational aids for day/night navigation. Navigational channel with least available depth of 2.0 m from Dhubri to Dibrugarh (768 km) and 1.5 m from Dibrugarh to Sadiya (123 km) is being maintained for about 330 days in a year; a low level RCC jetty has been constructed at Pandu, a high level jetty is under construction. Floating terminals have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tejpur, Silghat, Jamuguri, Neamati and Dibrugarh; one container crane, 5 floating cranes and 2 shore cranes have been provided, day navigation marks are maintained in the entire waterway and 24 hours navigational aids have also been provided between Dhubri and Dibrugarh (768 km).

Vessel Traffic Monitoring System Authority

2151. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vessel Traffic Monitoring System (VTMS) is being set up in Gulf of Kutch, and whether the project has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the exercise for regulating the shipping traffic has been started;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the project would be completed?

12.00 P.M.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The establishment of the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) for regulating the shipping traffic in the Gulf of Kutch has not yet been completed.

(c) The delay is due to the remoteness of sites and slow progress of civil engineering works.

(d) The re-scheduled date for completion of the project is 31.3.2010.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of EPL, Chennai and related papers.

II. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Dock Labour Boards and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I lay on the Table;

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Ennore Port Limited (EPL), Chennai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1046/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 5(E) of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948:

- (a) Fifty-eighth Administration Report and Annual Accounts of the erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board (Ex-BDLB), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1270/15/09]

- (b) Forty-eighth Administration Report and Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board (VDLB), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Boards.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1271/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under Section 14 A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with Explanatory Note on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 744 (E), dated the 12th October, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 757 (E), dated the 16th October, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 938/15/09]

- (3) G.S.R. 823 (E), dated the 18th November, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Amendment Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1159/15/09]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Finance.

II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of LIC and related papers.

III. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of Public Sector Banks and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
Sir, I lay on the Table;

- I. (a) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. S.O. 2383(E), dated the 15th September, 2009, publishing the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Scheme, 2009, under sub-section (6) of Section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1573/15/09]

- (b) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. S.O. 2384(E), dated the 15th September, 2009, publishing the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Scheme, 2009, under sub-section (6) of Section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

- (c) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. S.O. 2402 (E), dated the 18th September, 2009, publishing Corrigendum to S.O. 2383 (E), dated the 15th September, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1573/15/09]

(d) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956:—

- (1) G.S.R. 631 (E), dated the 2nd September, 2009, publishing the Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 753 (E), dated the 15th October, 2009, publishing the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special Allowance for In-House Development of Actuarial Capability) Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 818 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, publishing the Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Certain Terms and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1236/15/09]

(e) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification No. G.S.R. 829 (E), dated the 17th November, 2009, publishing the Coinage of the One Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of 60 years of the Commonwealth Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 997/15/09]

(f) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification G.S.R. 748 (E), dated the 13th October, 2009, publishing the Post Office Savings Account (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1004/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:

- (a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Life Insurance Corporation for India (LIC), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (c) Thirty-ninth Valuation Report of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31st March, 2009.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1234/15/09]

- III. (a) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report on the working and activities of the following Banks for the year 2008-09, together with Accounts and Auditors Report thereon, under sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980:

1. Corporation Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1249/15/09]

2. Oriental Bank of Commerce

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1242/15/09]

3. Vijaya Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1246/15/09]

- (b) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report on the working and activities of the following Banks for the year 2008-09, together with Accounts and Auditors Report thereon, under sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:

1. Bank of Baroda

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1250/15/09]

2. Canara Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1251/15/09]

3. Dena Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1243/15/09]

4. Indian Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1244/15/09]

5. Indian Overseas Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1245/15/09]

6. Punjab National Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1248/15/09]

7. UCO Bank

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1247/15/09]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Finance.

II. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of NIPFP, New Delhi and related papers.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table;

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. G.S.R. 805 (E), dated the 10th November, 2009, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 277 (E), dated the 1st April, 2003, to substitute certain

entries in the original Notification, under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 998/15/09]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, 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 Institute.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 973/15/09]

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- II. **Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various companies and related papers.**
- III. **Report and Accounts (2008-09) of OIDB, New Delhi and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, I lay on the Table;

- I. (a) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Notification G.S.R. 812 (E), dated the 12th November, 2009, publishing the Appellate Tribunal for the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Procedure, Form, Fee and Record of Proceedings) Rules, 2009, under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1207/15/09]

- (b) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Notification G.S.R. 615 (E), dated the 29th August, 2009, amending Notification No. S.O. 219 (E), dated the 26th March, 1981, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under Section 10 of the Oil field (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1208/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited (BLIL), 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. 1200/15/09]

- (b) Ninety-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1199/15/09]

- (c) Fifty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1197/15/09]

- (d) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1198/15/09]

- (e) Fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), 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. 1204/15/09]

- (f) Annual Report and Accounts of the Biecco Lawrie Limited (BIECCO), 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. 1207/15/09]

- (g) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Engineers India Limited (EIL), 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.

- (h) Reviews by Government on the working of the above Companies.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1196/15/09]

- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 20 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), 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 Board.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1203/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of APAC Project, Chennai and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Sir, I lay on the Table;

- I. (a) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) Notification S.O. 1868 (E), dated the 31st July, 2009, regarding appointment of the 31st July 2009, as the day on which provision of Sections 36 to 47 of the Act shall come into force, under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1031/15/09]

- (b) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) Notification G.S.R. 651 (E), dated the 9th September, 2009, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (5th Amendment) Rules, 2009, under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1030/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report of the AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC) Project, Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Chennai, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC) Project, Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Chennai, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Project.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1032/15/09]

Report and Accounts (2008-09) of CSL, Kochi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1065/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) Notification G.S.R. 764 (E), dated the 20th October, 2009, publishing the Drug and Cosmetics (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2009, together with delay statement on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1264/15/09]

Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various companies and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILAS RAO DESHMUKH: Sir, on behalf of SHRI ARUN YADAV, 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) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Scooters India Limited (SIL), Lucknow, 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. 1214/15/09]

- (b) Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL), 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. 1213/15/09]

- (c) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Triveni Structurals Limited (TSL), Naini, Allahabad, 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. 1215/15/09]

- (d) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited (TSPL), Hospet, Karnataka, 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. 1217/15/09]

- (e) Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL), Naini, Allahabad, 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. 1219/15/09]

- (f) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC), 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. 1218/15/09]

- (g) Annual Report and Accounts of the M/s Bridge and Roof Company (India) 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.

- (h) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1210/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Fifty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL), Kolkata, 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. 1212/15/09]

- (b) Sixty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the NEPA Limited, Nepanagar, Madhya Pradesh, 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) Reviews by Government on the working of the above Companies.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1216/15/09]

Report and Accounts (2007-08) of CAPART, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 1629/15/09]

श्री उपसभापति : आप जाइए ..(व्यवधान).. मैं आपकी बात सुनूंगा, मगर आप अपनी सीट पर जाइए ..(व्यवधान)..

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

SHRI A.A. JINNAH (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2009-10):

- (i) First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals);
- (ii) Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers); and

- (iii) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee (2008-09) contained in their Twenty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Performance of Fertilizer Industry in Public, Private and Cooperative Sectors.

**STATEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

- (i) Final Action Taken Statements of the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in Chapter-I of the Twenty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in United India Insurance Company Limited.
- (ii) Final Action Taken Statements of the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in Chapter - I of the Thirtieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Airports Authority of India.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I move the following Motion:

That in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (44 of 1958), read with sub-rule (2) of Rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House, to be a member of the National Shipping Board in the vacancy caused due to the resignation of Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar from the membership of Rajya Sabha w.e.f. the 9th November, 2009.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

RE: PRIVILEGE NOTICE

श्री उपसभापति : आप जाइए ..(व्यवधान)..मैं आपकी बात सुनूंगा, मगर आप अपनी सीट पर जाइए ..(व्यवधान)..

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

श्री उपसभापति : राजनीति प्रसाद जी, आप एक मिनट मेरी बात सुनिए..(व्यवधान)..

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, हम लोगों ने 'चौथी दुनिया' अखबार के खिलाफ नोटिस दिया है। यह अखबार पूरे हाउस को ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आपने Privilege Notice दिया है। The Privilege Notice is under the consideration of the Chairman.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है ...(व्यवधान)... सरकार हम लोगों को ...(व्यवधान)... हम लोगों को बेइज्जत कर रही है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... मैं बताता हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : कोई अखबार पूरे हाउस के बारे में लिखे ...(व्यवधान)... आसन पर भी आक्षेप किया गया है ...(व्यवधान)... दो साल सात महीने से रंगनाथ मिश्र कमीशन की रिपोर्ट रखी हुई है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : अंसारी साहब, आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... Please sit down ... (Interruptions) Nothing is going on record. ... (Interruptions)

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : *

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)... आप ज़रा रूल्स पढ़िए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली (बिहार) : सर, हम आपका protection चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या protection चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... आप क्या protection चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली : *

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या बोल रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)... Please sit down, I am on my legs. Please sit down ... (Interruptions) देखिए, अंसारी साहब, आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... आप क्या कर रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज आप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)... मैं खड़ा हूँ, आप बैठिए। देखिए, एक अखबार में जो कुछ आया हुआ है, उसके ऊपर आपने चेयरमैन को एक Privilege Notice दिया है ...(व्यवधान)... ठीक है, मैं उसकी merits पर नहीं बोल रहा हूँ। आपने नोटिस दिया है। रूल्स के हिसाब से the notice is under the consideration of the hon. Chairman. Once he takes a decision, the matter will be notified. इसके ऊपर दूसरी कोई कार्रवाई हमारे सदन में नहीं है। इसके ऊपर मैम्बर्स की तरफ से भी कोई नोटिस नहीं है। अगर आप इसको उठाना चाहते हैं, तो आप proper notice दें, फिर आप इसे उठा सकते हैं।

श्री साबिर अली : सर, नोटिस है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : कहाँ है नोटिस? ...(व्यवधान)... कहाँ है नोटिस? नोटिस तो नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Madhu, what is it that you want? (Interruptions) Where is the notice? (Interruptions) That is not the notice. Showing a newspaper is not the notice. You are all experienced Members. Please sit down... (Interruptions) I agree that a Privilege Notice has been given. That is under the consideration of the hon. Chairman. Beyond that, there is no matter before this House, and it will not be taken up... (Interruptions)

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): It is the request of all the Members... (Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या चाहते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... रिपोर्ट को टेबल करना चेयर का काम नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... आप उस पर नोटिस दीजिए कि रिपोर्ट को टेबल करना है, that will be considered. ... (Interruptions) आप इस तरह से नहीं उठा सकते ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली : सर, हम आपका protection चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

*Not recorded.

श्री उपसभापति : आप बेकार में अपना और हाउस का वक्त ज़ाया कर रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)... देखिए, आप जो चाहते हैं, अगर उसके लिए proper notice दें, तो वह consider किया जाएगा। आप जो भी कहें, बगैर नोटिस के कुछ नहीं होगा ...(व्यवधान)... मैं आपसे यह कह रहा हूँ कि आप ...(व्यवधान)... देखिए, अज़ीज़ पाशा जी, आप नोटिस के बगैर ...(व्यवधान)... Nobody wants to listen. What can I do? ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the issue is very simple. The issue is being raised repeatedly in this House. The Government should make some categorical assurance that the Report will be placed on the Table of the House. That is all they want. The privilege matter is a separate issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not for the Chair to ask the Government to lay any Report on the Table of the House. If the Government has not tabled the Report of any Commission of Inquiry, you give a notice. Accordingly, it will be considered...(Interruptions)

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, इस बात को कई बार इस हाउस में उठाया गया है, इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि जल्द-से-जल्द इसको पेश किया जाए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have identified Shri N.K. Singh.

श्री तारिक अनवर: डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, यह रिपोर्ट लगभग सार्वजनिक हो चुकी है, लेकिन उसे अभी तक राज्य सभा के पटल पर रखा नहीं गया है और इसी वजह से यह असंतोष है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: इसीलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ ...(व्यवधान) तारिक अनवर जी, मैं कह रहा हूँ कि अगर आपको रिपोर्ट रखवानी है, तो आप नोटिस दीजिए ...(व्यवधान) In whatever form which is available to you, give a notice. That will be considered, and then it will be discussed. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, we have given the notice so many time. ...
(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no notice pending on this issue before us. ...
(Interruptions).... There is no notice pending before us. ...
(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the Scheduled Castes, Dalits, Muslims and Christians ...
(Interruptions)... their benefit issue is...
(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is just being raised, but there is no structured notice before the Chair as to in which form you want to raise it. ...
(Interruptions).... There is a form...
(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am just making a point. ...
(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I am telling you to give a notice. ...
(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: हाउस चल रहा है और मंत्री बाहर मीडिया के सामने बयान दे रहे हैं ...
(व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, it has been raised in the Zero Hour. ...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, I think that you would very kindly recall that with your permission, in this very Session, I am not talking now of the various other Sessions when this has been repeatedly raised, we have raised this issue repeatedly at the time when the issue of Mr. Chidambaram's laying the Liberhan Commission Report was being considered. Many of the Members were agitated that this Report of the Ranganath Mishra Commission, which is available freely under the RTI, fully printed in newspapers, media debates are going, should be laid on the Table of the House. Sir, the hon. Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, who was present on that day, seems to have given some kind of an indication that the Government was taking note of the serious observations which the Members were making for lack of disclosure of a Report which is now publicly available. So, I think, it is only fair, Sir, that you direct the Government that they must come out with a more coherent response to a matter which is agitating all of us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: हाउस चल रहा है और मंत्री बाहर बोल रहे हैं, यह कैसे चलेगा ...*(व्यवधान)*

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: सर यह हाउस की अवमानना का सवाल है, हाउस का मखौल उड़ाया जा रहा है ...*(व्यवधान)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unless the report is under the Commission of Inquiries Act, it is not possible for the Chair to direct the Government to lay all the reports which the Government gets. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप जरा सुनिए न। ...*(व्यवधान)* प्लीज़ जरा मेरी बात सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)* If the report is under the Commission of Inquiries Act, the Government is duty-bound to lay the report within the stipulated time under the Commission of Inquiries Act. There are several reports which are before the Government. And at this stage, I will not be able to say much because I don't know whether it is under the Commission of Inquiries Act or not. If it is under the Commission of Inquiries Act, then, give the notice why the Government has not laid the report within six months, as stipulated in the Act. Then, the Chair will consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, may I raise a point? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, there are procedures in Parliament in which the Chair gives protection to the Members of the House who, across party lines, have raised the issue that the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report should be laid in Parliament. We may have differences. There may be some who say that it should not be implemented, there are those of us who feel that it should definitely be implemented. But, the point is, when public money is being spent, so much time, energy and money is spent, all the Members are agitated saying lay it on the Table of the House, Sir, you can, as the custodian of the interests and the rights of all the Members in the House, at least, indicate to the Government that it would be appropriate for them to lay the Report on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just examine the matter, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chair will have to examine it. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Chair will examine whether it can issue a direction to lay the Report. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to examine it. I cannot say that...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री तारिक अनवर: यह पूरे हाउस की भावना इन्होंने रखी है, अब आप अपने द्वारा इस पर उचित कार्यवाही कीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है।

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, the hon. Members have already expressed their viewpoints. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Report be tabled in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the Government has taken note of the feelings of the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is for the Government to react. I cannot give any direction to the Government to lay the Report. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us take up the Calling Attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI D. RAJA: Under what Act the Ranganath Misra Commission was constituted is not the issue we are challenging. We want... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are asking the Government to lay the report. That is the point. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D. RAJA: You can ask the Government...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under what rule can I ask? *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, ask the Minister to respond. *(Interruptions)* Just a direction will do. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members to maintain order. The Members' feeling is known to the Government. I hope the Government would take note of what the feeling of the Members is. *(Interruptions)* मंत्री क्या कर रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह कहाँ है? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बोल रहे हैं, आप नोटिस दीजिए न? ...*(व्यवधान)*... मंत्री जी ने बयान दिया है, आप नोटिस दीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No, Sir, that is not enough. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Beyond this, I cannot say anything.*(Interruptions)*...

The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at seventeen minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty-two minutes past twelve of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

**RE. DEMAND FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RANGANATH MISHRA
COMMISSION REPORT**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us now take up Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, it is a matter of concern. We had raised the matter. Already the Minister of Minority Affairs has gone to the television channel and announced that he is going to implement the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where?

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: In the TV channel he did it but in the Parliament he is not raising. It is a serious thing. The Minister of Minority Affairs has gone to the TV channel and announced that he is going to implement the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When?

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Just now. He has gone to the TV studio in the Parliament. Sir, it is a serious thing. The Minister has gone to the TV studio and announced that he is going to implement the recommendations of the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report. What is this? *(Interruptions)* Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister come here.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : हाउस चल रहा है और मिनिस्टर बाहर जाकर बोल रहे हैं..*(व्यवधान)*

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Look at the darkness. *(Interruptions)*. Sir, you have to protect us. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: (Kerala) Sir, we have already sent for the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to be here and give his reaction on this.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Till then, Sir, you can adjourn the House. Let the Minister come. What is wrong in it? It is a matter of concern of the minority community and the backward sections of our society. Naturally,...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You allow the business to resume. The Minister will come. Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister will be...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will be coming and then we can take it up.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: It is a matter of concern and related to the minority community and the backward sections of our society.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Please allow the business to resume. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister will be coming.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: How can it be possible?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will be coming and, then, we will take it up.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister will be coming soon. Let him allow the business to resume.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, it is a matter of concern and related to the millions of people in this country belonging to the minority and backward community. Let the Minister come and assure the House when they are going to lay the Report on the table of the House. When is he going to come? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has come. *(Interruptions)*

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए! ..(व्यवधान).. आप बैठिए न। ..(व्यवधान)

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Mr. Minister, at least, you could have informed us first...*(Interruptions)*...You could have informed the House first ...*(Interruptions)*...We are told that you have made some comments about the Report on some TV channel...You inform us first ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is agitated about non-laying of the Ranganath Misra Commission Report on the Table. The Report has been published in some newspaper. This matter has been raised in the House two or three times ...*(Interruptions)*...One minute. One minute ...*(Interruptions)*...Since the hon. Minister was not there, I am just explaining...*(Interruptions)*...Not briefing...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that the hon. Members have expressed their concern, desire and anxiety to see the Report. To tell you the truth, Sir, the matter is under consideration of the Government. We had said so. There was also a requirement under the RTI. We were asked to disclose it under the RTI. The matter is before the High Court. So, it is *sub judice*. We have told to High Court exactly the same thing. The matter is being considered actively by the Government. As soon as the Government takes a decision, we will bring it before the House. There is no question of not brining it before the House.

SHRI SABIR ALI (Bihar): Sir, this is not the matter. We are asking the Government to lay the Report on the Table of the House ...*(Interruptions)*...We want the hon. Minister to lay it on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that you want? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, the hon. Minister is delaying the matter ...*(Interruptions)*...We are asking as to when the Report would be laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, the Minister has said that the matter is under consideration of the Government...*(Interruptions)*...I cannot go beyond that...*(Interruptions)*...No, no...*(Interruptions)*...Mr. Sabir Ali, please go to your seat...*(Interruptions)*...The point is, you wanted response from the Government and the Government has responded. The matter ends there.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, when is the hon. Minister going to place it on the Table of the House?...*(Interruptions)*...At least, that assurance the hon. Minister can give...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, at least, this assurance has to be given to the House...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The point is, you wanted the response of the Government and the Government has responded...*(Interruptions)*...The matter ends there...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: He can give an assurance to the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This will be discussed it in the Business Advisory Committee...*(Interruptions)*...Let us continue with the Business ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, the House still has to debate an earlier Report of a very great importance. The other House is debating it...*(Interruptions)*...What is the hurry?...*(Interruptions)*...First we will discuss the Liberahan Report ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, the hon. Minister is misleading the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you wanted response of the Government. The Government has responded. Now, let us take up the Calling Attention...*(Interruptions)*...The present status of the W.T.O. negotiations, Shri Moinul Hassan...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): यहां बोलने में आपको क्या दिक्कत है ..(व्यवधान).. आप बता दीजिए हाऊस में। ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already called him...*(Interruptions)*..I have already taken up...*(Interruptions)*...What is the matter? आप बैठिए। ..(व्यवधान)..अंसारी साहब, आप बैठिए। ..(व्यवधान)..

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is the same that was given by hon. Minister who was in-charge of this portfolio. We are hearing the same thing again. We want that this Report be placed by tomorrow. Please. You cannot say it is not possible. You cannot keep on postponing it for years together. Whom are you supporting? Whom do you want to cover? This is not fair. We have been asking in the House and the hon. Minister for laying the Report. His predecessor had said the same thing. Now, he is saying the same thing. We are not ready to listen the same thing for the second time.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, we have a different, distinct view about this issue. But, I am raising only one thing. I saw the hon. Minister on a channel in question. He said, 'within six months I am going to bring it.' Is it fair on his part, when the Session is going on, to make this kind of a policy statement on a TV channel ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a very

fundamental issue...*(Interruptions)*...The hon. Minister may kindly explain this to the House...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, I need to explain to my learned friend. My learned friend has been I & B Minister. He should watch television a little more carefully. We were being asked whether in our Manifesto...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have seen and listened to every word of yours, Mr. Minister.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: You cannot force words into my mouth. We have very clearly said in our Manifesto that we are going to take a view on OBC Lists, which includes OBC Minority people. Sir, you know Karnataka model and Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh models. We have committed to this model in our Manifesto. Nothing has been said about this Report. I can get my learned friend a copy of the CD. If he had only watched carefully, he would have known that I cannot and will not say anything on the Report because I do understand some parliamentary procedures as well. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has clarified. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has clarified. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has clarified. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has clarified, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir, through you, I would like to put only one question. My question is, whether they are going to table the Report or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, they have said, 'it is under consideration.' Now, whether they do it or not, I cannot say. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SABIR ALI: You should ask. ...*(Interruptions)*... You should ask, when will it be done? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Mr. Moinul Hassan. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Moinul Hassan. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Moinul Hassan, call the attention of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... Call the attention of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*..

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Present status of the WTO negotiations

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the present status of the WTO Negotiations. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been underway since 2001. The years 2007 and 2008 saw intensive discussions and considerable progress on many elements of the Agriculture and non-agricultural market access

(NAMA) modalities. (These include the formulae and methodology for cutting tariffs on agricultural and industrial goods, reducing domestic subsidies in agriculture, phasing out export subsidies as well as the contours of flexibilities/exemptions from tariff cuts on both agricultural and industrial goods.)

The July 2008 WTO Mini Ministerial meeting ended without any agreement on some key issues like special safeguard mechanism (SSM) in agriculture and sectoral initiatives in NAMA.

Following the impasse at the July 2008 mini-Ministerial, members expressed the need for an early resumption of talks. Based on subsequent discussions, the Chairs of the Agriculture and NAMA Negotiating Groups brought out revised draft modalities on 6 December 2008. The draft modalities are available at the WTO site too.

India has always been a strong protagonist of the multilateral trading system. We have consistently maintained that an early conclusion of the Doha Round is in our best interests.

Going by the commitment expressed by world leaders at international meetings for an early conclusion of the Doha Round, India took the initiative to re-energise the on-going discussions, by holding an informal Ministerial Meeting during September, 2009. The meeting signalled considerable political enthusiasm for an early conclusion of the Doha Round.

Discussions at the WTO have been resumed at the Senior Officials' level on technical requirements and modalities.

The 7th WTO Ministerial meeting was held in Geneva from 30th November-3rd December, 2009. The general theme for discussion was "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment."

The Conference was not a substantive negotiating round but a platform for Ministers to review the functioning of WTO, including the Doha Round, and to discuss issues such as monitoring and surveillance of disputes, accessions, Aid for Trade, technical assistance and international governance.

The main negotiating issues and the key elements from India's perspective in the Doha Round are to honour the development dimension; protecting the interest of poor farmers and industry and seeking greater market opportunities for its farmers and industry.

India has been engaging with its coalition partners to ensure that India's key interests are maintained.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Moinul Hassan; you have seven minutes.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the 7th WTO Ministerial meeting was held in Geneva from 30th November to 3rd December, 2009. Sir, the main theme of the discussion was "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment".

Sir, my point is, the Ministerial meeting was held at the backdrop of the global economic crisis which has led to a collapse in global trade. According to the WTO estimates, the global trade has seen at least 9 per cent decline in 2009. Our country is not out of the purview of this crisis. So, every citizen wants to know how we protect our interests in different areas, particularly, agriculture and employment-intensive small-scale industries.

Sir, WTO consists of various negotiating groups in Geneva, and, as I understand, they are carrying out negotiations in a non-transparent manner. They believe that India has substantially moved away from its earlier position, particularly, in agriculture. May I know from the hon. Minister, what the message of the WTO talks is to the farming community of our country, especially the small peasantry engaged in largely rain-fed agriculture? So far as industrial tariff is concerned, due to the present economic recession, our employment intensive industries like textile, leather garments, leather goods, gems and jewellery, have already faced a devastating effect. What have we done to protect our indigenous industry when developed countries are trying to open new markets for their flagging industry?

Sir, we are all aware of the WTO talks. The two sides appear unwilling to offer concession over agricultural subsidies and industrial products. That has caused an eight-year stalemate. In his interview after the conclusion of the mini-Ministerial meeting, the Minister was quite optimistic and said, "It has narrowed". What is the situation after the mini-Ministerial talks so far? Sir, after the meeting, which was held recently, the United States called on developing countries to make "meaningful market opening". But Brazil said that it is "unreasonable". May I know our country's opinion? What is the Ministry's opinion? What is India's opinion? Ultimately what action was taken by WTO?

Sir, the other point that I would like to make in response to the reply given by the hon. Minister is about the basic structure of WTO. The WTO is now behaving like an arbitrator and promoter of free trade. It should be an advisory council to plan the foreign trade system in such a manner as to protect the interests of all, especially the developing countries. What is the Government doing to channelize WTO's efforts in that direction?

Lastly, Sir, farmers' control over seed is the basic necessity for food security and biodiversity. But this may be lost by the patent laws and new seed laws. Would the Government think about it and protect our country's interest?

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, I think the Minister for Commerce is somewhat lucky, because, fortunately, the moments of inconvenient truth will be confronted by his colleague in Copenhagen, and not in Geneva, not for what he has done or not done, but because, perhaps, the unemployment rates in the United States being very high, and with Obama's distractions with climate change and health issues, it would take the heat off him for a little while, and for a little while, perhaps, Copenhagen would be warmer and hotter than Geneva! Having said this,

Sir, there is the Doha Round and the way in which we are going is a quagmire. And the Minister must pull India out of this quagmire in which we have landed ourselves. What is this quagmire, Sir? It arises out of four critical issues. The first critical issue is, why, in the negotiating priority, did we fail to accord services the highest priority as compared to industrial tariffs and agriculture? We know that tariffs on industry are already quite low. So, the advantages which we will get would be nominal. We also know that given our limited export capability on agriculture, we would have limited advantage in terms of agriculture. Why, therefore, has the services sector — where India has such an enormous comparative advantage in terms of movement of natural persons — been accorded a much lower priority than issues of agriculture and issues of industry? Would the Minister consider reversing this priority to be able to accord to services the priority it deserves?

My second important question, Sir, is: Why has India agreed to a formula for reduction of non-agricultural tariffs which has minimised our bargaining advantage that we had by virtue of unilateral and autonomous liberalisation which we have pursued since Doha Round 2001? You are aware of the fact, Sir, that the Doha Round is about improving access. India had unilaterally decided to cut its tariffs very, very significantly from the time even when the Doha Round began to today when peak tariffs have been brought down from 50 per cent to no more than 15 per cent. India failed to get reciprocal advantages by some form of concessions in the market of developed countries. Far from converting these tariffs really into base tariffs, we are on the reverse being asked to further lower these tariffs and to engage in negotiations with the United States, particularly on products which are of special interests to them under the garb of harmonisation or special interest category.

So, my second question to the Minister is: Would he redress the balance in terms of having accepted a coefficient formula, the so-called Swiss formula, which Minister does not give us the advantage of because the burden is against us? We have already agreed unilaterally to a whole slew of reduction and we have not got any reciprocal advantage from the countries in terms of access to their markets. So, would you wish to reverse the negotiating strategy to bring greater balance?

My third question, Sir, is that in the negotiations on agriculture itself, India has not pressed hard enough on the proposals for disciplining the so-called green-box subsidies as decoupled income support which is being widely used, if I may say so, widely abused, by countries in the European community. We know that although this is about improved market access, there is a category, Sir, which you all know, called the green-box which is kept exempt from the application of tariff reduction. Several things are being put in the Green box. What the developed countries are doing is, they are using the Green box by introducing elements as decoupled income realising that you cannot have decoupled income divorced from production

processes, divorced from product processes and seek the advantage which, in the long run, would prove very distortionary and inject a degree of volatility on support for agriculture. Even though 80 per cent of the tax on agriculture has been agreed, would the hon. Minister redo and revisit the Green box, particularly bring in greater discipline and eliminate what I call this particular income support measure by backdoor in which they will be protecting ourselves and our agriculture would have been left vulnerable?

My fourth question, Sir, is related to the recent proposal which we made to the Secretariat in July 2009. It is ironic and I will seek your submission to read what the proposal was. The proposal which we made for restructuring the WTO was going to invest the Secretariat of the WTO with vast authorities over and above what is being proposed for member countries. This is what we said in our July 2009 proposal. We said that “India will favour an arrangement for monitoring of recent developments and members on trade disciplines would be covered by the Committee based on compilation by the Secretariat or developments between formal meetings and verified by the members concerned.” If this proposal was to be accepted, then the initiative for policing the WTO rules will pass from the hands of members to the hands of the Secretariat, which is, certainly, not a very desirable outcome. Finally, Sir, I think the Minister needs to address himself to one critical issue.

