

Vol. 218
No. 16



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday
11 December, 2009
20 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 11th December, 2009/20 Agarhayana, 1931

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

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Eighth anniversary of terrorist attack on Parliament building on 13th December, 2001

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, 13th December, 2009 marks the Eighth Anniversary of the dastardly attack on the Parliament House by terrorists.

On this occasion, we recall the supreme sacrifices made by our security personnel including two staff of the Parliament Security Service from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat; five Delhi Police personnel and a woman Constable of the Central Reserve Police Force, who laid down their lives while preventing entry of terrorists inside the Parliament House Building. A gardener of the CPWD also lost his life in the incident.

I am sure, the whole House will join me in condemning this incident in unequivocal terms. We once again reiterate our firm resolve to fight terrorism with determination and re-dedicate ourselves to protect the sovereignty and integrity of our nation.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in that tragedy.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*321. *[The questioner(s) (Shrimati Kusum Rai) was absent. For answer *vide* page 30 *infra*.]

Accreditation and grants to universities and colleges

*322. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:††

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether in a bid to assess the quality of higher education, Government has linked accreditation of universities and colleges to the grants provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC);

(b) if so, the details of universities and colleges which are not accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and are getting grants from UGC;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Naresh Gujral.

- (c) the criteria of granting accreditation to universities/colleges by NAAC;
- (d) whether the criteria of granting grants to various universities/colleges by UGC have been revised; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) The University Grants Commission(UGC) in its meeting held on 10th September, 2009 considered and approved a proposal for mandatory assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions. The said proposal provides, *inter-alia*, for withholding of grants allocated to a higher educational institution or declaring it ineligible for any assistance till it is accredited. The UGC is in consultation with the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation(NBA) before notifying the Regulations and as such the Regulations have not come into force.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) The National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) has identified the following criteria as the basis for its assessment and accreditation procedures:

- (i) Curricular aspects,
- (ii) Teaching-learning and evaluation,
- (iii) Research, Consultancy and extension,
- (iv) Infrastructure and learning resources,
- (v) Student support and progression,
- (vi) Governance and leadership, and
- (vii) Innovative practices.

The above criteria have been further differentiated into criterion-wise Key Aspects. Each Key Aspect is further differentiated into Assessment Indicators to be used as guidelines/probes by assessors to capture the ' quality pointers'. The summated score for all the Key Aspects under a criterion is then calculated with the appropriate weightage applied to it and the Grade Point Average (GPA) is worked out for the criterion. The Cumulative GPA (CGPA), which gives the final assessment outcome, is then calculated from the criterion-wise GPAs, after applying the prescribed weightage to each criterion.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The amendments to the UGC (Fitness of Certain Universities for Grants) Rules, 1974, and the UGC (Fitness of Certain Institutions for Grants) Rules, 1975, notified on 5th August, 2009, would enable funding of the Eleventh Plan Schemes of:

- i. establishment of colleges in educationally backward districts,
- ii. incentivizing State Governments for expansion, and
- iii. one-time support to institutions that are not satisfying conditions for receipt of grants from UGC under section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, in the last decade or so, there has been an awareness amongst all sections of our society including our villagers that exposure to higher education would improve the career prospects of their children. As a result, the demand for such institutions has gone up dramatically. Unfortunately, seats which institutions of higher learning offer are limited. So, a lot of small institutions have come up all over the country. They do not offer quality education and charge exorbitant fees. Sir, at present, we know that it is voluntary on the part of institutions to have itself assessed by NAAC. My specific question is: Will the hon. Minister make it mandatory for every higher education institution to have itself assessed and graded by NAAC? This should be irrespective of whether they get UGC grant or not because only then would the students know the intrinsic strength of an organisation. Sir, I know that this is the primary responsibility of the university to whom they are affiliated, but, unfortunately, they have abdicated this responsibility by and large.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is absolutely right. I entirely agree with him that unless we have quality education in this country, we will not be able to serve our future national needs. The UGC, in fact, has already formulated regulations in this regard that every institution must be mandatorily accredited and those regulations hopefully will come into force soon.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, from the reply of the Minister, I have seen that this is only related to those who are seeking your economic help. Would you make it absolutely mandatory? Whether they seek your help or not, they should be graded so that the consumer knows what he is going to get from the institution.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I might inform the hon. Member that we are in the process of, actually, formulating an entirely new legislation; that legislation is ready; it is under inter-Ministerial discussion. Hopefully, we will be taking it to the Cabinet very soon. My purpose is to have a law that all institutions in this country-- not only institutions which grant degrees but institutions which grants diplomas, certificates; any such kind of institution—must be compulsorily and mandatorily accredited for quality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri N.K. Singh.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, in the reply furnished by the hon. Minister, the criteria which this Body is going to follow have been detailed at great length. Two of the critical features of the criteria are adequacy of the provision of infrastructure and adequacy in the inculcation of faculty training. These are critical, the Minister will agree, for ensuring the quality of higher education. For enabling the States and Universities to reach, particularly, the faculty training, what steps is the Ministry contemplating to see that these criteria which are very sanguine are really met?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is a much larger question, Mr. Chairman. This does not deal with the accreditation process. This deals with another issue altogether as to what the Government of India is doing for the purpose of enhancing the quality of faculty in those institutions. This is a much broader issue. I don't think, it is fair for me to answer it in the context of the narrow question that has been asked. But I may say, through you, Sir to the hon. Member that there are a lot of schemes that we have in place. In fact, we have set up a Task Force under Shri M.M. Sharma which has given various recommendations as to improve quality. UGC has launched a scheme for the purposes of a thousand fellowships. We are also increasing the salaries and grades of University teachers and other faculty. There are schemes under the Science and Technology Ministry called "FIST" and "Assist". So, there are a lot of schemes in the Government of India, in the UGC, in the Ministry of Human Resource, Development, under the AICTE as well as in Science and Technology to cater to future faculty needs, but I don't think that the problem will be easily resolved. I think, we need to actually build our post-doc and doc-base, invest in research to get quality faculty for the future needs of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN.: Prof. P. J. Kurien.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Thank you, Sir. My concern and, therefore, my question is about the inadequacy in emphasis given to research. The hon. Minister has, in his answer, given seven criteria for accreditation by NAAC. Out of those seven criteria, I find, not even one, only a fraction is research. But it is in higher education where, it is most important, that emphasis should be given to research, and that is what we are lacking today. When we take into consideration our GDP fraction which is invested in research that, is also less. In UGC also, inadequate importance is given to research. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister that, at least, when NAAC is giving accreditation, whether you will give a higher weightage to research and whether you will also take steps to ensure that more teachers go in for research and are given more assistance to teachers and whether you will direct the UGC in this regard.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, again, this criterion is for the purposes of accreditation. This has nothing to do with the emphasis Government of India will give to research or what emphasis the UGC will give to research. There are several kinds of institutions which have to be accredited, *e.g.* autonomous colleges, other institutions which grant diplomas, and universities. Now, let's look at the status of a University. What is the difference between a college and a university? Why should a college become a university? A university is a conglomeration of faculties which caters to research; otherwise, the institution should not be a university. Now, if you are a University and, then, you have to be accredited then research is a relevant criterion in that context. If you are not a university then, obviously, you are not research-oriented. So, research is not a very important criterion.

Research is a criterion for the purposes accreditation. The emphasis on research in the overall higher education structure is exceptionally important and the Government of India is aware of that, and we are taking steps in that regard.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I request the hon. Minister to kindly give a time-frame for the responses to various, recommendations made by the *erstwhile* National Knowledge Commission with regard to primary, secondary and higher education, especially, with an organisation, an overall regulatory body.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, the recommendations of the National 'Knowledge' Commission are mostly in respect of higher education, not at the primary level and the secondary level. Secondly, the Yashpal Committee and the National Knowledge Commission have both given recommendations on how our higher education needs to be restructured. Thirdly, the Government is in the process of actually getting inputs from various stakeholders to find out what exactly should be done keeping in mind the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Yashpal Committee. The fact that the National Knowledge Commission has given its recommendations does not mean that the Government has *in toto* accepted each of the recommendations that have been given by the National Knowledge Commission. Keeping all these recommendations in mind and keeping in mind the fact that the higher education structure needs to be relooked at the context of the needs of India in the 21st century, we are, in fact, in the process of formulating a legislation. We are in the process of further consultations. Hopefully, the entire consultation process will be over before the Budget session so that by the time the Budget session comes we will have received Cabinet approval for restructuring and introducing it in the Budget session. That is our hope and that is our desire.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, apart from the broader question of our Educational Policy, the accreditation also involved equivalence with the institutions outside India. Therefore, while we do our accreditation, are we keeping in mind also the equivalence problem with other countries?

The second part of my question is this. You have said that everything is going to be regulated. But our experience is that the regulatory body has not been uniformly happy with the UGC and the NCERT. So, are you quite sure, Mr. Minister, that by regulating everything we are not going to bureaucratised education? Are we going to allow a certain amount of viability or a certain autonomy to these institutions rather than jakdo them in some regulatory authority?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: There are two separate questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can answer one.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will answer both because of my great respect for my learned friend.

The first is, what we are doing about the Washington Accord which is the one that deals with equivalence. Now, as far as that is concerned, we were actually to finish the process by June, 2009. We could not do it. Now, we have an extension till 2011 and we are in the process of setting up a framework through which the assessment will be done. It will not be input-based, but outcome-based. That is what the authorities have told us. So, we are in the process of formulating that. We had a meeting in Kyoto in Japan recently. We have been, in fact, asked that we can file our application for equivalence, to be part of the Accord, by 2010, even though the process is open till 2011. We should have everything in place by 2010 so that we file the application to ensure that there is equivalence.

Sir, on the other issue, when I talked about regulation, I meant it in an entirely different context. The regulation that has been existing till now has been regulation under Government. All the regulatory authorities are Government authorities or Government controlled authorities or Government funded authorities. What is going to happen in the new structure of education is that this process of regulation will not be under the Government at all or in the Government domain at all. It will be outside the Government and it will be manned by experts in the field.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Private experts!

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you are an expert, let me know, Sir. We will also consider you.

Now, the point is that no education system anywhere in the world is unregulated.

We have seen what happens in the stock market when it is entirely unregulated. So, we do not want scams. There are enough scams already in the educational sector. So, let us all sit together, as Members of Parliament, set up a structure which is transparent, which is disclosure-based, not based on regulation by an agency. Sir, in this regard, we have already started the process. For example, under the UGC guidelines, we want all Deemed to be Universities and educational institutions of higher learning to actually tell us, through a website, which they set up on their own, as to how many faculty they have, how many departments they have, what infrastructure is available, etc., so that there is no need for inspection. Each institution will have to set up a website, which means no bureaucracy and no regulation. Then, it will be based on their own disclosures. And, once it is based on their own disclosures, we do not have to regulate it. But there has to be a regulatory agency to oversee the educational sector. That was my understanding of regulation.

*323. * [The questioner Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Singh was absent. For answer *vide* page 31 *infra*.]

‘दोपहर के भोजन’ की योजना में अनियमितताएं

*324. श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी :

श्री मोती लाल वोरा :††

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री मोती लाल वोरा द्वारा पूछा गया।

(क) क्या 'दोपहर के भोजन' की योजना बुनियादी ढांचे के अभाव और समय पर धन उपलब्ध न होने आदि कारणों से कुव्यवस्था का शिकार हो गई है;

(ख) देश में ऐसे कितने राज्य हैं जहां खाने के सामान का गलत ढंग से भंडारण किया गया, अथवा दोपहर का भोजन कक्षाओं में अथवा खुले आसमान के नीचे बनाया गया और स्कूलों के छात्रों से खाना बनाने का काम कराया गया;

(ग) क्या एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश और उड़ीसा में इस योजना की निधियों का वर्ष 2008 तक उपयोग नहीं किया गया है; और

(घ) इस योजना में व्याप्त अनियमितताओं को समाप्त करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री कपिल सिब्बल): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक की वर्ष 2002-07 की अवधि की निष्पादन लेखापरीक्षा रिपोर्ट में भोजन पकाने की लागत के लिए निधियों को जारी करने में दस माह तक के विलंब की टिप्पणी की गई है। इस रिपोर्ट में यह भी उल्लेख किया गया है कि 19 राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के स्कूलों में मध्याह्न भोजन खुले स्थान में अथवा शिक्षण-कक्षों में तैयार किया जा रहा है और 11 राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में शिक्षण कक्षों में खाद्यान्न के भंडारण के मामले भी ध्यान में आए हैं। इन राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की सूची विवरण-1 में दी गई है (नीचे देखिए)।

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश और उड़ीसा राज्यों में वर्ष 2007-08 और 2008-09 के दौरान मध्याह्न भोजन योजना के तहत जारी और प्रयुक्त निधियों का ब्यौरा निम्नवत् है:-

(रु. लाख में)

राज्य	2007-08		2008-09	
का नाम	उपलब्ध निधियां	राज्य द्वारा प्रयुक्त निधियां	उपलब्ध निधियां	राज्य द्वारा प्रयुक्त के अनुसार निधियां
	(31.3.2007 की स्थिति के अनुसार जारी + अव्ययित शेष)		(31.3.2008 की स्थिति जारी+अव्ययित शेष)	
उड़ीसा	36143.06	32331.91	28851.33	28238.19
उत्तर प्रदेश	90258.82	64364.74	82307.17	75170.48

(घ) सरकार ने इस योजना के कार्यान्वयन को सुकर बनाने हेतु बाधाओं को दूर करते हुए समय-समय पर इसे संशोधित किया है। इस दिशा में उठाए गए मुख्य कदम इस प्रकार हैं:-

- राज्य योजनाओं का अनुमोदन करने के लिए मंत्रालय में एक कार्यक्रम अनुमोदन बोर्ड का गठन।
- अग्रिम रूप से खाद्यान्न के आबंटन एवं निधियों की रिलीज़ का प्रावधान।
- योजना के प्रबंधन, अनुवीक्षण एवं मूल्यांकन हेतु खाद्यान्न, परिवहन एवं भोजन पकाने की लागत के 2 प्रतिशत का प्रावधान।
- रसोईघर-सह-भंडार के निर्माण एवं रसोई उपकरणों की खरीद के लिए योजना के तहत बजटीय प्रावधान।
- रसोईघर-सह-भंडार के निर्माण की लागत को राज्य दर अनुसूची एवं भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित किए जाने वाले प्लिथ एरिया मानदंड के आधार पर संशोधित करना।
- पकाने की लागत (श्रम एवं प्रशासनिक प्रभारों को छोड़कर) में निम्नानुसार संशोधन:

(क) प्राथमिक स्तर के बच्चों के लिए 1.68 रु. से बढ़ाकर 2.50 रु. प्रति बच्चा प्रति दिवस।