We have been taught in Elementary Economics by Watson that trade is an engine of growth; trade fosters multiplier effects in income gains; trade fosters reduction of poverty. The instrument of WTO today is being abused against developing countries. Sometimes, they raise the issue of labour standards. Today, the most favourite thing is raising the issue of Carbon tax to misuse the instrument of trade as a new instrument of exploitation. Would the hon. Minister assure the House that integrity of what the WTO, which is meant for being principally a trade body, does not get diverted into the exploitation of emerging economies like ours under the pretext of new subterranean kinds of influences on labour, climate change, and other things which come under the fanciful and more fashionable purview of the more major economies of the world? Sir, we would like a final assurance that trade which we are pursuing, liberalisation which we are pursuing, will remain an engine of growth and engine of poverty reduction and not be converted into a new organ for the exploitation of new emerging markets like India.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an announcement to be made by the hon. Minister.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Decoding of human genome by Indian Scientists

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 THE MINISTER’S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I am happy to inform the august House that the Scientists of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), working at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), for the first time, have successfully decoded the full human genome in India. Sir, the first human genome sequence in the world was a result of International Human Genome Project comprising of scientists of six countries. This large collaborative Project began in 1990, and the sequencing was completed in 2003. This spectacular feat, at that time, was hailed equivalent to the man landing on the moon. India could not be part of this initiative in early 1990s because of resource constraints. With the completion of first few human genomes sequence in India, we are now in the league of few selected countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Canada and Korea. Scientists at CSIR could achieve this feat by adopting new technology and by effectively integrating complex computational and bioinformatics tools with high throughput analytical capability using super-computers. The sequencing of first human genome in India, therefore, sets the stage for India's entry into the elite club which will open up new possibilities in diagnostics, treatment and low-cost affordable healthcare in future for the masses.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE — *Contd.***

Present status of the WTO negotiations

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, the Doha round almost stands stalemated. In my view, Sir, there are few basic reasons that this appears to be happening. Sir, there are three changes which have taken place over the last one decade in the global trade negotiations. Initially, the trade negotiations were essentially driven by the developed world. Today, there is a change of imbalance of power. Today, the developing countries, particularly after the formation of several groups like G-20, have also acquired a say in the functioning of the WTO and in the negotiations. So, the balance of power itself has slightly altered. The second is a change in the global economy which has taken place that across the world, consumers prefer to buy services and goods which are cheaper and are of the best quality. Therefore, instead of the developed world, the balance with regard to services and with regard to goods is now tilting in favour of low-cost economies. As a result of this, we get some obvious advantages. The third, Sir, is a change in the agenda also. Initially, the agenda in relation to agriculture was market access. And, today, it is being counter-balanced by the whole suggestion that there cannot be market access; trade distortions in form of trade

1.00 P.M.

distorting subsidies are reduced, rationalised and some of them even finally eliminated. Sir, Mr. N.K. Singh put a very relevant question with regard to the state of negotiations in the services sector. Now, this is one sector in which India is capable of providing the world with a very large number of low-cost services, both in the matter of movement of natural persons and also in the matters relating to various other forms of services, including outsourcing etc. Now, the service negotiations, instead of being multilateral, are either bilateral or plurilateral, for which offers and responses are going on. Obviously, it appears that the developed world is not very keen, as far as the pace of these negotiations is concerned. In the services sector, they are keen essentially on areas like financial services, retail being opened up, and there is a conscious go-slow as far as these areas of keen interest to India are concerned. So, my first query to the Minister is: what is the position of negotiations as far as the services sector, particularly, in these areas is concerned.

Secondly, Sir, agriculture is of key interest to us for the reason that more than sixty per cent of India is employed, or, even, under employed, as far as agriculture is concerned. Now, the agricultural negotiations have virtually been stalemated, and, today, the key to the entire pace of movement in the WTO is such that the manufacturing sector, the NAMA negotiations, the services negotiations are not moving because agricultural negotiations are stalemated. And, the reason why agricultural negotiations is stalemated is that unless the subsidies are rationalised, some of them completely eliminated, and, some of them substantially reduced, there can't be a level-playing field. We cannot expect our subsistence farmer to compete with the highly subsidised farmer who gets almost a billion dollars a day from the developed economies in the world towards his subsidisation; his products are going to be much cheaper than ours, and, will, obviously, push us out of the market.

Now, as far as the subsidies are concerned, various proposals are there. The Minister in his statement has said, "the negotiating groups brought out a revised modality on 6th December, 2008". I have two fears as far as the blanks in these drafts are concerned. And, my two questions in this area relate to these blanks. Firstly, Sir, as far as the subsidies are concerned, even though there is a broad consensus building up that the export subsidies should be finally eliminated, with regard to the other form of subsidies, it is not the green box subsidies, which are going unregulated in the name of environment protection and livestock protection, even the amber box and the blue box subsidies, there is a lot of box-shifting which is taking place in the various proposals. And, the net consequence is going to be that the amount of money which goes into the pocket of the farmer in the developed countries substantially will not come down over the next decade or more, and, if in the hope of this being somewhat altered

because of the drafts, and, the actual money not coming down, we open our markets to agriculture, the consequence will be an inflow of agricultural products from all over the world, which our farmers will not compete with. Even if we keep our tariffs high, Sir, any surplus, if we have, will not be able to get into the global market, will be dumped into our own markets, and, therefore, will depress our markets. So, in either case, the subsidised agriculture, whether it enters our markets or not, is destructive of the interests of the Indian farmer. Therefore, what is the specific proposal which you have, and, what is the kind of figure, in relation to each of these areas of subsidy, which the Government of India thinking of putting across as far as the negotiations are concerned.

Sir, the second question on agriculture is equally important, and, the question is, what is the proposal on the table to reduce the customs tariffs on various agricultural products as far as the developed and the developing countries are concerned? Sir, India has an approximately 692-odd tariff lines, unless the figure has now somewhat altered. Now, these changes are going to be brought about in the duty-structures on the bound rates. If we go by the figures — which we are now reading, particularly, in the international media — of reduction of approximately 30-odd per cent as far as countries like India is concerned, on how many of our tariff lines, will our bound rates come down in comparison to our present applied rates. If many of them in the Doha Round get protected, the real danger will then arise in the post-Doha Round, that is, the next round, where the figure, instead of 70 - 80 products, will probably reach 200 or 300 products. I mean, India is an economy, where even if in relation to five products, the farmer gets distressed by the inflow of foreign goods, then, his own goods, the pricing gets distressed, then, it is lakhs of farmers or millions of farmers in each tariff line, who are going to be adversely affected.

Lastly, Sir, what is the state of negotiations as far as the NAMA negotiations are concerned, or, is it completely stalemated without any progress at all?

Finally, Sir, before I conclude, I just want to give one suggestion to the hon. Minister. There have been in different areas of governance, several illustrations — Mr. Singh referred to the climate change negotiations, I am not repeating our position on that — where we seem to be getting pressured by the developed world. As far as trade is concerned, foreign policy and trade policy never mix together. You may be the best of friends with certain countries but your trading interests, Sir, always at variance with them. Europe and United States are litigating against each other as far as the WTO is concerned. So, my suggestion to the Minister would be that please keep the current close proximity and the foreign policy emanating out of that and the pressure emanating out of that away as far as India's trading policy is concerned. Thank you.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Sir. As everybody knows, in these negotiations, the United States is the important player. But they are negotiating without any Fast Track Authority from their Congress or Parliament. They are going on negotiating for their advantage. As our learned colleague, N.K. Singh, said, the major portion of the subsidies are in the Green Box. These subsidies are non-negotiable. If it is so, how the Indian farmer gets a level-playing field in the international market?

The second thing I understand is that the USA is pressurising for increasing the safeguard in agriculture up to 20 per cent. I think, it is almost accepted or going to be accepted at around 5 per cent. I would like the hon. Minister to explain India's position on this.

In the industrial sector and also in the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sector, I understand, they are requesting for reducing the customs duty to zero per cent. Once it is done, their products will flood our market and our chemicals and pharmaceutical sector will be largely hit. So, what is the Government planning to protect these sectors?

Then, Sir, the Geneva Meeting is also over. But, still there is a lot of confusion about the negotiations, what is happening in the negotiations. I request the Minister to publish a White Paper on what is happening in the negotiations.

Then, Sir, the Government has to educate the Indian farmer about the pros and cons of these negotiations and about the WTO outcome. I would like to know from the Minister the steps taken by the Government to empower the agriculturists. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amar Singh, you just wanted to intervene because somebody else is speaking from your Party.

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय। मैं तो इतना ही कहूंगा कि यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि इधर वाणिज्य मंत्री जी बैठे हैं, मेरे पीछे श्री एन०के० सिंह पूर्व वाणिज्य सचिव बैठे हैं और नेता प्रतिपक्ष हमारे मित्र श्री अरुण जेटली पूर्व वाणिज्य मंत्री बैठे हैं, इसलिए सदन को गुमराह नहीं किया जा सकता है। सभी वाणिज्य विशेषज्ञ यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं। मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि हमने सचमुच में “वसुदेव कुटुम्बकम्” को बहुत गंभीरता से ले लिया है। हम भारत के नागरिक कम और विश्व के नागरिक ज्यादा हो गए हैं, चाहे वह एशियन का मामला हो, उसमें भी हमने केरल के रबड़ और कॉफी के किसानों की चिंता नहीं की, छूट पर छूट दे दी, चाहे WTO का मामला हो। मैं बहुत बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति नहीं हूं, इसलिए मुझे पता नहीं है कि यह ग्रीन बॉक्स है या रेड बॉक्स है, क्या है, उसमें कितनी सबसिडी है ? लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो पाश्चात्य देशों के, जो उन्नत देशों के किसान हैं, जिनको बड़ी सबसिडी मिलती है, अगर उनका मुकाबला भारत के किसानों से हो, तो वे किस तरह से उनका मुकाबला कर सकेंगे ?

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्र० पी०जे० कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

आप विश्व नागरिक बनिए, आप carbon emission भी कर दीजिए, डेवलेप नेशन्स के आगे, अमेरिका के आगे घुटने टेक दीजिए, यहां भी घुटने टेक दीजिए, हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। हमें आपके प्रो-अमेरिकन स्टैंड

से, प्रो-डेवलेप्लेड कंट्रीज के स्टैंड से, चाहे वह ग्लोबल वार्मिंग हो, चाहे WTO का मामला हो, सब में आप समर्पण करिए, लेकिन विदेशी किसानों के मुकाबले में हमारे भारत के किसानों का संरक्षण इकॉनामी में कैसे हो, यह आप हमें बता दीजिए, हमें संतुष्ट कर दीजिए और आप अमेरिका की जय हो, जय हो करते रहिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो अपना वक्तव्य दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि “दोहा दौर में भारत के परिप्रेक्ष्य में वार्ता के मुख्य मुद्दे एवं महत्वपूर्ण विषय विकासात्मक आयाम संबंधी कार्य पूरा करना, गरीब किसानों एवं उद्योग जगत के हितों का संरक्षण करना और अपने किसानों एवं उद्योग हेतु अधिकाधिक बाजार अवसर प्राप्त करना है।”

मैं समझता हूँ कि इन मुद्दों पर अभी तक कोई सहमति नहीं बनी है। जैसा कि अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने कृषि के क्षेत्र में और सेवा के क्षेत्र में यह प्रश्न उठाया है, परन्तु भारत की सरकार और विशेषकर जो हमारे वाणिज्य मंत्री हैं, वे इतने अति उत्साहित हैं कि वे बराबर इसकी मीटिंग के लिए बड़े प्रयासरत हैं। आप जानते हैं कि विश्व व्यापार संगठन की स्थापना, स्वतंत्र एवं निष्पक्ष व्यापार के जरिए, दुनिया के देशों के करोड़ों गरीबों की गरीबी को गरीबी के चंगुल से मुक्त कराने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन यह संगठन अपने उद्देश्यों में असफल रहा। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है कि संगठन में जो सम्पन्न तथा विकसित देश हैं, उनका बोलबाला है और उन्होंने जो तकनीकी तरीके से नियम बनाए हैं, वे हमारे विरुद्ध हैं। क्योंकि वैश्वीकरण और WTO की नीतियों के लागू किए जाने के बाद से ही दक्षिण एशिया में अमीरी और गरीबी की खाई और चौड़ी हो गई है। UNDP के अनुसार OECD के देश एक दिन में एक अरब डालर की सब्सिडी देते हैं। कृषि सहायता पर OECD द्वारा किए गए व्यय का 50 फीसदी यूरोपीय देशों में और लगभग 40 फीसदी जापान में व्यय किया जाता है। अमेरिका में कृषि सहायता 2 अरब से बढ़कर 28 अरब डालर हो गई है। यह वस्तुस्थिति है, इसलिए जो समाचारपत्रों में खबर छपी है, मैं उसके बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ और मैं उसे कोट भी करना चाहता हूँ,

“Actually, WTO Chief Pascal Lamy is right when he said at the inaugural of the ongoing WTO mini-Ministerial meet in New Delhi yesterday that 80 per cent of the issues of the Doha round have been resolved. He was telling the truth. What remains is merely the tightening of the nuts and bolts of the agreement.” मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो Lamy साहब का बयान है, इसमें कितनी सच्चाई है और उस वस्तुस्थिति से सदन को भी अवगत कराएं? क्योंकि देश में यह भावना बहुत प्रबल होती जा रही है और जैसा कि माननीय श्री अमर सिंह ने अपनी शंका व्यक्त की है कि भारत सरकार की ज्यादा दरियादिली के कारण, जो भारत के किसान हैं, उनका नुकसान हो रहा है तथा भारत के वाणिज्य एवं व्यापार का भी नुकसान हो रहा है। आप जानते हैं कि यूरोप के विकसित देश किस प्रकार की protectionism कर रहे हैं, वे अपना माल तो हमारे बाजार में भेजना चाहते हैं, वे हमारे बाजार को खुला रखना चाहते हैं। अगर उनको पैसा यहां आ सकता है, उनकी पूंजी आ सकती है, तो हमारे लोग वहां पर जाकर क्यों नहीं काम कर सकते हैं? हम अपनी सेवा उनको क्यों उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकते हैं? इसके लिए वे तैयार नहीं हैं, इसलिए जिस प्रकार की ये सेवा शर्तें अथवा नियम WTO द्वारा लागू किए जा रहे हैं, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ...**(समय की घंटी)**... इस संबंध में वे अपनी क्या राय रखते हैं, ताकि वह भारत के किसानों, व्यापारियों एवं यहां सेवा में लगे लोगों के हित में हो।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, यह जो नेगोसिएशन चल रही है, इससे ऐसा लगता है कि शायद ही हम किसी favourable consideration की तरफ बढ़ रहे हैं। इस राउंड का भविष्य अनेक complications से भरा हुआ है, चाहे वह टेक्नीकल हो या कोई अन्य हो। भारत के हितों की दृष्टि से बहुत

ही महत्वपूर्ण है कि service and Non-agriculture Market Access में थोड़े बहुत फायदे मिलने पर वह किसानों के हितों को न छोड़ दे। सर, इसमें विकसित देशों द्वारा जो सब्सिडाइज्ड एक्सपोर्ट है, वह सबसे बड़ी चिंता का विषय है। जो विकासशील देशों के लिए food and livelihood security के ऊपर खतरा पैदा करती है, इसलिए विकसित देशों को अपने agricultural subsidies में कमी लाने के लिए बाध्य करना हमारे जैसे विकासशील देशों के लिए सबसे बड़ा लक्ष्य होना चाहिए।

सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सत्य है कि भारत ने trade information system revitalizing of WTO Committees, special legal provision of market access to Least Developing Countries and setting of standards and monitoring of Regional Trade Agreements की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव दिया है? अगर हां, तो क्या यह सत्य है कि ये सभी बातें अभी हाल में चल रही negotiations के main agenda का part नहीं बन सकी हैं? अगर हां, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इसका कारण जानना चाहूंगा?

सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि non-Agriculture Market Access की मौजूदा स्थिति विकासशील देशों के लिए बहुत कठिन स्थिति का निर्माण करेगी, क्योंकि विकसित देश, खासकर USA और EU, अभी भी पुरानी साम्राज्यवादी नीति [divide and rule] अपना रहे हैं और विकासशील देशों में से कुछ देशों को तो कुछ concessions दे रहे हैं, लेकिन सभी को नहीं दे रहे हैं? अगर हां, तो भारत, जो G-20 और G-30 का सदस्य देश है, किस प्रकार इन सभी को एक साथ रखने में भूमिका निभा पाएगा?

सर, यद्यपि अभी तक विकसित देशों द्वारा दी जाने वाली subsidies पर deadlock बना हुआ है, मैं समझता हूँ कि data base से संबंधित technical issues जैसे मुद्दे आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वे agriculture services and marketing से संबंधित इन technical issues के बारे में विस्तार से बताएं और इस पर भारत का क्या रख है, वह भी स्पष्ट करें।

सर, हम सभी जानते हैं कि service sector में तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से हम competitive advantage में हैं, लेकिन कुछ ऐसी रिपोर्ट्स हैं कि सरकार service sectors में legal services, accountancy, financial services और media जैसी services को liberalise करने की योजना बना रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इसके पीछे क्या कारण है? क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि सर्विसेज से जुड़े लोग इस कदम का विरोध कर रहे हैं? अगर हां, तो इस सेक्टर को liberalize करने के पीछे क्या कारण है?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत agriculture and non-agriculture market access के समान services को भी वैसे track पर लाने के लिए प्रयत्न कर रहा है? अगर हां, तो भारत को इससे किस हद तक लाभ होगा? क्या यह सत्य है कि कुछ देश इसका विरोध कर रहे हैं? अगर हां, तो इसका कारण क्या है? क्या इसका कारण भारत सितम्बर, 2009 में जो informal ministerial meeting हुई थी, उसमें services को शामिल नहीं किया जा सकना है? मैं इस संबंध में थोड़ी जानकारी चाहूंगा।

सर, एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार को देखना होगा कि किसानों को सब्सिडी वाले आयात में बढ़ोतरी के मुकाबले पर्याप्त बिजली, नए और परिष्कृत बीज, बैंक क्रेडिट एवं बाजार तक पहुंचने के लिए सरकार के द्वारा पूर्ण सहयोग मिले, इसकी एक व्यवस्था करने के लिए सरकार को इसकी तरफ अग्रसर होना चाहिए।

सर, दोहा और विकास का दौर नहीं है, यह तो बाजार खोज रही है। विकास का सूत्रधार व्यापार नहीं स्वदेशी आंतरिक साधन होंगे और विकास की पहचान विकास की दर से नहीं, बल्कि रोजगार सृजन और गैर बराबरी निवारण से होगी, इसलिए नई विश्व व्यवस्था आर्थिक मानवीय और स्थायी होनी चाहिए।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would congratulate the hon. Minister on his assuming the charge as the Minister of Commerce and Industry in UPA-II. He has created great hope for the people of India that Doha talks will be finished within a particular period of 2010. Now, we feel very happy on hearing that Ministerial talks have led to that level even though negotiations have not been initiated. I would like to quote the statement of the Chilean Finance Minister Mr. Andres Velasco who chaired that particular meeting. He said, "There was strong convergence on importance of trade and the Doha Round to economic recovery and poverty alleviation in the developing countries. The development dimensions should remain central to the Round and particular attention should be paid to issues of importance to developing countries." It is, more or less, reflecting our views, India's, but more emphasis has to be given to poverty alleviation. In which way were the preliminary discussions held? About that, the World Trade Organisation Director General, Pascal Lamy, said, and I quote, Sir:

"The Ministerial Conference has provided the political energy to organise work for the coming months."

In which way are the other countries cooperating with us to have this political energy? I would like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister. Some moratoriums were also imposed, by consent, during the period between one sitting and another sitting of the Ministerial Conference. One is on electronic commerce. Another one is on non-violation under the WTO Intellectual Property Agreement. In which way, is it going to help?

Finally, an additional session they want to have on Climatic Changes with a specific focus on "Aid for the Trade". What are the issues on that? Has the Government created a roadmap to have transparency, before going for talks or negotiations, for the common men, *i.e.* agriculturists and stake holders? Many of the people have said that parliamentarians are to be taken into confidence; the stake holders, agriculturists and the entire section of the people who are going to be affected by the negotiations have to be taken into confidence before going for talks, and also during the course of the talks. We feel that somewhere it is missing. When regional talks were held by the ASEAN countries, people from Kerala started saying that they were not consulted and things like that. Over and above that, some chamber consultation was done by the hon. Minister also. That type of allegation should not come up again. There should be a full-fledged discussion even at the level of villages to see that WTO is really meant for the welfare of the people, and also for the welfare of agriculturists. In which way NAMA is going to help them; in which way they are going to be affected and how they can overcome it; these are things to be discussed before we go for negotiations. We first enter into negotiations and, then, tell them that this is the thing happened. Therefore, we oblige for that. Rather, we have to prepare ourselves first. It is a democratic nation and we are part of the democratic process of

WTO. Therefore, we have to practise it so that the people can understand it better. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you, Mr. Natchiappan. Now, Shri Rahul Bajaj. Actually, it is my name written there; I am not reading it. I am giving my chance to you!

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Sir, I fully associate myself with the comments made by two learned speakers, especially Mr. N.K. Singh and Mr. Arun Jaitley. I think, they have made very valid points.

From the last but one para of the Minister's Statement, we are happy to learn that while negotiating this Round, which has started from 2001, the essence of this Round, as we all know, is the development aspect of the Round, which means like climate change, common but differentiated responsibilities, less than full reciprocity. That has to be kept in mind. And, Sir, we note that protecting the interest of poor farmers and of Indian industry and seeking greater market opportunities for our farmers and industry are the key elements. That is absolutely correct. Though, for agriculture — I think, Mr. Jaitley also said so — by and large, for the coming years, our interests are going to be more defensive, rather than offensive, the subsidy is given especially, Sir, by the US, France and Japan. Sir, as we talk of the US, both domestic support and export subsidy, of course, they have tariffs for agricultural products, is so serious as our former Commerce Minister said: "However inefficient the Indian farmer may be, he can successfully compete with the US farmers." That is why the US farmer needs subsidy but the Indian Treasury cannot compete with the US Treasury. So, we have to keep in mind the situation that is prevailing today. In Hindi, we say, Sir, "उलटा चोर कोतवाल को डँटे।"

Climate change is very similar, except for the last night announcement by the US which has to be studied. Similar is the case with the WTO. For years and, in fact, for decades, we in the developing world were preached the benefits of free trade. Now those very countries, and I talk especially of the US but it applies to all developed countries, do not want to even practise fair trade, leave alone free trade. We will protect our farmers; we will give legitimate protection to our industry, etc. But while negotiating, we recognise that it is a question of give and take. Till now even under the Swiss formula, which was referred to — I wouldn't go into those coefficients that there are three alternatives depending on what kind of freedom that you want — I believe we have already given more than we should. Whether you can plough back some of them depends on the Minister. That is one of my questions. Will you be able to plough back? It is difficult. I want to emphasise that we from the Indian industry have already given our views. It applies to the bound rates. But, as Mr. Arun Jaitley has stated, first, we would like to know

whether the reduction, whether the percentage reduction, that India and developing countries will make is much more than what the US will make. We were higher, but we are no longer that higher. How many of our reduced bound rates will go below the applied rates?

Secondly, I believe that 30 per cent of our items, tariff lines, were not bound. Now almost all the tariff lines will become unbound. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether it is true.

In any case, it is give and take. But they have been only taking. Before 1991, in the early nineties, Mr. Vice-Chairman, we had a closed economy. We had very high rates of import tariff. We, the Indian industry, were shouting against that. But the condition has changed. In any case, I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should not give in. He should not give in at all on the sectoral zero duty situation. That is one. He should not give in — I don't have time to go into the detail — on the remanufactured products. They are keen on that. He should not give in at all on the anti-concentration clause. Giving in on any of these factors will tremendously hurt India, the Indian economy and our development process. We are already under pressure at Copenhagen. But in these things he should not give in at all.

Finally, they are very strong negotiators. I think, Mr. Natchiappan, mentioned it in a different context. Their businessmen met with their Government to negotiate in Geneva. When they talk, we don't know who the businessman is and who the Government representative is. They are one. Here you don't take our business representatives. Even if you take them, since the time of Mr. Arun Jaitley, Mr. Kamal Nath and now Mr. Sharma, you keep them outside. You don't let them come in. So, this must be done for the Indian industry, Indian farmers and the Indian economy to have interaction within India. They do discuss. But it is not enough. More interaction is required to see that we don't give in to the bullying tactics, especially, of the US. I agree that we have very good relations with the US. I have good friends in America. I studied in America. It is a great country. But a country which only wants to protect its interests, which does not care at all for other country's interests, we have to put a full stop. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Mr. Minister. *(Interruptions)*... Please. The Minister is replying. Please. The Minister is replying.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I would like to thank the hon. Members, through you, Sir, for their interventions in this Calling Attention Motion which has been brought forward by Shri Moinul Hassan and Shri N.K. Singh. I also benefited from the inputs from the learned Leader of the Opposition, who has himself held this responsibility in the previous Government, and, surely, he

is fully aware of the terrain, the pitfalls, the skills of India's negotiators and the various positions that India has taken in this Round of trade negotiations.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to say and make it very clear that this Round has one core agenda, that is, development. It is meant to ensure that for the developing countries, the poor countries and the LDCs, who have been historically disadvantaged when it comes to global trade, market access, that includes both the nascent industries as well as the farmers or the agriculture produce there is, as was said, a level playing field and the interests of the vulnerable economies, the developing countries are fully protected. It is meant, therefore, to correct the distortion and imbalance. Therefore, the Doha Round has special significance. The developing and the poor countries have much to gain from the successful conclusion of the Doha Round. I am afraid to say that they will have the most to lose if this round does not lead to a rule-based multilateral trade regime which addresses the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the developing countries.

Sir, last year, as I mentioned in my statement, there was a Mini-Ministerial in July, 2008 which did not lead to convergence of views on some of the critical issues which were of import to the developing countries including India. These negotiations did not proceed and, if I may use the word, hit a roadblock. In the global parlance many words have been used, Since I assumed this responsibility; it was said that the talks were paused and the talks had stalled. The fact is, there was a roadblock. At the same time, there was an increasing demand and urging by the leadership of the developing countries and the poor countries that this Round should be saved, efforts should be made to revive and to take it to a successful conclusion. Sir, it was in June itself. Those were early days for me. I was trying to go up an a steep learning curve, not familiar with the details at that time but more familiar with the broad rules and principles. There was a meeting of the Cairns Group in Bali in Indonesia where there was talk of new processes which virtually meant to start all over again. This theory was being marketed or propounded by the developed countries, those who did not have the will to take the process forward. Much has been invested in these talks in the last eight years, as Shri N.K. Singh knows. He knows it from both sides, being part of the Government, Senior Secretary, Principle Secretary to the then Prime Minister. He knows about commerce. Since 2001, much was invested in this Round. India had taken a clear position to ensure that this Round serves the interests of the developing countries. I had then said, Sir, that the need was to reenergise and not to reinvent; reenergise the process by using the draft documents, draft reports on agriculture and NAMA which were submitted in December, 2008, but never discussed, never got looked into. There were a number of calls from various world leaders at Summits, whether it was the G-20 in London, or the L'Aquila Summit Declaration urging the Ministers to help to take the initiative to revive the process. India talked to its coalition partners in the developing countries, the G-20, the G-33

and the NAMA-11. The Coordinator of the G-20 is Brazil. The G-33, which has made a very useful contribution in upholding our position and concerns on agriculture, is chaired by Indonesia. The NAMA, Non-Agriculture Market Access Group is chaired by South Africa.

Sir, through our discussions with our coalition partners, we suggested to put together a mini-Ministerial in Delhi, representing the coalition or carcass of all stakeholders in the developing and poor countries in the LDCs and also the key interlocutors from the developed countries. But, before we did that, before sending the invitations, we had a meeting of the developing countries, a coalition on the margins of the OECD Ministerial in Paris. That was again in June. And, the IBSA Ministers met at India's initiative. IBSA is an important initiative of three continents, of three emerging economies and vibrant democracies, namely, India, Brazil and South Africa. We made it abundantly clear in that statement that the developing countries had made enough concessions, and there is no room for any unilateral concessions by the developing or poor countries. I had taken the liberty to share the IBSA's statement with the prominent Leaders of the Opposition, both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha. I shared it with my dear friend, Shri Sitaram Yechury, Shri Raja, and in the other House with Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi and Shri Sharad Joshi. It was to reassure that there is no question of India, while trying to re-energise the process, taking a position which casts any shadow or any doubt when it comes to our engagement and solidarity with the poor and developing countries of the world.

Sir, in September, we had the Delhi Ministerial. It was a representative meeting attended by, literally, the microcosm of the WTO reflecting the entire membership from the developing countries, the African Group, the LDCs, small and vulnerable economies and the Cotton-4. We also had the key interlocutors from the developed countries, namely, the U.S., the E.U., Japan, Canada and Australia. There was a consensus reached that negotiations should resume. We did not discuss the substance, but about the process as to how to resume the stalled negotiations.

There was a reference made here by hon. Members, and I fully agree with their concerns that there has been an adverse impact of the global economic crisis on all economies. Trade has been hit. In case of India too, our exports started declining in October, 2008. While quickly add, to reassure Shri Moinul Hassan, the various interventions and the measures which the Government took and the new Foreign Trade Policy, focussing primarily on labour-intensive sectors, have helped in arresting the steep fall and reversing the trend. While we were falling in the negative, close to 40 per cent in May, the last month's figures were only six per cent. We have been able to drag it down to a single digit. But it is true that the global trade has shrunk. The WTO projections, the hon. Member was right, are that the global trade will fall by 9 per cent,

and the IMF feels, maybe, by 12 per cent. Therefore, it is important that the trade negotiations are taken forward, as enhanced engagement, economic engagement, will help all countries, whether developing or developed.