(ख) उच्च प्राथमिक स्तर के बच्चों के लिए 2.20 रु. से बढ़ाकर 3.75 रु. प्रति बच्चा प्रति दिवस।

विवरण-I

I. उन राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की सूची जहां मध्याह्न भोजन खुले स्थान पर अथवा शिक्षण-कक्ष में पकाया जा रहा था

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. उत्तर प्रदेश | 11. दमन और दीव |
| 2. उत्तराखंड | 12. मेघालय |
| 3. तमिलनाडु | 13. उड़ीसा |
| 4. झारखंड | 14. त्रिपुरा |
| 5. असम | 15. बिहार |
| 6. छत्तीसगढ़ | 16. मणिपुर |
| 7. हिमाचल प्रदेश | 17. पश्चिम बंगाल |
| 8. राजस्थान | 18. मध्य प्रदेश |
| 9. हरियाणा | 19. आंध्र प्रदेश |
| 10. पंजाब | |

II. उन राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की सूची जहां खाद्यान्न का भंडारण शिक्षण-कक्षों में किया जा रहा था

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. हरियाणा | 7. दादरा और नगर हवेली |
| 2. उत्तराखंड | 8. मध्य प्रदेश |
| 3. झारखंड | 9. दमन और दीव |
| 4. तमिलनाडु | 10. उड़ीसा |
| 5. कर्नाटक | 11. गुजरात |
| 6. केरल | |

Irregularities in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme

† *324. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has suffered from mismanagement due to lack of basic infrastructure and non-availability of funds in time, etc.;

(b) the details of such States in the country where food items were stored in the wrong manner or mid-day meal was cooked in classes or in open spaces and students of schools were engaged in cooking of food items;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether, according to a report, the funds for the scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa were not utilized upto the year 2008; and

(d) the steps taken to do away with the irregularities in the Scheme?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Performance Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the period 2002-07 observed a delay of up to ten months in release of funds towards cooking cost. The same report stated that in the schools of 19 States/UTs, the mid-day meal was being prepared in the open or in classrooms and instances of foodgrains being stored in the classrooms were noticed in 11 States/UTs. Lists of these States/UTs are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) The details of funds released and utilized under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa States during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State	2007-08		2008-09	
	Funds Available	Funds	Funds Available	Funds utilized
	(Released+ unspent balance as on 31.3.2007)	utilized by State	(Released+ unspent balance as on 31.3.2008)	by State
Orissa	36143.06	32331.91	28851.33	28238.19
Uttar Pradesh	90258.82	64364.74	82307.17	75170.48

(d) The Government has revised the Scheme from time to time to streamline its implementation by removing bottlenecks. The main steps in this direction are as follows:

- (i) Constitution of a Programme Approval Board in the Ministry to approve the State Plans.
- (ii) Provision for allocation of food grains and release of funds in advance.
- (iii) Provision of 2% of cost of food grains, transport and cooking cost for Management, Monitoring & Evaluation of the Scheme.
- (iv) Budgetary provision under the Scheme for construction of kitchen-cum-store and procurement of kitchen devices.
- (v) Revision of the cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store on the basis of State Schedule of Rates and plinth area norm to be determined by the Government of India.
- (vi) Revision of the cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) as below:

- (a) from Rs. 1.68 to Rs.2.50 per child per day for primary children
- (b) from Rs.2.20 to Rs.3.75 per child per day for upper primary children
- (vii) A separate component for payment of honorarium of Rs. 1000 per month to cook-cum-helper and introduction of a norm for engaging cook-cum-helper.

Statement-I

I. List of the States/UTs where mid-day meal was being prepared in the open or in classrooms

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Uttar Pradesh | 11. Daman & Diu |
| 2. Uttarakhand | 12. Meghalaya |
| 3. Tamil Nadu | 13. Orissa |
| 4. Jharkhand | 14. Tripura |
| 5. Assam | 15. Bihar |
| 6. Chhattisgarh | 16. Manipur |
| 7. Himachal Pradesh | 17. West Bengal |
| 8. Rajasthan | 18. Madhya Pradesh |
| 9. Haryana | 19. Andhra Pradesh |
| 10. Punjab | |

II. List of the States/UTs where instances of foodgrains being stored in the classrooms were noticed.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Haryana | 7. Dadra & Nagar Haveli |
| 2. Uttarakhand | 8. Madhya Pradesh |
| 3. Jharkhand | 9. Daman & Diu |
| 4. Tamil Nadu | 10. Orissa |
| 5. Karnataka | 11. Gujarat |
| 6. Kerala | |

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उससे बिल्कुल स्पष्ट है कि मध्याह्न भोजन में किस प्रकार की अनियमितताएं बरती जा रही हैं और मध्याह्न भोजन पकाने की लागत के लिए धनराशि देने में दस माह का विलम्ब हुआ है, यह CAG ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, बच्चे राष्ट्र का भविष्य हैं। अगर आप माननीय मंत्री जी के जवाब को देखें, तो आपको पता चलेगा कि 19 राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के स्कूलों में कितनी अनियमितताएं मध्याह्न भोजन में बरती जा रही हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि बच्चे सुबह-सुबह काम पर जा रहे हैं। राजेन्द्र जोशी की एक कविता बहुत पहले मैंने पढ़ी थी कि बच्चे सुबह-सुबह काम पर जा रहे हैं,

क्यों काम पर जा रहे हैं,

क्या उनकी किताबों को दीमकों ने खा लिया है,

क्या उनकी गेंदें समुद्र या तालाब में गिर गई हैं?

बच्चे काम पर न जाएं और बच्चों को स्कूल में जाने की एक व्यवस्था हमारी रहे, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूंगा, हमारे माननीय मंत्री भाई कपिल सिब्बल जी बहुत ही संवेदनशील मंत्री हैं, मैं उन्हें बताना चाहता हूँ कि बच्चों का भोजन जंग लगे टीन के डिब्बों से परोसा जाता है। हम बच्चों का कैसा भविष्य बनाने जा रहे हैं? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बात की अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वह इन सारी अनियमितताओं को दूर करने की दिशा में एक त्वरित कार्यवाही करने का आदेश करें। आपने जो 19 राज्यों की सूची दी है जिसमें बच्चों को मध्याह्न भोजन खुले आसमान में अथवा शिक्षण-कक्ष में पकाया जाता है और 11 राज्य तो ऐसे बताए गए हैं कि जहां शिक्षण-कक्षों में खाद्यान्न का भंडारण किया जाता है। क्या इन सारी अनियमितताओं की जानकारी विभाग को नहीं हो पाई थी? CAG की वर्ष 2002-07 की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही इन अनियमितताओं की जानकारी हुई है। बच्चों के भविष्य के साथ में खिलवाड़ इन राज्यों में हो रहा है, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसको रोकने की दिशा में आपने किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही या किस प्रकार के कदम उठाने की तजवीज की है?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं माननीय सदस्य का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस सवाल को उठाया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह बहुत ही गम्भीर सवाल है। यह गम्भीर इसलिए है कि जब हमने इस स्कीम को देखा, तो लगता है कि मिड-डे-मील के अन्तर्गत जब पैसे केन्द्र के द्वारा राज्य सरकारों को जाते हैं, वे पैसे वहां पर तुरन्त खर्च नहीं होते हैं। उसमें तीन-चार मीटिंग्स का विलम्ब होता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जब तक प्रदेशों के स्तर पर यह Urgency नहीं होगी और प्रदेश की सरकारें यह तय नहीं करें कि हम Advance पैसा देंगे ताकि Mid Day Meal Scheme तुरन्त लागू हो, तब तक यह विलम्ब चलता जाएगा। हम चाहते हैं कि यह विलम्ब खत्म हो। हम यह भी चाहते हैं कि केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से भी पैसा जाने में विलम्ब नहीं होना चाहिए। हम इस बात पर गौर करेंगे। सभापति महोदय, यह पहली बात थी, जो दूसरी बात माननीय सदस्य ने उठाई है और वह सही भी है, यह "कैग" की रिपोर्ट में है, जो 2001 से लेकर 2006-07 की है, कि आजकल स्कूल में देखा जा रहा है कि जो खाना है, वह ओपन में पकता है और ग्रेन्स कमरे में रखे जाते हैं। कई टीचर्स का समय इसी में बीत जाता है। पढ़ाने की बात तो अलग रही, वे Mid Day Meal Scheme में ही लगे रहते हैं। इसमें बच्चे की शिक्षा का बहुत नुकसान होता है। इसके संदर्भ में, कैग की रिपोर्ट आने से पहले ही हमने तय कर लिया था कि जहां भी खाना पकेगा, वह पक्के टिन शेड्स के नीचे पकेगा, कच्चे टिन शेड्स के नीचे खाना नहीं पकेगा। हमने इसी संदर्भ में, ये शेड्स बनाने के लिए पैसे भी अलग से दिए हैं। ऐसे लगभग 8.55 लाख शेड्स बनेंगे।

दूसरी बात, हमने यह भी तय किया है कि टीचर्स की खाना बनाने में कोई दखलंदाजी नहीं होनी चाहिए। हमने यह भी तय किया है कि अगर किसी स्कूल में पच्चीस बच्चे हैं तो उसके लिए एक सेपरेट कुक और एक हेल्पर होगा, पच्चीस से ज्यादा सौ तक बच्चे हैं तो दो कुक और दो हेल्पर होंगे और अगर सौ से ज्यादा बच्चे हैं तो एक एक्स्ट्रा कुक और होगा। उनको एक हजार रुपए वेतन मिलेगा ताकि वे दूसरे खर्च में नहीं आए। इस तरह से हमने वेतन भी बढ़ा दिया और एक्स्ट्रा कुक और हेल्पर की हर स्कूल में सुविधा भी दे दी। हम यह योजना हर स्कूल में बढ़ा रहे हैं ताकि टीचर की कोई दखलंदाजी नहीं हो, स्कूल के क्लास रूम में कोई ग्रेन नहीं हो और साथ ही साथ पक्के शेड में खाना बने। इसके साथ ही हमने किचन इन्सेन्टिव्स के लिए भी एक अलग सुविधा स्कूलों के लिए उपलब्ध कराई है। हम ये कदम उठा रहे हैं। हम नहीं समझते हैं कि हम इसको अभी पूरी तरह से लागू कर पायेंगे, लेकिन कुछ सालों में हर स्कूल में एक सेपरेट शेड होगा। यह काम शुरू हो चुका है।

श्री मोती लाल बोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद दूंगा कि उन्होंने इस दिशा में कदम उठाए हैं। भविष्य में जो कदम उठाने हैं, जैसे कि टिन के शेड में खाना बने और स्कूलों में उसका

भंडारण न हो, उसमें कुछ समय लग सकता है, लेकिन इतना ज्यादा समय नहीं लगेगा। सभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश और उड़ीसा में जो धनराशि 2007 में दी गई थी, उन्होंने उसका उपयोग 2008 तक भी नहीं किया। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी राज्य सरकारों को इस प्रकार के निर्देश देंगे कि उनको जो धनराशि दी जाती है, उसका समय पर उपयोग करें? क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय उड़ीसा और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकारों से इस बात की जानकारी लेने की कोशिश करेंगे कि इस राशि का उपयोग कम से कम एक साल तक नहीं हुआ है? जब एक साल तक राशि का उपयोग नहीं हुआ तो आखिर बच्चों को उसका लाभ कैसे मिलेगा? बच्चे भविष्य के निर्माता हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी, स्कूली शिक्षा की दिशा में और विशेष रूप से आपने जो सुविधाएं देने की बात कही है, बच्चों के भोजन में आपने जो राशि बढ़ाई है, उस राशि को बढ़ाने के लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद दूंगा। आपने राशि 1.68 रुपए से बढ़ाकर 2.50 रुपए की है, उच्चतर प्राथमिक स्तर के बच्चों के लिए 2.20 रुपए से बढ़ाकर 3.75 रुपए किए हैं, ये लागू होने चाहिए। यह कागज के आंकड़ों में न रहे, अगर माननीय मंत्री जी इसको लागू करने की दिशा में समुचित आदेश देंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बच्चों के भविष्य के निर्माण में उनका काफी योगदान होगा, क्योंकि प्राथमिक शिक्षा, स्कूल शिक्षा के स्तर पर विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। ये हमारी नींव हैं, उसके बाद आप कॉलेज की बात करें, यूनिवर्सिटीज की बात करें, परंतु अगर हमारी नींव ही कमजोर रही तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप भविष्य की चिंता किस प्रकार से करेंगे?

श्री कपिल सिबल : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने बड़ी सही बात कही कि जब तक primary, upper primary और फिर secondary level तक शिक्षा का उच्च स्तर नहीं होगा, तब तक higher education में कोई सुधार नहीं आने वाला। यह बात सही है। जहां तक उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश की बात की, मेरे पास आंकड़े यहां हैं और जहां तक food grains की बात है, जो 2008-09 में allocation लगभग 4,17,992 मीट्रिक टन हुआ और utilization 3,14,481 मीट्रिक टन हुआ। हम उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को लिखेंगे भी और हमने उनसे कहा भी है कि इसका utilization जरा ज्यादा अच्छा होना चाहिए।

जहां तक cooking cost का सवाल है, वहां utilization लगभग ठीक है। 2008-09 में funds available थे 63,686 लाख और utilization था, 60,406 लाख। यह लगभग ठीक था। जहां तक transport cost का सवाल है, वहां utilization बहुत कम हुआ। यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि वहां funds available थे 31,34,000 और जो utilize हुए, वे केवल 3,17,000 हैं। ये आंकड़े बहुत ही ज्यादा अच्छे नहीं हैं और मैं उड़ीसा के बारे में ऐसे ही आंकड़े दे सकता हूँ। यह बात सही है कि कई प्रदेशों को न केवल लिखेंगे, बल्कि हम कहेंगे कि जो monitoring system है, क्योंकि आपको मालूम है कि एक monitoring system वहां हैं, वह अच्छी तरह से इस्तेमाल नहीं होगी, तो utilization ठीक नहीं होगा। Monitoring system में district level पर, पंचायत लेवल पर, civil societies, voluntary agencies से monitoring करनी चाहिए। इसमें जो State level committees हैं. उनमें MPs भी हैं, MLAs भी हैं, उनको भी monitoring करनी चाहिए। हम कोशिश करेंगे कि सभी इकट्ठा होकर अच्छी तरह से इसको monitor करें, ताकि यह योजना अच्छी तरह से आगे बढ़े।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister if he is proposing to provide packaged food to the students instead of the present system of cooking on the spot.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, Sir.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, giving education, you know, is a difficult part of the school than giving mid-day meals. It is a very important aspect and also a difficult aspect. Our Minister, Kapil Sibalji, is competent enough to go round the country to see whether this mid-day meals scheme is being run properly and to see if it can be implemented in other parts. I am interested in this scheme, I have visited some private organisations. For example, in Andhra, with the permission of

the Government, cook the food, handover the food to the school at the right time. ISCON is one such organisation. There are so many other institutions. I would like to know whether the Minister would go round the country, or to important places, and take up this issue of distributing food to the poor children, as a prestigious one. Tamil Nadu is giving a good service in this. Though the Government of India has given money, enhanced the rates to give egg and fruit to children, nowhere it is happening. The Minister should give a serious thought to it and do something about it. May I request him to do that?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in a lighter vein, I would require economy class tickets to go to every little spot, all over the country. We will, of course, have to request the Indian Airlines to fly to all these places. But, Sir, the point is very important. Sir, he is absolutely right and if you look at Andhra figures, Andhra is doing very well. Andhra has done very well. In terms of kitchen sheds, Andhra has done exceptionally well.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Andhra is not providing advance funds.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That is a genuine problem. But, by and large, Andhra has done exceptionally well in the mid-day meal scheme. But, yes, Sir, he is absolutely right; I do not think it is possible for every Minister or anybody from the Central Government to go from school to school. The implementation of the scheme is the responsibility of the State. We provide funds to the State Governments. We provide money to the State Governments. The least the State Government should do is to ensure that the funds reach the school and the food grains reach the school and the funds are properly spent. This is the responsibility of the State Government. They have a monitoring mechanism in place and I hope Sir that each State will actually ensure that that monitoring mechanism works.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : श्रीमन् मिड-डे मील योजना का उद्देश्य बहुत अच्छा था, लेकिन संभवतः माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम होगा और विभिन्न टीवी चैनल्स के ज़रिए भी यह दिखाया गया कि कभी उसमें से छिपकली निकलती है, कभी मेंढ़क निकलता है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जहां-जहां प्राइमरी स्कूलों में यह चल रहा है, वहां पढ़ाई की स्थिति इतनी खराब हो गई है कि उन गांवों में Montessori पद्धति के स्कूल खुल गए हैं, जिसके कारण actual enrolment कम हुआ है, जबकि यह योजना enrolment बढ़ाने के लिए लाई गई थी। आप कहीं भी जांच करवा लें, वहां fake enrolment है। बगल में ही गाज़ियाबाद है, आप चाहे वहां पर ही किसी प्राइमरी स्कूल में चले जाइए, and you check it, verify it, आप देखेंगे कि बच्चों का fake enrolment है। बच्चे पढ़ते दूसरी जगह है, लेकिन ज्यादा बच्चों के नाम पर खाने का पैसा लिया जाता है।

तीसरी चीज़ यह है कि खाने की क्वालिटी इतनी खराब हो गई है कि आए दिन यह शिकायतें मिलती हैं कि मिड-डे मील खाने के बाद बच्चे बीमार हो गए। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब इतनी सारी समस्याएं हैं, तो क्या केन्द्र सरकार इस पर कोई कार्यवाही कर रही है? केन्द्र सरकार राज्य सरकारों को पूरा पैसा देती है, जिसमें राज्य सरकारें या उनके अधीनस्थ कर्मचारी गड़बड़ियां भी करते हैं। क्या इन सब चीजों को मॉनिटर या स्टडी करने के लिए कोई कमेटी बनाई गई है? सैम्पल के तौर पर जांच करने के लिए क्या कभी किसी को कहीं भेजा गया है? क्या उसका कोई परिणाम भी आया है?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सर, एक्चुअली अपने एक सवाल में माननीय सदस्य ने कई सवाल पूछे हैं। पहले तो मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमने independent agencies द्वारा Mid-day Meal Scheme का जो evaluation करवाया है, उससे यह पता चला है कि उसका बहुत बड़ा अच्छा प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। इसके कारण

Primary और Upper-Primary में और ज्यादा बच्चे पढ़ने आ रहे हैं। इस पर कई और स्टडीज़ भी हुई हैं। वीरभूम डिस्ट्रिक्ट में श्री अमर्त्यसेन जी ने भी इस पर स्टडी की है और वह भी इसी नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं। University of Rajasthan एवं UNICEF ने भी Situation Analysis of Mid-day Meal Programme in Rajasthan पर स्टडी की है और वे भी इसी नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं। इस पर ऐसी और भी कई स्टडीज़ हुई हैं, लेकिन उसमें मैं सदन का ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं। मैं इस बात को नहीं मानता कि मिड-डे मील का कोई फायदा नहीं हुआ है। हां, उनकी यह बात सही है कि ऐसी शिकायतें कई प्रदेशों से आई हैं और उनमें गाजियाबाद भी एक हो सकता है अथवा हिन्दुस्तान में और भी कई जगहें ऐसी हो सकती हैं।

इस बात को मैं अवश्य मानता हूं कि इस किस्म की घटनाएं हो रही हैं। पीछे दिल्ली में भी ऐसी एक घटना हुई, जिसके कारण मिड-डे मील का जो सारा प्रोसैस था, उसे बंद कर दिया गया था, हालांकि अब वह खुल गया है। ऐसी घटनाएं सुनने में आती हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि इसके लिए प्रदेशों को चौकन्ना रहना चाहिए और जो मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम हमने वहां पर उपलब्ध करवाया है, उसको इन बातों पर पूरा ध्यान देना चाहिए ताकि ऐसी घटनाएं नहीं हों। यह जिम्मेदारी प्रदेश की है। केन्द्र सरकार की यह जिम्मेदारी नहीं है कि वह इस बात को भी देखें कि कहां पर, किस स्कूल में गड़बड़ी हो रही है या नहीं हो रही है। लेकिन अगर कहीं पर भी कोई ऐसा काम हो रहा है तो उसके बारे में आप हमें बताइए। जैसे ही आप हमें बताएंगे, हम तुरन्त कार्यवाही करेंगे। आपने गाजियाबाद के बारे में हमें बताया, वहां भी हम कार्यवाही करेंगे। यूपी में और भी कई स्थान ऐसे होंगे, जहां इस तरीके की बात होगी, तो उनकी जानकारी भी आप मुझे जल्दी से जल्दी भिजवा दीजिए। उन पर भी हम पूरी तरह से कार्यवाही करेंगे।

*325. * [The questioner (Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar) was absent. For answer vide page 32 *infra*.]

Quota of fertilizers for Himachal Pradesh

*326. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of fertilizers, including complex fertilizers, allocated and released to each State during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether Government has received any request from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for increasing its quota to meet requirement of the State;
- (c) if so, the status thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the quota is released to the State to fulfil its requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, and NPK etc. are decontrolled/ de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level and State Governments are responsible for further distribution within the State.

The State-wise requirement (demand) and availability and sales of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPK) fertilizers during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto April'09 to November'09) are given in the Statement-I, II, III and IV (See below).

The requirement (demand) and availability of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPK) fertilizers in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April'09 to November'09) are as under :

(Qty. in "000 tonnes")

Product	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Demand	Availa- bility	Demand	Availa- bility	Demand	Availa- bility	Demand	Availa- bility
Urea	58.00	54.00	61.00	60.00	65.00	65.77	45.00	33.46
DAP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.65
MOP	5.00	5.00	0.05	0.05	6.50	5.77	2.50	2.65#
Complex	NA *	NA *	34.90	NA *	44.00	39.74	35.00	19.43

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

Despatch on 6th December, 2009.

The requirement of Urea, MOP & Complex fertilizers for Himachal Pradesh during the month of December is 7,200 MT, 500 MT & 5,000 MT respectively. There has been no requirement of DAP in Himachal Pradesh. The Department of Fertilizers has communicated the supply plan indicated by fertilizer companies for the month of December, 2009 as per the requirement.

The procurement of all fertilizers is done by Himachal Pradesh Marketing Federation (HIMFED) on behalf of the State Government. Depending upon the demand of fertilizers, HIMFED places orders on the fertilizer companies and procures these fertilizers from them. Since the warehousing capacity in the State is limited, the HIMFED procures fertilizers on month to month basis based on actual sales. The State has not asked for any increase in allocation of fertilizers over and above the requirement (demand) already projected through Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC).

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

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

Statement-I

Statewise Availability and Sales of UREA, DAP & MOP

2006-07							Qty in (LMTs)		
Product	UREA			DAP			MOP		
Name of State	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	27.00	24.52	22.13	6.69	6.15	5.97	5.21	3.90	3.72
Karataka	11.20	11.55	10.92	5.00	5.25	4.88	3.90	3.14	2.76
Kerala	1.46	1.33	1.27	0.17	0.23	0.23	1.40	1.13	1.12
Tamil Nadu	10.00	9.59	9.18	3.85	3.98	3.84	4.85	3.48	3.48
Gujarat	15.00	15.22	15.03	5.75	5.79	4.56	1.65	1.46	1.42
Madhya Pradesh	12.10	13.89	13.16	6.20	5.76	4.96	0.50	0.75	0.67
Chhattisgarh	4.90	5.93	5.53	1.38	1.59	1.27	0.52	0.67	0.59
Maharashtra	19.00	20.70	19.87	6.25	7.06	6.49	3.00	2.48	2.34
Rajasthan	13.20	12.80	12.26	5.60	4.30	4.05	0.22	0.07	0.07
Haryana	17.50	18.04	17.33	5.60	5.04	4.46	0.40	0.32	0.23
Punjab	25.00	26.16	25.74	7.90	7.60	7.12	0.90	0.52	0.47
Himachal Pradesh	0.58	0.54	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05

Jammu & Kashmir	1.42	1.15	1.05	0.71	0.55	0.51	0.21	0.10	0.10
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	53.50	51.83	14.50	14.42	12.94	2.30	1.34	1.22
Uttaranchal	1.65	2.17	2.10	0.32	0.24	0.23	0.12	0.06	0.04
Bihar	17.50	16.32	16.01	4.50	3.29	2.65	2.50	1.04	1.00
Jharkhand	1.74	1.63	1.60	1.10	0.71	0.68	0.07	0.01	0.01
Orissa	4.70	4.44	4.21	0.98	1.16	1.03	0.92	0.85	0.75
West Bengal	12.00	12.28	11.94	4.10	3.99	3.54	3.58	2.78	2.51
Assam	3.08	2.67	2.47	0.51	0.27	0.24	0.82	0.59	0.54
All India	249.55	254.79	244.52	81.31	77.57	69.75	33.27	24.82	23.17

Statement-II

Statewise Availability & Sale of Urea, DAP & MOP

2007-08		Urea			DAP/MAP			MOP (LMTs)		
Name of State	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	26.84	25.12	8.24	7.16	7.15	5.55	4.52	4.50	
Karnataka	12.80	13.63	12.54	5.80	4.54	4.50	4.00	3.70	3.58	
Kerala	1.40	1.44	1.34	0.28	0.18	0.18	1.40	1.19	1.16	
Tamil Nadu	9.85	9.68	9.16	4.25	3.35	3.35	4.90	4.85	4.77	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gujarat	17.25	18.37	17.93	5.80	6.76	6.47	1.70	1.82	1.79
Madhya Pradesh	13.75	14.76	14.31	7.50	6.82	6.34	1.10	0.76	0.74
Chhattisgarh	5.90	6.17	5.87	1.70	1.38	1.35	0.74	0.69	0.62
Maharashtra	21.20	23.05	21.39	7.05	6.45	6.29	3.05	3.46	3.23
Rajasthan	14.70	13.83	13.21	6.05	5.51	4.50	0.23	0.23	0.19
Haryana	18.75	19.30	18.47	5.85	6.80	5.36	0.50	0.34	0.29
Punjab	25.00	26.97	26.46	8.00	9.14	6.81	0.95	0.58	0.57
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	54.37	52.72	15.50	14.89	13.20	3.00	1.27	1.14
Uttaranchal	2.30	2.42	2.31	0.32	0.23	0.23	0.18	0.05	0.05
Himachal Pradesh	0.61	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	1.40	1.19	1.15	0.84	0.33	0.33	0.28	0.07	0.07
Bihar	20.00	19.40	18.56	4.25	3.30	3.07	2.05	1.19	1.07
Jharkhand	2.10	1.67	1.58	0.90	0.75	0.74	0.13	0.08	0.08
Orissa	5.50	5.19	4.58	1.25	1.79	1.72	1.20	1.05	1.01
West Bengal	12.95	12.45	11.56	4.55	3.80	3.78	4.00	2.76	2.73
Assam	2.30	1.99	1.93	0.70	0.08	0.08	0.85	0.40	0.40
All India	271.70	274.26	261.71	89.21	83.40	75.55	36.13	29.28	28.28

Statement-III

Cummulative availability fertilisers during the year 2008-09 (April '08 to March '09)

2008-09	Urea			DAP			MOP			Complex		
State	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	27.84	27.33	8.50	9.98	9.97	5.85	6.27	6.04	20.50	16.50	16.30
Karnataka	13.50	12.88	12.82	6.05	8.12	8.07	4.55	5.14	5.05	11.17	8.44	8.39
Kerala	1.49	1.68	1.63	0.31	0.24	0.24	1.33	1.53	1.51	1.72	1.85	1.81
Tamil Nadu	10.37	11.28	11.28	4.31	3.85	3.85	4.84	5.95	5.84	3.62	3.55	3.51
Gujarat	18.65	18.69	18.48	7.10	8.24	8.19	1.90	2.26	2.22	4.39	4.92	4.70
Madhya Pradesh	15.75	13.83	13.59	8.25	8.31	8.14	1.20	1.17	0.88	4.35	2.20	2.15
Chhattisgarh	5.40	5.23	5.06	1.75	2.31	2.28	0.77	0.95	0.92	1.31	1.23	1.22
Maharashtra	23.25	22.84	22.46	8.60	10.19	10.15	3.70	5.17	4.92	15.65	10.40	10.29
Rajasthan	15.10	13.21	12.97	5.60	5.90	5.77	0.33	0.32	0.24	1.42	0.67	0.66
Haryana	19.90	17.59	17.36	6.00	6.69	6.61	0.46	0.47	0.39	0.67	0.31	0.31
Punjab	25.50	26.28	25.77	8.10	8.82	8.82	0.95	0.98	0.81	1.01	0.59	0.57
Himachal Pradesh	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.44	0.40	0.40
Jammu and Kashmir	1.35	1.28	1.26	0.80	0.59	0.59	0.33	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.01	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	55.74	54.83	15.50	15.12	14.93	2.50	2.79	2.47	10.50	7.44	7.32
Uttarakhand	2.30	2.22	2.20	0.35	0.31	0.31	0.18	0.08	0.08	0.45	0.51	0.51
Bihar	21.25	18.33	17.96	4.25	4.12	4.11	1.90	2.28	2.13	3.60	2.59	2.59
Jharkhand	2.00	1.57	1.54	1.05	0.80	0.80	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.40	0.38	0.38
Orissa	5.50	4.74	4.61	2.00	1.89	1.89	1.35	1.53	1.34	2.88	2.66	2.55
West Bengal	13.00	11.94	11.67	4.86	4.03	4.03	4.15	4.80	4.62	7.49	7.29	7.23
Assam	2.40	2.30	2.30	1.03	0.14	0.14	1.06	1.08	0.95	0.30	0.06	0.06
All India	281.34	270.88	266.51	94.83	99.78	99.03	37.86	43.34	40.95	92.32	72.26	71.22

\$ Excludes 10.4 LMT of urea extra sold in March, 2008

(March, 08 requirement 10.36 LMT, the sales was 22.76 LMT)

Note: DOF started monitoring of complex fertiliser w.e.f. Kharif, 2008.