Sir, various issues have come up — these have even been raised by the hon. Members — on agriculture, on NAMA and on the services sector. Sir, in agriculture, our position is very clear. First of all, it is special and differential treatment. We are talking of developing countries getting a special dispensation and for which, in addition to the concessions which we have, there are three important things which I want to mention. One is, the special products. The special products in agriculture which the developing countries will designate, these will be self-designated, where no tariff cuts will be taken. There is also the issue of what was raised by Shri Arun Jaitley about the farmers from the big countries, the rich farmers and if there is a surge, how to protect our farmers? Sir, it is very clear, again, besides the special products, the second is the operational and effective special safeguard mechanism. They have to be less burdensome; they have to be easily operational because it is not only the volume surge, even if there is a price distortion or price dip. Discussions are going on about the trigger, but, this is to protect our farmers and our agriculture sector. And also, the question raised, and rightly so of subsidies by the rich countries whether it is the United States of America or Canada or the European Union where huge subsidies are given to the farmers, price support is there. Subsidies are also given, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, to keep the production low. So, there are all kinds of subsidies which are trade distorting, which are not acceptable. India, along with its coalition partners has made it very clear that these subsidies shall have to be drastically cut. The developed countries, America and the E.U. will have to make deep cuts in the subsidies, minimum 70 per cent, and this is still being negotiated. So, there is no question of accepting a situation where these trade distortions and these huge subsidies shall be allowed and an agreement is reached. There cannot be any agreement with these subsidies in place. I can assure you.

There is also the issue of tariff simplification and tariff capping of the developed countries; the issue of developed countries tariffs in agriculture. And there, India is engaged, once again, very pro-actively with G-20 and G-33. Since this matter was raised just now by an hon. Member as to where we stand when it comes to G-20 and G-33, I would like to inform the House that on the Margins of the WTO Ministerial in Geneva, which was not meant for substantive negotiations but to review the WTO functioning and also the global economic crisis and its adverse impact on the world trade, we had the meeting of the G-20 and the G-33. The G-20 and G-33 communiqués are in public domain. We have taken a firm stand and categorical position when it comes to both our position on agriculture and also on NAMA. Because on NAMA, Sir, here we are talking of Non-Agricultural Market Access. Now, how do we safeguard our vulnerable

industries in the developing countries? Therefore, the developing countries, again, as the principle of special and differential treatment, are going to have flexibilities. Flexibilities in those sectors, those lines where we don't want to take any tariff cuts. Those flexibilities shall be the sole discretion, on our judgement, as to which flexibilities we want to take, which are the sectors where we will not take cuts, zero cut. Again, the NAMA flexibilities principle is integral to the negotiations. Shri Rahul Bajaj had asked, and rightly so, about our position on sectorals. There was Hong Kong Ministerial meeting in 2005 which has taken some decisions, and it is clear that sectorals will be non-mandatory for the developing countries and poor countries. There cannot be any mandatory engagement by India, its coalition partners, in sectorals which will figure in the agreement. We will not accept the mandatory principle; we have made it abundantly clear at the WTO in the negotiations.

Also, on the re-manufactured goods, let me assure my dear friend, Shri Rahul Bajaj, there is no question of India yielding. We will not accept it. Now, when it comes to certain other issues which the hon. Members have raised, one is on meaningful market access, as to what the USA has said. Sir, for the benefit of hon. Members and for the sake of record, let me mention that these are multi-lateral negotiations. We know about the Uruguay Round; it went on for a long time. These round negotiations have been going on since the last 8 years. One hundred and fifty three countries are engaged in these negotiations. These DOHA countries come from different levels of development; the nature of challenges, developmental issues and their concerns are different. Many are common when it comes to the developing countries and the poor countries. Multi-lateral negotiations primarily mean that countries have their position; but they negotiate to find a middle-ground where each country—poor, vulnerable economies, developing countries, emerging economies or the rich countries—is comfortable to stand. As I have said, we have made it clear even now in this meeting in Geneva in our statement. I shall, for the benefit of hon. Members, read the four salient points which I have highlighted in Geneva, as our position: (A) There can be no dilution of development objective of the Round and there is a need for sympathetic understanding of the concerns of the developing world. (B) In the process of bridging the gaps in negotiations, there cannot be any reversion of the broad understandings reached in the past eight years. (C) Demands for additional market access in developing countries need to be tapered by the development agenda and not driven by commercial considerations. (D) The centrality of the multi-lateral process in negotiations must be maintained.

This is, broadly speaking, India's position which we articulated in the recent WTO Ministerial meeting. There is a question raised about NAMA co-efficients and on the tariffs. Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, so does Shri N.K. Singh, that there has been a gradual reduction of tariffs over a period of time. What tariffs? There are bound tariffs and there are

applied tariffs. Our bound tariffs are very high. Reduction of tariff, when a view is taken, does not take away your sovereign inherent right to raise it, even up to the bound level if any time the situation demands. What is being negotiated are the bound tariffs. So, our learned Member, Shri N.K. Singh, knows that better than me.

Sir, on co-efficients and flexibilities, I would be very clear, these issues are not frozen, not settled. They are not settled. Negotiations are on, but, as we have said, I have made our position on tariffs very clear. We are also determined to protect when it comes to our industry, particularly, the vulnerable sections.

Shri Jaitley had made this reference to the green box being negotiated. It did. But, we are very clear when it comes to ensuring that India is a developing country, its interests are not hurt. The present bound tariffs when we are concerned with agriculture are 114 per cent and India has, I can say with a sense of responsibility, clarity about its objective, commitment to uphold its supreme national interest and also, if I may say so, enough role for our negotiators to initiate an agreement which eventually serves the interests of the developing countries, of our vulnerable industries of our farmers. Sir, on meaningful market access, I had deviated a bit from there, I will go back. On meaningful market access, I was mentioning what the United States wants. Countries articulate their positions. They come with their positions but they also negotiate. They try to harmonise positions. It should be very clear. Harmonising our positions without compromising our interest is something which we are for. But not harmonising our position where our interests gets affected, there is no question of dilution. There is no question of negotiation when it comes to that. But, Sir, even in United States of America, developed countries and EU, it is true that they also have their expectations. Like we have our aspirations and concerns, they have their own expectations. But, it does not mean that they will get what they demand in a statement. It is a general statement which is made. Our negotiators know what the mandate is and what they are negotiating for. Sir, one issue which was rightly raised is about the services. It is true that India has its strength in the services sector and it is not a question that we have not given priority to the services negotiations. The negotiations are very much on. The same Hong Kong Ministerial which had taken the decision, which I referred to on the sectorals, also took a view on sequencing and in the sequencing agreed to in the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial it was agriculture, NAMA and services. When we had the meeting in Delhi we made it abundantly clear to the key interlocutors from the developed countries and also to the DG of the WTO that services negotiations have to be taken upfront because we have our interests and there is no question of our agreeing only to those sectors where the developed countries are interested.

We are clear that it has to be concluded as a single undertaking. The present round of negotiations and services will be an integral part. So, on the services, if I may just inform that at the WTO Negotiations on trade in services are unlike those in agriculture and NAMA and industrial goods as there are no tariffs which are quantifiable when it comes to services. Therefore, India's position is clear that our interests out of the four modes in two are very strong. That is mode one on cross border supply and mode four is a movement of professionals. We hope when the negotiations move forward we will be in a position to assess carefully after the text-based negotiations resume now, as has been agreed, and those revised drafts on agriculture and NAMA and on the services negotiations, which will be horizontally taken up after a few months, I can say, we would be better placed to assess where we are at that stage. Sir, before I conclude, I would like to say two more things.

The first one is whether the W.T.O. is dictating. Shri N.K. Singh knows that the W.T.O. is a membership-driven organisation. The Secretariat can compile. The Secretariat is meant for that and it is paid for that. But, it is the political leaders and the Member countries of the W.T.O. who will decide what to do. The Secretariat does not decide in any multilateral organisation — whether it be the UN or the WIPO or the WTO. So, there is no question of harbouring any fears or concerns on that. Sir, I may also say, hon. Member, Shri Amar Singhji, has expressed concern about the farmers. I am very happy.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I hope the hon. Minister will have the same volume when he argues for us in the W.T.O.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Do not worry. I have no doubt, Arun.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I believe, he will.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition should not have any doubt. In fact, I am always here to say what the status is. We shall continue to do so, because we are a democracy. We would like, as a Government and I as a Minister, to keep the hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Members in the Opposition and my own colleagues in the Treasury Benches, to fully apprise of the developments at every stage.

But, just to assure Shri Amar Singh about his concern whether we will come under the pressure. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has also said the same. Sir, there is no question of coming under pressure when it comes to trade policy. India will come under only one pressure, the pressure of its interest, the pressure of its people and the pressure of its farmers. There is no question of we being pro-America. Sir, Shri Amar Singh knows America much better than me. He knows Mr. Bill Clinton, Ms. Hillary Clinton. He supports them in the foundation. I didn't do that. So, please do not have any concern...

SHRI AMAR SINGH: That is the reason for his apprehension.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I will make it clear where we are and we are pro-whom.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Since he has mentioned my name, I will respond to it after his reply.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is said in a positive sense. Surely, I have no objection to his engagement.

Sir, what I am saying is 'where we are.' I am just concluding. We are pro-whom? We are pro-India, if our commitment is to uphold the supreme national interest of this country. Sir, when we take the negotiations forward, we are clear that historical distortions must be corrected. There should be a rule-based global trade regime which protects the livelihood concerns of the subsistence farmers in the developing countries, the poor in the developing countries, also ensures food security and protection for the vulnerable industrial sectors.

I would like to thank the hon. Members who gave me this opportunity to share my views. Thank you.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has taken my name. उन्होंने मेरा नाम लिया है, तो मैं इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि प्रधान मंत्री मनमोहन सिंह जी की जानकारी में मेरी दोस्ती क्लिंटन दंपति से है। बिल क्लिंटन से ज्यादा है और हिलेरी क्लिंटन से उनकी पत्नी के नाते हैं। मैंने फाउंडेशन की मदद किसी ऐसे तरीके से नहीं की है कि मैंने देश के किसी कानून का उल्लंघन किया है। अगर ऐसा किया है, तो वे जांच करवा लें। ... (व्यवधान) .. वे जांच करवा लें और दूसरी बात यह है कि मैंने यह न्यूक्लियर डील को करवाने के लिए किया है। इनकी न्यूक्लियर (व्यवधान) रिपब्लिकन्स सपोर्ट कर रहे थे और डेमोक्रेट्स विरोध कर रहे थे, तो उन्होंने मेरा इस्तेमाल किया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-nine minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at three of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2009-10

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2009-10.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (JHARKHAND), 2009-10

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jharkhand for the year 2009-10.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Short Duration Discussion on Price Rise. Mr. Kalraj Mishra.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation arising out of continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मूल्य वृद्धि जिस स्तर से हो रही है उसको देखने के बाद यह लगता है कि सामान्य गरीब व्यक्ति ही नहीं, मध्यम वर्गीय से लेकर सभी लोग इससे जबर्दस्त प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। हालात ऐसे होते जा रहे हैं कि सरकार जितनी बार घोषणा करती है कि हम नियंत्रण करेंगे, जल्दी ही करेंगे, धैर्य रखना चाहिए, उतनी तेजी के साथ महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है। अगर हम अपने इस विशाल देश की स्थिति को देखें तो हमें दिखाई पड़ेगा कि अधिकांश लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। ऐसे हालात हैं कि सामान्य समय में भी आजीविका की, भरण-पोषण की जो उनकी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, वह भी कर सकने में सक्षम नहीं हो पाते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति है। इसलिए देश का हर चौथा व्यक्ति एक ओर भूखा रहता है। चार वर्षों में देश में भूख से मरने वालों की तादाद चार हजार आठ सौ हो गई है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन UNFAO की जो रिपोर्ट है, उन्होंने कहा है कि दुनिया के सबसे ज्यादा गरीब तथा भूख और कुपोषण से पीड़ित तेइस करोड़ तीस लाख लोग भारत में हैं। देश में गरीब आदमी की आमदनी खाद्य मूल्य वृद्धि के अनुपात में नहीं बढ़ी। एक तरफ अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति ने कहा था कि भारत के लोग ज्यादा खाते हैं। लेकिन जो आंकड़े हैं, आंकड़े तो यह बताते हैं कि जब आम आदमी को खाद्य पदार्थ ही उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रहा है तो वह खाना कहां से खाएगा। 1999 में खाद्य खपत प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 186 किलोग्राम था, आज खाद्य खपत प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 152 किलोग्राम है, यानी खाद्यान्न खपत प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष 45 किलोग्राम कम हो गई है। सरकार के आंकड़ों के अनुसार ही आबादी का 28.5 फीसदी इतने लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं, अर्थात् सात करोड़ परिवार, अर्थात् 35 करोड़ से ज्यादा लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। भारत सरकार ने अर्जुन सेन गुप्ता कमेटी गठित की थी। कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर देश के 77 फीसदी नागरिकों की आय प्रतिदिन बीस रुपया है। इस प्रकार 77 परसेंट नागरिकों की आय बीस रुपया है। बीस रुपए में आम आदमी आटा, दाल, तेल, चावल क्या खरीद पाएगा, उसकी क्या हालत होगी। मान्यवर, देश में जो गरीबी की स्थिति है, उसमें बहुत ज्यादा सुधार तो नहीं दिखाई पड़ता, यद्यपि हम जरूर यह कहते हैं कि हमारी विकास दर बढ़ती जा रही है, परचेसिंग पॉवर बढ़ती जा रही है, लेकिन गरीबी भी उसी तरह से बढ़ती जा रही है। सर, मैं जो आंकड़े दे रहा हूं, ये आंकड़े 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना की वार्षिक योजना की रिपोर्ट तथा आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण की रिपोर्ट से लिए गए हैं, ये अन्यथा आंकड़े नहीं हैं। 35 राज्यों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में तीन राज्यों -बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश में आबादी का 40 फीसदी लोग गरीबी की जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। गरीबों की कुल संख्या का दो तिहाई छः राज्यों में उड़ीसा, पश्चिम बंगाल, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र और उत्तर प्रदेश में है।

ग्रामीण भारत के कुछ भागों में गरीबी अफ्रीका के अत्यधिक वंचित देशों से भी ज्यादा है और इतना ही नहीं, प्रति व्यक्ति जीडीपी में भारत से अच्छी स्थिति श्रीलंका, ब्राजील, मिस्र, वियतनाम, थाइलैंड और इंडोनेशिया की है।

मान्यवर, बहुत से ऐसे प्रदेश हैं जिनमें बड़ी तादाद ऐसी है जिनको खाना नहीं मिल पाता है। इस बारे में, मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार 2005-06 के अनुसार तीन वर्ष से छोटे बच्चों में कुपोषण 45.9 फीसदी है और अपर्याप्त भोजन पाने वाले प्रदेशों की जो सूची है, वह इस प्रकार है - असम में पांच फीसदी है, पश्चिमी बंगाल में नौ फीसदी है, उड़ीसा में 5.3 फीसदी है, केरल में 2.3 फीसदी है, बिहार में 2.7 फीसदी है, छत्तीसगढ़ में 2.2 फीसदी है। एनएसएस ने आंकड़ों के हिसाब से गरीबी के बारे में बतलाया है, उन्होंने कहा है कि 20 रुपया प्रति व्यक्ति खपत प्रतिदिन की होती है। वर्ष 2004-05 में शहरी में 32.3 फीसदी की और ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में 71.9 फीसदी ही केवल 20 रुपया प्रति दिवस और इससे भी कम व्यक्ति के पास पैसे हैं। मान्यवर, यह आंकड़े मैंने वही दिए हैं, जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण के हिसाब से हैं।

इस समय देश में महंगाई की स्थिति कैसी है ? इस समय देश का चित्र तो यह है कि महंगाई बढ़ रही है। जहां इस चित्र को बदलने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए, जिससे देश के लोगों के जीवन में उन्नयन हो सके, उसके लिए प्रयत्न करने चाहिए, लेकिन रूप कैसा बनता जा रहा है ? अब हालत ऐसी बनती जा रही है कि जो थोक मूल्यों पर आधारित आंकड़ों के अनुसार महंगाई दर 17.5 प्रतिशत को पार कर गई है, जबकि सरकार जीडीपी की दर 7.9 फीसदी पर अपनी पीठ थप-थपा रही है और कह रही है कि जीडीपी बहुत बढ़ गई है। आलू का दाम एक वर्ष के अंदर 111 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, प्याज 27 फीसदी बढ़ी है, दाल 35 फीसदी बढ़ी है, चीनी 54 फीसदी बढ़ी है और नवम्बर के प्रथम सप्ताह से जो दाम बढ़ने शुरू हुए हैं - गेहूं में 12 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, चावल में 12 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, दूध में 11 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, फल में 11 फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, तेल 50 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, नमक 50 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। बहुत सारी चीजों का नाम लिया जा सकता है, लेकिन जो प्रमुख चीजें सामने आई हैं, उनके बारे में बता रहा हूँ। हर खाद्यान्न का दाम बढ़ा है। जो भी आवश्यक उपभोक्ता की चीजें हैं, जिनका प्रयोग आम आदमी करता है, उन सब चीजों के दाम बढ़े हैं। महंगाई आसमान छूने लगी है। आश्चर्य इस बात का है कि वैश्विक मंदी की बात कही जाती है, लेकिन हमारे यहां महंगाई आसमान छू रही है। महंगाई इस ढंग से आसमान छू रही है कि लगने लगा है कि अगर ऐसी हालत बनी रही, तो कैसी स्थिति आगे चलकर होगी। इसीलिए उच्चतम न्यायालय को कहना पड़ता है कि सरकार महंगाई रोके। लेकिन महंगाई नहीं रुक पा रही है, तो सरकार क्या कर रही है ? सरकार के मंत्रीगण अलग-अलग वक्तव्य दे रहे हैं। मंत्रीगण कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी। भारत के प्रधान मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं, आप भी कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी। वित्त मंत्री जी भी कहते हैं कि महंगाई और बढ़ेगी। हम इसको रोक नहीं पा रहे हैं, आखिर सरकार महंगाई को रोक क्यों नहीं पा रही है ? सरकार कहती है कि सटोरियों के कारण महंगाई बढ़ रही है, कालाबाजारियों के कारण महंगाई बढ़ रही है। कालाबाजारियों और सटोरियों पर सरकार नियंत्रण नहीं कर पा रही है, इसलिए महंगाई बढ़ रही है। सरकार क्या इतनी असहाय हो गई है कि वह कालाबाजारियों और सटोरियों को नियंत्रित करने में अक्षम है, अपने को असहाय महसूस कर रही है। जब सरकार अपने को असहाय महसूस कर रही है, तो आम आदमी की सुरक्षा कैसे हो सकती है।

मान्यवर, मंत्रिमंडल में भी आपस में भी इस बारे में दो विचार हैं। एक तो यह है कि इसको बाजार पर छोड़ दो, बाजार जैसे बढ़े-चढ़े, वैसे चलने दो, लेकिन अपनी जीडीपी बढ़नी चाहिए। जीडीपी बढ़े, लेकिन बाजार जैसे भी चलता रहे, उसको चलने दो, महंगाई आसमान छूती रहे, लोग त्राहि-त्राहि करते रहें, उसे

उनके भाग्य पर छोड़ दो। केन्द्र सरकार महंगाई के प्रश्न पर इन सारी चीजों को देखते हुए, जितनी गंभीर होनी चाहिए, शायद उतनी गंभीर नहीं है। NDA के जमाने में भी महंगाई थोड़ी सी बढ़नी शुरू हुई थी, लेकिन उस समय सामूहिक प्रयत्नों के आधार पर महंगाई पर नियंत्रण रखा गया था और लोगों की लाइनें नहीं लगने दी थीं। लोगों को समुचित तौर पर सभी सामान वितरित करने में लोग सक्षम थे। उस समय किसी प्रकार की भी कठिनाई नहीं थी। इस समय तो यह हालत हो गई है कि BPL के लिए दो रुपए किलो गेहूं और चावल को वितरित करने के लिए भी एजेंसीज नहीं मिल पा रही हैं। यह लोगों को ढंग से वितरित हो जाए, इसके लिए भी एजेंसीज नहीं मिल पा रही हैं, इसलिए हालत बहुत खराब है।

मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मानसून सत्र के समय मैंने इस ओर ध्यान दिलाया था कि लाखों टन दाल और लाखों टन चीनी बंदरगाहों पर सड़ गई और उसका ठीक से उपयोग नहीं हुआ। वह इसलिए नहीं हुआ कि उनको अनापत्ति पत्र प्राप्त नहीं हुआ था। उसका समुचित तौर पर जो वितरण होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं हो पाया। रबी की फसल और खरीफ की फसल का उत्पादन ढंग से बढ़े, इसके लिए भी सरकार को जिस प्रकार से ध्यान देना चाहिए, उसमें कमी दिखाई पड़ती है। पानी ठीक से नहीं मिल पाता है और खाद भी ठीक से नहीं मिल पाती है, तो फिर उत्पादन कहां से होगा? हालत ऐसी हो गई है कि कृषि की हालत बड़ी खराब होती जा रही है। कृषि पर 70 प्रतिशत लोग आधारित हैं। सरकार ने वार्षिक योजना 2007-08 में कृषि की विकास दर 4 प्रतिशत तय की थी, किन्तु वह दर आज भी एक से दो प्रतिशत के आसपास है। वर्ष 1999-2000 में कृषि निवेश 11.9 प्रतिशत था। आज वह 6.6 प्रतिशत से भी कम हो गया है। लगभग 24 कृषि जिन्यों को वायदा कारोबारों से मुक्त करने की आवश्यकता है और इस पर तत्काल रोक लगनी चाहिए। वहीं घटती पैदावार प्रति हेक्टेयर उपज को बढ़ाने के प्रभावी कदम उठाने होंगे। ऐसे बीजों को विस्तृत करना पड़ेगा, जो पानी की खपत करें तथा पैदावार ज्यादा दें। आज भी 73 फीसदी किसानों को सस्ते कृषि ऋण उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। उनको अन्य साधनों से ऊंची दरों पर ऋण लेना पड़ता है, जिससे वे लगातार कर्ज के बोझ से दबते जा रहे हैं तथा वे बेबस और लाचार हैं। मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि कृषि के खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन लगातार घटता जा रहा है। सरकार के आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण की जो रिपोर्ट है, उसमें लिखा है कि चावल का उत्पादन 1 फीसदी, गेहूं दो फीसदी, गन्ना 14.9 फीसदी और दाल का 9 फीसदी उत्पादन गिरा है। अनाज का उत्पादन लगातार गिर रहा है और प्रति व्यक्ति हेक्टेयर उपज भी कम हो रही है। जो 2008-09 की आर्थिक समीक्षा की रिपोर्ट है, इसके अनुसार 2007-08 की तुलना में अनाज .8 मिलियन टन पैदा हुआ, गेहूं 1.1 मिलियन टन, मोटा अनाज 7.9 मिलियन टन, दाल 8.5 मिलियन टन और कुल खाद्यान्न 1.4 मिलियन टन की पैदावार कम हुई। अभी बफर स्टॉक की बात भी है। सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली और अन्य कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के लिए बफर स्टॉक रखते हैं। उसके मानक के हिसाब से कम से कम गेहूं, चावल क्रमशः 122 लाख टन, 40 लाख टन होना चाहिए। इसके सापेक्ष में कुल स्टॉक 350.33 लाख टन, गेहूं का 216.04 लाख टन और चावल का 134.29 लाख टन बफर स्टॉक है। मैं चीनी के बारे में भी बताना चाहूंगा कि “इंडियन शुगर मिल्स एसोसिएशन” की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2009-10 में भी चीनी के दाम कम नहीं होंगे। किसान मिलों में गन्ना कम ला रहा है और चीनी की मांग 230 लाख टन है।

मांग और उत्पादन में सत्तर लाख का अंतर इसकी कीमत को बढ़ाने का मौका दे रहा है। सरकार ने चीनी का आयात करने से पहले ही हाथ खड़े कर दिए हैं। मान्यवर, जो आयात है, सरकार ने जो आयात किया है, वह वर्ष 2006-07 में गेहूं का आयात 5.5 मिलियन टन था, वर्ष 2007-08 1.8 मिलियन टन आयात किया था। कृषि मंत्री के अनुसार, नेफेड के लिए सफेद चीनी का दस लाख टन आयात करने के लिए कहा गया। चीनी मिलों ने लगभग कच्ची चीनी के आयात का समझौता किया है, जिसमें चालीस लाख टन आयात होना है। इसके बाद भी इसके दाम बढ़ना तय है, ऐसा कृषि मंत्री जी का वक्तव्य भी आया था। कृषि मंत्री जी के

अनुसार प्रति वर्ष पच्चीस से तीस लाख टन दाल आयात होती है, जबकि अभी तक छब्बीस लाख टन दाल आयात हो चुकी है।

मान्यवर, वायदा बाजार की बात कही जाती है। वायदा कारोबारियों, सटोरियों और बड़ी कंपनियों के खेल में महंगाई उलझ गई है। वायदा कारोबारियों ने केवल दाल और चीनी के कारोबार से करोड़ों रुपए का मुनाफा कमाया है। एक बार, एक दिन सरकार ने 2008 में वायदा कारोबार में चना, सोया, तेल, आलू पर रोक लगाई थी, 4 दिसम्बर, 2008 में उसे पुनः चालू कर दिया गया। यह क्यों किया, यह समझ में नहीं आया। वैट में महंगाई कितनी बढ़ी है, इसकी भी समीक्षा होनी चाहिए। मान्यवर, वायदा बाजार को लेकर अखबारों की सुर्खियां रंगी रहती हैं, जैसे दालों में सट्टेबाजों ने कमाए पांच सौ करोड़ रुपए, इसी ढंग से सुर्खियों में और भी आता रहेगा। महंगाई इसी कारण बढ़ रही है। आयात किया बफर स्टॉक में है, लेकिन जिस तरीके से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली होनी चाहिए, कौन सी एजेंसी वितरण करे, इसकी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। इस व्यवस्था की लापरवाही का दुष्परिणाम है कि भयंकर तरीके से महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है। यह उसके दुष्परिणाम के कारण है और उसी का नतीजा है कि वित्त मंत्री आरोप लगाते हैं कि राज्य सरकारें हमें सहयोग नहीं दे रही हैं। राज्य सरकार सटोरियों और काला बाजारियों को गिरफ्तार नहीं कर रही है। यह तो बड़ा ही अजीब प्रकार का आरोप है। मेरा तो यह कहना है कि जहां एक ही पार्टी की केंद्रीय सरकार है, एक ही पार्टी की राज्य सरकार है, अगर उसी पार्टी की सरकार है तो ऐसे लोगों को गिरफ्तार करके दिखाए कि महंगाई कैसे रोकते हैं। यह कहकर केंद्र सरकार अपनी जिम्मेदारी से हट नहीं सकती है कि चूंकि राज्य सरकार सहयोग नहीं दे रही है, इसलिए हम महंगाई नहीं रोक पा रहे हैं। अगर राज्य सरकार इस प्रकार की बात करेगी तो क्या केंद्र सरकार टुकुर-टुकुर ताकती रहेगी, जनता को मरने के लिए विवश करेगी? मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने आंकड़े दिए हैं, आंकड़ों के आधार पर बफर स्टॉक में क्या है, आयात कितना किया गया है, समुचित तौर पर वितरण प्रणाली की व्यवस्था की कमी के कारण जिस तरीके से आम आदमी को लाभान्वित करना चाहिए, नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। यह केवल इसलिए हो रहा है कि सरकार को महंगाई को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में जितना गंभीर होना चाहिए, उस गंभीरता का पूर्णतया अभाव है। जो बातें बार-बार कही जाती हैं कि यह सरकार आम आदमी के साथ है, यह आम आदमी के साथ जबर्दस्त धोखाधड़ी है। गरीबों की दुर्दशा हो रही है और इसलिए लोग भूखों मरने के लिए मजबूर होते जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी, वित्त मंत्री जी, कृषि मंत्री जी, प्रधानमंत्री जी यहां अर्थशास्त्रियों की कमी नहीं है, प्रधानमंत्री जी भी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, प्रणब जी भी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, इनको अच्छी जानकारी है, हमारे पूर्व वित्त मंत्री श्री पी. चिदम्बरम् जी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, इतने योग्य होने के पश्चात् भी जिस बाजार को नियंत्रित करना चाहिए, जिस मूल्य को नियंत्रित करना चाहिए और जिस प्रकार की वितरण की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए, उसको ढंग से न कर सकने के कारण मैं यही कह सकता हूँ कि जिस राजनैतिक इच्छाशक्ति की आवश्यकता है, आम आदमी के प्रति जितनी संवदेनशीलता होनी चाहिए, उसका पूर्णतया अभाव होने के कारण ये सारी चीजें नहीं हो रही हैं और परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि महंगाई आसमान छूती जा रही है और आम आदमी मरने के लिए मजबूर होता जा रहा है। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस दिशा में केवल भाषण मात्र न रहे, जितनी भी सारी चीजें हैं, आपके द्वारा ही प्रदत्त जो आंकड़े हैं, उन आंकड़ों के आधार पर समुचित वितरण व्यवस्था और साथ ही साथ कृषि के बारे में मैं विशेष तौर पर जोर देकर कहूंगा, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी यहां उपस्थित हैं, कृषि के बारे में विशेष चिन्ता करते हुए कहूंगा क्योंकि आज कृषि का उत्पादन घटता जा रहा है..। यह उत्पादन घटना एक खतरनाक संकेत है। इस उत्पादन को कैसे बढ़ाया जा सके और किस प्रकार की सुविधा प्रदान की जा सके, इसकी विशेष चिन्ता करनी चाहिए, तब शायद हम महंगाई को बाँध सकने में कुछ सक्षम, कुछ सफल हो सकेंगे। इतनी बात कह कर मैं यह अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस दिशा में कड़ा-से-कड़ा कदम उठाएंगे।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. Sir, this is, undoubtedly, a very important issue for us to be discussing in the House. It is with a great deal of seriousness and concern that all of us are gathered here to discuss the issue of rise in prices. This Government, particularly, Sir, has come into Government and has formed the Government upon the promise and mandate that our concern lies with the most disadvantaged sections of the society and our entire focus and priority will be the most disadvantaged sections of the society, the poorest of the poor, the people who are at the edge and below the poverty line. Therefore, Sir, I believe, that the priority of the Government is and should be to moderate inflation, to moderate food prices, to increase inclusive growth, to give a substantial impetus to agriculture and, above all, to insulate the weakest and most disadvantaged sections of the society from all the issues of price rise that have been spoken about by the speaker before me and that the entire country is agitated about. However, Sir, at the same time, I would urge this House, through you, to take a look at the facts so that we may, in an atmosphere of calm, reasonableness decide and discuss together how best this problem should be addressed. First of all, Sir, the hon. Member who spoke before me was very passionate and emotional and gave a great deal of details and statistics. But I was surprised to find that he completely neglected to mention that, particularly, over the last year and also in recent times, 27 out of 36 meteorological districts in this country have been affected by moderate to severe drought. Also, Sir, the people of my State and the people of Karnataka have been devastated by floods. The loss of lives, the loss of livestock, the loss of crops, the loss of agriculture is incalculable. It appears to me that the hon. Member was speaking in a vacuum. Naturally in an atmosphere where you are concerned, your immediate instinct would be to address those issues to the Government and that is as it should be, that should be reasonable. But we should look at the broader picture. What is this Government battling with? This Government is not sitting upon a mountain of plenty and refusing to do its job. The fact of the matter is we have been hit hard; 27 out of 36 meteorological districts have moderate to severe drought in the country, while in such a large country as India, the other districts, particularly in Karnataka, to a lesser extent in Tamil Nadu and to a large extent in Andhra Pradesh also have been devastated by floods.