Statement-IV

Cumulative requirement, availability & sales of fertilizers during the year 2009-10 (April '09 to November '09)

State	Urea			DAP			MOP			Complex		
	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales	Require- ment	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	1930.00	1714.04	1605.45	800.00	776.85	733.53	460.00	377.47	344.07	1550.00	1230.53	1175.21
Karnataka	1005.00	1052.11	989.94	605.00	665.25	653.55	380.00	421.24	380.94	795.00	648.71	627.04
Kerala	125.50	119.76	112.28	28.25	25.48	24.81	124.00	116.96	112.95	137.50	138.61	135.53

Tamil Nadu	765.00	638.60	633.32	331.00	245.69	244.56	399.00	329.15	313.61	263.00	397.16	390.83
Gujarat	1295.00	1187.34	1162.07	685.00	640.28	607.72	151.00	172.83	170.01	339.80	305.66	278.29
Madhya Pradesh	1125.31	1023.33	1011.98	804.15	884.93	814.30	109.65	101.40	94.58	334.48	194.24	178.68
Chhattisgarh	465.50	428.09	421.99	153.90	193.63	193.02	69.45	60.74	58.71	114.45	73.09	69.70
Maharashtra	1859.00	1743.38	1679.56	889.70	1140.09	1125.55	361.90	450.65	412.70	1065.00	681.49	657.64
Rajasthan	928.00	817.43	794.48	595.00	560.33	548.48	25.00	33.44	28.76	123.80	72.14	71.42
Haryana	1260.00	1067.49	1047.11	650.00	630.78	629.43	42.00	58.96	58.87	35.00	34.87	32.75
Punjab	1530.00	1606.86	1551.94	750.00	775.87	774.02	81.00	79.27	74.50	55.00	49.93	45.78
Himachal Pradesh	45.00	33.46	31.88	0.00	2.65	2.65	2.50	2.65#	0.00	35.00	19.43	19.29
Jammu & Kashmir	105.67	56.54	53.61	66.75	35.05	35.03	19.67	2.33	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	3300.00	3199.80	3010.98	1300.00	1309.32	1289.06	225.00	213.57	193.54	650.00	527.51	504.66
Uttarakhand	132.50	140.67	124.90	26.00	34.32	33.05	12.00	2.80	2.80	42.50	21.73	21.62
Bihar	1210.00	1074.62	1063.01	335.00	299.30	284.41	155.00	110.62	100.89	255.00	176.48	164.32
Jharkhand	160.00	116.69	111.41	100.00	70.48	66.55	14.50	8.55	8.11	46.00	48.78	44.57
Orissa	440.00	397.18	365.38	148.48	186.39	169.89	132.21	89.06	85.17	219.10	176.29	164.17
West Bengal	715.77	699.22	642.85	307.40	327.48	322.21	247.40	257.97	254.02	524.80	530.63	514.97
Assam	150.80	158.88	154.97	19.40	18.81	18.72	71.40	47.21	43.07	5.50	4.89	4.89
All India	18939.92	17336.32	16628.95	8627.05	8831.40	8578.45	3115.96	2945.42	2750.82	6624.68	5349.34	5118.44

#Dispatch on 6.12.2009

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सभापति जी, इन्होंने अपने लिखित उत्तर में कहा है कि 'The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports.' मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि इंडिया में fertilizer की total कितनी consumption है तथा भारत के जो अपने sources हैं, उनसे उसे हम कितना पूरा कर पाते हैं और कितना import करते हैं?

दूसरा, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी, क्योंकि fertilizers import करने में हमारा काफी foreign exchange जाता है, तो उसकी भरपाई करने के लिए production बढ़ाने के लिए हम क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सर, यह सच है कि हम fertilizers का import कर रहे हैं। जैसे कि देश में यूरिया का करीब-करीब 20 million tonnes production हो रहा है और हम 6 से 7 million tonnes का import कर रहे हैं। Phosphatic fertilizer and Potash का main raw-material देश में नहीं है। Phosphate production देश में 10 per cent हो रहा है और 90 per cent हम import कर रहे हैं। Potash हमें 100 per cent import करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि Potassic fertilizer is not available in the country. Therefore, we are depending on imports. So far as Urea is concerned, about 30 per cent of Urea we are importing. We are producing 10 per cent Phosphate and the remaining 90 per cent we are importing. And, we are importing 100 per cent Potash. Naturally, whenever the prices in the international market go down, the import price is less and the subsidy portion is comparatively, also less. Whenever price in the international market goes up, we have to pay more and we have to give more subsidy. Last year i.e., 2008-09, we had given Rs. 1,00,000 crores as subsidy on fertilizer alone. This year, it is about Rs. 70,000 crores.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सभापति जी, मैंने इनसे पूछा था कि भारत में total consumption कितनी है? इसका जवाब इन्होंने बिल्कुल ही नहीं दिया, import के बारे में बात करते रहे। मैंने यह भी पूछा था कि हम इसको meet up करने के लिए क्या करने जा रहे हैं, जिससे कि हमारा import कम हो? इसका भी इन्होंने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया।

सर, इसके साथ-साथ मेरा जो second supplementary है, उसमें मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि हम लोग स्टेट्स को जो देते हैं, वह क्या उनकी मांग पर ही होते हैं? जैसे अगर वे कहते हैं कि हमें 75 thousand tonnes fertilizers चाहिए या एक लाख tonnes fertilizers चाहिए, इस प्रकार हम उनकी मांग पर देते हैं क्या मिनिस्ट्री ने कोई सर्वे करवाया है कि वहां कितनी cultivated land है, उसके मुताबिक भेजते हैं? कहीं तो ज्यादा चला जाता है और कहीं कम पहुंचता है। क्या इसके लिए भी इन्होंने पूरे भारत का कोई सर्वे-वगैरह करवाया है कि किस तरह से कौन-से प्रदेश को ज्यादा जरूरत है, जैसे पंजाब, हरियाणा है, जहां रबी और खरीफ दोनों की खेती होती है, क्या वहां ज्यादा दी जाती है और दूसरे जो प्रदेश हैं, वहां कम दी जाए? क्या इन्होंने ऐसा भी कोई सर्वे करवाया है?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... एक मिनट।

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सर, जो पहले प्रश्न पूछा गया था, उसके उत्तर में अगर आप देखेंगे, तो उसके साथ एक स्टेटमेंट है - State-wise availability and Sales of Urea, DAP and MOP. इसमें तीन साल का मांगा गया था - 2006-07, 2007-08 और 2009-2010 का, अभी तक जो requirement and availability है, इसका picture मैं दे चुका हूँ।

जहां तक जो मोटा-मोटी खबर है, तो यूरिया की 2008-09 में November तक की requirement 191 lakh metric tonnes थी और availability 180 lakh metric tonnes थी, 2009-2010 में नवम्बर, तक 189.40 and availability 173.36; similarly DAP का 2008-09 में 75.82 lakh metric tonnes और availability 82.73 lakh metric tonnes, 2009-10 में 86.27 lakh metric tonnes और availability 88.31 lakh metric tonnes and MOP similarly 2008-09 में 26.35 और availability 29.89, 2009-10 में 31.16 और availability 29.45 थी।

दूसरा प्रश्न जो था, इसमें यह था कि किस स्टेट को कैसे दिया जाता है? सर, हर साल खरीफ के पहले the Ministry of Agriculture consults every State Agriculture Department. They give a plan in advance. On the basis of recommendations from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Fertilizer draw a plan as to how much urea is required for Uttar Pradesh or Bihar or Punjab, or in different parts of the country. Accordingly, on the basis of what our requirement is and what our production is, we plan about importing, how much we should supply to different parts of the country. It is drawn up every year, pre-Kharif and also pre-Rabi. On the basis of that we supply fertilizer to different parts of the country.

श्री विनय कटियार : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने खाद के विषय में जो आंकड़े दिये, उसके लिए उनको धन्यवाद। उत्तर प्रदेश के विषय में जो अप्रैल 2009 से लेकर 2010 तक के आंकड़े दिए हैं, उसमें वहां पर 3300 हजार मी.ट. यूरिया की आवश्यकता आपने बतलायी है और उसको आपने उपलब्ध करा दिया है, लेकिन 3010 हजार मी.ट. की बिक्री हुई है। जो MOP है, उसकी आवश्यकता 225 हजार मी.ट. बतायी है और 213 हजार मी.ट. आपने उपलब्ध कराया है। उसकी जो बिक्री हुई है, वह 193 हजार मी.ट. हुई है।

महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि उत्तर प्रदेश के अंदर लगातार खाद की समस्या के लिए हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। गन्ना के समय जब यूरिया की आवश्यकता होती है, तो DAP दी जाती है और जब DAP की आवश्यकता होती है तो यूरिया दी जाती है। पूरे प्रदेश के अंदर खाद को लेकर बवाल मचा हुआ है, वहां आंदोलन हो रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आपने इस विषय को संज्ञान में लिया है। अगर प्रदेश सरकार ठीक ढंग से manage नहीं कर रही, तो आपने क्या कोई व्यवस्था बनायी है या आपने कोई जांच टीम भेजी है, जो जनता को यह बता सके कि केन्द्र सरकार ने तो खाद भेजी, लेकिन प्रदेश सरकार गड़बड़ी कर रही है? उत्तर प्रदेश में कहीं - या तो आंकड़े गलत हैं या फिर वहां से गड़बड़ी हो रही है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि किसानों को आगे खाद समय पर उपलब्ध हो सके, उसके लिए क्या आप कोई व्यवस्था करेंगे।

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सर, जहां तक उत्तर प्रदेश का सवाल है, यह सवाल लोक सभा में भी कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने उठाया था, उसके जवाब में मैंने उस दिन भी बोला था और उसके बाद उत्तर प्रदेश के विभिन्न अखबारों में एक advertisement दिया गया था कि उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए खाद की जितनी भी requirement दी, चाहे वह यूरिया हो, डीएपी हो या एमओपी हो, इस requirement के तहत हम उसको दे चुके हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में सबसे ज्यादा कठिनाई यह हो रही है और मुझे यह स्वीकार करने में कोई दुविधा नहीं है कि जो हमारे कुछ subsidized fertilizers हैं, वे अन्य देशों में जा रहे हैं जिस पर राज्य सरकार का नियंत्रण होना चाहिए। जैसे बिहार, मैं वहां की सरकार ने कदम उठाया, उसने smuggling को रोका और उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जी को हमने पत्र लिखा है कि आपकी जो requirement थी, उससे ज्यादा हमने available कराया है, लेकिन अगर उसकी चोरी पकड़ी नहीं जाएगी तो राज्य सरकार का ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Silence please.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : वे प्रधान मंत्री के पत्र के अलावा किसी का पत्र पढ़ती ही नहीं हैं, इसलिए आप प्रधान मंत्री से पत्र लिखवाइए।

श्री सभापति : प्रो. यादव, प्लीज आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : देखिए, मंत्री, मंत्री होता है और सरकार, सरकार होती है। ...(व्यवधान)... अब जिस पद पर जो भी हो ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : अब वे नहीं मान रही हैं तो ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Yes; Sir, the Government has taken initiatives to revive the closed units. It has taken initiatives not only regarding closed units but initiatives to revamp the existing units and expand the existing units and also to revive the units that have been closed down.

Sir, about 5 units of both Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer are being considered at the Government level and it is almost at a stage where the Cabinet has to take a view. The recommendation has been that the revenue-sharing model is to be adopted to revive these units. So far as Talcher is concerned, Talcher is being revived. There are other routes but because Talcher is sitting on coal, the coal gasification is the best route to revive the fertilizer. Since the coal is available, Talcher is also being considered because the three public sector undertakings, namely, RCF, GAIL and Coal India have agreed to revive it. They have given a proposal to the Government that they may revive this and the Government is also considering that.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, as per the list annexed to this answer regarding requirement and availability, there is a demand of fertilizer but there is a short supply of fertilizer. To meet this requirement, I want to know whether there is any plan for the expansion of fertilizer units of the country, including, Namrup Fertilizer Plant of Assam. I want to know whether this unit will be expanded so that we do not have to go in for import of fertilizers and the demand is met by increasing production in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please continue, Mr. Minister.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, let me respond to this question. This is a very vital issue. Uttar Pradesh is the largest State of our country. The kind of subsidy that is being given to Uttar Pradesh is unthinkable. So, if the subsidised fertilizer is not available to farmers for whom this is meant for, and it is smuggled out, it is black marketed; then, it is most unfortunate. Therefore, we, repeatedly, write letters from our Department. I myself, the hon. Minister and, sometimes, even the Prime Minister write letters to different State Governments that please take necessary steps so that fertilizer reached them. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we are supposed to make it available at the State level. But it is the responsibility of the State Government to distribute it properly and sell it properly to the farmers.

श्री विनय कटियार : आप जो कह रहे हैं, तो आप इतना बतला दें कि उत्तर प्रदेश से नेपाल में इसकी कितनी smuggling हो रही है? ...(व्यवधान)... आप अनुमानित तो बता सकते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : कटियार जी, आप एक सवाल पूछ चुके हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, फर्टिलाइजर की जरूरत देश में हर साल होनी है, हर फसल के लिए होनी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे फर्टिलाइजर के जो कारखाने बंद पड़े हैं, उनको रिवाइव करने के लिए, देश की जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, Namrup is in operation. One unit of Namrup is closed down and the revival plan is still under consideration. But the revamping of Namrup project is in the pipeline. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, the same reply was given by the then Minister also one-and-half years back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: But the Government is not doing anything for the revival of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Baishya.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, we are getting the same answer for the last two years. But the Central Government is not doing anything to expand the Namrup fertilizer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. It is all right. You have made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; you have not been called. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: What are they doing for the expansion programme? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no; Mr. Baishya, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your place. Q. No. 327

ICT in schools scheme

*327. **SHRI N.K. SINGH :**

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

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

(a) whether Government plans to ensure Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at schools;

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

(c) to what extent ICT in Schools scheme formulated by Government has been implemented?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" is being implemented since December 2004 to promote the usage of ICT in Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools for enriching the teaching learning process and to enable the students to acquire skills needed for the digital world. Financial assistance is provided for ICT infrastructure, including internet connectivity, capacity building of teachers and development of appropriate e-content for ICT - aided teaching and learning. The schools are selected based on the Computer Education Plans received from the States/UTs. An outlay of Rs 6000 crores has been provided in the XI Five Year Plan for the scheme.

(c) Sanction has been accorded for coverage of about 58000 Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools since the inception of the scheme.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, my first supplementary to the hon. Minister is, notwithstanding his fable expertise in the legalese of the question, since this is the fifth year in which the Scheme is being implemented covering 58,000 schools and the on-going programme of the 11th Plan, according to the answer given in his Question of 6000 crores, independent studies have suggested that in the implementation of this Programme, the digital divide in this country has, in fact, grown. What steps, if any, is the Minister contemplating that in the on-going programme for covering the country, parts of the country which are left behind and backward do not become victims of a growing digital divide?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, much of this depends on whether the economy will grow at nine per cent, giving a forthright answer to my learned friend. Much of this will depend on whether the economy grows at nine per cent, and, for that, the answer is with the hon. Member because he knows it as he is an expert in economics. But, Sir, at the moment, we have an allocation of Rs. 6000 crores and within that allocation, we will certainly spread it in the best manner that we can. Beyond that, we cannot go, and, quite frankly, if the digital divide has increased, without any doubt, we are trying to cover the schools.

What we are trying to do now is to have some smart schools where we intensify ICT schooling. But, Sir, the problem in rural areas and some of the other areas is, we don't even have electricity. So, some of those infrastructural problems are there. But if we are able to set up a conduit for actual implementation of the scheme by having a backbone, which will hopefully be done in the next three years, then, perhaps, we can implement it by larger allocations, depending on how fast the economy grows.

SHRI N. K. SINGH: Thank you, Sir. My second supplementary arises out of the response of the Minister to the first supplementary where he has mentioned the constraints caused by the

limitations of the allocation in the Eleventh Plan. Now, in the draft policy of the Ministry for coverage of ICT to all parts of India, there is a second-last chapter which pertains to fostering public-private partnership. My question to the Minister is, for a faster coverage of this scheme, and considering the limitations of resources for the remaining period of the Eleventh Plan and the Twelfth Five Year Plan, what steps, if any, is the Minister contemplating to harness the resources of fostering public-private partnership?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I want to just mention to the hon. Member that during the course of the Eleventh Plan, we expect to cover all Government and Government-aided schools under the scheme. For all other schools which will, obviously, not to be covered, your suggestion is welcome and we will see if we can take action on it.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, the Minister himself, in his reply, said that availability of electricity becomes a major issue in the successful implementation of the scheme. Feedback from several such schools that are implementing the scheme is that the electricity is very patchy and that availability of generators has not been sanctioned. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, knowing that this is an important milestone if we want to bridge the digital divide, would the Centre make it mandatory, in such areas where electricity is patchy, to ensure that there are generators, or look at options in renewable energy? For instance, allow the schools to have subsidised solar power generation so that electricity is a must for the scheme.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Yes; the hon. Member is quite right. In fact, already a large number of schools are being given ICT infrastructure on a BOT basis, Built-Operate basis. The private sector is installing some of these structures and generators are also supplied under the scheme. We have, in fact, told them that if they want to use solar panels, we would help them even there and we are also willing to supply generators.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Electricity bills are not paid; that is the problem. Electricity is there but the bills are not paid.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That I won't know, because unless you bring something to my notice, I cannot answer that question. We have a lot of areas where electricity bills are not paid, Sir, but we can't. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : चेयरमैन साहब, मैं ऑनरेबल ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्टर से पूछना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने 2004 में सेकेंडरी स्कूलों और हॉयर सेकेंडरी स्कूलों के लिए ICT Scheme शुरू की है। सवाल में पूछा गया था कि आप इसकी डिटेल्स बताएं, उन्होंने डिटेल्स बताने के बजाय सिर्फ यह बताया है कि हमने इस स्कीम के लिए 58,000 स्कूल सैंक्शन किए हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर यह जानकारी सदन की टेबल पर रखें कि इस वक्त किस स्टेट में कितने स्कूल ICT स्कीम को इंप्लीमेंट कर रहे हैं।

جناب محمد شفيع : چیئر مین صاحب، میں انریبل ہیومن ریسورس ڈیولپمنٹ منسٹر

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

سے پوچھنا چاہوں گا کہ انہوں نے 2004 سے سیکنڈری اسکولوں اور ہائر سیکنڈری اسکولوں کے لئے انی-سی-ٹی اسکیم شروع کی ہے۔ سوال میں پوچھا گیا تھا کہ آپ اس کی ٹٹیل بتائیں، انہوں نے ٹٹیل بتانے کے بجائے صرف یہ بتایا ہے کہ ہم نے اس اسکیم کے لئے 58,000 اسکول سینکشن کئے ہیں۔ میں چاہوں گا کہ آنریبل منسٹر یہ جانکاری سدن کی ٹٹیل پر رکھیں کہ اس وقت کس اسٹیٹ میں کتنے اسکول انی-سی-ٹی اسکیم کو امپلیمینٹ کر رہے ہیں۔

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति जी, यह लिस्ट में माननीय सदस्य को दे सकता हूँ, इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत 31 केन्द्रीय विद्यालय हैं, वे कहां-कहां हैं, यह इस लिस्ट में दिया हुआ है, इसी तरह 33 नवोदय विद्यालय हैं, वह लिस्ट भी मेरे पास है, यदि माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे, तो मैं उनको यह लिस्ट भिजवा दूंगा। इसके बाद जो हर स्टेट की physical achievement है, वे आंकड़े भी मेरे पास हैं, यदि आप चाहें, तो मैं आपको वे आंकड़े भी भिजवा दूंगा। हर स्टेट के details of financial allocation के आंकड़े भी मेरे पास हैं।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : यदि आप ये आंकड़े टेबल पर रखें, तो सभी मेंबर्स जान जाएंगे कि किस-किस स्टेट में यह स्कीम किस हद तक इंप्लीमेंट हो रही है।

جناب محمد شفیع : اگر آپ یہ انکڑے ٹیبل پر رکھیں، تو سبھی ممبرس جان جائیں گے کہ کس کس اسٹیٹ میں یہ اسکیم کس حد تک امپلیمینٹ ہو رہی ہے۔

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जो माननीय सदस्य मुझसे ये आंकड़े मांगेंगे, मैं उनको भिजवा दूंगा।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि जो सरकारी aided schools हैं या सरकारी schools हैं, उनको यह equipment दिया जाएगा। जो सरकार के द्वारा aided schools हैं, वे वैसे ही सभी साधनों से संपन्न हैं। जो निजी स्कूल हैं, मैं ऐसे गरीब विद्यालय को जानता हूँ। हमने MPLAD में प्राइवेट गरीब विद्यालयों के लिए ICT equipment recommend किया, तो आपकी नीति के कारण उन्होंने कहा कि यह नहीं मिल सकता है। आप कृपया करके इस पर विचार कीजिए। अगर हम नीचे के लेवल तक ICT ले जाना चाह रहे हैं, तो उदारता से नीति में परिवर्तन कर लीजिए। मुझे इतना ही आपसे कहना है। आप इसके बारे में कुछ कहना चाहते हैं?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : महोदय, वर्तमान में जो यह हमारी policy है, यह Government schools और Government-aided schools तक सीमित है। हमारी यह policy बाकी schools तक नहीं पहुंच सकती है। अभी सरकार की कोई ऐसी policy नहीं है। जब सरकार के पास ज्यादा पैसा होगा, तब इसके बारे में सोच पाएगी। इस समय नहीं सोच सकती है।

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, a notable part of the fund allocated for ICT has been spent for purchasing proprietary software and we are compelled to spend more for additional updating. In Kerala, in high-tech schools, this international reputed scheme is based on free software which

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

reduces the cost and helps the students for further development. Free stands for Freedom to Copy, Share and Development of Software. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any plans to incorporate a pre-condition for the usage of free software to reduce the cost and help the students to develop their skills in software.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not possible for us to start preparing the software on our own. Software has to be outsourced and ultimately through ICT we must have quality software. If we were to outsource quality software, then, of course, payment will have to be made. The free software must match with the quality that should be imparted in these schools, and it is not a significant cost at all. It is for the Governments to use the software as they deem fit. Now, if the State Government have the free software and they want to use it, we don't come in the way.

Navodaya scheme for rural students

*328. DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Central Government has recently urged the State Governments to endorse the 'Navodaya Scheme' at the earliest to enable rural students to have access to quality higher education;

(b) if so, the response of State Governments in this regard,

(c) whether the education imparting system in the 'Navodaya Scheme' has been modernised so that the rural students can compete with the urban students; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance provided to State Governments under 'Navodaya Scheme' during the last two years and the results achieved under the Scheme?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) All the States/UTs except Tamil Nadu, have accepted the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme.

(c) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages establishment of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country for providing good quality modern education to talented children predominantly from rural areas.

(d) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme is a central sector scheme, and assistance is not provided to the States. At present, there are 565 functional JNVs in the country with 2.07 lakh students as on 30.09.2009.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, this is a scheme started when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... This Navodaya School Scheme, as the Minister has endorsed himself, is a very good scheme. It was started with one school in every district with a purpose to enable the State Governments to copy the school programme and convert their schools into this kind to provide modern education. What the are steps taken by the Government of India to help the State Governments to copy their schools and covert their schools into Navodaya schools scheme to provide modern education in rural areas?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this is a question relating to Navodaya School. It is not a question relating to what steps the Government is going to take to help schools outside the Navodaya School system.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, I just mentioned to the Minister the purpose for which these Navodaya Schools were started and the Minister says that it is not related to question. Anyway. In Navodaya Schools, which are now being applauded by the Minister, and in Kendriya Vidyalayas teachers are not getting pension. Will he consider the request of lakhs of teachers for pension?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I would request the hon. Member to bring the issue before me and I will certainly look into it. But I might just mention to the hon. Member in the context of what he had asked that we are, for example, planning to set up six thousand model schools which will be in every district and every taluka in this country. Sir, 3,500 of those model schools will be set up by the Government itself, and, these will be better than the Navodaya Vidyalayas, and, these will be in addition to the Navodaya Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas, and, 2,500 of them will be set up through public-private partnership. We are going to do that.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: We will welcome that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Booking of tickets on fake names

*321. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether she is aware of operation of touts who reportedly buy a large number of tickets in fictitious names and sell them at a premium, allegedly in connivance with some departmental staff;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended by her Ministry during the last three years; and
- (c) the action being taken to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Due to gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, some cases of purchasing tickets by touts

in fictitious names, do come to notice of the Ministry of Railways. As a result of checks conducted by the zonal railways, the number of touts apprehended during the last three years are as under :

Year	No. of touts apprehended
2007-08	2562
2008-09	2521
2009-10	1483

(upto October,09)

Railway staff, if found conniving with touts are taken up stringently under the Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, new trains and special trains are run and the carrying capacity of the existing trains augmented. Upto September 2009, 22748 special trains were run as compared to 17290 special trains in the same period of the previous year, an increase of about 31%. Further, 32 new trains have been introduced and 263 coaches on 114 pairs of trains have been augmented upto September 2009. Besides, regular preventive checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices to curb the illegal activities of touts and other anti-social elements. In addition, checks are also conducted in trains to apprehend cases of passengers travelling on transfer of tickets and such passengers are charged as without ticket. The checks are intensified during peak rush and festival periods. Touts so apprehended are prosecuted under the provision of the law. In addition, travelling public is educated through various media to desist purchasing tickets from unauthorized people. To facilitate easier booking of accommodation, reservation can now be done through internet, e-ticketing, post offices, petrol pumps, etc.

Setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Projects

*323. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering the concept of promoting ultra mega steel projects on the lines of ultra mega power projects to ensure adequate steel capacity addition;

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

(c) by when a decision on the setting up of ultra mega steel projects is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Representations from Hon'ble Shri C. Ramchandriah, MP, Rajya Sabha and Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal, MP, Rajya Sabha as well as some of the steel companies have been received in the Ministry of Steel regarding Ultra Mega Steel Project, Although, there is no concept of Ultra Mega Steel Projects in the National Steel

Policy 2005, the policy aims at an around growth of the Indian Steel Sector, irrespective of the production capacity of individual steel units.

(c) Steel being a deregulated sector, the various aspects of Ultra Mega Steel Project needs to be examined within the existing policy and legal frameworks. A decision in this regard will be taken after obtaining the views of the different stakeholders.

Development of Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor

*325. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Gujarat regarding rail development for various infrastructure linkages for overall development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) along with the proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), a Government of Gujarat entity, had forwarded a proposal suggesting various infrastructure linkages including rail connectivity for DMIC project in the State of Gujarat.

The proposal has been forwarded to DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up under Ministry of Commerce and Industry for taking up further study and to integrate this with their master plan.

Loan recovery by Co-operative banks

*329. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan granted by Cooperative Banks during 2008 for farming and other allied activities;

(b) whether loan recoveries are being made according to mutually agreed time schedules;

(c) the outstanding recovery amount till 31st of December, 2008, State-wise, and the percentage of non-recovered loans; and

(d) the methods being adopted by Co-operative Banks when persistently the loans are repaid by rural folk forming bulk of farming community?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), the total loan granted by cooperative banks for farming and other allied activities during 2007-08 was Rs.48258.19 crore.

(b) to (d) Borrowers of cooperative banks are required to repay their loans according to repayment schedule stipulated by the bank at the time of sanctioning of loans. However, there are borrowers who do not repay their loans on schedule resulting in overdues. Cooperative banks follow the methods of personal contacts, peer pressure, issue of demand notices etc. for recovery of such overdue loans. Legal remedies are also resorted to by the cooperative banks in case these methods fail to yield results. Repayments received from the borrowers are used by the cooperative banks for recycling of funds in their business and to meet operational expenditure. The state-wise outstanding overdue position at the level of State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) as on 30th June, 2008 is given in the Statements-I, II, III and IV respectively (See below). State-wise position of demand, collection and balance at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level as on 31-03-2008 is given in Statement-V.