Then, Sir, if you look at other issues, if you look at an international picture of global recession, the new driving forces of urbanisation, of consumption, of production market, of income growth, the issue of climate change, the changing factors in the climate all these have impacted severely upon agriculture, have impacted severely upon the most poverty-stricken of our people. Therefore, I would urge this House to look at the entire issue in that background and in that light, and to examine what the Government has done in that background and to see and suggest, we have every right in the House to suggest that Government has to perform

better. We have to perform better and we will perform better. But I would urge that we should first see what is the background.

Now, Sir, in this context, I would also like to say that an overly alarming picture has also been painted by the media in an attempt to sensationalise the issue. That too, Sir, to spread some kind of panic among people would be an entirely misguided effort and would be a great disservice to the people of this country is what I believe. Every time to come up with alarming statistics of how much the prices have gone up when actually that is not the correct picture is also doing some kind of disservice to the nation. I believe that the media should also exercise some kind of restraint. It should report productively and report facts correctly, as they are, and present them to the people, so that there is no scary situation.

Despite all the problems that he has mentioned, despite all the figures that have been given by the hon. Member who spoke before me, the fact remains that there is not even the remotest possibility of a food scarcity in our country. It is not as if we are going to have starvation in the country. We have buffer stocks of 153.49 lakh tonnes of rice as against the prescribed norms of 52 lakh tonnes. These are Government figures, given by the hon. Agriculture Minister. Our buffer stock for wheat stands at 284.57 lakh tonnes as against the norm of 110 lakh tonnes for wheat. Therefore, this question does not arise.

Sir, our procurement of rice and wheat has been the highest ever since Independence and that is another issue that we need to consider. Yes, we can distribute it better, but what are the constructive steps that we need to take? But let us not look at the entire picture as if everything is doom and gloom. Let us look at it in a spirit of constructive suggestion. Our procurement has been the highest ever with 33.1 million tonnes of rice as also 22.57 million tonnes of wheat. This is the highest ever since Independence.

Sir, consider also the fact that under the *Antyodaya* Scheme, 35 kg of foodgrains, rice at Rs.3 per kg and wheat at Rs.2 per kg, are being given to every family. (*Interruptions*) Whenever you get your chance, you surely bring to the notice of the House the issues and the *Antyodaya* Scheme. But the fact of the matter is that the Government has instituted the *Antyodaya* Scheme. The lapses, if any, are for us to address. The fact is that under the scheme, the issue price of rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil, and pulses has not gone up since this Government came to power in 2004. It has not gone up by one rupee. It has not gone up by even one paisa. The Government stands committed steadfastly to the fact that the most disadvantaged sections of society have to be insulated and given social security net in terms of poverty reduction.

Sir, the Government has taken tremendous pains. The hon. Member spoke about the agriculture sector. To me, one of the most important issues — I am not an expert — regarding

agriculture is the question of Minimum Support Price in terms of what a Government can do. The Minimum Support Price for rice has been increased by this Government by 79 per cent from Rs.560 to Rs.1,000. The MSP for wheat has been increased by 72 per cent from Rs.640 to Rs.1,100. The intention of the Government to help the farmer, to help the agriculture sector, and to take all steps to protect the disadvantaged people of the country is very clear and very, very transparent for the entire world to see. You look at the fiscal measures; you look at the administrative measures.

The hon. Member raised the question of futures trading. The futures trading has been stopped. When the entire issue became a very big problem, futures trading in four vital items, namely, rice, urad dal, tuar dal and sugar has been suspended. Also, the export of non-Basmati rice, edible oil, and pulses have been banned.

Fiscal measures have been taken by the Government. A large amount of money has been injected into the economy. I believe that whatever measures a Central Government can possibly take, those steps and those measures have been taken by the Government to good effect.

The hon. Member spoke about growth. Nobody wants jobless and inflated growth. Nobody wants growth where prices are beyond the reach of common man. That would be a complete anomaly in our democracy; that would make a travesty of our democracy. Nobody supports the issue of a GDP growth where prices are very high. And it is not that as if this Government is advocating a GDP growth where prices of essential commodities are very high, particularly of food items, and where food inflation is very high. We have to take all steps to bring that food inflation down.

However, Sir, growth is not a dirty word. We need growth. We need GDP growth. The fact of the matter is that we should be proud that despite a severing global economic crisis over the last several years, our economy has given very encouraging signals of recovery of growth from 6.7 per cent and is now projected to grow by 7.9 per cent. The infrastructure sector has gone up. Cement, steel, coal, etc. have all gone up. Electricity generation, according to official figures, has gone up by six per cent and infrastructure doubled to 4.3 per cent this year. It is because of the policies of this stable Government, the policies initiated by the Government that the GDP has grown to this extent. This is something that we should be quietly proud of while never losing sight of the fact that food inflation stares us in the face and food inflation needs to be brought under control. Now, Sir, I have already enumerated and I would like to enumerate once again the measures that have been taken on the fiscal and administrative side.

Sir, as far as the fiscal measures that have been taken are concerned, import duty has been reduced to zero for rice, sugar, wheat, pulses, edible oil and maize. For refined and hydrogenated vegetable oils, duty is 0.78 per cent. One million tones of sugar have been

allowed to be imported by this Government. Sir, regarding the administrative measures, the Government has banned the export of non-basmati rice, edible oil, pulses, the Government also imposed short limit orders on paddy, rice, pulses, sugar and edible oils up to 31.11.2010, enhanced minimum support price to maximise production and banned future trading which I have already mentioned.

Now, Sir, this is a country where we believe in cooperative federalism and nobody in this hon. House can deny that out of the two pillars of any food security issue or the main pillar of any food security issue, one has to be the strengthening of the public distribution system and the other has to be taking very strict action against black-marketeers and hoarders. Sir, as far as taking strict action against black-marketeers and hoarders is concerned, there is the Prevention of Black Marketing Act, the Essential Commodities Act and there are orders that have come under the Act. Sir, it is unfortunate that in the NDA rule, the hon. Member, who spoke before me, was referring to so proudly, the Essential Commodities Act was diluted. It was during their time. *(Interruptions)*

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : *

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Mr. Javadekar, I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)*

श्री उपसभापति : अगर आप yield नहीं कर रही हैं तो nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)*

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : *

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am not yielding. *(Interruptions)* I would like to continue. *(Interruptions)* It is obviously a problem which you cannot address. *(Interruptions)* They cannot address. It is also a fact that the public distribution system was virtually dismantled by making it a targeted public distribution system by dividing it into different colour cards for people. All this was done under the NDA Government. But, the fact of the matter is that I would like to say that whatever steps can possibly be taken by the Central Government have been taken by the Central Government in pursuance of our commitment of our mandate to the common man. Sir, what will the States do? The Central Government has no territory. It is the Union of India. In cooperative federalism, the States are expected to take action against black-marketeers and hoarders and to strengthen the public distribution system. Are the States doing that? I think, Sir, it is our responsibility in the Council of States to demand that the States also should actually take action in this very sensitive and most important matter. If a State Government does not take steps against black-marketeers and hoarders, and does not strengthen the public distribution system, I would say that the State Government has completely failed in its duty to the people. Sir, if you look at the records which have been provided by the

*Not recorded.

hon. Minister in another context, in the last year, with regard to the black-marketeers and hoarders, by the Delhi Government, 70 raids have taken place, 45 arrests have taken place and 49 prosecutions have taken place. Sir, in Bihar — 4 raids, 2 arrests, zero prosecution; in Gujarat — 18459 raids, 18 arrests, 71 prosecutions; in Himachal Pradesh -- 14946 raids, three arrests, two prosecutions; in Kerala, 33638 raids, 18 arrests, 2 prosecutions. In Maharashtra, Sir, there were 716 raids, 1,171 arrests and 756 prosecutions; in my State of Tamil Nadu, there were 11,535 raids, 3,532 arrests and 1,079 prosecutions, and in West Bengal, there were 56 raids, 58 arrests and one prosecution! Therefore, we can gauge from these details that Tamil Nadu has performed exceptionally well. I am very proud that in my State, very serious measures are being taken, very serious steps are being taken to address...*(Interruptions)*... Very, very serious steps are being taken to address this entire issue of black-marketeers, of hoarders and of strengthening the Public Distribution System, which is, undeniably, the pillar of a social security net as far as the most disadvantaged sections are concerned.

Sir, there is one final issue that I would like to bring to the notice of the House, and that, again, is wrong.....*(Interruptions)*... These are not some figures that I am pulling out of a hat. This is from a reputed daily newspaper. It projects very clearly how the retail prices are rising, the inflation is used by sellers as an excuse to hike rates, and the difference between the price in the wholesale market and the price in the retail market is going up. If you look at the comparative prices of vegetables, the price of ladyfingers is Rs.60/- in the retail market, and Rs.28/-, in the wholesale market; the price of bottlegourd is Rs.40/- in the retail market, and Rs.12/-, in the wholesale market, and the price of cauliflower is Rs.30/- in the retail market, and Rs.5/-, in the wholesale market. This is from *The Times of India*, which is not a paper particularly slanted in any political direction. I only use these figures and the newspaper to say that this is an issue which also has very serious political dimensions. Therefore, Sir, it is not merely a question of politics when I say that it is the State Governments which also have to step in. As I said, the Government of India has no territory of its own. It is the State Governments that have to take a very strong action and crack the whip against black-marketeers and hoarders. These people are doing a tremendous disservice to our national economy and to the people of our country. At the same time, we should address this entire issue of rising prices which also, Sir,. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have checked the figures. ...*(Interruptions)*... The point I would like to reiterate, Sir, is.....*(Interruptions)*... These are my final concluding remarks. The fact is that when I say this, I do not say this in a spirit of political blame game. I do not take the name of any State; I do not take the name of any political party. My issue is very simple. It is not a question of why should the States do it and why should the Centre do it. I believe that the Centre has to do its duty, and if it does not do its duty, they will be called to task by the people of this country. I have enumerated the steps which this Government has taken — the political party of which I

am a Member, is part of this Government — and the steps that this Government has taken, I very firmly believe, are good steps; those are steps being taken to ameliorate the suffering of the common man. I would ask any Member, from the other side, to give suggestions, constructive suggestions, on how this Government may improve their performance. However, Sir, the State Governments cannot run away from their responsibility of strengthening the Public Distribution and of taking a strong action against hoarders and black-marketeers, to see that the prices come down. I would like to request all concerned to stop spreading unnecessary sensationalism and panic when none is called for. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Shyamal Chakraborty. Your Party has ten minutes and there are two speakers. Please keep this in mind.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, on such an important issue extra time will have to be given.

Thanks for allowing me to participate in the discussion. Sir, we are very proud of our best space scientists who are sending rockets to the space, and are also proud of most of those scientists who were able to send their rockets and strike in the lunar surface and extract water from the moon surface. But, unfortunately, our Government has tied the prices of essential commodities with the rocket and as the rocket goes high the price also goes high. When the rocket hits the moon, the price rocket is hitting the human being and extracting tears from the eyes of the *aam admi*. So, this is the situation in our country. Now I am sure that there is one problem which we are facing in India. It is drought. No doubt about it. Flood is a regular phenomenon. It happens every year. So, when the planners and the Government make the plans for the benefit of the people, they have to take into consideration these things. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, drought is this year's phenomenon. But price rise is a regular phenomenon and it is rising almost every year.

My previous speaker attributed the responsibility to the State Governments, without naming or blaming any State or any political party. Okay. That is her privilege. But what I would like to say is that the anti-hoarding clause has been diluted in such a way that it prevented the State Government from taking steps against the hoarders and black-marketeers and they can't be arrested and punished. Raids can be organised. It is the West Bengal people who opened their eyes against the black-marketeers and tried to see that the land is fragmented in such a way that it is not possible for some people, the black-marketeers, to hoard their stock. But that is a different case. The problem is that it is the State Government which is increasing the price of inputs of agriculture. Take the price of fertilizer. Who is determining the price of fertilizer?

It is the Central Government. Who is raising or determining the price of electricity? That is done as per the Electricity Bill which was introduced in 2003 and passed by the previous Government. The electricity rate is growing every year. Electricity is such an ingredient that both agriculture and industry are dependent on that.

The next point is the support price. The support price is fixed in such way that it is too inadequate to compensate the production cost of today. That is most important. What are the hoarders doing? They are paying bigger amount than the support price for the agricultural product. The peasants or farmers are compelled to sell their products to them. The reason is that the Government ordered support price is too inadequate for them.

Then comes the question of oil. It is an essential commodity for transporting agricultural and industrial products. The price of oil is regularly rising in our country. When we ask the Government, they used to say that it depends on international price. But it is a travesty of truth. What is the international price of oil today? It is 72 dollars per barrel. If you convert it into the Indian currency, then, it comes to Rs.22 per litre. But what is the selling price in the market? It is Rs.33 per litre for diesel and Rs.45 per litre for petrol.

As regards electricity, I have already referred to the price of electricity. My previous speaker has mentioned that growth is not a dirty word. Yes, I appreciate that growth is not a dirty word. But certainly the growth in the price of essential commodities is a dirty word. No doubt about it. That is what we want to say.

Now I come to BPL, which has been referred to repeatedly by several speakers. What is BPL? According to the Government reports 77 per cent of our population earns below Rs. 20 per day, that means, actually, 77 per cent of our people are poor. So the Public Distribution System should be introduced for those 77 per cent people at subsidised rates. If you can provide tax concession of Rs. 4,20,000 crores to the corporators, why a portion of that can't be transferred for subsidising agricultural and industrial products which are essentially meant for common people? What prevented the Government from doing that? Actually, the people have been cheated and exploited by the policies framed by the successive Governments. If the Government brings all the essential commodities under the PDS at subsidised rates, then the prices in the open market will be compelled to go down.

Sir, today a cartoon was published in *The Hindu*. The cartoon says, "We can promise a 100 per cent cut in emission because with the ever rising prices, there will be no cooking". Thank you.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, यह महंगाई कितनी गंभीर है, इसका इसी से अंदाजा लगाया जा सकता है कि आज अखबार में एक खबर छपी कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में जो गरीब लोग हैं, वे

रसायन युक्त गेहूं का बीज खरीद कर और उसी को पिसवा कर, उसी आटे की रोटी खाते हैं। इससे उनके जीवन को खतरा पैदा हो गया है। यह इसलिए खाते हैं, क्योंकि बीज वाला गेहूं नौ रुपए प्रति किलो मिल रहा है और गेहूं का दाम बीस रुपए प्रति किलो है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो महंगाई है, वह हमारी नियति बन गई है। हम हर साल महंगाई पर चर्चा करते हैं ..(व्यवधान) ..

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : क्या खाते हैं?

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : गेहूं के बीज को पिसवा कर खाते हैं। रसायन युक्त गेहूं के बीज की कीमत नौ रुपए प्रति किलो है और अगर बाजार में गेहूं खरीदने जाएं, तो उसकी कीमत बीस रुपए प्रति किलो है। नौ रुपए प्रति किलो सस्ता है, इसलिए वह नौ रुपए वाली गेहूं के बीज खरीद कर, उसी को पिसवा कर, उसी आटे की रोटी खाते हैं। आज यह खबर अखबार में छपी है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो महंगाई है, यह महंगाई घटेगी नहीं, बल्कि यह महंगाई तो बढ़ेगी। केवल फर्क यह है कि उसका दर ऊंचा-नीचा होता रहता है, लेकिन दाम घटता नहीं है। इस महंगाई का हमारे जीवन पर कितना असर है, इस संबंध में एक पूंजीवादी बाजार के प्रबल समर्थक अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति Ronald Reagan ने एक बार कहा था कि “कीमत स्फीति बढ़ाने की तेज रफ्तार राहगीरों की धुनाई करने वाले बदमाशों की तरह हिंसक हथियारों से लैस डाकुओं की तरह खुंखार या हत्यारे निशाने वालों की तरह मौत की सौदागर होती है” यह है महंगाई। यह Ronald Reagan का कहना है।

अब सवाल यह है कि सरकार द्वारा महंगाई को मापने का जो तरीका है, वह अभी तक थोक सूचकांक पर आधारित है। वह आंकड़ेबाजी के चक्कर में लोगों को भरमाते रहे और लोगों को भूलाते रहे, परंतु मैं इसके लिए समाचार पत्रों का बहुत योगदान मानता हूँ... और यह अखबारों में बहुत प्रचारित होने लगा। अर्थशास्त्रियों ने भी समझाया कि जो थोक सूचकांक है, उसमें जिन जिनसों का, जिन वस्तुओं का आम आदमी के जीवन से संबंध है, वे तो केवल 22 फीसदी हैं और उद्योग व कारखानों से उत्पादित जो अन्य सामान है, वह 63 प्रतिशत है। तो आप अगर उसका एक आधार बनाते हैं, तो आदमी के जीवन में और भी जो चीजें हैं - शिक्षा है, परिवहन है और जो सेवा क्षेत्र है, वह सेवा क्षेत्र हमारे सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 50 प्रतिशत है, परंतु जो थोक सूचकांक तैयार किया जाता है, उसमें इसका कोई समावेश नहीं होता। महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि जीवन की जो आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं, यहां पर केवल उन्हीं की महंगाई की चर्चा होती है, परंतु जो आदमी निम्न-मध्यम वर्ग का है या निम्न वर्ग का है, उसको भी रेल से जाना होगा, बस से जाना होगा, उसको बच्चे की पढ़ाई का भी इंतजाम करना होगा, दवा खरीदनी होगी, तो आप समझिए कि उसके परिवार की जो मासिक आय है, उसका 50 प्रतिशत वह इन चीजों में खर्च कर देता है। आप यह देखिए कि यहां पर किसी प्रकार का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण आपको देना चाहता हूँ। आप अगर नई दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन से आएंगे और अगर आप टैक्सी या श्री व्हीलर hire करें, तो किसी भी टैक्सी या श्री व्हीलर में मीटर काम नहीं करता है। वे मनमाने तरीके से आपसे दाम मांगते हैं, जबकि दिल्ली की मुख्य मंत्री का रोज़ बयान आता है कि मीटर के बिना कोई नहीं चलेगा। अब आप यह समझिए कि उस महंगाई का असर हमारे ऊपर पड़ा या नहीं पड़ा। जो उपभोक्ता है, वह कोई नोट तो छापता नहीं है, क्योंकि आमदनी नहीं बढ़ रही है। आमदनी किसकी बढ़ रही है? हमारे समाज में एक बहुत बड़ा तबका है जो easy money कमाता है, जो भ्रष्टाचार करता है, जिसकी कमाई के अन्य स्रोत हैं। तो जिसकी कमाई के अन्य स्रोत हैं, उसी की आर्थिक गतिविधियों से तड़क-भड़क देखने को मिलती है, इसलिए हमें महंगाई का जो असर है, वह असर दिखाई नहीं देता, परंतु जो गरीब लोग हैं, जिनकी बंधी हुई आमदनी है, जो मजदूरी करते हैं, तनखाह पाते हैं, जिनकी आय का कोई अन्य साधन नहीं है, महंगाई का

असर उन पर दिखाई देता है। महोदय, मैं अभी स्विट्ज़रलैंड गया था। वहां पर लोगों ने बताया कि वे नौ-दस घंटे, दस-दस घंटे काम करते हैं। हमने पूछा कि कारण क्या है? उन्होंने कहा कि यहां आम आदमी को easy money की गुंजाइश नहीं है। अगर ईजी मनी किसी को मिल जाएगा, तो वह काम क्यों करेगा? उसको महंगाई की क्या चिंता है, चाहे जितने भी दाम बढ़ जाएं? आज सोने की खरीद सबसे ज्यादा है और इन चीजों की.... आप यह जानिए कि दुनिया की जो सबसे कीमती और महंगी कारें हैं, जो बहुत से यूरोपीय देशों में भी नहीं मिलेंगी, वह सात-आठ के करीब केवल दिल्ली में हैं। तो हमारे समाज का और हमारी स्थिति का यह जो ढांचा है, उसको देखते हुए हमें नहीं लगता कि महंगाई पर किसी प्रकार का कोई अंकुश लगेगा।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो खुदरा सूचकांक है, वह खुदरा सूचकांक ही असली पैमाना है कि हमारी जो क्रय-शक्ति है, हमारी जो खरीदने की ताकत है, हमारा जो रुपया है, वह खरीदने की ताकत के हिसाब से ही हमारी पहुंच से कितना बाहर होता जा रहा है? उसी के साथ-साथ यह महंगाई का त्रिशंकु सूचकांक न तो उत्पादन के काम आने वाले साज-सामान की कीमतों के स्तर और परिवर्तन की गति बता पाता है और न ही वस्तु सेवाओं की कीमतों का सूचकांक बन पाता है — यह मैंने कहा, क्योंकि यह जो सेवा क्षेत्र है, वह इस सूचकांक में शामिल नहीं होता है। अब आप यह देखिए कि जो कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, उसका कारण क्या है? उसका कारण अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने बताया कि जो वायदा कारोबार है, वह वायदा कारोबार पिछले चार वर्षों के पूर्व 65 हजार करोड़ रुपए का था। आज वह 37 लाख करोड़ तक पहुंच गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 92 प्रतिशत जो टर्न ओवर है, वह वायदा कारोबार में है। महोदय, बड़ी और बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां भी जमाखोरी करती हैं। आप छोटे-मोटे व्यापारी को तो पकड़ लेंगे — अभी माननीय सदस्या आंकड़े दे रही थीं — लेकिन ये जो बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियां हैं, बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां हैं, ये जिस प्रकार से जमाखोरी करती हैं, इनको कोई नहीं देखता है क्योंकि सटोरिए, जमाखोर, बड़े अफसर और राजनेता — इनकी जो सांठ-गांठ है, यह सांठ-गांठ भी दामों की बढ़ोत्तरी का बहुत बड़ा कारण माना जाती है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी कोई दाम नीति नहीं है। उसी दाम नीति के न होने का यह कारण है। आज खाद्य सुरक्षा की बात बहुत कही जाती है, आज हमारा उत्पादन निरंतर घट रहा है। खेती घाटे का धंधा हो रही है। हम पहले संतुलित खेती करते थे, लेकिन हरित क्रांति के बाद हमने केवल गेहूं और चावल पर सबसे ज्यादा जोर दिया तथा जो हमारा दलहन है या दूसरी फसलें हैं, उन पर जोर कम हो गया। मगर आज हम देखते हैं कि गेहूं और चावल के उत्पादन में भी कमी हुई है। इसलिए आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि खेती में निवेश बढ़े और निजी निवेश बढ़े। खेती में निजी निवेश जहां 1999-2000 में 11.9 प्रतिशत था, वह आज घटकर 6.6 प्रतिशत रह गया है। किसानों को सस्ती दरों पर कर्ज मिलना चाहिए लेकिन आज 73 प्रतिशत किसान सस्ती दरों पर कर्ज मिलने की सेवाओं से मुक्त हैं, दूर हैं, उनका कोई मतलब नहीं है। जब तक आप उनको पैसा उपलब्ध नहीं कराएंगे, जब तक आप उनको बैंकों के trap में, बैंकों के घेरे में नहीं लाएंगे, तब तक उनकी स्थिति में किसी प्रकार का सुधार नहीं हो सकता। गोदाम उद्योगों को भी बुनियादी उद्योग का दर्जा देना पड़ेगा। अंत में, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो कीमतें हैं - हम लोग हमेशा इस प्रकार की बात करते रहे कि दाम बांधों - उन कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने की कोई वास्तविक, कोई बुनियादी नीति होनी चाहिए। हमारी समाजवादी पार्टी बराबर कीमतों को रोकने के लिए जिन नीतियों पर विश्वास करती है, मैं उनका उद्धरण करना चाहता हूं। किसी भी आवश्यक विनिर्मित वस्तु की कीमत असली लागत के डेढ़ गुणा से अधिक नहीं हो। यह कानून बनना चाहिए कि जो भी चीज बने, उसकी जो असली लागत है, उस पर जो असली खर्च आया है, अगर वह बाजार में आए तो वह डेढ़ गुणा के अंदर fluctuate करे। आज उसका कोई हिसाब नहीं है। आज जो maximum rate है, उसकी cost accountancy की कोई transparency नहीं है, कोई जानकारी नहीं है कि उसकी असली लागत क्या है। आज कीमतें दो-ढाई गुणा से लेकर 5 या 6 गुणा तक हैं।

4.00 P.M.

श्री उपसभापति : कृपया समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : खाद्यान्नों की कीमतों का उतार-चढ़ाव दो फसलों के बीच, एक आना प्रति सेर या 15 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा न हो। आज आप देखते हैं कि किसान जब फसल तैयार करता है तब उसका रेट क्या होता है और उसके बाद जब फसल खत्म हो जाती है, जब बनियों के हाथ में या सरकार के गोदामों में वह चली जाती है, तब उसका दाम कितना होता है। इसलिए हम लोग यह मानते रहे हैं कि दो फसलों के बीच में कम से कम 16 प्रतिशत के अंदर उतार-चढ़ाव होना चाहिए। आज वह 6 और 7 गुणा ज्यादा हो गया है। तीसरा, किसान को अपनी फसल की इतनी कीमत मिलनी चाहिए जिससे उसकी लागत भी पूरी हो तथा उसे साधारण तौर पर सम्मानजनक जीवन-स्तर मिले। ..(समय की घंटी).. कृषि वस्तुओं की कीमतों तथा औद्योगिक वस्तुओं की कीमतों में औचित्यपूर्ण समानता बनी रहे। स्वामिनाथन कमेटी ने भी अपनी रिपोर्ट में संस्तुति दी है कि किसानों को उनकी लागत से कम से कम 50 प्रतिशत लाभ मिलना चाहिए। इस पर भी कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। अंतिम बात यह कही गयी है कि कृषि वस्तुओं और निर्यातित खाद्य पदार्थों एवं आयातित विनिर्मित माल की कीमतों में औचित्यपूर्ण बराबरी हो। यानी हम जो एक्सपोर्ट करें और जो बाहर से इम्पोर्ट हो, अगर उनमें कोई बराबरी नहीं है तो हम तो लुट जाएंगे।

श्री उपसभापति : तिवारी जी, खत्म करिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कीमतों के बारे में जब तक इन बुनियादी आधारों पर बुनियादी नीतियां तय नहीं की जातीं, दाम बांधा नहीं जाता, तब तक केवल आरोप-प्रत्यारोप से काम नहीं चलेगा कि यह राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है। हमारे वामपंथी साथी ने ठीक ही कहा कि जो बुनियादी चीज है, मूल चीज है, उसका दाम तो आप ही तय करते हैं। आप चीनी का दाम तय करें, लोहे का दाम तय करें, सीमेंट का दाम तय करें, अनाज का सपोर्ट प्राइस तय करें और सारी जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार को दें, यह उचित नहीं है।