Statement-I

Overdues as on 30 June 2008

(Rs. Lakh)			
Sl. No.	SCBs	Overdues	Overdues (% to loans outstanding)
1	2	3	4
1	Andaman & Nicobar	419.00	26.20
2	Andhra Pradesh	105202.41	27.79
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11388.90	89.38
4	Assam	2200.22	44.86
5	Bihar	27344.00	63.95
6	Chandigarh	298.46	36.33
7	Chhattisgarh	7115.89	22.56
8	Delhi	1544.02	11.47
9	Goa	3897.00	23.55
10	Gujarat	2585.00	2.05
11	Haryana	710.00	0.23
12	Himachal Pradesh	3306.19	23.94
13	Jammu & Kashmir	2037.37	56.57
14	Karnataka	9203.00	8.92

1	2	3	4
15	Kerala	9986.59	10.61
16	Madhya Pradesh	7154.00	3.72
17	Maharashtra	164052.00	42.83
18	Manipur	1638.26	71.00
19	Meghalaya	2309.54	58.71
20	Mizoram	1475.28	26.94
21	Nagaland	1659.30	35.23
22	Orissa	10937.07	7.36
23	Pondicherry	2181.88	24.05
24	Punjab	2263.87	1.02
25	Rajasthan	5744.37	3.88
26	Sikkim	240.00	44.69
27	Tamil Nadu	927.59	0.21
28	Tripura	4846.95	47.36
29	Uttar Pradesh	64032.04	28.23
30	Uttaranchal	800.02	6.32
31	West Bengal	22099.00	14.81
ALL INDIA		479599.22	15.37

Data for the states of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur relates to previous year

Source: NABARD

Statement-II

Overdues as on 30 June 2008

(Rs. Lakh)

Sl. No.	DCCBs	Overdues	Overdues (% to loans outstanding)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	424788.93	73.32
2	Bihar	30206.00	49.25
3	Chhattisgarh	52798.70	51.91
4	Gujarat	192054.71	39.47
5	Haryana	287973.00	47.56

1	2	3	4
6	Himachal Pradesh	4457.28	18.88
7	Jammu & Kashmir	7577.76	40.17
8	Jharkhand	8173.57	82.85
9	Karnataka	97606.31	25.08
10	Kerala	96015.57	21.22
11	Madhya Pradesh	267044.30	52.91
12	Maharashtra	862384.26	61.32
13	Orissa	139954.44	50.98
14	Punjab	123818.40	18.80
15	Rajasthan	190013.94	42.43
16	Tamil Nadu	62040.42	13.53
17	Uttar Pradesh	250831.96	55.80
18	Uttaranchal	17385.25	33.18
19	West Bengal	41205.14	34.01
	ALL INDIA	3156329.94	44.44

Data for the states of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur relates to previous year

Source: NABARD

Statement-III

Overdues as on 30 June 2008

Sl.No.	State	Overdues	SCARDBs (Rs. Lakh)
			Overdues (% to loans outstanding)
1	2	3	4
1	Assam	40.61	12.11
2	Bihar	24981.21	84.00
3	Chhattisgarh	8704.97	74.86
4	Gujarat	39626.80	74.67
5	Haryana	11778.00	25.16
6	Himachal Pradesh	5726.00	47.33
7	Jammu & Kashmir	221.07	24.10

1	2	3	4
8	Karnataka	43645.04	66.41
9	Kerala	12544.08	22.92
10	Madhya Pradesh	20359.69	31.65
11	Maharashtra	155206.55	97.33
12	Manipur	NA	NA
13	Orissa	7532.94	40.14
14	Pondicherry	219.86	16.08
15	Punjab	11491.48	20.20
16	Rajasthan	48123.45	70.03
17	Tamil Nadu	21396.77	81.14
18	Tripura	391.56	33.93
19	Uttar Pradesh	107505.78	29.28
20	West Bengal	20920.58	66.87
	ALL INDIA	540416.44	50.48

Manipur SCARDB is defunct

Data for Bihar and Himachal Pradesh relates to previous year.

Source: NABARD

Statement-IV

Overdues as on 30 June 2008

Sl.No.	State	Overdues	PCARDBs (Rs. Lakh)
			Overdues (% to loans outstanding)
1	2	3	4
1	Chhattisgarh	5756.99	52.55
2	Haryana	67906.00	63.06
3	Himachal Pradesh	1009.84	36.68
4	Karnataka	41423.54	77.30
5	Kerala	29126.15	33.62
6	Madhya Pradesh	40770.83	42.13
7	Maharashtra	88758.88	95.90
8	Orissa	1571.76	11.58

1	2	3	4
9	Punjab	63974.60	55.41
10	Rajasthan	70503.94	58.70
11	Tamil Nadu	17192.69	69.58
12	West Bengal	26352.72	64.56
	ALL INDIA	454347.94	59.34

Manipur SCARDB is defunct

Data for Bihar and Himachal Pradesh relates to previous year

Source: NABARD

Statement-V

Demand, Collection & Balance at PACS level (as on 31-03-2008)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Demand	Collection	Balance	Percentage of Recovery to Demand
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	136.54	108.91	27.63	79.76
2.	Andhra Pradesh	330796.34	165958.73	164837.61	50.17
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.77	1.78	60.99	2.84
4.	Assam	319.88	277.61	42.27	86.79
5.	Bihar	60155.30	20318.11	39837.19	33.78
6.	Chandigarh	14.36	8.37	5.99	58.29
7.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	2.00	2.00	0.00	100.00
8.	Delhi	NA	NA	NA	NA
9.	Goa	1654.59	726.60	927.99	43.91
10.	Gujarat	435338.79	260495.78	174843.01	59.84
11.	Haryana	659500.57	454113.40	205387.17	68.86
12.	Himachal Pradesh	25671.27	16003.68	9667.59	62.34
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	67830.35	61262.36	6567.99	90.32
14.	Karnataka	302018.94	201691.12	100327.82	66.78
15.	Kerala	1039740.69	850204.90	189535.79	81.77

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Madhya Pradesh	339682.47	182550.69	157131.78	53.74
17.	Maharashtra	1022556.00	543358.00	479198.00	53.14
18.	Manipur	30603.00	17421.00	13182.00	56.93
19.	Meghalaya	568.40	91.33	477.07	16.07
20.	Mizoram	155.31	47.05	108.26	30.29
21.	Nagaland	663.98	61.60	602.38	9.28
22.	Orissa	358622.48	265302.76	93319.72	73.98
23.	Pondicherry	7866.81	5264.36	2602.45	66.92
24.	Punjab	613005.62	544041.60	68964.02	88.75
25.	Rajasthan	635796.72	234389.04	401407.68	36.87
26.	Sikkim	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00
27.	Tamil Nadu	309243.38	247917.67	61325.71	80.17
28.	Tripura	3612.18	136.30	3475.88	3.77
29.	Uttar Pradesh	121663.94	70077.00	51586.94	57.60
30.	West Bengal	187700.14	107177.21	80522.93	57.10
31.	Chhattisgarh	81560.68	42764.34	38796.34	52.43
32.	Jharkhand	25294.54	14951.59	10342.95	59.11
33.	Uttarakhand	67456.98	22021.07	45435.91	32.64
ALL INDIA TOTAL		6729295.08	4328946.95	2400348.13	64.33

Source: National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.

Marine fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act, 2009

*330. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marine Fisheries (Regulation and Management) Act, 2009 covers the traditional fish workers and their rights;

(b) if so, the rights given to the traditional fish workers with regard to deep sea fishing; and

(c) whether registration of vessels by Central Government would be made mandatory apart from State registration?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Draft Marine Fisheries (Regulation & Management) Act, 2009 aims to regulate fishing, fishing activities and

fisheries in the maritime zones of India for conservation and sustainable management of fisheries resources. Under the provisions of the draft Act, any Indian citizen including traditional fish workers can obtain permission for fishing in the maritime zone outside the territorial waters. Fishing in the territorial waters shall continue to be governed by the coastal States/Union Territories under their respective State laws. Adequate safeguards for protection of traditional fish workers would be ensured.

Fishing vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 or under any other applicable Central Act or any State Act, would be eligible for obtaining permission under the proposed Act.

Proposal to increase CIP of foodgrains

*331. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government has a proposal to increase the Central Issue Price (CIP) of foodgrains supplied to Above Poverty Line (APL) families through the Public Distribution System; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice supplied to Above Poverty Line (APL) families through Public Distribution System (PDS) have not been revised since 2002. During this period, Government have increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in order to provide more remunerative prices to farmers. Costs on account of other incidentals of procurement have also increased. This has led to an escalation in food subsidy and created a large gap between CIP for APL families and open market prices. The Department is examining a proposal to revise the CIPs of wheat and rice for APL category with a view to reducing the difference between the CIPs for APL and market price of wheat and rice.

Granting of patents to Konkan Railways

*332. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAYAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 18 patents, including ACD, Track Identification System and Sky Bus have been granted to Konkan Railways;

(b) if so, whether commercial utilization and adoption of these valuable patents has been started; and

(c) whether any foreign railway system has shown any interest in making use of them in countries where hilly track trains are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) has intimated that they have obtained 18 patents.

(b) Except for nine patents for Sky Bus technology, the adoption and commercial utilization of balance nine patents has been started by KRCL.

(c) No, Sir.

Funds for the National Literacy Mission

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

(a) whether Government has released any funds for the National Literacy Mission especially for rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the plan prepared for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Details of funds released to States and UTs under the National Literacy Mission during the last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Saakshar Bharat, a new variant of National Literacy Mission has been launched. The thrust of the Mission is on access, equity, quality and good governance. Since it aims to bridge the gender gap and reduce regional and social disparities, the focus of the Mission will be on women and disadvantaged groups, especially SCs, STs and minorities in rural areas. Basic literacy, post literacy and continuing education will form a continuum rather than sequential segments. Besides the volunteer based mass education approach, provision has been made for alternate approaches to adult education. Lok Shiksha Kendras (Adult Education Centres) in Gram Panchayats will coordinate all programmes within their territorial jurisdiction.

Statement

Funds for the National Literacy Mission

(Rs. in lakhs)				
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2200.59	2417.30	1270.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	38.05	34.54	25.00
3.	Assam	249.01	193.21	155.11
4.	Bihar	473.73	638.26	393.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	716.59	384.20	711.87

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Delhi	105.37	111.86	116.04
7.	Goa	23.19	24.48	24.98
8.	Gujarat	333.39	432.17	350.42
9.	Haryana	193.88	312.06	271.47
10.	Himachal Pradesh	37.67	35.62	50.96
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	218.29	121.40	75.26
12.	Jharkhand	371.57	937.66	420.66
13.	Karnataka	1819.42	2529.14	428.17
14.	Kerala	677.97	615.55	639.55
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3202.16	755.82	853.94
16.	Maharashtra	1020.62	867.29	976.12
17.	Manipur	107.71	134.43	67.48
18.	Meghalaya	157.26	47.30	47.72
19.	Mizoram	107.79	22.65	23.71
20.	Nagaland	23.93	24.13	32.71
21.	Orissa	303.63	582.98	422.26
22.	Punjab	209.80	112.44	286.66
23.	Rajasthan	1517.23	3598.39	1390.85
24.	Sikkim	12.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	1377.85	1105.14	538.36
26.	Tripura	82.25	39.41	31.43
27.	Uttaranchal	760.01	440.48	212.62
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1792.79	3096.84	2281.33
29.	West Bengal	2196.71	1492.80	1354.07
30.	A & N Island	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	148.10	29.97	30.00
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	15.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	3.48
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	38.70	0.00
TOTAL		20478.56	21176.22	13501.59

Introduction of new trains

*334.DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals for introduction of new trains pending with her Ministry;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan has made certain proposals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the criterion for introduction of new trains; and
- (e) the grounds for non-acceptance of the proposals received from the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Representations for introduction of new trains are received from various quarters including the State Governments, Ministers, MPs, MLAs, General Public etc., at various levels of Railway Administration viz. Railway Station, Division, Zonal Headquarters and the Ministry of Railways. The requests are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken. However, no compendium of statistics of these representations are maintained.

(b) and (c) State Government of Rajasthan have sent demands for 16 new trains on 10th Nov. 2009. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	From	To
1.	Jodhpur	Coimbatore
2.	Jaipur	Pune
3.	Jaipur	Puri
4.	Ajmer	Kanyakumari
5.	Ajmer	Kota
6.	Jaipur	Bhopal
7.	Delhi	Anupgarh
8.	Anupgarh	Delhi (via Bhatinda)
9.	Amritsar	Mumbai (via Bikaner-Jodhpur-Ahmedabad)
10.	Sri Ganganagar	Delhi
11.	Delhi	Sadulpur
12.	Durg	Jaipur
13.	Mumbai	Jodhpur
14.	Rewari	Phulera (via Reengus)
15.	Kolkata	Bikaner
16.	New Delhi	Jaipur Duronto

4705/4706 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sadulpur Express (tri-weekly) and 9065/9066 Bandra-Jodhpur Express (weekly) have been introduced. Durg-Jaipur Express (weekly), Kolkata-Bikaner Express (weekly) and Rewari-Phulera Passenger will be introduced during the year 2009-10.

(d) and (e) New trains are introduced subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification taking into account the public demand. Efforts are made to satisfy demand in every part of the country by introducing new trains, extending the run of the train and increasing the frequency of such trains which are not daily trains.

Use of hormone injection to increase milk

†*335. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that hormone injections are given to cattle to increase the yield of milk;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by Government, State-wise;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken strict steps to tackle it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Hormones are not allowed to be used to increase milk yield of cattle in the country.

(b) to (d) No specific complaints have been received by the Government in this regard.