श्री उपसभापति : समाप्त कीजिए। आपने ज्यादा समय ले लिया है।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : इसलिए मेरा फिर कहना है कि जब तक आप आर्थिक नीतियों में, कृषि नीतियों में बुनियादी परिवर्तन नहीं करेंगे, दाम बांधने का उपाय नहीं करेंगे, तब तक महंगाई रुकेगी नहीं, केवल बहस का मुद्दा बनी रहेगी। महोदय, मैं इन्ही शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, can I speak for a moment? Sir, I just would like to bring to the notice of the Minister a fact. I was driving from Nasik to Mumbai. It was in the evening, about 8 P.M. Two truckloads of onion were being thrown off the flip. This is so much for the Member who was speaking on behalf of the Public Distribution System. Thank you.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, बहुत ही गंभीर मुद्दे पर विचार-विमर्श हो रहा है। महंगाई का जो इश्यू है, इसके बारे में पूरा देश चिंतित है। हमसे पहले भी जो हमारे आदरणीय मॅम्बर्स साहबान बोले हैं, उन्होंने भी अपनी संवेदना और चिंता जाहिर की है। कबीर साहब ने अपनी वाणी में कहा है कि — “भूखे भजन न कीजे, यह माला अपनी लीजे।” आज हम देख रहे हैं कि हमारे जो आंकड़े हैं, पिछले साल नवम्बर के और इस साल के नवम्बर के, उसमें पिछले साल नवम्बर में जो चीनी 22-23 रुपए प्रति किलो थी वह इस साल 38 रुपए प्रति किलो है। इसमें 65 परसेंट की बढ़ोतरी है। जो गुड़ पहले 20 रुपए किलो था

और जिसको गांव वाले ज्यादा यूज करते थे, जिनके लिए सरकार कहती है कि हम आम आदमी के लिए नीति बनाते हैं, जिस गुड़ को आम आदमी ही इस्तेमाल करता था, क्योंकि चीनी उनकी पहुंच से बाहर है, इसलिए वे गुड़ से ही काम चला लेते थे, लेकिन आज वही गुड़ चीनी से आगे निकल गया। आम आदमी की सरकार की कृपा हुई आम आदमी के ऊपर और आज वह गुड़ 40 रुपए किलो है। चाय की पत्ती 149 से 215 रुपए किलो पर पहुंच गई है। गुड़ में सौ परसेंट की बढ़ोतरी है। आलू 18-20 रुपए पर गया है।

जो रूलिंग पार्टी है, उसके अंदर भी मतभेद हैं। जब कोई क्रेडिट लेना होता है, फिर तो बोलते हैं कि कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार है और जब डिसक्रेडिट देना होता है तो कहते हैं कि महंगाई तो सिर्फ शरद पवार जी की वजह से है। जिम्मेदारी तो उनकी भी होगी, हम नहीं कहते कि उनकी जिम्मेदारी नहीं है। लेकिन महंगाई के लिए जिम्मेदार अकेले पवार साहब और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट है और जो रूलिंग पार्टी है वह यूनाइटेड रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी के लिए तैयार नहीं है, डिसक्रेडिट औरों को देना चाहते हैं और क्रेडिट जो हमारे एक युवा नेता हैं, जो झुगियाँ में आजकल चाय पी रहे हैं और उनको उस झुग्गी की चाय स्वादिष्ट लगती है जहां कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार न हो। जहां कांग्रेस की सरकार न हो, उस झुग्गी की चाय स्वादिष्ट लगती है, झुगियाँ तो दिल्ली में बहुत हैं, लेकिन यहां की झुग्गी की चाय अच्छी नहीं लग रही।

ये गरीब की गरीबी का मज़ाक उड़ा रहे हैं। आपने 62 साल राज किया और जिन 12 करोड़ लोगों को झुगियों में रहने के लिए मजबूर किया, आज उनकी गरीबी की सेंटिमेंट से भी पॉलिटिक्स कर रहे हैं। उसका समाधान नहीं कर रहे हैं। आज मैं आपको यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश के 270 से ज्यादा जिलों में नक्सलाइट मूवमेंट आगे बढ़ी है, आप उसके लिए वैपन्स खरीद रहे हैं, आप उसके लिए कानून बना रहे हैं, बड़ी-बड़ी मशीनरी बना रहे हैं, नहीं जीत पाएंगे हम मशीनरी से, यह हम दावा करते हैं। आप जिम्मेदार हैं। कबीर साहिब ने कहा था “भूखे भक्ति न कीजिए, जै माला अपनी लीजिए।” अगर हम लोगों के पेट में से रोटी निकाल लेंगे, तो उनके अंदर देश-भक्ति का जज्बा पैदा नहीं कर सकेंगे। इसलिए हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि एक साल में क्या हो गया है ? पिछले साल के नवम्बर से इस साल के नवम्बर में पवार साहब की नीतियों में क्या अंतर आ गया है ? सरकार को क्या हो गया है ? ..(व्यवधान).. हम यह बताना चाहते हैं कि हमारे देश में डेमोक्रेटिक सिस्टम है, जिसको हम दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी डेमोक्रेसी कहते हैं, हमारे देश के नेताओं ने हमारे देश के इलेक्ट्रॉनल प्रोसेस को 62 साल में इतना भ्रष्ट बना दिया है कि पूंजीपतियों से चंदा लेकर इलेक्शन लड़ा जाता है और मई, 2009 में जो जनरल इलेक्शन हुआ, जिनसे चंदा लेकर इलेक्शन लड़ा गया, गरीबों का पेट काटकर उनका पेट भरा जा रहा है। इसलिए हम सरकार से कहना चाहेंगे, महंगाई के बारे में आंकड़े तो आप और हम रोज पढ़ते हैं। ..(व्यवधान).. हमें मालूम है कि जो राज करने वाली पार्टी है, यह डा0 अम्बेडकर को भी संसद में नहीं देखना चाहती थी, इसलिए आपने उनका बुत भी नहीं बनाना चाहा। ..(व्यवधान).. जिस डा0 अम्बेडकर को आपने संसद में बोला था ..(व्यवधान).. कि हमने डा0 अम्बेडकर के लिए एक-एक मन के ताले लगा दिए हैं, अब वह संसद में नहीं आएंगे, अब वह पाकिस्तान की असेम्बली में जाएंगे। डा0 अम्बेडकर ने बोला था ..(समय की घंटी).. सुनो, मैं मन-मन पक्के के ताले अपने जूते से तोड़कर संसद में आया हूँ, कोई मुझे रोक नहीं पाया। अब आपको उनका statue भी बुरा लग रहा है।..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : करीमपुरी जी, आप प्राइस राइज पर बोलिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : आप गांधी जी को पूरे देश में नोट में भी ले आए। ..(व्यवधान).. सर, मैं प्राइस राइज पर ही बोल रहा हूँ। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं। प्राइस राइज तो हम भी सुन रहे हैं। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : डा0 अम्बेडकर साहब ने देश की इकानामी के लिए एक बड़ी दूर-दृष्टि की नीति देखी।

श्री उपसभापति : अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : डा0 अम्बेडकर साहब ने आर्थिक क्षेत्र में जो दिशा रखी थी, अगर सरकार उस दिशा को मान लेती, उसको अपना आदर्श और मार्गदर्शन मानकर चलती, तो आज जो हमारे देश का हश्र है, यह नहीं होता। ..(व्यवधान).. आज 70 परसेंट लोग ..(व्यवधान).. उत्तर प्रदेश में अभी तो तीन साल भी नहीं हुए हैं। आप देखिए कि आपने 62 साल में क्या किया है ? ..(व्यवधान).. उससे थोड़ा-बहुत मुंह छुपाओ, तभी इलाज होगा। उपसभापति महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसका कुछ परमानेंट इलाज किया जाए। जब हम सब कुछ तय कर रहे हैं, तो फिर हम कीमतें तय करने से क्यों डर रहे हैं? हमने प्रोड्यूसर की मर्जी पर छोड़ रखा है कि तुम जो चाहे तय कर लो।...(व्यवधान)..सर, एक-दो मिनट। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : करीमपुरी साहब, आपका समय समाप्त हो गया है। ...(व्यवधान)... समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, एक-दो मिनट और दे दीजिए। हम तो कभी बोलते ही नहीं हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...आज बोल रहे हैं, तो बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : कभी बोलते नहीं हैं, मगर समय भी कम है। ..(व्यवधान).. समय क्रेडिट, डेबिट नहीं होता। ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : जो प्रोड्यूसर है, उसको फ्री हैंड दिया है कि आप जितना चाहे कंज्यूमर को एक्सप्लॉएट कर सकते हो।...(व्यवधान)... हमारा यह सजेशन है कि इकानॉमिक एक्सप्लोएटेशन बंद किया जाए ...(व्यवधान).. और इसके ऊपर एफेक्टिव नीति तैयार की जाए।...(व्यवधान)..हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि जो हमारे पास एग्रीकलचरल लैंड है, वह हर दिन कम होती जा रही है। यह हमारे लिए एक बड़ी चिंता का विषय है। ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : अब आपको समाप्त करना पड़ेगा। You have taken more time than the time allotted to your party. आप समाप्त कीजिए। Shri Malaisamy.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : जो साधन सम्पन्न लोग हैं, बड़े-बड़े मॉल्स, बड़े-बड़े ...(व्यवधान).. इसलिए हम यह चाहेंगे कि एग्रीकलचरल लैंड को बचाया जाए और कीमतें निर्धारित करने की नीति तय की जाए। सरकार महंगाई के लिए हाउस के अंदर एक कलैक्टिव रिस्पांसिबिलिटी ले कि हम महंगाई के फ्रंट पर फेल हुए हैं और इस देश के गरीब आदमी का उत्पीड़न हुआ है, इस देश के कंज्यूमर का आर्थिक शोषण हुआ है। हमारे देश के दस-बारह करोड़ लोग झुग्गियों में रहते हैं, क्या हम सर्दियों में उनको अपनी आंखों से मरते हुए देखना चाहते हैं? हमें उनका भी कोई न कोई बंदोबस्त करना होगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Malaisamy. Your party has got five minutes.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for calling me on behalf of the AIADMK to join my colleagues here to speak on this very important subject — price rise. Due to paucity of time...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are entitled only to that. What can I do? Had it been in my hands, I would like to give you more.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am fully conscious of it. Sir, I may not be able to complete my task, except to touch and go to the issues.

Sir, coming straight to the subject, the macro-level challenges or threats like global meltdown, global warming, global recession, etc., have got a direct impact on inflation also, but, not to the extent, as others have highlighted. I agree that it has a marginal affect. This is how I look at it. I am saying this by taking hint from the hon. Prime Minister's observation, followed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, who had said that all these threats and challenges have got an affect on India. But, it has got only a marginal affect. That is how they look at it. In such a situation, one cannot take excuse that it is due to things beyond their control. As far as I can see, the macro-level issues have a limited impact. I come straight to inflation which is very much talked about by all. Look at inflation at the international level and inflation at the Indian level. Inflation at the Indian level, sometime back, had reached to a double digit. Of course, now, it has come down to 8 per cent and odd and will continue like that. A lot has been talked about inflation. Sir, it is not occurring for the first time. Inflation is in existing for quite a long time in India.

Coming to price rise, as my colleagues have highlighted, the prices of essential commodities have gone up by leaps and bounds. They have gone up from one peak to another. The prices in the domestic market have gone up like anything. For example, the price of onion has gone up to several times, potato has gone up by 44 per cent, primary articles have gone up by 9 per cent, pulses have increased by 23 per cent, milk by 10 per cent, rice by 12 per cent, etc. In other words, the prices of essential commodities used by human being have gone up and up.

Sir, according to me, in this particular case, with regard to any issue, there are controllable factors and uncontrollable factors. As far as controllable factors are concerned, they are within the reach of human beings. On the other hand, in the wake of science and technology, we are able to do something even with regard to uncontrollable factors. If that be the case, I could cite one or two reasons. One is the mishandling of the issues which are faced by us.

It is on record that the Government has gone to the extent of exporting rice, wheat and pulses recently when the prices are going up like anything. When the prices in India are shooting up, why have they gone for export? This is my first point.

Secondly, Sir, there is corruption. In the rice export, a scam has also occurred. The sugar prices could not be controlled even during festival season. Sir, the Minister the other day told us that he has to make a balance between the interest of the agriculturists and the consumers. While I agree that the interests of both should be protected, but, at the same time, balancing has to be done without affecting the interests of either side.

Sir, due to paucity of time, instead of dilating on the various causes and reasons for the price rise, etc., I would like to come straightway to the measures to be taken so that the prices can be contained because I am more concerned about it.

Coming to point no. 1, they should go to the root cause instead of looking upon the periphery. I used to cite even a couplet from *Thirukkural* on this score but I don't repeat it here. I think, first the root cause of any issue has to be found out and then its solution can be found out. Now, Sir, coming to point no. 1 ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many times you would say, 'number one'?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, when I am talking about the measures, I have got three or four measures which, I think, are very relevant for the Minister. Sir, you had given me five minutes. But so far I could have taken only two-three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately, the clock is right here in front of me. You have already taken five minutes.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, kindly bear with me. I will try to finish in two-three minutes. Sir, I am very conscious about my time.

Sir, coming to inflation, the Government and the Reserve Bank of India can do wonders to control inflation. They should ensure money flow and they should also reduce the interest rate and lower the tax to boost the demand and induce savings and investment. The Government should spend on infrastructure and social programmes. This is the way the Government and the Reserve Bank can do it. This is number one.

Then, secondly, Sir, they should deal with — some of the hon. Members have also mentioned it — unscrupulous elements strictly. They should not have any sympathy for them. On the other hand, they should deal strictly with the unscrupulous elements and anti-social elements like middlemen, hoarders, black marketeers and unscrupulous traders who are mainly responsible for artificial creation of demand and supply resulting in price rise.

Thirdly, Sir, there is a need to streamline the corruption-ridden Public Distribution System. Madam, Jayanthi Natarajan was saying that it looks as if everything is okay in Tamil Nadu. Where is Mr. Siva? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, he should not interrupt me. ...*(Interruptions)*... They say that everything is okay. According to me, the PDS is meant for the poor people, the card holders. But whatever is given under the PDS is being siphoned off and taken away by some people and *en block* it is blackmarketed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not necessary that everybody should get up. Please.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they should ensure that it should go to the right persons at the right time. ...*(Time-bell rings)*...

Sir, coming to revamping the Food and Civil Supply Department, it is white elephant. They are not doing its job properly and they should be made to work. You should also think to reorganize and review its working so that they can do their work effectively. Sir, a mass consumer movement should be started so that whenever there is arbitrary increase in prices, they protest and see to it that the Government is made to understand what the public wants. The untimely increase in oil prices has led to the rise in prices of so many articles. What I am trying to say is, they have increased the oil prices retrospectively; instead, they should have timed it timely correctly in such a way that they need not have combined it with this.

Sir, one or two points more and then I shall conclude. The rate of inflation to be negative and rise in prices, are two things that should not go together. Unfortunately, in India, they go together. Correct prediction of monsoons is an important factor. In such a situation, they must build on their stocks and properly store them, so that in case of deficient monsoons, the needs are taken care of. In case of a delayed monsoon and deficient rains, there is speculation. So, hoarding is taking place. We must think about how to avert such things.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Wastage of food and pilferage should be avoided by improving storage and processing facilities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think I have given you sufficient time. Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Too much dependence on rains and irrigation for agriculture should be avoided and more and more agricultural products like pulses and maize must be grown, so that food production can be increased. Water scarcity is another problem. Last but not the least, Sir, there should be rationalisation and reduction in import and increase in exports.

Let me conclude with the fervent hope and request to the hon. Minister and the Government that the system must be reviewed and tightened in such a way that the measures take care of price rise whenever it occurs. They have been saying that they have been doing this and doing that. But the ground reality is otherwise.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I think that the hon. Minister for Agriculture, who is such a consummate, keen watcher of sportsmen, must be finding himself a bit bewildered that in such a short session of the Rajya Sabha, to be bowled twice over completely, once on the sugarcane stuff, and then on this stuff about prices, both of which

seem to have somewhat taken him by surprise. For an astute player of his kind, fortunately, Sir, unlike Don Bradman, this is not his last innings and he can hope to really salvage his reputation.

Sir, couple of things are very clear. First and foremost, the current rise in prices is a combination of several factors; combination, first and foremost, of endemic, long-term disequilibrium between demand and supply, changing consumer preferences, plateauing of our productivity and disruption of global markets and distribution. Some of these lend themselves to short-term solutions. There are others, Sir, where the causes are more endemic. But there is no getting away, Mr. Minister, with the fact that unless supply side responses are significantly improved, it will be difficult to make a short-term dent in the situation. One unhappy thing is that, unfortunately, this does not seem to be a spike in the prices from 2007-08; this seems to be an endemic long-term trend driven by three important factors. First and foremost, Sir, driven by the fact that meat consumption is going up at a rate which is unprecedented. Second, Sir, population, which is six billion today, even with the best of efforts, will hit 9.2 billion by 2050. And, thirdly, Sir, the inability for global productivity patterns, cropping systems to sustain higher levels of productivity in the light of the changing dynamics of climate changes seem to be insurmountable.

My suggestion to the Minister is, concentrate on two types of measures. First of all, concentrate on some short-term measures. What can you do in the short run? In the short run, I think that the most important thing he can do, Sir, and the London Economist, about which I had the privilege of mentioning to you, which carried a special supplement only two weeks ago, said, as far as India is concerned, how do we minimise 35 per cent waste in fruits and vegetables and 44 per cent waste in a whole range of other crops. This can be done by, of course, concentrating on something which he is doing, but accelerating it in terms of marketing linkages, prolonging the shelf life and enabling the advantages of cold chain to small and medium farmers. This will give some short-term returns which will be very gainful and beneficial. I come, Sir, to some long-term factors since the time available to me is very short. Fortunately, investments in agriculture, which in a 25-years cycle went down significantly to just 1.2 per cent, has cropped up in the last 18 months. It has again gone up from about 1.2 per cent to 8 per cent. Will it make up the past? Historically speaking, perhaps not. But I think along with the challenge of making up the investment deficiency, one sad part is, Sir, that the per capita availability of foodgrains in the last five years, and particularly, in the last two years, to the poorest population of the world, has gone down. That is why, Mr. Minister, I am sure you are aware that the FAO Conference on Hunger, that we just concluded one week ago, ended its last Resolution to say, "Tonight in the

world more than one billion people will sleep hungry.” As far as India is concerned, in the last 18 months, 250 million people, according to the UN statistics, have gone under deeper poverty. That is one of the factors that we need to attack ourselves. We need to attack ourselves on adaptation of cropping patterns. Mr. Swaminathan spoke day before yesterday in Parliament and he mentioned about the findings of his inter-Governmental Report how crop productivity and protein yields in crops are falling dramatically. Is our research and development keeping pace with how to adapt with this inevitable phenomena? How to change cropping patterns which are more drought resistance, which require less water and which are less dependent on chemical fertilizers to be able to sustain the plateau of productivity? Let me give you one example which is alarming. Do you know Minister that the world is gripped by bees’ virus? Bees are dying all over the world and that this decline in the bee population is leading to this huge problem of pollination. In case of China, we are resorting to hand pollination. What are we doing in terms of research and development to ensure that this bee virus, which has afflicted the world, does not afflict India, which, even the most severest knock, we can receive in terms of trying to seek crop productivity? So, there are challenges of a short-term nature. There are those which you can do in the immediate future to improve supply side responses. But there are more important challenges which you have. They are challenges of demography, challenges of change in consumer preferences as meat consumption puts greater pressure on the food chain, changing pastoral habits and adaptation to the problems of global warming and climate change. Thank you.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the topic which we are discussing today is of paramount importance, namely, price rise. In economic terms, it would mean spiralling inflation. Inflation can be of many types. It may be cost-push inflation or it may be other type of inflation where too much money is chasing too few goods and that is what we call the price rise. The price rise is visible in all spheres. I might point out that in my city, Mumbai, one square foot of area in a flat in some parts of the city costs as much as Rs.1 lakh. The prices are rising in real estate; prices are rising of industrial goods. Today’s morning paper says that the car prices are also going to see a very steep rise. But we are concerned here today with the price rise in essential commodities which concerns the common people. The common people are affected because of the price rise of essential goods. What is the position? If you look at the statistics — I have got plenty of them, but I do not intend to rattle them because much has been spoken about the statistics — there is a wide gulf between the Wholesale Price Index, the Consumer Price Index and the actual price paid by the householder for buying his commodities. Even the Consumer Price Index is also not one index, but there are

so many. There is consumer price for industrial workers, for agricultural labour, for non-manual labour and for rural people.

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, Prof. P.J. Kurien, in the Chair)

These types of indices also sometimes create some confusion. So, we should have some narrowing down between the Wholesale Price Index, the Consumer Price Index and the price actually paid by the householders while buying the commodities. Now, I think, this House, rather than trying to put blame, should try to find out what are the causes, what is the effect, and what are the remedies available. I would submit that if you look at the causes, one should not forget that there was a failure of monsoon in West Bengal, U.P. and there was cyclone and floods in the southern parts of India. Today, you are talking about rising price of potatoes which has gone almost hundred per cent higher. But, we may not be aware that 40 per cent of the potatoes production come from West Bengal, 30 per cent from U.P. and 30 per cent from the rest of the country. Because of failure of monsoon in West Bengal and U.P., the potato crop has been affected. The tomato crop has been affected because of the cyclone and floods in southern India. Under those circumstances, there are remedies which we can think about. The same Agriculture Minister was proud to say last year that there used to be a queue before him in his Office of people from other countries who wanted to import rice from India. So, we had buffer stock in all respects. How is it that suddenly, the situation has worsened? What are the causes and what are the remedies which can be worked out? I think, what is necessary is that we must have some provision for perishable goods for a buffer stock. We have got the Agriculture Produce Market Act. But, under this Act, the *mandis* are at a far distance. And, that is why, *adotis* come in the way and they pocket a large amount of money. There should be *mandis* or the collection centres near the farm house where the farmers can immediately bring the products and they can be kept in cold-storage for a longer period. If the buffer stock is created, this type of scarcity, which has arisen because of the failure of monsoon, would not arise because then the things can be taken out from the buffer stock.

Much has been said about imports and the Agriculture Minister is quite open for the imports to be made at a subsidised rate or without any duty at all. I think, this is a policy which has to be supported.

Then, much has been stated about sugar. But, when we are discussing sugar, we must realise that it is also a political issue. (*Time-bell rings*). I will only take two more minutes, and I will only give positive suggestions. So far as sugar is concerned, one has to be mindful of the fact that there is a grower of sugarcane, there is a consumer who is consuming the sugar and there are also sugar mills. Interests of all of them should be taken into

consideration. There must be remunerative price for the sugarcane grower. There must be affordable price of sugar for the consumer. At the same time, you must see to it that sugar mills do not die out automatically.

We must also think in terms of another Green Revolution. For that, it is very necessary that we must think in terms of water maintenance, or, water harvesting. Water is going to be a perennial headache for all of us. I think, we all must think in terms of preservation of water. In the city of Mumbai, the Municipal Corporation has started tapping the wells and they have found that large amount of water will be available by tapping of those wells.

We must think of fertilizers. There are barren lands. The barren lands can be converted into cultivable lands. India can have the largest amount of cultivable lands. There is Desert of Kutch in Rajasthan. If the Government does not have the resources, they should be given to industrial houses which can convert them into fertile lands like on the sides of...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, please conclude.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Much has been stated about the hoarders and profiteers. Some figures have been given as to how many places were raided, and, how many people were prosecuted. Sir, prosecution is not important. The important thing is to see how many of them have been convicted. The number is much less. The real reason is that the Essential Commodities Act is very faulty. What we need to do is fast-track courts to deal with the hoarders. I have no doubt that our Agriculture Minister, who himself is a farmer, is conscious of all these facts and he will be able to find a remedy to the situation. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. M.P. Achuthan. You have to conclude in five minutes. *(Interruptions)* His party has three minutes time. I am giving five minutes.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I will try to conclude within the allotted time. Sir, there is no need to quote figures to highlight the price rise. Everybody is concerned about the price rise, and, people are on the move. All over the country, people are agitating. Yesterday, in Tamil Nadu, thousands of persons were court-arrested. This is not an issue of one party. Rising above the political affiliations, people are agitating against the price rise. Hon. Minister of Agriculture assured this House that there is no shortage of foodgrains and that we have ample stocks of rice, wheat and other essential items. According to the figures released by NAFED, during the first six months of this year, India exported ten lakh tonne onion. That shows that we have got ample foodgrains and other essential items. Still, we are facing shortage or scarcity of essential items and having price rise. What is the reason? The reason is: the economic policy of this Government, and, the unbridled

liberalisation policy of the Government. The philosophy which guides this Government is that the market forces will decide everything; market forces will decide the price. The measures taken by the Government are in tune with this philosophy. That is why, still, the Central Government is allowing future trading in many essential items. So, the big traders and the corporate houses in retail trade are able to corner the food items, create artificial scarcity and increase the prices. Another factor is the commodity exchange. Here also, big players are able to manipulate the market. The Government is not taking any measure to prevent hoarding and black-marketing. The Government says that it is the concern of the State Governments. Sir, in 2002 and in 2003, there were two amendments in the Essential Commodities Act. That notification was repealed only partially. Still, the Government is not ready to repeal it totally, and, coordinate with the efforts taken by the State Governments to prevent hoarding and black-marketing. Sir, everybody concedes that to contain price rise, and, to give relief to the common man, the only viable solution is extending and strengthening the public distribution system. I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for commending the Kerala Government's performance in the public distribution system. But this House must know what the Central Government is doing to the Kerala Government. Kerala is a State, a consumer State, which is depending on other States for every item, rice, vegetables and everything. In such a situation, we are able to contain the price rise, and, the price rise in Kerala is comparatively low.

Take the Consumer Price Index for rural goods, in Kerala it was 485 points in September whereas in Punjab, it was 568 points and in Andhra, it was 533 points. In the Consumer Price Index list, the position of Kerala is 17th. It is because of the market intervention and the effective steps taken by the Kerala Government that we are able to contain the price rise to a very large extent. I am not saying that there is no price rise in Kerala. It is there. But when compared to other States, Kerala is better due to existence of the public distribution system in the State. But what is the attitude of the Central Government? The Government of India cut 85 per cent of the ration quota for the APL sector in Kerala. When the new Government, the second UPA Government came to office ...*(Time bell rings)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. Your five minutes are over.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: I need only three more minutes, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. No more time please. You have taken five minutes. *(Interruptions)* Okay, you take one more minute. Your five minutes are over. *(Interruptions)* No partiality for the Chair. *(Interruptions)* When in the Chair, no partiality. If I am there, I would support him. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: The stock position improves. *(Interruptions)* Now, the Government says that there is enough stock in the Central pool. Still 85 per cent of the APL quota is reduced and the price of the APL rice has also risen. In this grim situation, here in Kerala, the Government is distributing 25 kilo of rice at 2 rupees per kilo to 26 lakh poor people. But according to the Planning Commission, there are only 10 lakh BPL households in Kerala. They are artificially creating a situation that there are very few BPL families in India and reducing the allocation to the State. So, if the Central Government is sincere ...*(Time-bell rings)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, you have taken seven minutes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: It says to contain the prices ...*(Interruptions)* They have to allot enough food-grains to Kerala. What pains me a lot is the ..*(Time-bell rings)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. You made your point. *(Interruptions)* Instead of three minutes, you have taken seven minutes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Trying to politicise the food situation *(Interruptions)* and they are making agitation against the State Government. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, Mr. Achuthan, you have taken seven minutes. No more time please. *(Interruptions)* Please, Mr. Achuthan. *(Interruptions)* Please. *(Interruptions)* Okay, you have made your points. That is enough.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Okay. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, thank you. Shri M. V. Mysura Reddy. Reddyji, you have only five minutes.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Sir. Sir, this year, if my remembrance goes correct, this is the third time when we are discussing the price rise of essential commodities. Sir, every time the stereotype reply from the Government is that they are taking measures like export ban, zero import duty, imposition of ban on future trading, stock limit on hoarding, imports at substantial rates, bringing commodities under PDS, etc. But in spite of all these measures, the prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing. It has never come down. That means these *ad hoc* measures have neither protected farmers, nor have they helped the consumers.

Sir, recently, while replying to a question, the hon. Finance Minister said that it was because of mismatch between supply and demand, and also due to less production. If so, I

want to ask this question. Why is it that only consumer price is skyrocketing whereas the price at which a farmer sells his product is not increasing, if not skyrocketing?

I want to bring this issue to the notice of this august House. For rice, the farmer's sale price is Rs.18 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.40 per kg. For wheat, the farmer's sale price is Rs.15 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.39 per kg. For moong dal (green gram), the farmer's sale price is Rs.40 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.100 per kg. For arhar (yellow gram), the farmer's sale price is Rs.47 per kg. But its retail price is Rs.105 per kg. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan spoke about onion. I want to speak about chilly. For chilly, the farmer's sale price is Rs.10 per kg. But its retail price is Rs. 60 per kg. The farmer is not getting any benefit of increase in prices but the consumer is paying more.

Sir, I came to know that the Union Agriculture Minister is discussing this problem with the States. Of course, ours is a federal structure. There will be problems. I want to know if tangible measures have been discussed with the States; whether the States are willing to take any tangible action; and whether there is any tangible result to control the prices. I want to know this thing.

The Prime Minister has said this on record that the price rise is because of market forces. I want to know whether this price rise is due to market forces or due to middlemen. I have shown that there are variations in the price at which a farmer is selling his produce and its retail price.

When time is right, wrong decisions have been taken by this Government. When there is less production, it will allow export. When there is good production, they ban the export. For instance, the Ministry has prohibited in April 2008 export of non-Basmati rice and in four months, it changed this policy and allowed export of PUSA-1121 variety of non-Basmati rice to help a few companies.

When there was encouraging production of sugar in 2006, the Government of India banned the exports. Due to this, sugar mills failed to issue cutting orders. As a result of this, farmers burnt their sugarcane in the field. Now farmers have shifted from sugarcane to other crops. Because of this, there is this scarcity, which has pushed its price up.