Funds released under PMEGP

*336. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the achievements made through this programme to provide employment to the youth of the country; and

(c) the details of unemployed youth who received funds under the scheme since its inception, State-wise, District-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) State-wise details of funds (margin money subsidy) allocated by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the national level nodal agency for implementation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and their

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

utilisation under this scheme including that in Andhra Pradesh during 2008-09 is given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) and (c) District-wise information is not maintained centrally. However, State-wise number of units assisted and estimated number of employment opportunities generated under PMEGP including that in Andhra Pradesh during 2008-09 is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

*State-wise funds (margin money subsidy) allocated/utilised by
KVIC under PMEGP during 2008-09*

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2008-09	
		Allocation	Utilised
1	2	3	4
1	Chandigarh	59.94	9.74
2	Delhi	285.51	0.70
3	Haryana	1431.16	1190.28
4	Himachal Pradesh	452.14	392.77
5	J&K	1300.00	898.00
6	Punjab	1800.00	951.00
7	Rajasthan	2793.42	1503.58
8	A & N Islands	46.25	29.53
9	Bihar	5152.18	4201.22
10	Jharkhand	2366.52	958.00
11	Orissa	2946.68	2419.53
12	West Bengal	6500.00	5135.37
13	Andhra Pradesh	5319.86	2582.54
14	Karnataka	3571.24	2510.48
15	Kerala	2123.80	671.33
16	Lakshadweep	6.66	0
17	Puducherry	59.94	19.40
18	Tamil Nadu	4220.23	2328.54
19	Goa	86.59	2.10
20	Gujarat	3487.62	659.33

1	2	3	4
21.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	-	-
22	Daman & Diu#	-	
23	Maharashtra	6628.91	2455.61
24	Chhattisgarh	1736.78	1318.62
25	Madhya Pradesh	3695.85	1143.48
26	Uttarakhand	1162.25	456.52
27	Uttar Pradesh	11768.96	7984.31
28	Arunachal Pradesh	205.72	88.45
29	Assam	2050.54	890.20
30	Manipur	470.64	0
31	Meghalaya	483.96	0
32	Mizoram	238.28	0
33	Nagaland	430.68	9.62
34	Tripura	472.12	32.02
35	Sikkim	125.80	22.45
TOTAL		73480.23	40864.72

*Figures for 2008-09 corresponding to Dadra & Nagar Haveli have been included in the figures of Gujarat

Figures for 2008-09 corresponding to Daman & Diu have been included in the figures of Maharashtra

Statement-II

*State-wise details of units assisted and estimated employment generation
during 2008-09 under PMEGP*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of units assisted	Estimated employment generation (Number of persons)
1	2	3	4
1.	Chandigarh	16	160
2	Delhi	01	10
3	Haryana	484	4840
4	Himachal Pradesh	309	3090
5	J&K	680	6800

1	2	3	4
6	Punjab	266	2660
7	Rajasthan	540	5400
8	A & N Islands	40	400
9	Bihar	5873	58730
10	Jharkhand	498	4980
11	Orissa	1654	16540
12	West Bengal	4002	40020
13	Andhra Pradesh	865	8650
14	Karnataka	1220	12200
15	Kerala	365	3650
16	Lakshadweep	0	0
17	Puducherry	48	480
18	Tamil Nadu	1197	11960
19	Goa	01	10
20	Gujarat	268	2680
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	-	-
22	Daman & Diu#	-	-
23	Maharashtra	1692	16920
24	Chhattisgarh	584	5840
25	Madhya Pradesh	416	4160
26	Uttarakhand	384	3840
27	Uttar Pradesh	2724	27240
28	Arunachal Pradesh	114	1140
29	Assam	1226	12260
30	Manipur	0	0
31	Meghalaya	0	0
32	Mizoram	0	0
33	Nagaland	5	50
34	Tripura	25	250
35	Sikkim	10	100
		25507	255060

*Figures for 2008-09 corresponding to Dadra & Nagar Haveli have been included in the figures of Gujarat

Figures for 2008-09 corresponding to Daman & Diu have been included in the figures of Maharashtra

Production of pulses

†*337. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 37 million tonnes of pulses can be produced annually in the country by adopting certain additional measures;
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto;
- (c) the annual average volume of production of pulses during the past decade; and
- (d) the names of the new schemes implemented by Government to enhance the production of pulses during the past decade?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is a significant potential to increase the crop production in pulses. The yield in pulses is low due to a variety of constraints. Some of these are:

(i) Pulses are grown on the marginal and sub marginal lands and about 85% of pulses, grown both during Kharif and rabi, are rainfed. Pulse crops are mainly grown by the resource poor small and marginal farmers of the country, (ii) inadequate seed availability and low seed Replacement Rate, (iii) minimal application of nutrients, (iv) high incidence of pests and diseases, (v) poor crop management, (vi) Poor storage, processing and marketing facilities, (vii) crop damage due to blue bull, (viii) pulses are genetically low yielding and less input responsive as compared to other cereals and oilseeds.

Government has been taking a number of measures through various crop development schemes to address the constraints faced by the pulse farmers and to increase productivity.

(c) The annual average volume of production of pulses during past decade *i.e.* 1999-2000 to 2008-09 is 13.38 million tones. The year wise production of total pulses in the country during the last 10 years is as under:

Sl. No	Year	Production in million tonnes
1	2	3
1	1999-2000	13.41
2	2000-2001	11.07
3	2001-02	13.37
4	2002-03	11.13
5	2003-04	14.91
6	2004-05	13.13
7	2005-06	13.39

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
8	2006-07	14.20
9	2007-08	14.76
10	2008-09	14.66

Source: ESA, DAC, MOA, GOI

(d) In order to address the constraints faced by the pulses farmers and to increase production of pulses crops, three centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented in the country. The Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented since April, 2004 in major pulse growing states, National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) has been started from 2007-08 for mission mode implementation in the identified districts and Intensive Pulses Development Programme under Macro Management Mode Scheme is in operation for the states that are not covered under ISOPOM or NFSM but that wish to promote pulses crop production.

Foodstock situation

*338. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the feedstock available before the current spell of drought in the country;
- (b) the outflow of foodgrains to each of the drought affected States in the country in recent months; and
- (c) the current size of foodstocks left?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in Central Pool, as on 1st July, 2009 were 196.16 lakh tons of rice and 329.22 lakh tons of wheat.

Details of statewise allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to drought affected States and their offtake during July, 2009 to October, 2009 are given in the Statement (See below).

The stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool, as on 1st December, 2009 were 229 lakh tons of rice and 251.61 lakh tons of wheat.

Statement

Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS (AAY, BPL and APL) to drought affected states and their offtake from July, 2009 to October, 2009

(in Thousand Tons)

Sl.No.	States	Total	
		Allocation	Offtake*
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	1278.822	1262.203
2	Assam	482.037	470.776

1	2	3	4
3	Bihar	1145.827	824.987
4	Himachal Pradesh	162.107	161.346
5	Jharkhand	435.454	375.033
6	Karnataka	732.164	684.432
7	Madhya Pradesh	989.651	904.58
8	Maharashtra	1616.488	1246.055
9	Manipur	39.177	40.631
10	Nagaland	43.182	44.794
11	Orissa	705.284	733.592
12	Rajasthan	623.134	594.57
13	Uttar Pradesh	2283.139	2237.063
	TOTAL	10536.466	9580.062

*Note: 1. Offtake may include backlog of allocations in earlier months as well as advance lifting for subsequent months.

2. Firmed up details on offtake during November, 2009 are yet to be received.
Orissa has been declared drought affected State on 21.11.2009. No additional allocation of foodgrains to the State has been made so far as no request for such allocation of foodgrains has been received from the State Government.

Special trains for Idu'l Fitr and Idu'l Zuha

*339. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of special trains operated on the occasion of Idu'l Fitr and Idu'l Zuha during the current year;
- (b) the details of the requests received for the purpose;
- (c) the details of those requests which were accepted and acted upon and those which were not considered; and
- (d) the reasons for non-consideration?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) Special trains are run on various sectors for clearance of extra passenger traffic during peak seasons and festival period including Idu'l Fitr and Idu'l Zuha keeping in view the pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources. The basis of running special train is mainly past experience and anticipated rush which may be due to different reasons including the occasion of festivals. Separate data for special trains run for a specific festival is not maintained.

Special trains are also run by Railways on Full Tariff Rates as per specific request made by a party.

Requests for special trains are received at various levels *i.e* Station, Division, Zonal and Railway Board and necessary action as found operationally feasible and commercially justified is taken. No compendium of statistics for such requests is maintained.

Ship—breaking at Alang

***340. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ship-breaking facility at Alang is still functional despite complaints of occupational and environmental hazards involved in ship breaking by semi-skilled or unskilled labourers in unprotected working environment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that yet another ship was recently brought to Alang; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government regarding the said ship?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Ship breaking activities are undertaken at Alang and the operational procedures are being followed as per the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of 17.02.2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

(c) and (d) A passenger ship "Platinum-II" was anchored at Bhavnagar Anchoring Point on 6.10.2009 with the permission of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB). The Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) had constituted a Central Technical Team to inspect and examine the ship, since it was alleged that the ship was carrying hazardous materials. The team inspected the ship and submitted its report on 26th October, 2009. As per the report, there are no hazardous and radio-active materials on board the ship in loose form or as cargo. However, hazardous materials like asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and radio-active materials are present in the ship as part of its structure.

2. It has been brought to the notice of the MoEF that the ship has violated the United States Toxic Substances Control Act (USTSCA) and an order has been passed, by the United States Environment Protection Authority (USEPA) against the owners of the ship. There were also allegations that the ship has been brought into India with a falsified flag and registry.

3. Keeping in view the "Precautionary Principle", the MoEF has communicated to GMB that granting permission for beaching and breaking purpose of the ship will not be advisable.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Swaminathan Commission for Restructuring of Commodity Boards

2462. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.S. Swaminathan Commission has recommended restructuring of various commodity boards so that they can be better catalyst for the productivity and quality; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No such recommendation has been made by the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) set up under the chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. However, in the context of conservation, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants, it made a recommendation for mandating different commodity boards for promoting intercropping with plantation crops like coffee, rubber, spices and coconut.

Miserable condition of farmers of Bundelkhand

†2463. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of loans waived off by Government for drought hit farmers of Vidarbha;

(b) the measures being taken by Government to improve the plight of farmers there;

(c) whether Government is working on a plan for waiver of loans given to the farmers of Bundelkhand facing drought for the last five years; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to improve the plight of farmers of Bundelkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) An amount of Rs. 1235.80 crore was provided towards Debt Waiver for the farmers of Vidarbha under Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 of Union Government. Apart from this, an amount of Rs. 457.58 crore was also provided to the farmers of Vidarbha under Agricultural Debt Waiver & Debt Relief Scheme, 2009 of Govt. of Maharashtra.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Govt. is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Programmes viz National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management, Support to Agriculture Extension Services, Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (in six districts of Vidarbha viz Akola, Amrawati, Buldana, Wardha, Yavatmal and Washim), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) etc. to improve agricultural production and create adequate employment opportunities.

(c) The farmers of Bundelkhand are already covered under "Agricultural Debt Waiver & Agricultural Debt Relief Scheme, 2008" of Union Government.

(d) The Government has recently approved a special Bundelkhand Drought Mitigation Package of Rs.7266.00 crore comprising Rs. 3506.00 crore for Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 3760.00 crore for Madhya Pradesh to be implemented over a period of three years.

Bribe given to officials of Central Insecticides Board

2464. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DE-Noal Corp Protection (Ltd.) which is a subsidiary of Dow Chemicals paid bribe to the extent of \$39,700 to an official of Central Insecticides Board to expedite registration of three products of the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such officials to whom bribe was paid; and

(d) the action Government has taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Following reports in connection with the proceedings taken up by the Securities and Exchange Commission of United States of America that DE-Nocil, a subsidiary company of Dow Chemicals, had made improper payments to a member of Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, for expeditious registration of three of its products, an inquiry was ordered into the matter and a case has been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Dr. R.L. Rajak, the then Plant Protection Adviser, and some private persons and companies.

Steps to increase wheat production

2465. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to compensate the losses of paddy output Government is now going to increase the country's wheat production to a record 84 million tonnes in 2009-10 season;

(b) if so, whether there are plans to achieve this by raising average per hectare wheat yield to 3 tonnes as against earlier average of 2.8 tonnes and also increasing the area under wheat to 28 million hectares as against last years ' acreage of 27.5 million hectares;

(c) whether country produced an alltime high 80.58 million tonnes wheat in 2008-09; and

(d) if so, to what extent these plans have borne fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government has taken several steps to tackle the impending situation to increase the area under rabi cultivation to compensate for likely losses in kharif 2009-10.

During National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign, 2009, it was agreed by all the States to increase the area under wheat for enhancing the production & productivity, thereby compensating the losses of kharif, 2009. Seed subsidy has been increased for wheat crop from Rs.500/- to Rs.700/- per quintal for Rabi 2009-10 season. State Government have given flexibility to utilize the funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and age limit norms of certified seed of wheat varieties have been relaxed. Additional allocations of rust-resistant and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikits have been made. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizers, additional power for irrigation etc. have been ensured in coordination with the States and various Central Ministries.

Sowing of Wheat is in progress in all the wheat growing states of the country. The area coverage of wheat reported as on 3.12.2009 was about 167.20 lakh hectares against coverage of 162.40 lakh hectares during corresponding period of last year. Regarding the production of wheat in the current year, it is too early to assess the estimate at this stage. There is record production of wheat during 2008-09 to the tune of 80.58 million tonnes (as per 4th estimates).

Strategies to check suicide by farmers

2466. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the incidents of suicide by farmers continue to increase in various parts of the country inspite of financial assistance provided to States to check such cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the assistance provided to State Governments to check incidents of suicides in various parts of the country are monitored by the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the strategies formulated to check rising cases of suicides by farmers in the country?

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

(a) to (d) The incidents of suicide by farmers have been mainly reported from 31 districts spread over the the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala. Besides, some cases of farmers' suicide were also reported by the State of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. To address the problem of suicide by farmers, in these 31 districts, the Government approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore in the year 2006. An amount of Rs.16953.04 crore (*i.e.* 99.8% of total package cost) has been released by Centre/State Governments and Banks in 4 States up to 30th September, 2009. It has been decided by the Government to extend the period for implementation of the non credit components of the package by 2 more years *i.e.* 30th September, 2011. There is an inbuilt mechanism for monitoring the Rehabilitation Package. The Ministry of Agriculture monitors the progress on a regular basis. Since implementation of the Rehabilitation Package the number of suicide by farmers are showing a declining trend in most of the States. A Statement showing number of suicides by farmers on account of agrarian reasons as per reports received from the State Governments is given in the Statement (*See below*).

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

In order to enhance the economic viability of farming and to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers, the Government of India implemented a Debt waiver and Debt Relief scheme, 2008 in all districts of the country. As per provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crores small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crore other farmers have benefitted from the scheme involving debt waiver and debt relief to the tune of Rs. 65,318.33 crores, as their line of credit has been delogged due to clearing off of their principal and interest liabilities.

The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has also definite provisions to improve economic viability of farming and a number of Plan schemes and programmes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management and Support to Agriculture Extension Services etc. are being implemented across the country.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers as per reports received from State Govts.

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Period	Eligible cases i.e. suicides due to agrarian distress	Eligible cases i.e. suicides due to agrarian distress in Package Districts
1.	Andhra	2006	530	519
	Pradesh	2007	490	482
		2008	390	384
		2009 (upto 16.11.09)	77	75
2.	Karnataka	2006-07	176	67
		2007-08	182	68
		2008-09	143	NA
		2009-10 (upto 31.8.09)	14	NA
3.	Maharashtra	2006	1028	575
		2007	590	233
		2008	627	294
		2009 (upto 15.11.09)	259 [^]	144 ^{^^}
4.	Kerala	2006	112	NA
		2007	68	NA
		2008	22	NA
		2009 (upto 31.08.09)	02	NA
5.	Tamil Nadu	2006	01	*
		2007	01	
		2008	01	
		2009 (upto 31.10.09)	Nil	
6.	Punjab	2006	19	*
		2007	24	
		2008	10	
		2009 (upto 31.10.09)	18	
7.	Gujarat	2006	04	*
		2007	04	
		2008	01	
		2009 (upto 30.06.09)	00	

[^] 408 cases of farmers' suicide are under investigation as reported *vide* Govt. of Maharashtra fax dated 19.11.2009 of which ^{^^}217 cases relates to package districts.