The measures for development of infrastructure in agriculture on long-term basis are also not giving any results. This is happening because of the paradoxical approach of this Government. I am giving one example of it. When sugarcane growers do not get the remunerative price for their produce, they do not go in for sugarcane cultivation. Instead, they

go in for other alternative crop. It is not a cyclical disorder. It is due to paradoxical approach of the Government of India. That is why it is just like..(Interruptions)..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आपका पांच मिनट हो गया है।

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, it is just like giving a pill for headache when the patient is suffering from stomach-ache. We have to overhaul the system, so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce and consumers get it at minimum price. Thank you, Sir.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : नजमा हेपतुल्ला जी, बोलिए।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : सर, मेरी पार्टी का कितना टाइम है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आपकी पार्टी के दस मिनट बाकी हैं।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, हमारी पार्टी के प्रकाश जावडेकर जी का नाम भी है बोलने वालों में, इसलिए I will leave most of the time to him.

सर, आज हम price rise की बात कर रहे हैं और मैं अपने बनिये की रसीद साथ में लेकर आई हूँ। मुझे लगता है कि एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब की wife के पास भी ऐसी रसीद होगी, जिससे पता चले कि prices में कितनी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। अगर मैं यह बोलूँ कि 95 रुपए में अरहर की दाल है, और भी चीजें हैं, तो मैं उसमें समय नहीं लगाऊँगी, क्योंकि मुझे लगता है कि सभी सदस्यों ने अरहर, मसूर, दाल, चावल - सबका भाव बताया है, मगर जो सबसे अहम बात है, वह यह है कि आज तक कभी नमक के भाव इतने नहीं बढ़े थे - 45 परसेंट नमक का भाव बढ़ा है। अंग्रेजों के ज़माने में नमक पर चार-पांच पैसे टैक्स लगाया गया था, तो गांधी जी ने पूरी अंग्रेजी सरकार को हिला दिया था और नमक के लिए सत्याग्रह हुआ था। मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है कि आज वह आम आदमी, जिसने आपको जिता कर यहां भेजा है, क्या कर रहा है? वह क्यों नहीं कुछ कर रहा है? शायद वह यह सोचता है कि बोलने से कुछ फायदा नहीं होगा। सर, इस हाऊस में यह तीसरी बार डिसकस हो रहा है। हम लोग डिसकशन करेंगे, चेयरमैन साहब से इजाजत लेंगे, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब यहां आएंगे और वही जवाब देंगे, जिसकी हमें उम्मीद है, जो उन्होंने पिछली बार दिया था। वे कोई नई बात नहीं कहेंगे। वे यह कहेंगे कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग हो रही है, सूखा पड़ रहा है, पानी ज्यादा बरस गया, सैलाब आ गया, सेंटर और स्टेट्स में differences हैं, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन है, सेंटर उसमें कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकता, यह हमारा लड़ाई-झगड़े का मामला हो जाएगा - इस तरह की बातें कहकर यह सेशन खत्म हो जाएगा और हम लोग अपने घर चले जाएंगे। फिर जब बजट सेशन होगा, तो दोबारा यही होगा, prices बढ़ते रहेंगे, आम आदमी सेंटर-स्टेट के झगड़े में पिसता रहेगा, इसलिए इसमें ज्यादा बोलने को क्या है? सर, आप बताइए, हम इसमें क्या बोलें? आप चेयर पर आसीन हैं, अगर आप वहां होते, तो आप मुझे बताते कि क्या बोलूँ। मुझे यहां एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब से यह बात पूछनी है कि आप तो statistics जमा नहीं करते हैं, वह Programme Implementation Ministry के अंतर्गत आता है। जो economy को ठीक से चलाने की जिम्मेदारी है, management economy, वह फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर के हाथ में है, तो हर बार यह आपके पल्ले क्यों पड़ जाता है? एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर से क्यों कहा जाता है कि आप price rise का जवाब दें?

सर, इसी पार्लियामेंट में हमने एक साल पहले एक बिल पास किया था -Collection of Statistics Bill. वह बिल एक साल पहले पास हुआ और मैं इस Government की non-seriousness के बारे में आपको बता रही हूँ। एक साल हुआ वह बिल पास हुए, लेकिन आज तक उस बिल के संबंध में कोई rules and regulations सदन के पटल पर नहीं रखे गए हैं। यह तो seriousness है आपकी ! सवाल यहां यह नहीं है कि आप वही जवाब दें, लेकिन इसका कोई permanent solution आपको ढूंढना है, जैसे श्री एन.के. सिंह ने कहा कि you have to find a permanent solution. It is not that we shout from this side or they shout from that side and you reply the same thing. The question is: How are you going to find a permanent solution?

सर, प्रणब मुखर्जी साहब यहां हाऊस में आकर बोलते हैं कि inflation तो marginally बढ़ा है, क्योंकि वे Wholesale Price Index बताते हैं। मैं आपसे यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि वे जो Wholesale Price Index बताते हैं, उसकी basket में क्या-क्या commodities हैं? अगर आपने गेहूं और चावल के साथ कंप्यूटर, कपड़े धोने का साबुन, तेल, फ्रिज, साइकिल, मोटर साइकिल - सबको उस basket में रख दिया, तो naturally वह price index तो अलग ही दिखाएगा, मगर जो consumer को affect करता है, जो Consumer Price Index है, उसके बारे में मैं मंत्री जी से कहती हूँ कि अगर फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर यहां होते, तो मैं उनसे सवाल करती। आपसे सवाल करने से कोई फायदा नहीं, क्योंकि आप कहेंगे कि यह मेरे मंत्रालय का सवाल नहीं है। सर, सवाल यह है कि यहां हम क्या बोलें? किससे बोलें? Agriculture Minister cannot answer these questions because he will say the same thing which he has been saying for the last three times or what he said in the Lok Sabha. That is why, I have decided that I am only going to put three points. I request the hon. Minister to answer these questions. What is in the Wholesale Price Index basket? What are the commodities put there? Why should we not think about the Consumer Price Index which affects the consumer? Why only the Agriculture Minister is answering and why not the Finance Minister? Why the Minister for Programme Implementation who is responsible for implementing the Government's programme not over here?

These are my three questions. For the rest of the time, my colleagues will speak. Thank you, Sir.

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक (गोवा) : धन्यवाद महोदय, पहली बात तो मुझे यह कहनी है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी एक ही देश की ऐसी पार्टी है जिसका जन्म ..(व्यवधान) ..

डा० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : जिसने price को बढ़ा दिया। ..(व्यवधान) ..

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : जिसका जन्म अपनी राजनैतिक रोटियां सेंकने के लिए नहीं हुआ। 100 साल पहले, जब देश में बीमारी थी, प्लेग था, famine था, यह जो economic reasons उस वक्त थे, उनसे लड़ने के लिए कांग्रेस पार्टी पैदा हुई थी। ..(व्यवधान) ..

डा० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : Price rise की बात करो। ..(व्यवधान) ..उस बात को छोड़ो। ..(व्यवधान) ..

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : छोड़ने की बात नहीं है। गरीबों के बारे में, price rise के बारे में कांग्रेस को जितनी चिंता होती है, आप लोगों को उतनी हो ही नहीं सकती। इसलिए नहीं हो सकती ..(व्यवधान) ..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : तभी price इतना बढ़ रहा है। ..(व्यवधान)।..

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : आप सुनिए। ..(व्यवधान)।.. इसलिए नहीं हो सकती क्योंकि आपके बहुत सारे व्यापारी समर्थक - हमारे समर्थक तो छोटे-छोटे व्यापारी हैं - आपके जो समर्थक बड़े-बड़े हैं, उनको फायदा हो जाए और उनके coffer से आपको मुनाफा हो, इसमें आपका ..(व्यवधान)।..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : आप उन्हें पकड़कर जेल में भेजिए, हम लोग तैयार हैं। पकड़ो होर्डर्स को, पकड़ो black market करने वालों को।

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : ठीक है। ..(व्यवधान)।..

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You address the Chair.

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : हमारे गोवा में सब्जी और दूध बेलगांव से आता है। वह बहुत महंगा हो गया है, सौ प्रतिशत बढ़ गया है। इसके लिए हम कभी येदुरप्पा को ब्लेम नहीं करते हैं, कर्नाटक की बीजेपी सरकार को ब्लेम नहीं करते। उनको तो इस price rise पर कभी रोना नहीं आया। लोग दुखी हैं लेकिन उनको रोना नहीं आता है। उनके मंत्रिमंडल से एक को हटाया गया, उसके ऊपर उन्हें बहुत रोना आ गया। यह कर्नाटक की बीजेपी की सरकार है। महोदय, सरकारों को ब्लेम करने की एक लिमिट होती है। हम सब जानते हैं कि price rise के सिलसिले में सरकार को ब्लेम करने की कोई मर्यादा होती है। ऐसा नहीं है कि हम लोगों की भावना को नहीं समझते हैं। मैं एक गीत के lyrics के जरिए, जो आम आदमी की भावना है, मैं कोई संकोच न करते हुए, उस गीत की कुछ पंक्तियां यहां पर पढ़ना चाहता हूं। उसमें सारी आम आदमी की भावनाएं हैं और वही मेरी भी भावनाएं हैं।

पहले मुट्ठी में पैसे लेकर थैला भर शक्कर लाते थे,

अब थैले में पैसे लाते हैं, मुट्ठी में शक्कर आती है।

हाय महंगाई, हाय महंगाई,

तू कहां से आयी, तुझे मौत क्यों नहीं आयी?

शक्कर में आटे की मिलायी मार गयी,

पाउडर वाले दूध की मलाई मार गयी,

राशन वाली लाइन की लम्बाई मार गयी,

जनता जो चीखी, चिल्लाई मार गयी,

बाकी कुछ बचा तो महंगाई मार गयी।

गरीब को बच्चों की पढ़ाई मार गयी,

बेटी की शादी और सगाई मार गयी,

किसी को दो रोटी की कमाई मार गयी,

कपड़े की किसी को सिलाई मार गयी,

किसी को मकान की बनवाई मार गयी,

जो सच-सच बोला तो सच्चाई मार गयी,

बाकी कुछ बचा तो महंगाई मार गयी।

5.00 P.M.

ये हमारी भावनाएं हैं, हम व्यक्त करते हैं। हम संकोच नहीं करते हैं..(व्यवधान).. हमें कोई संकोच नहीं है। यह सच्चाई है। लेकिन इसका किस तरह मुकाबला करना है..(व्यवधान).. आप तो सिर्फ सरकार को उंगलियां दिखाएंगे, आप कुछ सुझाएंगे नहीं। आप कुछ alternative नहीं बताएंगे।

डा० (श्रीमती) नजमा ए.हेपतुल्ला : आप देखिए। आप सरकार में हैं।

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : हम सरकार में हैं लेकिन आपका भी कुछ दायित्व बनता है। आप सरकार को बताइए कि क्या करना चाहिए। क्या आपने कभी बताया?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: What is he talking about?

श्री शान्ताराम लक्ष्मण नायक : दूसरी बात है, Sir, there is a percentage, of course, of price rise, where hoarding is involved. देश में सूखा पड़ा, सौ करोड़ लोगों को अनाज देना है, यह कोई आसान बात नहीं है। आधा देश सूखाग्रस्त है, इसकी जानकारी सबको है, लेकिन इसका उल्लेख कोई नहीं करता है। सूखा होने के कारण महंगाई बढ़ी लेकिन उसका कोई जिक्र नहीं करता है। इसलिए मैं आपसे आग्रह करता हूँ कि ऐसेंशियल क्मॉडिटीज ऐक्ट का उपयोग राज्य सरकारों को करना चाहिए। आजकल सभी राज्य सरकारें विदाउट पार्टी थिंकिंग, इस कानून का उपयोग करने में कतराती हैं। इसलिए आपका यह दायित्व होता है कि सभी राज्य सरकारों को बताएं कि इसका उपयोग होना चाहिए, ताकि जो माल आर्टिफिसअली होर्डिंग किया हुआ है, वह तो कम से कम बाहर आ जाए, उतनी सीमा तक थोड़ी सी प्राइस कम हो जाएगी। सर, दूसरी बात है कि हम टेक्नॉलोजी में बहुत आगे बढ़े हैं, हम चन्द्रमा पर जाने की सोच रहे हैं, हम बड़ी-बड़ी गाड़ियां बनाते हैं, ऐरोप्लेन बनाते हैं, कम्प्यूटर सॉफ्टवेयर में हम दुनिया में नम्बर वन और नम्बर टू हैं। लेकिन सीड्स बनाने में, उत्पादन बढ़ाने में हमारी टेक्नॉलोजी कहाँ जाती है? प्रोडक्शन सालों से स्टैटिक रहा है। तो बाकी चीजों पर ध्यान न देते हुए अगर हम अच्छा बीज प्रोड्यूस करने में अपनी टेक्नॉलोजी बढ़ाएं, जो स्टैटिक प्रोडक्शन है वह आगे बढ़ाएं और जो पल्सेज हैं, जिनके इंपोर्ट करने में बहुत तकलीफ होती है, इसके लिए पैसा देना पड़ता है, तो इन चीजों पर ध्यान करके अगर हमने अपना प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाया तो जब कभी ड्राउट आते हैं तो हमें ऐसी मुश्किल का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा।

दूसरी चीज, हम सभी जानते हैं कि किसान और कंज्यूमर, इन दोनों का इंटरैस्ट कांट्रेरी होता है। किसान को मदद करने जाएं तो मार्केट में ऐसेंशियल क्मॉडिटीज के भाव बढ़ते हैं। अगर सपोर्ट प्राइस दिया तो सपोर्ट प्राइस का consequence भी होता है। बीच में फॉरवर्ड ट्रेडिंग का जो एक्सपेरिमेंट हुआ, ताकि मिडिलमेन हट जाए और किसानों को सीधा लाभ हो जाए, चीजें सस्ती हो जाएं, मार्केट में भी चीजें सस्ती आ जाएं, यह जो प्रयोग है, यह सफल नहीं हुआ। इस प्रयोग को सफल करने में क्या करना चाहिए, इस पर ध्यान आपको देना है। सर, हम कहते हैं कि जब फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर को छींक आती है, तो स्टॉक मार्केट के भाव छलांग लेते हैं। यह तो हम सब जानते हैं। परन्तु ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर को जो खांसी आती है, तब भी भाव बढ़ते हैं। हमारे एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर फ्रेंक हैं, फ्रेंकली बोलते हैं कि रबी फसल का सीजन आने तक चीजों के भाव वैसे ही हो जाएंगे। जब वे ऐसा बोलते हैं तो 25 परसेंट और बढ़ता है। क्योंकि वे तो फ्रेंकली बोलते हैं तथा जो परिस्थिति है वह बतलाते हैं। वह कम से कम हफ्ते में एक बार तो बतलाते ही हैं। हफ्ते में एक बार बताने से रिपीट हो जाता है। सर, जितनी बार रिपीट होता है उतनी ही बार भाव बढ़ते हैं। सर, जो आपके बतलाने का फ्रेंकनेस है, उसको थोड़ा कम कर दीजिए, कभी-कभी ही बतलाइए, बार-बार मत बतलाइए। सर, इन्ही शब्दों के साथ मैं कहता हूँ कि आपको हम सबका समर्थन है, देश का समर्थन है। आप भाव अगले कुछ महीनों में स्थिर करेंगे, ऐसी आशा हम करते हैं। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you, Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik. Shri Prasanta Chatterjee. Now only three minutes are left for your party.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I will take five or six minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, you take five minutes.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: It is a very important issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I agree. You take five minutes. I know you will keep your words. I know that.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Government has talked about the global phenomena not only in this House but also in the Independence Day Address of the Prime Minister last year. The Prime Minister had stated, "The inflation that we have seen this year is basically due to external factors". Now, I would like to quote from the IMF indices:

"After peaking in mid 2008, the international fuel and food prices have fallen sharply throughout 2009; from June to July, 2008 the fuel prices have fallen by nearly 50 per cent, while the food prices have fallen by over 25 per cent."

The global inflation, which peaked at 6.27 per cent in July, 2008, had come down to around 1.3 per cent by August, 2009, with the inflation rate of emerging economies falling from 9 per cent to 4.3 per cent in this period. The IMF says, and I quote: "In emerging economies, inflation is forecast to hover around five per cent, in 2009-10, down from more than nine per cent in 2008." This is the picture, Sir. Now, I quote from some of the selected countries from different regions across the world. In October, 2009, it clearly shows that India has among the highest inflation rates. More importantly, while the inflation rates have come down everywhere since 2008, it is only in India that the consumer inflation rate has increased. I quote from the source, "Output, Price and Jobs, The Economist of 3rd December, 2009. I give examples, of only a few of the countries, showing the Consumer Price Inflation as on October, 2009, in comparison to October, 2008, (Year on Year Increase %). I quote: "Pakistan, in 2008, it was 25, while in 2009, it is 8.9. In Vietnam, it was 23.1; now, it is 7.1. In China, from 4 per cent, it has come down to -0.5. In Malaysia, from 7.6, it has come down to -1.6. And, in India, it was 10.4 in 2008, and in October, 2009, it was 11.5." So, the argument of global phenomenon is a bogus argument put forth by the Government and that side. Now, the principle factors are domestic, and, we, the Left, are continuously saying as to what the reasons behind inflation in India are. The neo-liberal policies are causing agrarian crisis and eroding self-sufficiency. The main reasons behind high inflation, especially, rising food prices are manifold. There is the weakening of the Public Distribution System and increase in fuel prices. We had seen it in the last Session

that you did not care about Parliament, that just eleven hours before the Parliament Session was to start, you increased the fuel and diesel prices. There is also the failure to check hoarding and speculation, and weakening the role of the States. With the dominant role of the private speculators, public procurement continues to remain limited to a few major crops. Procurement operation was carried out only in limited parts of the country. Big corporates have been allowed to enter into the food market. There has been an increasing reliance on imports, often at exorbitant prices, erosion of self-reliance in food production and failure to control rise in prices. Sir, agricultural growth fell shortly in the absence of any substantive expansion of irrigation. Sixty per cent of our Indian agriculture continues to remain dependent on the monsoon. What is the estimate of the World Food Hungry Report? The Global Hunger Index of 2009 says that countries, which have scored between 20 and 30 points, are in an alarming condition.” And the rate of India has been estimated at 23.9. Who will answer this? Who will take the responsibility for this? What we see is the faulty estimation of the BPL. We are also demanding a universal PDS at affordable prices. But the Government, as a policy, does not want that. And, they are passing the buck. Here, they are advocating their principles. Besides that, we see that Kerala has set a unique example. We also have the examples of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu where the PDS is a success. Kerala is a unique example. Since the time the Left and the Democratic Front Government assumed office in May, 2006, the Central allotment for rice for APL under PDS was 1,13,420 MT per month. It was reduced to 21,334 MT. It was further reduced to 17056 metric tonnes from April, 2006. They are the advocates of open market !

Sir, while concluding, together with the observations made by the other speaker of my party and other Left speakers, we, once again, demand that the Universal PDS should be strengthened, (*Time-bell*) The Government should act against hoarders, ban futures trading, reduce the price of diesel and petrol, end the discrimination in allotment and follow the self-reliant policy in agriculture. So, this is my demand. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Shri Naresh Gujral. Please take only five minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): You give me five minutes and I will live with it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Because I will tell you the problem. In the “Others Category” there are nine speakers and only 29 minutes. That means, almost three minutes. But, I am allowing extra two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)... Yes, generous.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, the last few months have witnessed an unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities. While the Government may be sitting smug with the overall

official low inflation figures, the fact of the matter is that the Aam Aadmi, who this Government claims to represent, is finding it difficult to keep his body and soul together. The Government by patting itself on the back with a 7 per cent growth rate is very, very happy. Congratulations. But, what about the man on the street who is literally starving due to the high prices of food?

Sir, more than 50 per cent of our population survive on just four or five food items, *atta* or rice, *dal*, onion, edible oil and a little bit of salt and sugar. The prices of all these commodities have gone up from 20 per cent to 120 per cent in the past one year. Congratulations to the Government for the management of the economy!

Sir, according to the Planning Commission, an average person in the village requires a minimum intake of 2400 Calories of food per day, and those living in urban areas require 2100 Calories per day. I ask you, Sir, given the current prices of food stuff, how does he get it? It is a matter of national shame that more than half of the population remains malnourished. Sir, according to the Global Hunger Index that ranks countries on a scale of 100 with 0 being the best score, India has a GHI of 23.9 which is an alarming value. We stand next only to Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Pakistan. These are last year's figures. With the current prices, we are, perhaps, below them even.

Sir, in reply to a debate on the sugar prices, the hon. Finance Minister said that the prices are going up because there is a mismatch between demand and supply. We all know that. We also know that we have had a drought year, but does that mean that we let our poor starve?

Sir, to my mind, the only solution to meet this challenge is to increase our food production, and this would be possible only if we make farming a lucrative profession or business. According to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, a recent National Survey has shown that 49 per cent of the farmers would not like to be in farming given a choice. Sir, our farmers are perennially in debt, and many unfortunately resort to suicide to end their misery. This is so because of the myopic policies of successive Governments that have only given lip-service to the interests of the farmer.

Sir, to improve our farmer's plight, we need to incentivise him. We need to give him better MSP, and this MSP should be realistically decided keeping in view the input costs. Sir, in 2007-08, when the hon. Minister raised the MSP of wheat from Rs.750 to Rs.1000, we saw a quantum jump in production of food grains from 69 million tonnes to 76 million tonnes. Sir, we need to give our farmers high-yielding seeds, better quality fertilizers and pesticides at

reasonable prices. We need to provide them with a market at their doorsteps and we need to give them credit at low rates of interest so that he does not end up in the clutches of money-lending sharks.

Sir, I am pained to point out that when our State Government gives free electricity to the farmer in Punjab, we are told that we are populist. When the Shiromani Akali Dal Government gives subsidized *atta* and *dal* to 16 lakh poor families in Punjab, whose monthly income is less than Rs. 3,000, we are branded as irresponsible.

Sir, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to ensure that all BPL families —and their present definition is seriously flawed—are given essential commodities at affordable prices, as only then will India have inclusive growth.

Sir, I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that while prices are shooting up, we are doing precious little to prevent damage to the stocks of our foodgrains and crops. I come from an agricultural State which provides almost two-thirds of wheat and one-third of rice to the nation. Yet, I am sad to point out that after sixty-three years of Independence, we have not built adequate modern storage facilities to warehouse our precious food stocks. Almost 20-30 per cent of our fruits and vegetables, 8-10 per cent of the pulses and more than 8-10 per cent of foodgrains are wasted post-harvest, and these are official figures. I am certain that the actual losses are much higher since I have seen how the FCI stores foodgrains in the open for months and months together, allowing them to be attacked and wasted by rats, rodents and pests.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that since the Government claims that it has adequate food reserves or buffer stocks, there is no need to import foodgrains in the near future, it is imperative for the Central Government to put in more food in the Public Distribution System immediately. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर। प्रकाश जी आपके पांच मिनट हैं।

डा.(श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : पांच मिनट कैसे?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : मैंने बोला है कि पांच मिनट बाकी हैं। Please finish in five minutes.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय जी को याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ, कुछ आंकड़े बताना चाहता हूँ, कुछ सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ और कुछ मांगें भी रखना चाहता हूँ। पहला है वायदे की याद। चुनाव में जाते समय जब लोग महंगाई पर पूछ रहे थे, तो यूपीए घटकों ने प्रोमिस किया था और यहां राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने भी अपने भाषण में कहा था कि सौ दिन में महंगाई कम करेंगे। सौ दिन पूरे हो गए, लेकिन महंगाई बीस फीसदी और बढ़ी है। हमारे एक कांग्रेसी मित्र ने कहा कि इतना सब होकर भी हम जीत रहे हैं। मुझे उन्हें यह बताना पड़ा कि यह जनादेश और चुनावी जीत महंगाई के लिए जनादेश मिला है, ऐसा न समझें, इसलिए मैं आपको वायदे की याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरी बात, सरकार क्या कर रही है। क्या यह आसमानी संकट है या सुल्तानी संकट है? मैं इसे सुल्तानी संकट का नाम देना चाहता हूँ। इस सुल्तान का नाम है यूपीए सरकार। भले ही यूपीए सरकार में कुछ दल शरद पवार जी को टारगेट करते हैं और उनके कारण ही महंगाई हो रही है, ऐसा मानते हैं, लेकिन मैं उनके साथ सारे यूपीए को कटघरे में खड़ा करना चाहता हूँ। सर, गन्ना और चीनी के साथ क्या खिलवाड़ हुआ? शरद पवार जी, हम जो अभी चालीस रुपए में शुगर परचेज कर रहे हैं, वह पिछले साल की है। पिछले साल किसान को क्या दाम मिला था? उसे सोलह रुपए मिले थे। आपने हमें बहुत बार गणित समझाया है कि जिसे सोलह रुपए किलो मिला, उस सोलह रुपए का पच्चीस रुपए भाव बाजार में होना चाहिए। अगर किसान को सोलह रुपए मिलते हैं तो वह ग्राहक को पच्चीस रुपए में मिलना चाहिए, तब आज यह चालीस रुपए में क्यों मिल रहा है? ये बीच के पंद्रह रुपए कौन खा रहा है? इसके लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं? शुगर के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने नौ महीने पहले कहा था, बहुत दूर नहीं है, इसी सेशन में पहले कहा था कि भंडार लबालब भरा है और इतनी शक्कर है कि हम निर्यात की परमिशन दे रहे हैं। निर्यात किया गया 48 लाख टन। जनवरी 2009 में 48 लाख टन शुगर निर्यात हुआ 12 रुपए की दर से और अभी वही शुगर आ रहा है 27 रुपए की दर से। सर, यह कौन सा व्यापार है? यह कौन सी आयात-निर्यात नीति है? यह तो चीनी का महाघोटाला है। 48 लाख टन शुगर निर्यात किया जाएगा 12 रुपए की दर से और 9 महीने में तुरन्त 70 लाख टन आयात होगा 27 से 30 रुपए की दर से, इसे घोटाला नहीं तो और क्या कहेंगे? इसका हमें जवाब चाहिए।

खाद्य तेल के बारे में भी क्या खेल किया गया। मैं मंत्री महोदय को एक बात याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि दो साल पहले महाराष्ट्र में गन्ना किसानों का आन्दोलन हुआ था। वह इसलिए हुआ था कि वे लोग 1,200 रुपए भाव मांग रहे थे, लेकिन उनको 1,200 रुपए नहीं दिए गए, इसलिए वे लोग आन्दोलन कर रहे थे। आप वहाँ अपनी दो सीटें भी हार गए, क्योंकि वहाँ किसानों का जन-आन्दोलन हुआ। वह आन्दोलन इसलिए हुआ कि उन्हें 1,200 रुपए भाव दिया जाए, लेकिन 1,200 रुपए भाव नहीं दिए गए। अब इस साल 2,000 रुपए देने पड़ रहे हैं। यह क्या नीति है? क्या इस देश में सरकार नाम की कोई चीज़ है, जो एक किसान को दीर्घकालीन कीमत नहीं देती है, जो long-term price guarantee नहीं देती है? यह कैसी सरकार है, क्या नीति है? न आयात की नीति है, न निर्यात की नीति है, न price stability की नीति है, न महंगाई को रोकने की कोई कला है, न शास्त्र है। खाद्य तेल में क्या हुआ? वह आज 80 रुपए तक गया। ऐसा क्यों हुआ? मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ कि क्या 2003 में इस देश में एक टन खाद्य तेल का भी आयात हो रहा था? सात साल में ऐसा क्या हो गया, सिर्फ इसके सिवाए कि यूपीए सरकार छः साल सत्ता में रही है, क्या हो गया कि अब अपनी 60 फीसदी जरूरत आयात से पूरी होती है? देश के तिलहन की खेती क्यों समाप्त हो गई? देश का तेल का उद्योग क्यों समाप्त हो गया? श्रीलंका के साथ हमारा free trade agreement है और यहाँ के मिल मालिकों ने वहाँ जाकर मिलें लगाई और श्रीलंका और मलेशिया का कारोबार है, तो मलेशिया से यहाँ without tax आ रहा है। क्या यह किसी को दिखता नहीं है कि किस तरह से इस देश के तेल के उद्योग को समाप्त किया गया, किस तरह से तिलहन की खेती को समाप्त किया गया? जो आज से छः साल पहले self-sufficient था, छः साल बाद आज वह 60 per cent import dependent हो गया। दालों की हालत आज क्या हो गई! 100 रुपए किलो दाल कभी सोचा था! Pulse के मिशन के बारे में आप बार-बार कहते हैं, वह क्यों fail हो गया? क्यों productivity नहीं बढ़ी, क्यों नए seeds नहीं आए, क्यों assured water supply नहीं मिली? इससे भी ज्यादा दाल के किसान को आपने क्या गारंटी दी कि आप दाल लगाओ, तो आपको हर साल बेहतर कीमत मिलेगी? क्या यह

सरकार ने कभी बताया? कोई नीति नहीं है। नीति के अभाव में सरकार के कारण देश में supply-demand की problem तैयार हुई और इसके कारण आज महंगाई बढ़ी है।

सर, मैं आज एक और बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हमने paddy के किसान के लिए 1,000 रुपए मांगे थे, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 1,000 रुपए नहीं दे सकते। क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी ने ऐसा नहीं कहा था? उन्होंने कहा था कि हम 1,000 रुपए नहीं देंगे, क्योंकि महंगाई बढ़ेगी। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आज क्या हुआ? आज बाजार में 40 रुपए किलो चावल मिल रहा है। जो एकदम साधारण चावल है, वह भी 20-25-30 रुपए के नीचे नहीं है। आप किसान को 1,000 रुपए देने के लिए मना कर रहे थे और ऐसा हुआ। (समय की घंटी) यह जो हुआ है, उसका मूलभूत कारण है कि यह आसमानी नहीं, सुल्तानी संकट है और सुल्तान का नाम यूपीए सरकार है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : जावडेकर जी, आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, अन्त में, मेरी दो-तीन मांगें हैं। क्या यह सरकार किसान को long-term price guarantee देगी, क्योंकि यही एक रास्ता है? मैंने देखा है कि पिछले साल उत्तर प्रदेश में आलू के किसानों ने कोल्ड स्टोरेज में आलू छोड़ दिया। वे उसका किराया भी नहीं दे सकते थे, इतनी भी price नहीं मिली। इस साल ग्राहक को आलू 30 रुपए किलो लेना पड़ रहा है। Price में ये जो distortions आते हैं, वे इसलिए आते हैं, क्योंकि सरकार के पास कोई नीति नहीं है। Assured water supply is the key to the productivity of agriculture. क्या assured water supply सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार public investment करेगी? अगर हाँ, तो कितना करेगी? महोदय, अंत में एक मांग है कि आज जनता को राहत देने के लिए सरकार क्या करेगी? मैं मांग करता हूँ कि हर परिवार को 5 किलो चीनी, 5 किलो तेल, 5 किलो दाल, 10 किलो चावल और 10 किलो गेहूँ मिलना चाहिए। यह हर परिवार को, APL परिवार को भी, सुनिश्चित दामों पर PDS के माध्यम से निश्चित रूप से मिलना चाहिए, तभी राहत मिलेगी, नहीं तो सरकार ने क्या किया? ...(समय की घंटी)... इसने केवल बयान दिया और महंगाई पर लगाम नहीं लगाया, यही लोग कहेंगे ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : हो गया।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : इसलिए मैं अंत में केवल एक वाक्य कहूँगा। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं केवल एक वाक्य कहूँगा कि यह जो महंगाई का राक्षस है, यह अचानक नहीं आया है। यह कोई संकट नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... यह सरकार द्वारा निर्मित है ...(व्यवधान)... और इसलिए यह सरकार को करना चाहिए।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Thank you Vice-Chairman, Sir. If I remember correctly, it is the third time during the period of the UPA-II that we are discussing the price situation, particularly about the essential commodities. It is remarkable that not even on one occasion that we have talked about the rural consumer. When we talk of consumer prices, we, essentially, talk of urban consumer. It must be remembered that there is a basic difference in the interest of the rural consumer on the one hand and the urban consumer on the other. The urban consumer wants low prices; the rural consumer wants higher incomes. The basic defect in the policies of the Government is their failure to balance between the interests of rural consumer and urban consumer. On all the three occasions I had pointed out that the increase in inflation

and the hike in prices all a direct consequence of the policy of so called inclusive growth or the *Aam Aadmi* economics. Sir, this has distorted the supply-demand situation in the country as a whole. The flagship schemes of the UPA have resulted in a lot of money being pumped into the consumer who is going in for additional consumables which is a happy thing. But, that has to be matched with additional incentives to the producer community which is not coming as has been pointed by so many previous speakers. Unless we provide sufficient incentive to the producer, it is very difficult. If we do not do that and go on pumping money into the hands of the consumer, the consequence would be what we are seeing today. The fact that *Aam Aadmi* economics has got them vote possibly give them to think that they are on the wrong track. They might have won elections. It might, actually, come out to be disastrous for the country as a whole. I would like to make only one point, Sir.

The knee-jerk reactions that the Government is giving, for example, importing the essential commodities, banning the export of essential commodities, imposing restrictions on the futures market, etc., are all anti-farmer measures which will discourage the farmer from producing more next year. This year you suffered from drought and next year it might come as inundation and flood and you are not really equipped to meet that situation. This year you might escape because you have sufficient stocks. But, next year, you might be really in trouble and don't think that the electorate is as favourable to you that time as they are this time. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you. You stick to time. You have taken less time.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, I always do that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You are very crisp and to the point. And, you have made very good points.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Smt. Stanley.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Thank you Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. I record my concern here over the increasing trend in prices of essential commodities like edible oil, pulses, etc. The result is showing on other commodities also like vegetables and fruits. This has a direct affect on *Aam Aadmi* for whom we say that the entire Government is working. So, this is of much concern and the need of the hour is to address this sincerely.

The main reason for increase in the prices is the mismatch between supply and demand. That is, when the demand is very high and the supply is less, certainly, it paves way for

increasing the price. The supply is less due to floods and drought conditions. In such a condition, the supply of essential commodities can be increased only through import. If at all there is hoarding, we can impose stockholding limits. Tightening of de-hoarding operations will have only a temporary relief. This cannot have a desired effect on price rise if the supply condition is acute. A Tamil Poet says, which means, 'The Government should be able to create the resources, guard it very well and then equally distribute it.' This is what the Government of India is doing now.

India is now facing such a short supply, particularly, in respect of pulses and oils. The Government of India is implementing a scheme for importing and supplying edible oils and pulses to the State for its distribution through PDS. But, Sir, the quantum of supply is very, very inadequate for Tamil Nadu. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, the State has supplied 71,000 tonnes of *Tur dal*, whereas, the Central Government agencies have supplied only 250 tonnes. Then, 29,000 and odd tonnes of *Urad dal* has been supplied through PDS in Tamil Nadu, whereas, the Central Government agencies have supplied only 4750 tonnes to Tamil Nadu. Similarly, 69,000 and odd kilolitres of palm oil has been supplied by the Tamil Nadu Government through PDS but the Central Government agencies have supplied only 20,000 kilolitres of palm oil to Tamil Nadu. Likewise, 17000 and odd tonnes of *Atta*, 4000 and odd tonnes of *Sooji*, 15,000 and odd tonnes of *Maida* and 43 tonnes of *Masala* packets have also been distributed through PDS from April, 2009 in Tamil Nadu. So, apart from introducing the scheme of providing rice at Rs. 1 per kg, the distribution of *Masala* packets is another unique system of curbing the price rise in Tamil Nadu. All the important *Masala* items like coriander powder, chilli powder or even mustard seed, etc., are packeted, which is worth than Rs. 100 but it is distributed through the PDS at just Rs. 50.

So, here it is very clear that the supply given by the Central Government is very inadequate, but still the State Government of Tamil Nadu is able to manage the situation. How is it possible? It is done only by the additional budgetary provisions. An amount of nearly Rs.400-500 crores is being spent to buy the essential commodities from the open market and to supply this at the subsidised rate to protect the poor people of Tamil Nadu irrespective of the quantum supplied by the Government of India. The same is the case with sugar also.

I would like the Government of India to take some long-term measures by increasing the production and also the productivity so that there is an increase in the supply. This can be achieved only by incentivising the cultivation of such crops and also by adopting better seeds and promoting high yielding variety seeds and also by following good agronomic policies. Sir, there is another interesting Tamil cinema song which is worth quoting here. Which means

everything is possible if you are concentrating properly on the farmers and on the field.
...(*Time-bell rings*)...

Sir, pulses and oil seeds can be grown in large quantities in our climatic conditions. For this, I request that the Government can give the hybrid seeds to the farmers free of cost. If it cannot provide it free, it should be provided, at least, at 50 per cent rates.

Finally, I will make just two more suggestions. The MSP is always fixed at a very low level, as a result of which the Government agencies are not able to procure the desired quantity. I request that the remunerative rate may be fixed for the essential commodities like we have fixed for sugarcane. Otherwise, the MSP should be fixed on par with the moving average, that is., taking into consideration the market price.

With this observation, Sir, I request that the Government of India should support the State Governments like Tamil Nadu which is taking several proactive measures to implement PDS as an effective anti-inflationary scheme and also to consider the short-term and long-term measures to curb the price rise at large. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Dr. Subbarami Reddy. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would like to thank(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Dr. Subbarami Reddy. ...(*Interruptions*).
Yes; yes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, this past year has been very unfortunate for the households in our country because the prices of fruits, vegetables, even eggs, chicken, sugar and palm oil have gone up abnormally. This is mainly because this year, we had unprecedented drought on one side and heavy floods on the other, and most disproportionate patterns of rainfall throughout the country. This is one of the major reasons. The price of potato rose by 82 to 100 per cent, onions by 49.9 per cent, pulses by 23 per cent. The price of rice was up by 12.19 per cent and wheat, by 7.47 per cent. Now, there is no doubt that we have a very knowledgeable and committed Minister for Agriculture. As the Minister for Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar is doing his best to control the prices but certain things are beyond his control. At the same time, there are some remedies which I would like to suggest on this occasion. For instance, take sugar. Today, sugar has become so expensive. It is priced at Rs. 40 to 50 and in some places, even Rs. 70 per kg. Why? How to control it? Today, prices are high all over the country and cane production has gone down by almost 50 per cent. This is because in the last several years, the sugar industry has been made to suffer extensively. At one

time, there were heavy imports. Later, imports were stopped. Subsequently, cane was not grown fully and cane growers had problems. Sugar factories closed down as a result. Thus, there have been many problems continuously. Today Government wants to import sugar, but the international prices of sugar are very high. Even by importing sugar they would not be able to control prices. So, what is the option? The option is, at least, for the future, what they must do is, sugarcane farmers must be encouraged to grow more sugar. Now, cane production has gone down by 50 per cent. At least, in future they must be encouraged. Similarly, in sugar factories which are sick in States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and various other States, the Government must take initiatives to give them more incentives and even ask banks to give them loans at less rates of interest and restructure the sick factories. The cooperative sugar factories should also be restructured. This should be done on a war-footing and, at least, in the next one or two years, the price of sugar must be completely brought under control. There must be a boom and production should go up.

Sir, similar problems are being faced in the case of palm oil. You cannot import palm oil. Not many countries produce it; there are a very limited number of countries that does that. So, we must produce more in our country itself. We must also concentrate on potatoes and onions. The Agriculture Ministry must concentrate on some special crops where there is a shortage always. Every season we talk about potatoes and onions; this is a burning issue in every season. How to solve it? The only solution is warehouses. Whenever there are good monsoons and a bumper crop, you must put warehouses to use. There is the Warehouses Corporation and there are cold storage facilities, but they are not sufficient. The Ministry must take more aggressive steps and encourage the private enterprises to come forward. If you have cold storages and warehouses, whenever there is more production of fruits and vegetables in a particular area, you may store them and use them again. Also, wherever in some area there is a surplus of foodgrains and vegetables, Government must take the initiative to transport them to places where they can be stored. The system is not well-coordinated. Now, the Government must take active part in, (1) coordination of transportation of vegetables, fruits and foodgrains from surplus areas to the deficit areas within the State and between States in a very scientific manner; and (2) wherever more crops are produced, particularly in areas where the monsoons have been good, they should provide for cold storage by giving them more loans and encouraging public-private partnership, and see that the vegetables and food items are stored and then given out when there is a shortage of food. Then, there are monsoons and floods; this is a continuous process in the country. Even though this cannot be solved immediately, there should be some solution, that is, they must concentrate on improving the irrigation system at the national level.

Now, just as we are giving top priority to power, construction of roads, the next priority should be irrigation. If we give priority to irrigation, whenever there are floods, water will not flow out to the sea; it would be actually stored to be used again for cultivation. Similarly, when there is a drought, this water could be utilised.

The next priority should be irrigation. Whenever there is a flood, water should not go to sea. It should be stored for cultivation so that this water could be utilised when there is drought. When the flood will come again, it will not damage the crops; water will be stored in reservoirs. In conclusion, I would like to say that even though we have succeeded to bring down the inflation from 12 per cent to zero per cent in one year, again, it has now become 1.3 per cent. Foodgrains and vegetables prices have gone up to 13 per cent, 14 per cent or 21 per cent. It is quite possible for the Government to control the prices with all remedial measures and future planning, and also help the people who are suffering. You must have the planning, at least, for future one or two years in a very scientific way.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद। मैं यहां इसलिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ ताकि मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से महंगाई के खिलाफ पुरजोर विरोध प्रकट कर सकूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हम समाजवादी आंदोलन से आते हैं और हम लोगों ने नारा दिया है — “रोको महंगाई, बांधो दाम, नहीं तो होगा चक्का जाम”, यह हम समाजवादी लोगों की मांग है। हमारी दूसरी मांग है — “महंगाई जो रोक न सके, वह सरकार निकम्मी है, जो सरकार निकम्मी है, वह सरकार बदलनी है।” अभी हमारे एक मित्र बता रहे थे कि आप सरकार नहीं बदल सकते, क्योंकि अभी साढ़े चार साल बाकी हैं। मैं उनको बताना चाहता हूँ कि साढ़े चार साल नहीं, केवल चार साल और दो महीने बाकी हैं। यह जो सरकार आती है और जो सरकार जाती है, अगर आप महंगाई को नहीं रोकेंगे, तो सरकार को जाने में ज्यादा समय नहीं लगेगा। मुझे याद है कि जब जनता पार्टी की सरकार थी, तो प्याज का दाम बढ़ गया था और प्याज का दाम बढ़ने की वजह से हमारी सरकार चली गई। यहां तो हर चीज का दाम बढ़ गया है, केवल आदमी का दाम घट गया है। आदमी का दाम कम हो गया है, बाकी सभी चीजों के दाम बढ़ गए हैं। अभी हमने हाल ही में सुना कि पानी का भी दाम बढ़ गया है। हमने यहां एक प्रश्न पूछा था कि क्या पानी के लिए मुंबई में लड़ाई हो रही है, तो उन लोगों ने कहा कि यह स्टेट का सब्जैक्ट है। हमको लगता है कि आने वाले दिनों में हवा के लिए भी परमीशन लेनी होगी और उसका भी दाम लगेगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इस देश में जहां 77 फीसदी आदमियों को रोज 20 रुपए मिलते हैं, वहां पर अगर आप गुड़ की कीमत को बढ़ा देंगे, तो कैसे काम चलेगा? हम लोग देहात में जाते हैं, तो एक लोटा पानी मिलता है और उसके साथ थोड़ा सा गुड़ मिलता है, ताकि आप गुड़ के साथ पानी पीजिए, लेकिन यह “कबीरदास की उल्टी बानी, बरसे कम्बल, भीगे पानी” वाली बात हो रही है कि चीनी का दाम कम है और गुड़ का दाम ज्यादा है। यह कमाल का देश है। फिर हमारे यहां के जो कृषि मंत्री हैं, वे गुड़ के दाम को आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं और चीनी के दाम को कम कर रहे हैं। चीनी का दाम, गुड़ के दाम से कम हो रहा है, यानी गुड़ का दाम 50 रुपए किलो और चीनी का दाम 40 रुपए किलो हो रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इस देश में महंगाई है और कलराज मिश्र जी को यह विषय यहां उठाने के लिए मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन उन्होंने आंकड़ा बहुत ज्यादा बताया। हिंदुस्तान के जो 77 फीसदी लोग हैं, उनको आंकड़े से कोई मतलब नहीं है, GDP कितनी बढ़ी, GDP कितनी कम हुई, इससे उन लोगों को कोई मतलब नहीं है। आपको अगर यह फख्र है कि हम जीत गए हैं और बहुत अच्छी तरह से जीते हैं, तो यकीनन आप हार जाएंगे, बहुत अच्छी तरह से हार जाएंगे, महंगाई आपको छोड़ने वाली नहीं है। वैसे महंगाई किसी को छोड़ने वाली नहीं है, महंगाई ने हमको भी नहीं छोड़ा। जब जयप्रकाश जी की जनता पार्टी की सरकार आई, तो महंगाई उसको भी ले डूबी। इसलिए इस देश में महंगाई एक बहुत बड़ी चीज है। आज हर चीज का दाम बढ़ गया है - आलू का दाम बढ़ गया है, प्याज का दाम बढ़ गया है, आटे का दाम बढ़ गया है, सूजी का दाम बढ़ गया है, हर चीज का दाम बढ़ गया है, लेकिन हमारी जो आमदनी है, हम यह नहीं कहते कि हमारी फीस बढ़ा दी जाए। हम तो वकील थे, हमें पता ही नहीं लगता था कि किसने कितना पैसा दिया, किसी ने पांच सौ रुपए दिए, किसी ने चार सौ रुपए दिए, पता ही नहीं लगता था। यहां भी पता नहीं लगता है कि महंगाई क्या है, लेकिन गांव में लोगों को सब्जी नहीं मिलती है। आपका जो मिड-डे मील प्रोग्राम है, उसमें गांव में जाकर देख लीजिए, वहां खिचड़ी में रंग दिया जाता है, उसमें दाल नहीं होता है। महंगाई का यह असर है कि खिचड़ी में पीला रंग दिया जाता है। उसमें दाल नहीं होता है। यह एक गंभीर मामला है, इसलिए मैं इस गंभीर मामले के बारे में आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि महंगाई पर जरूर रोक लगनी चाहिए। सर, महंगाई एक जबर्दस्त चीज है, “न संभलोगे तो मिट जाओगे ये हिन्दुस्तान वाले कि तुम्हारी दास्तां भी न होगी दास्तानों में”, अगर गरीबों का असर आपको लगेगा, तो सरकार आपकी नहीं चलेगी। यह सरकार पांच वर्ष तक नहीं चलने वाली है, यहां आंदोलन होने वाला है। सब लोग मिल जाएंगे और महंगाई के खिलाफ आंदोलन होगा और फिर आपका साढ़े चाल साल और पांच साल सब दिवास्वप्न हो जाएगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि महंगाई पर रोक लगाइए। मैंने आपके बारे में सुना है कि आप बहुत एक्सपर्ट आदमी हैं और अच्छे आदमी हैं, इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि महंगाई पर रोक लगाइए और गरीबों को राहत दीजिए। गरीबों को माओवादी और नक्सलाइट बनने से रोकिए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, आज़ादी के 62 साल बाद आज महंगाई पर चर्चा हो रही है। आज़ादी के बाद एक राष्ट्र को संपूर्ण रूप से निर्माण करने के लिए 62 साल का समय दिया, मगर हम लोगों ने आज तक आम जनता के लिए चावल, गेहूँ, आटा, साग-सब्जी, दाल और खाने का तेल पहुंचा नहीं पा रहे हैं। इसके लिए सरकार को सोचना चाहिए। महोदय, industrial product के लिए हर साल ज्यादा मात्रा में पूंजी निवेश किया जा रहा है। मगर पं. जवाहर लाल नेहरू के बाद जो mega irrigation project, medium irrigation project और minor irrigation project को समय-समय पर भारत सरकार सेन्ट्रल प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में लेती थी और मेगा प्रोजेक्ट के जरिए किसानों को इरिगेशन के जरिए पानी देती थी, जिसके चलते आज कम से कम पचास प्रतिशत जनसंख्या कुछ खाद्यान्न खाने के लिए अच्छे से पा रहे हैं और पचास प्रतिशत जनसंख्या अभी starvation-like condition में जी रही है। Irrigation subject एक State subject है। मगर जैसे without water, there is no question of fish farming. Like that, without irrigation, there is no question of farming. महंगाई तो बढ़ेगी और population भी बढ़ेगी, मगर इनके खाने-पीने का जुगाड़ करने के लिए जो जमीन है, उस जमीन का जो एरिया है, it cannot be increased. यह हिन्दुस्तान का जितना जमीन है, उतना ही रहेगा। इसीलिए जो 70 परसेंट average जमीन rainfed है, उसको सरकार irrigation की facility दे।

Without taking any tax, water tax, farmers should be given the irrigation facilities. जब तक आप यह नहीं करेंगे, तब तक हर साल पार्लियामेंट में महंगाई पर चर्चा होगी। फिर आप बोलेंगे कि इस साल मौसम अच्छा नहीं हुआ, एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्ट्स कम हुए, इसलिए महंगाई हो रही है। कभी आप बोलेंगे कि महंगाई को कंट्रोल करने के लिए राज्य सरकारें भारत सरकार के साथ सहयोग नहीं करती हैं, इसलिए महंगाई बढ़ रही है। कभी बोलेंगे कि वायदा बाज़ार के चलते hoarding हो रही है, इसलिए महंगाई बढ़ रही है। कभी बोलेंगे कि हम लोगों की जो गवर्नमेंट मशीनरी है, that Government machinery is not able to control the blackmarketers. ये कारण आप गिनाएंगे, मगर ये कारण तो 50 परसेंट ही जिम्मेदार हैं। जब तक आप 100 परसेंट secure irrigation facility हर स्टेट को, हिंदुस्तान की हर इंच ज़मीन को नहीं देते हैं, तब तक महंगाई बढ़ती रहेगी और फूड शॉर्टेज होती रहेगी।

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

इसलिए मैं भारत सरकार से निवेदन करता हूँ कि for the incomplete mega irrigation projects and the medium irrigation projects, which are pending at the State level, the Central Government should come forward and ensure hundred per cent funding to complete all these incomplete projects, and, it should also provide hundred per cent irrigation facilities throughout the country. Then only, this problem may be solved. Otherwise, we will continue to discuss it again and again, and, perhaps, will not find any solution. (*Time-bell rings*) और हम लोग विशेषकर जो बोलते हैं “आम आदमी के साथ”, तो क्या हम “आम आदमी के साथ” हैं? Fifty per cent of the *aam aadmi* is now in half-starved condition. Sir, if the Government does not make any provision and does not give them hundred per cent support, there may be anarchy in the country.

श्री उपसभापति : किसन जी, समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री मंगल किसन : जैसा अभी राजनीति प्रसाद जी बोल रहे थे कि आम आदमी फूड के लिए लड़ाई लड़ने के लिए घर से निकलेंगे और देश unruly हो सकता है, इसलिए the Government should provide hundred per cent irrigation facilities to the farmers of the country. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Barun Mukherji. (*Interruptions*)

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर आ रहे हैं या नहीं आ रहे हैं?

श्री उपसभापति : फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर क्यों आएंगे?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : क्यों नहीं आएंगे? उनको भी महंगाई की इस बहस का जवाब देना चाहिए।

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great concern not only due to the fact that the prices are steadily rising but also due to the fact that the Government is quite indifferent about it. We are at a loss to think as to what is going on. Some of the earlier speakers have already said that it is for the third time that we are discussing the same issue, namely, price rise, during the second term of the UPA Government. Periodically,

this is coming up, we are discussing it and the same stereotyped answer is coming but the problem remains the same. Not only it remains the same but it is also becoming acute day-by-day. It is really a matter of great concern for the whole nation. If the Government is concerned for the people, we expect them to tackle this crisis on war footing. We may prosper in many ways. We may feel proud saying that the GDP is improving and all these things. But when it comes to the essential commodities, prices are rising steadily. Starting from salt to sugar, from rice to pulses, prices of every thing are rising. We are gradually having the impression that the Government is not very serious about it, and that really is a matter of concern. It has been repeatedly demanded, particularly from the Opposition parties, that the forward trading should be banned. But, it has not been banned, and no categorical answer is coming as to why it has not been banned.

We have analysed that these profiteers, hoarders, the people engaged in forward trading, they are causing the serious price rise. But the Government is reluctant to ban it. We are seriously raising this issue again and we want a very categorical answer as to why it has not been done. If the Government has some other answer to overcome it, we would not have raised this point. But we find that the basic reason is not being taken care of. Moreover, no action has been taken against the profiteers. When the recent potato crisis was there, we found that tons of potatoes were stored safely under the care of some hoarders. Then, the Government came with the plea that they did not have adequate law in their hands to take out all those potatoes from the godowns and all these things. There are so many excuses. There may be some genuine reasons also. But apparently it seems that we are bowing down to the nature. We are taking the name of the droughts or the floods or inadequate monsoon. But the point comes is, if these adverse circumstances continue, what would be the fate of the people? We are bowing down to the nature. We don't have the power to overcome nature's adversities. Sir, the other day, we noted that the hon. Finance Minister also stated that to overcome the problem, the PDS has to be strengthened. May I ask the hon. Minister what steps have been taken? Our hon. Agriculture, Food and Supply Minister is here. Everything is in his hands. So, what steps have been taken to strengthen the PDS? The artificial barrier between BPL and APL should also go. The Government must come forward to give more subsidies, particularly for these food items and other essential items. If necessary, even half of the total Budget should be spent for protection of the millions of hungry people. (*Time-bell rings*) So, all we say is, not only the price rise is a matter of concern, but we also find that the Government is indifferent about it. So, they must show that they want to address the problem. They have got the mandate of the people. They have come to power for the second time. But they must justify it. The people's demand

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is that they must have their salt; they must have their water; they must have their rice; they must have their food. But nothing is being supplied. Is it not betrayal to the people? Once more, we have participated in the debate. I find that it is an ongoing process. But please don't make it an ongoing process. Please come out with positive assurances, and not only assurance, but positive actions also so that the prices can immediately be controlled. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Bharatkumar Raut, you have got 4-5 minutes.

श्री भारतकुमार राऊत (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, वैसे तो मैं अंग्रेजी में अपने विचार व्यक्त करता हूँ लेकिन आज मैं हिन्दी की सहायता ले रहा हूँ। क्योंकि आज का विषय है — महंगाई, यह महंगाई विषय ऐसे आम आदमी का है जिसका दिल सेंसेक्स बढ़ने से उछलता नहीं और जी०डी०पी० ग्रोथ के बढ़े-बढ़े आंकड़े उसके लिए कोई मायना नहीं रखते। ऐसे विषय पर मुझे बोलना है। मुझे लगता है कि मैं आखिरी वक्ता हूँ, बहुत सारे मुद्दे तो आ चुके हैं, मुझे सिर्फ दो-तीन सवाल आपूर्ति मंत्री से पूछने हैं। क्या आपने यह देखा है कि जिन चीजों के दाम मार्केट में बढ़े हैं, मैसूरा रेड्डी जी ने आपको पूरा हिसाब दिया कि उनका जो उत्पादक है उसे कितना भाव मिलता है। आज भी आलू का उत्पादन करने वाले जो लोग हैं, उन्होंने जितना इनपुट दिया उतना भी उनको रिटर्न नहीं मिल रहा है और आज आलू के दाम ऐसे हो गए कि बिना आलू के सब्जी बनने लगी है। उपसभापति महोदय, एक दूसरी बात यह है कि एक तरफ हम बोल रहे हैं कि एसेशियल कमांडिटीज महंगी होती जा रही हैं। मंत्री जी ने पहले कहा था कि यह दाम तो अगले तीन-चार महीनों में बढ़ने वाले हैं। एक तरफ एसेशियल कमांडिटीज के दाम बढ़ते हैं, दूसरी जगह बढ़ी-बढ़ी कार, बढ़े-बढ़े टी०वी० सैट्स, कॉस्मेटिक पाउडर, टूथ पेस्ट जैसी चीजें जो ऊंचे लोगों की वस्तुएं हैं, उनके दाम कम होते जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि वे बढ़े-बढ़े एडवर्टाइजमेंट टी०वी० पर देते हैं तथा उनके कम दामों की एडवर्टाइजमेंट टी०वी० पर दीखती है। हम टूथ पेस्ट खाकर जिन्दा नहीं रह सकते, हम कॉस्मेटिक पाउडर खा नहीं सकते, लेकिन उनके दाम आप घटाते जा रहे हैं। यह आपकी क्या पॉलिसी है? मुझे लगता है कि यह जो एसेशियल कमांडिटीज की मूल्य वृद्धि हो रही है, यह मैन मेड है, यह नैसर्गिक कृपा से नहीं हुई है। कृषि मंत्री महाराष्ट्र से आते हैं, महाराष्ट्र में 1995 से 1999 तक शिव सेना और भाजपा का शासन था। उस समय मंत्रालय के सामने एक बड़ा बोर्ड लगाया गया था और उस पर पांच एसेशियल कमांडिटीज के दाम लिखे गए थे और साढ़े चार साल वही के वही दाम रहे, उसमें एक पैसे की वृद्धि नहीं हुई। इसका मतलब यह है कि अगर आपकी प्रशासन पर कमांड है, अगर आपकी नीति साफ है और अगर वहां पर ट्रांसपिरेंसी है तो भाव बढ़ नहीं सकते। मुझे लगता है कि यही प्रयोग अब आप और राज्य सरकारों में क्यों नहीं करते, क्यों नहीं ऐसे बोर्ड लगाते कि यह-यह दाम हैं और ये इतने साल तक कायम रहेंगे। उसके लिए एक नीति की आवश्यकता है।

उपसभापति महोदय, ज्यादा नहीं बोलूंगा लेकिन मैं अरबन पुअर के बारे में थोड़ी सी बात करना चाहता हूँ, मैं मुम्बई से आता हूँ, हमारे आसपास की तीन फेमिलीज का सर्वे किया गया। एक फेमिली है, जिसमें पति बी०एम०सी० — मुम्बई म्यूनिसिपल कॉर्पोरेशन में लोअर डिविजनल क्लर्क है, उसकी वाइफ हाउस वाइफ है, उनके दो स्कूल गोइंग बच्चे हैं। उनकी मासिक आमदनी 18 हजार रुपए है। इस 18 हजार रुपए में उनकी जो ग्रासरी का खर्चा है वह 15 हजार रुपया है। दूसरी प्लम्बर की फेमिली है, उसकी वाइफ मेड सर्वेंट है, उसकी मासिक आमदनी 8 हजार रुपए है। उसकी ग्रासरी का बिल 6 हजार रुपए है। जो तीसरी फेमिली है वह हमारी

बिल्लिंग का सिक्कोरिटी गार्ड है, उसकी वाइफ सफाई वर्कर है। उनकी आमदनी 6 हजार रुपया है। उनकी ग्रीसरी का खर्चा 5 हजार रुपया है। अगर इतना खर्चा हो रहा है तो उसके आगे उसकी हाऊसिंग है, उसका इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बिल है, उनके बच्चों की पढ़ाई है, उनका क्लोथिंग है, उनका कम्यूटिंग का खर्चा है, तो इस तरह से यह एक गरीब आदमी कहां से जिंदा रहेगा? क्या सरकार ने सोचा है कि यह गरीब आदमी, आम आदमी जिसकी आप बातें करते रहो, यह कैसे जिन्दा रहने वाला है? आप बोल रहे हैं यकायक बारिश हुई, इसलिए आपके पास अनाज नहीं है इसलिए अनाज के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, जो सही नहीं है। आप महाराष्ट्र से आते हो। मैं महाराष्ट्र की एक बात आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि महाराष्ट्र में जो कोआपरेटिव शुगर फैक्ट्रीज हैं, जो आजकल साइड बिजनेस करके शराब बनाते थे, इसमें से कई शुगर इण्डस्ट्रीज को आपने चावल, गेहूं, बाजरा और ज्वार से लिक्कें प्रोडक्शन के लाइसेंस दे रखे हैं। लोगों को खाने के लिए अनाज नहीं, लेकिन लिक्कें बनाने के लिए, शराब बनाने के लिए इस सरकार के पास उनको लाइसेंस देने की नीति है।

सिर्फ लाइसेंस देकर ही चुप नहीं बैठे, उन्होंने सरकार की पूंजी से, राज्य सरकार की तिजोरी से, उनको सबसिडी दी है। कृषि मंत्री जी जिस पक्ष से आते हैं, उस पक्ष के जो लोग हैं, उनकी जो सहयोगी पार्टी है, वे सहयोगी पार्टी के लोग क्या कर रहे हैं ? आप हमें सिखा रहे हैं, आप लोगों को बोल रहे हैं। आपकी पार्टी के जो लोग हैं, जो धान है, उस धान से शराब पीने का आप लाइसेंस दे रहे हैं, ऐसा कितने दिन चलेगा? ..(समय की घंटी).. यह नहीं चलेगा। महंगाई मार देगी। महंगाई पहले हमें मार रही है, उसके बाद में सरकार को मारेगी, यह मैं जरूर कहना चाहता हूं। यह सिर्फ एक सिग्नल है। यह सिर्फ एक वार्निंग है। अगर यह सरकार ऐसे ही चलती रहेगी, तो जैसा मेरे सहयोगी ने कहा, वैसे ही जनता सड़कों पर आएगी और जब जनता रास्ते पर आएगी, तब जनता कहेगी कि सिंहासन खाली करो। वह ऐसा नारा देगी। यह दिन नहीं आना चाहिए। इसलिए आज ही माननीय मंत्री जी को कुछ कदम उठाने की जरूरत है। मैं इतनी ही विनती करता हूं और मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have been carefully listening the discussion in the House regarding rise in the price of essential commodities. I would like to share the concerns of all the hon. Members because this particular subject is a subject which is affecting practically each and every household of this country and, particularly, the vulnerable sections of the country. Middle classes of this country have to face a very serious situation. It is true that we have discussed this subject in the month of August and it is also true that there is no remarkable change in the situation. I recollect, in the discussion in August, in my reply, I had explained what was the ground level situation, what steps had been taken and for how long this situation will continue. Of course, when I tried to take the House into confidence and, through the House, the people of India, I tried to put a proper picture before them. I have seen that there are some allegations against me that because of my statements, certain things are happening and I don't want to hide. I have definitely tried to tell the truth to the countrymen because I was quite convinced that this type of situation will continue for such and such period. The issue is not restricted to prices of essential commodities. I recollect, in my

young days, I was in the Congress Party. And, the Working Committee of the Congress Party in 1960s took a decision that nationalisation of foodgrains failed. That was a major decision. Practically, within three months' time, the Party took another decision and withdrew from that decision because the Government and the Party realised that it was not a subject which the Government or the Government machinery or officers would control and implement very effectively to protect the interests of public. Here, if we have to resolve this issue, we have to take a long-term approach. We have to take an approach which can take corrective measures immediately.

For long term, in a country like India, it is the responsibility of all of us to see how we will be able to improve our production of agricultural goods and the productivity from each and every inch of land. We have to give it a topmost priority. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had said once: "Everything can wait but not agriculture." It is a huge country. We have six per cent land of the world; we have three per cent water of the world, but we have to feed 17 per cent population of the world! So, feeding 17 per cent population of the world, with such limited resources, is not easy unless and until we are ready to make, we are prepared to make substantial investment in the agriculture sector, whether it is irrigation, whether it is other facilities or whether it is cold chains, and save the post-harvest losses to reserve providing sufficient market facilities.

Some of the decisions were definitely taken in the last few years. When the UPA first took the responsibility to protect the interest of this country, in our programme, it was announced that such and such steps we are going to take in the area of agriculture and we would like to change the overall approach in agriculture; balance of trade also we would like to change. The overall investment pattern which was not giving justice to this sector has also been changed and tried to improve. Credit system has been improved. I recollect that in the year 2005-06, the total agricultural credit which was provided in this country was Rs.86,000 crores, crop loan, has been enhanced to Rs.3,01,000 crores this year. Interest - it has always been a normal discussion in the villages that if anybody wants to buy a small car, the credit is available or the money is available in some financial institution @ 8-9 per cent whereas the crop loan in this country is available @ 12 per cent. In Indian region, certain decision has been taken to reduce that from 12 per cent to certain percentage. Similar programme has been taken in hand and the House is fully aware that in the last Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has announced reducing the rate of interest, for crop loans, from eight to seven per cent, and those who were ready to pay regularly, they will charge six per cent. So, practically, we have come down from 12 per cent to 6 per cent. Of course, this is the precondition that regular payment should be there.

One of the points raised here by one of the hon. Members was that we should try to provide substantial money for irrigation purposes. It is true that 60 per cent of our agriculture is rain fed. It depends on uncertainty of monsoon, and unless and until we try to bring more irrigation percentage in the country, to resolve the question of food security is not that simple. So, a special programme has been taken up in this country, that is, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Thousands of projects were taken up by the State Governments. But for years together, they are incomplete. So, the Government of India took a decision to provide a special assistance to the States where they are in a position to complete these projects within two to three years. And, practically, every year, we are enhancing the budgetary provision for that purpose. The intention behind it is to improve the agriculture production and productivity, and make available sufficient foodgrains in this country. There are other schemes for which also a lot of monetary provision has been made. I recollect that on 17th May, 2006-07, I called the Chief Ministers' meeting and this particular subject was discussed practically for the whole day. For the first time, in the last forty or fifty years, an exclusive meeting of the Chief Ministers was called to discuss the problem of agriculture. It was decided in that meeting to provide Rs.25,000 crores and to introduce a new scheme, namely, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, where flexibility has been provided to the State Governments, and the State Governments, as per their requirements, can take up schemes in their respective States which will be useful to enhance agricultural production, particularly, foodgrains and other items, and productivity. We are implementing that Scheme for the last two or three years.

Another major decision was taken to improve the National Food Security Mission. An amount of Rs.5,000 crores has been provided. It was planned to enhance the wheat and pulses production by 20 million tonnes by 2011. The implementation of the Scheme is also doing quite well and I must say that most of the States are cooperating extremely well, and that is the reason why both the decisions are definitely going to show some results from some time now. So, one way our approach is to improve production and productivity, and make foodgrains available.

Another area where we have to take a lot of interest is the Public Distribution System or to make foodgrains available in the market. In the Public Distribution System, which we have accepted in this country for years together, there was a change in the approach when the NDA Government took the responsibility to run the Government. The change was a slightly different. The change was to give more weightage to the targeted sections of the society which are really the poorest of the poor. A decision was taken that 35 kilograms of wheat and rice should be provided to all the BPL families throughout India. Another new scheme has been introduced, namely, Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Those who come under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana are also

eligible to get 35 kilograms of wheat and rice per family per month, and the price, which was fixed in 2002, is Rs.2 per kilogram of wheat and Rs.3 per kilogram of rice. Till today, the same price pattern has been there. We have not changed that, though the minimum support price for wheat and rice has been substantially hiked. But this section of the society are, for years together and even today, getting 35 kilograms of rice and wheat at this particular price. So, we have the PDS and the AAY. There are about six crore families, that is, 30 crores of people, of this country, who have taken full advantage of these schemes. Another decision was taken by this Government to introduce a new category, called, the APL, that is, Above Poverty Line. Now, the people of this category are also entitled to get the foodgrains under the PDS. But it depends on availability. In the last few years, 10-12 kgs. of wheat and rice have been provided to the APL category. There is an exception to the States of the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, hilly States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, where we are even supplying 35 kgs. for the APL category. But the other States are getting around 10-11 kgs per family per month. And, if the availability improves, then, the Government will, happily, take a decision to enhance this quantity as well. Along with these, our effort is also to see to it that there is availability in the local market.

Now, there are a number of families who do not want to go to ration shops. They are not generally dependent on the Public Distribution System of the Government. They prefer to buy in open market. For the sake of that section, it is also our responsibility to see how the foodgrains are made available in local markets. As I said, the availability can be met from production within our country. But, if there is shortfall, a pragmatic decision has been taken on a number of occasions to allow imports liberally. But when we allow imports liberally, we also try to take care that domestic farmers are not affected. In the last, practically, ten years, we have been importing pulses. When we look at the position of the total production of pulses and the total demand of pulses of this country, there is a gap by about 4 million tonnes. So, unless and until, we allow imports to meet the shortfall of 4 million tonnes of pulses, the availability will not be there, and the price of pulses will not be under control. So, we do import them. There was a criticism as to why this Government is allowing import of edible oil. This decision has not been taken today. This practice has been going on for a number of years. I have not got the details with me now. But I can collect the information and give it to the House. But, for years together, we have been importing palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, and ensuring availability of edible oil in this country. So, edible oil and pulses are two items which are generally imported because there is shortage. The reasons are manifold. I will also go into some specific details about other individual commodities. A number of issues have been raised here. I will, definitely, go into each and every item. Prior to that, I will try to bring out the broad thrust of the measures which

have been taken in the last few months to improve availability. We have been encouraging imports, as I said, and discouraging exports.

From the last one year, we have totally banned rice export, other than Basmati. We have banned wheat export. We have banned, except one or two small items which are required for Indian community, particularly in the Gulf, edible oils from our side. So, we have now totally banned a number of items. And, there are a number of items where we have practically removed 100 per cent duty. We have done it because we want availability should be there in the country. To ensure that the vulnerable sections of the country are protected, the Government of India has given considerable support to the Public Distribution System. An extremely important step in this direction has been to keep the Central issue price constant since the year 2002. We have two prices. One is acquisition price from farmer. The second is the issue price for the public distribution. These are two prices, and practically, the issue price is constant for years together. But, the acquisition prices have been increasing. That has been enhanced. The Minimum Support Price in the last five years has been enhanced by practically up to 70 to 80 per cent. At the same time, thanks to the record production of last year, the Government procured a record 58.53 million tonnes of food grains, *i.e.*, 33.30 million tonnes of rice and 25.23 million tonnes of wheat this year. As a result, the Central Pool Stock of wheat as on 1st November, 2009 was 266.88 lakh tonnes. In 2009-10, the quantity of 129 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured till first of December. I have briefed the House while this year we are expecting less rice production because of the drought situation in certain States, but still Punjab, Haryana, parts of the Western U.P., these Governments have taken tremendous efforts to save their paddy crop this year. The Government of India has also supported them. We have provided them diesel subsidy. We have provided them additional power and because of this, they could save their crop and that is why, at least, these two States or three States have definitely saved their paddy crop. That is why our paddy procurement, which has been started from practically two months, is quite good and, as compared to last year, till today, our procurement is a little higher. But, I don't expect similar situation all over India because there are a number of other States which have been affected. Modification has been made to the order issued under the Essential Commodities Act to provide powers to the States to fix and enforce the stock limit for several essential commodities. So, these are some of the quick decisions which have been taken.

Sir, the hon. Members would recall that in the last Session of the House, we had discussed the situation arising because of poor monsoon that we experienced last year. Since then, we have received full information about the monsoon of the current year. The monsoon has ended with overall shortage of 23 per cent. It is reported that it has been the worst monsoon since

1972. The State Governments have declared 316 districts in 13 States, namely, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh to be drought affected or scarcity or drought-like conditions. So, in 316 districts of the 13 States, the State Governments have declared the drought. Subsequently, States like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, lost a lot of their crops in the post-monsoon period. Commodities like sugarcane, rice, potato and onion were affected.

I am not aware of what exactly has happened when a point was raised here by the hon. Member, Smt. Jaya Bachchan, that when she was coming from Nasik to Mumbai, on the way she has seen two-truckloads of onion was thrown away. Definitely, I would inquire into it. But, I am fully aware that in that particular belt, because of the excessive rains, sizeable onion crop has been practically rotten; and, that is why, the farmer might have tried to remove that and dispose it of somewhere. That might be the reason, but, definitely I would go and try to collect the information from the State Government.

Sir, the adverse climatic conditions have been coupled with the high prices of certain commodities in the international market. These two factors taken together have considerably restricted the capacity of the Government to take remedial measures; and, at the same time, on account of the steps taken to promote growth and employment, the economy has continued to grow. The targeted scheme like NREGA has also helped to improve the income of the rural poor. And, all this has led to increase demand of the essential commodities. Hon. Member, Shri Sharad Joshi, has raised this particular subject. He said that because of a number of Government schemes, now the purchasing power of the rural areas has definitely been improved and that is why there is more demand. He also said that the country is facing a little different situation from region to region. In villages, the situation is different. Our people from villages want better price to their products and in urban areas the prices should be proper, at a particular level. So, there is a sort of contradictory situation in what he says and I entirely agree with him.

While I go into the details about the specific scenario regarding inflation of the essential commodities today, I would like a fact to be kept as a backdrop in mind. The annual rate of inflation in food articles is currently 17.5 per cent. This is a matter of great concern. Although, the annual rate of inflation based on monthly WPI stood at a low level of 1.34 per cent for the month of October, 2009, the high inflation in food articles is certainly disturbing. I do not deny that, we accept that. We are quite serious about that. Though there has been an increase in the total foodgrains production in 2008-09, the production of some of the items, say, some varieties of pulses is low. Sugar has been altogether different. The first advance estimated production of

major agricultural crops in 2009-10 for kharif would be 96.53 million tonnes, which is lower than the first advance estimate of last year, which was expected to be 115 million tonnes. So, practically, we are coming down from 115 to 96.

India is not self-sufficient in some of the agricultural commodities, as I said, particularly, edible oil and pulses. That is why, I said that we have no choice but to import. But, simultaneously, certain important decisions have been taken by the Government of India to provide a better price to the farmer. For instance, the Minimum Support Price for wheat has been increased from Rs.640 per quintal in 2004 to Rs.1,100 per quintal this year. If the minimum support price has gone up from Rs. 642 to Rs. 1,100 definitely, there will be some impact in the price front in the open market. It is not possible to get or make available that wheat at the same price which was there around one year or two years or three years back.

Similar is the case with paddy. Now, for the common variety of paddy, the minimum support price has been increased from Rs. 560, per quintal, to Rs. 1000 in the year 2009. That means, in percentage terms, the MSP of wheat has been increased by 72 per cent, and paddy, by 79 per cent. So, if the paddy price has been enhanced by 79 per cent for the last three to four years, definitely, there will be some impact on the prices of rice. When we give Rs. 1000 per quintal, for the paddy crop, that means, actually, we are getting 60 kgs of rice. That is why Rs. 1000 is the price of paddy, which means Rs. 1600 is the State price of rice, plus conversion charges, acquisition charges, *mandi* charges and State Government's taxes. So, altogether, practically it goes to, somewhat, near Rs. 2000. But whatever figures which have been published, we have a system, that Delhi Government will communicate the figures of the various essential commodities to the Government of India's Consumer Affairs Department daily. They collect the figures from a number of shops, and whatever latest information which I got from Delhi Government, six months back, the retail price of rice was at Rs. 20 per kg. Three months back, it had gone up to Rs. 21. One month back, it had gone up to Rs. 22. One week back, it was Rs. 23, and as on today, it is Rs. 23. Yes, it is true it is going on the higher side but we are not in a position to buy fast. One thing is, if the price which has been paid to the farmers at Rs. 1000, that means Rs. 1600 which is the cost of rice will ultimately reflect up to retail at this price. Similarly, of course, one point was raised in the House that the price has gone up to Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 for per kg of rice. That is not the information which I have got from a number of the other districts. There is every possibility that there are some types of rice like Basmati or some other good variety of rice. Prices are high but the prices which I am quoting is of the common variety, and the common variety prices are here only.

Similar is the case with wheat. Though the minimum support price of wheat has gone up to Rs. 1100 per quintal but practically, we have to pay 12 per cent market taxes, plus mandi charges, gunny bags, loading, unloading, transport, storage for acquisition cost in Punjab. Altogether, ultimately it goes up to Rs. 15 to Rs. 16. But the retail price in Delhi market is Rs. 15 per kg. That is the latest price which we have got about Delhi. Of course, there are some other places. In Mumbai, it is Rs. 19. In Trivandrum, it is something like Rs. 23 - Rs. 24 because we have to consider the total transport cost from Ludhiana or any destination from Punjab and Haryana to Trivandrum or Chennai. That has to be added. That is why, comparatively, the prices of Southern States are always high. So, as I said, our position is still better because we have a record production, and last year, procurement was very good. The stock of wheat and rice is, therefore, sufficient to meet the demand of the public distribution system and all other welfare fund. The price of rice and wheat in the open market has been rising on account of the minimum support price as I have already explained here. But, still, we are trying to maintain the price at a particular level. What have we done? We have earmarked 30 million tonnes of wheat and 10 million tonnes of rice to sell in the open market. How to sell? The Food Corporation of India can sell by inviting tenders.

But, we took a decision to handover these to States. We requested the State Governments to sell or take these at a particular price and make them available in the PDS even for APL category. Sir, 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice has been allotted to States and UTs under the Open Market Sale Scheme for the retail consumer to be distribution between the October, 2009, and December, 2009 *i.e.*, two months. So, we have written to the States and UTs that such and such quantity of foodgrains was made available to them. These allocations have been made at a subsidized rate of MSP plus freight without adding tax, procurement charges, handling charges, interest, storage which are borne by the Government of India. So, the MSP which we have paid to the farmer has to be paid by the State Government plus freight from Ludhiana to that particular place. The other costs such as procurement charges, handling charges, interest, storage rate, etc., will be borne by the Government of India. The objective of the Scheme was to make wheat and rice available to retail consumer for his consumption and to control market prices. The State delivery system has to take the benefit of this Scheme. However, the lifting of wheat and rice, it is really surprising, under the Scheme by the States has been very, very poor. As per latest position *i.e.*, as of 6th December, 2009, from the FCI, 21,992 metric tonne of wheat has been lifted by the States. So, out of 10 lakh MT, the States have lifted only 21,992 metric tonnes! There are some States which are asking that we should provide them

wheat at the BPL price. It is not possible. We are asking them to pay only the price that we have paid to the farmers. We are not asking more than that. The acquisition and other charges are all borne by the GOI. The States have to pay only the transport and the price which was paid to the farmer.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): What about the additional allocation to the State of Kerala at the APL price.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will come back to you.

So, 1,49,176 metric tonnes of rice has been lifted by the States out of 5 lakh MT allotted to them. And, as I said, the same formula has been adopted for this as well. So, I think, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to take advantage of the Scheme and see that market will improve. I am going to take up this issue with all the State Governments. If the State Governments will not take this, then, the FCI will enter into open market and dispose these through open market tender process. But, our desire is that the State Governments can take these and use its machinery of the PDS.

Sir, one particular issue was raised here regarding the allocation and off take of APL rice to Kerala. Sir, it is true that the total allocation for Kerala has been reduced and there are reasons. In fact, I had given these reasons to the House. It is because whatever allocation was made was not lifted sufficiently by the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): When was this taken place?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can ask it after the reply.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: From the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 up to 2006-07, the off-take was not lifted. For instance, for the year 2006-07, 13,61,000 lakh tonnes was the allocation for Kerala, but the off-take was 1,81,000 only. In fact, that has been improved after that. So, during all these four years, *i.e.*, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, Kerala Government has not lifted what was allocated to it. Then the Government took a decision not only for Kerala but also for all other States, and all those States which were not lifting their off-take, their allocation was reduced. Now, it is true that the State is asking, particularly, for the APL quota, but, as I said earlier, with regard to AAY and BPL we are fully honouring our commitments. We are honouring commitments; but there are some problems in the case of APL and I am not in a position to accept the Kerala Government's request in toto. But whenever they ask for something additional, that additional has definitely been provided to them. I recently saw

that statement of the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala that there was a commitment given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that 'this is a State which produces plantation crop and that is why the entire responsibility of providing it foodgrains will be taken by the Government of India.' I am searching; my office is also searching that communication, but I don't see, at least, any record... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, one minute. ...(*Interruptions*)... He has yielded. Sir, our difficulty is, this is a State where we are producing only 15 per cent of the food articles, that means, staple rice. We are producing only 15 per cent and we are producing 85 per cent cash crops. No other Indian State has such a situation. So, naturally, the Central Government has to give a special assistance to the Kerala State, and, at that point of time, a statutory ration system was there under which the Central Government was providing sufficient rice to the State. Now that practice is stopped. So, naturally(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no; the Minister is saying that they are not lifting. The off-take is not lifted. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: No; no; Sir, that is not the situation. That is not the situation. There was statutory ration system in the State and more than one lakh tonne was allotted for the State per year. But now that has been restricted. With regard to APL, because of the given situation which is prevailing in the State and due to shortage of production, naturally, the State owes an assistance from the Centre and that was there. The State is producing cash crops which are exported and the country is gaining from that. So, naturally, a reciprocal gesture was there earlier and that should be retained. That is what we are saying. ...(*Interruptions*)...

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, it was the Union Government which encouraged Kerala to go for cash crops. For example, we were importing rubber by giving foreign exchange. Kerala was asked to go in for rubber and such other cash crops by which we gained foreign exchange. Then Kerala was promised by the Union Government that through statutory ration enough rice will be supplied. That was a promise by the Union Government. It is known to everybody. It may not be known to his office. But it is known to... ...(*Interruptions*)... irrespective of the party... ...(*Interruptions*)... Let me finish. As far as Kerala is concerned, every party, every Government in Kerala is accepting and knowing that. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to provide more rice to Kerala. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can you get answers like this? ...(*Interruptions*)... How can you get an answer like this? ...(*Interruption*)...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Allow me to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, in West Bengal, when the West Bengal started the jute production*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : पहले इनका जवाब पूरा हो जाने दीजिए ..*(व्यवधान)*..

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: There was a Committee ...*(Interruptions)*... in the Central Government ...*(Interruptions)*... to provide rice allocation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete his reply and then this can be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let there be some order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let there be some order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN I would call your names one by one; you may then put your questions. Now, let him complete his reply. Please.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Regarding the point about statutory ration...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may ask that after he completes.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the statutory ration system was introduced in 1967. At that time, Mr. Minister, no records were there. Regarding the other point about the off-take, at that time the price in the open market was lesser than the APL price. That off-take is less. Now, the price is very high. So, we are compelled to have it at the APL price.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The point is that the concept of statutory ration is not there now; it was abandoned by the Government of India long back. The Government of India took a conscious decision to introduce 'targeted public distribution'. 'Targeted public distribution' means, we want to target that section which is really affected, poor and vulnerable. This decision was taken ten years back, and that is continuing even today. *(Interruptions)* Some decision might have been taken in 1948-49. But these days, we have factors like population, availability etc. and today's position is vastly different. That is why, a different decision has been taken and that decision has been implemented in this country.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: At least, increase the APL rice...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The only question is that of availability. If there is availability, I would be definitely happy to enhance it, not only for Kerala but for other States also. I don't want to say anything more. About edible oil, certain decisions have been taken, and I have already explained that. Now, another important issue was discussed here, about sugar. Hon. Member,

Shri Javadekar, said that I had talked about availability of sugar last year, only a few months back. That is true. In the last two seasons production of sugar in this country was exceptional. We have practically reached 300 million tonnes. It is much, much more than our requirement. So, there was no choice but to encourage export. In fact, most of the mills were not in a position to pay farmers cane price. They should be in a position to pay the price to the farmers; so, Government of India has encouraged export. These decisions were taken. I recall that at that time, the price of sugar was about Rs. 16 per kg. In the same House, last year, I have made a statement that if we are not ready to accept an enhancement in the price of sugar in the open market, sugarcane farmers would definitely shift from sugarcane to some other crop, and the country will have to buy sugar at the rate of Rs. 30 to 35. This was my statement made in this House, on record, and exactly the same situation has occurred.

There was tremendous opposition for providing an additional price. And because of that, ultimately, when the farmers, particularly farmers from Uttar Pradesh and other Northern States, started getting greater price for wheat and rice, they shifted from sugarcane to wheat and rice. They preferred the wheat and rice crops. They get money practically within eight or ten days at the most; for sugarcane price they have to wait even up to one year. That is the reason why the area under sugarcane cultivation has been substantially dropped and that is the situation we are facing today. Our efforts are to provide a better price to the farmers. Unless and until we provide a better price to the farmers, they would not grow sugarcane. Today, you are complaining that sugar prices are going up. I remember, for practically two days, the House could not function because the price which the Government of India had announced for sugarcane in its Ordinance was not approved; there were agitations, and the functioning of both the Houses was practically stalled. And when a certain decision has been taken and the price of sugarcane has been enhanced, farmers would surely go back to this crop. Today, sugarcane prices have gone up from Rs. 129 per quintal. In Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 185; in the Gorakhpur area, some mills have given even Rs. 200, and some, Rs. 210. States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra and Tamil Nadu are providing between Rs.220 and Rs.240. So, that price will definitely change the entire situation. But sugarcane crop is not a crop which one can plan today and get the result practically within two months. This is a yearly crop. It will take some time, but I am sure that the situation will definitely change.. With sugar, there is a problem today, but the situation will definitely improve.

So far as pulses are concerned, it is true that *tur* prices are really creating serious problem for each and every family; it has gone up to Rs.90 to Rs.100. Pulses are essentially rain-fed crops. In a country like India where 60 per cent agriculture is rain-fed, if you do not get the

proper monsoon, it always get affected, and that situation has happened this year. Practically, every year, as I said, we import it, but this year the major supplying countries are also facing problems and that is why internationally prices have gone up and that is reflected in our own country too. But this year additional area has been brought under *tur*. I am sure that in another two months' time, when the harvesting of *tur* will start, there will be more availability of *tur* in the open market and the prices will definitely start coming down, and the situation will definitely improve about *tur*. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: On PDS ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As on today, it is not possible because today we are providing Rs.60,000 crore as a subsidy for Public Distribution System.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: You have only given a concession of Rs.4.16 crore in one year's Budget to the corporate sectors. ..(*Interruptions*).. You have to provide an additional fund for the whole nation. ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Five years' back, when I took the responsibility of this Department, at that time, the subsidy bill was Rs.19,000 crore and today it is Rs.60,000 crore. Still we are concentrating on targeted section. If it is universal, then the Rs.60,000 crore can go up to, I don't know, any level. That type of money, as on today, is not available. If that type of money is available, definitely we will be very happy to take these types of decisions. But today we are not in a position to take this decision. Potato prices are definitely coming down; crop is good. Onion prices are definitely on the higher side, but have again started coming down. I have enquired today also with major producing States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nasik and other belts of Maharashtra. Although the crop was affected everywhere because of certain things, now the real season has been started and we will be able to see that the market changes and the change will be for better, and the prices will be coming down here. In all these areas though the situation is quite serious, the process of improvement has been started. But you cannot expect this type of result within a week's time or a month's time. To get crop and take it to farmers' home, it does take a lot of time and that process is definitely certain. One of the major issues which has been raised here is regarding the effective action against the black-marketers and others. As I said earlier also, all these powers have been delegated to the State Governments. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to take action. There are some State Governments which have taken action. There are some State Governments like Gujarat and others which have practically prosecuted a large number of culprits. They

7.00 P.M.

have booked culprits and prosecuted them and the cases are pending in the court. But there are some State Governments which have not shown any interest. We are continuously writing them. I am also getting in touch with the Civil Supply Ministers of States. And, because of that, I hope they will take this particular issue very seriously.

Another issue, which was raised here, was that we should ban the futures trading. In fact, some of the items have been withdrawn from futures trading. We have withdrawn sugar, *tur*, rice, potato. But, I do not see any impact over that. I have already briefed the House. One Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to go into the details of how far future trade or commodity exchanges are responsible for this rise in prices. Their report came negative. Still, we would like to continue ban on some of the items and we will see that if the market improves, prices come down, then, we may take a policy decision in this regard. But, unless and until there is clearcut proof, we will not be able to take a final decision about that. I do not want to take more time of the House. I know that issue is serious...*(Interruptions)*. In such a situation, the State Governments have to take the responsibility, and the Government of India will also have to take the responsibility. We have to improve our agricultural production; we have to improve our productivity; we have to improve our availability. Then only, this situation can be improved. But, this Government is quite serious about this problem on every front, and, I hope, there will be proper results...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I will not ask any question. Sir, my point is very simple...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will call Members one by one.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the UPA Government came with the manifesto and they said that within hundred days, they would control price rise.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: We said that steps would be taken.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Then, what are the steps? Now, what is the reality? You give the price. You are telling only these things. Sir, we are not satisfied with the answer. We walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, we will walk out. There are no assurances, no ban on futures trading...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, we are dissatisfied with the reply, and we are forced to walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past seven of the clock to meet at eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 9th December, 2009.