Sl.No.	Name of State	Date of Report	No. of Suicide
8.	Assam	12.12.2007	Nil
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.08.2007	Nil
10.	Bihar	14.05.2008	Nil
11.	Chhattisgarh	31.07.2009	Nil
12.	Goa	31.10.2009	Nil
13.	Haryana	16.11.2009	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	19.11.2009	Nil
15.	J&K	18.11.2009	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	25.04.2008	Nil
17.	Manipur	19.11.2009	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	31.07.2009	Nil
19.	Madhya Pradesh	24.11.2009	Nil
20.	Mizoram	23.07.2009	Nil
21.	Nagaland	23.11.2009	Nil
22.	Orissa	23.11.2009	Nil*
23.	Rajasthan	04.12.2007	Nil
24.	Sikkim	21.11.2009	Nil
25.	Tripura	25.03.2008	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20.11.2009	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	08.05.2008	Nil
28.	West Bengal	31.10.2009	Nil
29.	Admn. of Andaman & Nicobar	19.11.2009	Nil
30.	Govt. of NCT of Delhi	28.9.2007	Nil
31.	Admn. of Daman & Diu	15.7.2009	Nil
32.	Admn. of Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.7.2008	Nil
33.	Admn. of Lakshadweep	19.11.2007	Nil
34.	Admn. of Pondicherry	23.11.2009	Nil
35.	Admn. of Chandigarh	15.11.2009	Nil

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

Efforts to protect crops from weeds and pesticides

2467. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as much as 20 per cent of crops in many areas of the country is destroyed by weeds and pesticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the finding of any study conducted on this issue by Government;
- (c) the efforts being made to protect the crops from weeds and pesticides;
- (d) whether efforts are being made by Government to improve the quality of seeds to ward off weeds and pesticides; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which such research has reached and by when the seeds of such nature will be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) It has been estimated that crop losses due to various pests including insect pests, diseases, rodents and weeds range from 10 to 30 per cent annually depending upon the severity of pest attack. Pesticides are not harmful to the crops if applied as per recommended schedule and dosage.

(b) The studies carried out by the Directorate of Weed Science Research (DWSR) and its coordinating centres located in different State Agricultural Universities, indicate that if not managed properly, weeds cause significant losses in crop yield.

(c) In addition to the traditional methods of weed control such as cultural and mechanical, so far 38 herbicides and 8 of their combination products have been approved by the Registration Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, for controlling weeds in different crops in the country. State extension functionaries, State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Central Integrated Pest Management Centres and Directorate of Weed Science Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research are also educating farmers for adoption of weed control measures in different crops to reduce crop loss due to weeds.

(d) and (e) Government of India has launched a country wide campaign for seed treatment in important crops of the country.

Soil Health card to farmers

2468. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had announced some months ago that a soil health card reflecting the health and nutritional status of a farmer's field will be provided to each and every farmer in the country;

- (b) if so, the present status of Government's decision;
- (c) whether all farmers in the country have since been provided with soil health card; and
- (d) if not, by when all farmers in the country are likely to get soil health card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched a new scheme, namely, "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme *inter alia* envisages setting up of 500 new static soil testing laboratories (STLs) and 250 new mobile STLs in the country during 11th Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Based on soil test, soil health cards are issued to the farmers by State Governments. As per reports received, 279.54 lakh soil health cards have been issued to the farmers in the country till March, 2009.

Corruption in DMS

2469. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has recently unearthed a scam in Delhi Milk Scheme(DMS) involving nexus of officials of his Ministry with DMS employees in allotment of milk booths to relatives and diversion of milk meant for supply in NCR, causing losses to exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of the *modus-operandi* of the scam unearthed by CBI;

(c) whether Government proposes to take further action in this regard and fix responsibility;
 and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps likely to be taken to remove corrupt practices prevalent in the DMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) to (d) No Sir. However, CBI has informed that it has registered a case No.RC48(A)/2009-ACB-Delhi against the officials of DMS and the case is under investigation by the CBI. Further action will depend on the outcome of the investigation.

Diseases in animals

2470. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of various diseases in animals particularly Mad Cow disease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the brains of animals particularly cows and buffaloes get destroyed; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that animals particularly cows and buffaloes are not affected by any disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of various diseases in animals, including Mad Cow disease. A number of animal diseases are reported in India, However, Mad Cow disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) has never been reported in any part of the country.

(c) and (d) The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE's) in humans is known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), which does not destroy brains of cows and buffaloes.

India is historically free from Mad Cow disease. Therefore, in order to prevent ingress of the disease, all possible measures have been taken, including ban on import of all livestock and livestock products, fresh meat, meat products, tissue, organs and meat and bone meal of ruminant origin from the countries affected by TSE group of diseases. Within the country, use or trade of Meat & Bone Meal (MBM) in ruminant feed is also prohibited. Surveillance on BSE is undertaken. More than 11,000 brain samples from cattle so far tested for BSE have been found negative.

Adequate supply of certified seeds

†2471. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that farmers are not getting adequate supply of certified seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the immediate steps being taken by Government to ensure supply of certified seeds to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) As reported by States the availability of certified/quality seed in the country is 279,72,187 quintals against the requirement of 249,12,019 quintals for the current year 2009-10.

(c) Details are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- i) Distribution subsidy on certified seed has been enhanced for Rabi and Summer 2009-10 under Government of India programmes viz Rs.700 per quintal or 50% of the cost which ever is less for wheat and rice, Rs.1000 per quintal or 50% cost of seed whichever is less for coarse cereal (excluding maize) and Rs.2000 per quintal or 50% cost of seed whichever is less for oilseeds, pulses and maize.
- ii) Distribution subsidy was allowed on Truthfully Labelled seeds as a special case under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- iii) Seed Minikits were allowed under RKVY.
- iv) Age relaxation of varieties under National Food Security Mission was allowed.
- v) Expeditious transfer of seed was coordinated from surplus to deficit areas as per requirement.
- vi) A special review of seed requirement was conducted for late Kharif 2009 and early Rabi 2009 to enable States to capitalize on the soil moisture due to late rains.
- vii) A requirement of nearly 3,31,000 quintals for late Kharif for crops such as Urd, Moong, Arhar, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Vegetables, Horsegram, Sunflower, Groundnut and Paddy was tied up.
- viii) Similarly tie up was achieved for early Rabi requirement of 4178000 quintals for crops like Toria, Fodder, Gram, Wheat, Peas, Mustard, Potato, Linseed and Lentil.
- ix) Quantity of minikits under Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize was doubled in Rabi 2009-10.

Crops loss due to rain in Maharashtra

2472. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether heavy rains have affected crops in the country particularly in Maharashtra, this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the production figures of different main varieties of paddy, fruits and vegetables during the last three years and those expected during 2009-10, State-wise;
- (c) the details of export of crops that are likely to increase or decrease this year, compared to that during the last two years; and
- (d) the assistance provided to the affected farmers of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Heavy rain have affected Crops in the country including Maharashtra. State reported 50% (8,15,735 ha) damage to paddy, other field crops, fruits and vegetables.

(b) State wise details of the production figures according to final, 4th advance estimate released by the Directorates of Economics & Statistics for the last three years including during 2009-10 (1st advance) and for vegetables & fruits for last three years as furnished by Horticulture Division of Ministry of Agriculture are given in Statement-I and Statement-II (See below).

(c) As per report of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics the export of Rice Basmati and wheat has increased in 2009 compared to exports in the corresponding period of April-July 2008 but export of Non-Basmati Rice, Sesame seeds and Cotton raw including waste declined during the period of April- July, 2009 compared to export in the corresponding period of April-July, 2008.

(d) Government of Maharashtra has released Rs.100 (one hundred) crores as assistance for those who were affected due to heavy rains during this year.

Statement-I

State-wise Production of Rice during the last three years & 2009-10

S.No.	State	Production ('000 Tonnes)			
		Final Estimates 2006-07	Final Estimates 2007-08	4th Advance Estimates 2008-09	1st Advance Estimates 2009-10
1	Andhra Pradesh	11872	13324.0	8381.0	5380.0
2	Assam	2916.0	3319.0	2946.0	2612.0
3	Bihar	4989.3	4418.1	5488.3	2763.8
4	Chhattisgarh	5041.4	5426.6	4391.8	4285.7
5	Gujarat	1390	1474.0	1226.0	955.0
6	Haryana	3371	3613.0	3298.0	3559.4
7	Himachal Pradesh	123.5	121.5	119.1	51.0
8	Jammu & Kashmir	554	561.3	563.4	561.2
9	Jharkhand	2967.8	3336.4	3284.9	1438.3
10	Karnataka	3446	3717.0	2757.0	1948.0
11	Kerala	631	528.5	441.9	444.9
12	Madhya Pradesh	1368.4	1461.9	1559.7	994.3
13	Maharashtra	2569	2996.0	2235.0	1769.0
14	Orissa	6824.7	7540.7	6001.0	6238.4
15	Punjab	10138	10489.0	11000.0	11465.7
16	Rajasthan	169.8	259.6	241.1	230.8
17	Tamil Nadu	6610.6	5040.2	4640.2	4718.2
18	Uttar Pradesh	11124	11780.0	13051.0	7658.2
19	Uttarakhand	556	593.0	537.0	514.0
20	West Bengal	14745.9	14719.5	10679.0	10120.5
21	Others	1946.9	1973.6	1741.0	1741.0
ALL-INDIA		93355.3	96692.9	84582.4	69449.4

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

Statement-II

State-wise Production of Fruits and Vegetables for 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 yet to be finalized

Production in 000'MT								
S.No.	State/UTs	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		Total
		Fruits	Vegetables	Fruits	Vegetables	Fruits	Vegetables	
1	Andaman & Nicobar	20.84	32.58	22.46	30.82	24.94	30.82	162.46
2	Andhra Pradesh	10496.00	4355.80	12214.37	4946.26	11406.97	5267.46	48686.86
3	Arunachal Pradesh	107.90	110.00	108.00	110.00	108.00	110.00	653.90
4	Assam	1392.30	4449.50	1410.70	4474.20	1574.77	2916.69	16218.16
5	Bihar	3426.50	13612.90	3252.40	14067.80	3853.88	14808.78	53022.26
6	Chandigarh	1.10	1.70	1.10	1.70	1.10	1.70	8.40
7	Chhattisgarh	609.60	2801.90	915.10	2934.20	965.66	3041.03	11267.49
8	D&N Haveli	7.10	13.50	19.70	4.48	19.70	4.48	68.96
9	Daman&Diu	0.02	0.20	0.02	0.20	0.02	0.20	0.66
10	Delhi	0.99	672.00	0.99	595.60	0.99	617.40	1887.97
11	Goa	87.54	84.29	97.75	85.00	88.11	85.00	527.69
12	Gujarat	5344.40	6062.50	5849.70	7403.00	5822.28	6807.12	37289.00
13	Haryana	241.90	3366.90	240.40	3277.10	257.11	3798.53	11181.94
14	Himachal Pradesh	369.10	1150.70	713.00	1150.70	627.95	1211.50	5222.95
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1321.50	1247.70	1435.80	1238.30	1519.49	1230.33	7993.12
16	Jharkhand	382.00	3394.90	382.00	3639.70	395.48	3637.03	11831.11

17	Karnataka	4735.70	5478.50	5000.57	7367.08	5269.77	7724.88	35576.50
18	Kerala	2526.70	3234.20	2579.80	3479.00	2558.89	3509.44	17888.03
19	Lakshadweep	1.13	13.97	1.24	14.12	1.24	14.12	45.82
20	Madhya Pradesh	1225.70	2814.00	1237.10	2919.70	2372.54	4105.75	14674.79
21	Maharashtra	10324.50	6148.00	11047.60	6454.90	10861.55	6368.02	51204.57
22	Manipur	229.10	91.77	273.70	113.68	341.91	174.26	1224.42
23	Meghalaya	234.30	345.40	235.30	352.50	294.81	415.79	1878.10
24	Mizoram	179.80	31.25	219.60	37.27	122.94	177.71	768.57
25	Nagaland	31.91	44.59	521.97	63.50	151.27	78.33	891.57
26	Orissa	1424.90	8180.30	1275.10	8214.80	1532.76	8467.40	29095.26
27	Pondicherry	51.99	54.70	51.99	54.70	27.89	81.01	322.28
28	Punjab	830.60	2518.20	1055.50	2772.10	1170.97	3333.12	11680.49
29	Rajasthan	401.90	806.50	421.81	1678.63	494.98	1795.63	5599.45
30	Sikkim	13.41	80.81	13.93	95.87	15.67	133.73	353.42
31	Tamil Nadu	6240.90	7070.40	7530.10	7975.70	8207.75	8693.48	45718.33
32	Tripura	525.50	415.90	525.70	423.60	477.18	294.71	2662.59
33	Uttar Pradesh	3439.90	18190.40	3932.57	19790.30	5304.79	20352.37	71010.33
34	Uttaranchal	695.90	995.50	717.80	1036.20	725.27	1077.55	5248.22
35	West Bengal	2640.70	17140.00	2766.60	22456.80	2854.60	22704.26	70562.96
TOTAL		59563.33	115011.46	65602.5	129259.50	69453.23	133069.63	571959.62

Source: Furnished by Horticulture Division of DAC, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

Deficit in production due to drought

2473. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of loss of agricultural production due to drought situation in the country;
- (b) in what ways Government would face the deficit of food production in the country; and
- (c) the lesson Government has taken from the previous experiences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Due to deficient and erratic rainfall in the Kharif 2009, Kharif crop production was adversely affected. The crop-wise position at all India level as per 1st advanced estimate released by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Various steps have been initiated by the Government. Relaxation in respect of use of Truthful Labeled (TL) seeds and age limit have been given under crop Development. Schemes. Subsidy rates of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses seeds have been enhanced from Rs. 500 to Rs.700/qtl. for rice & wheat, Rs. 1200 to Rs.2000/qtl. for pulses & Rs. 800 to Rs 1000/qtl. for coarse cereals(only for 2009-10), under crop development schemes. Additional power has been supplied to Punjab, Haryana and other States to energize the water pumps for saving standing crops. Planning for timely supply of inputs such as quality seed, adequate quantity of fertilizers for Rabi is ensured through tie-up with various agencies. Periodic district level Visits of experts/ consultants in the ministry to States for gearing up timely preparation and implementation of rabi crop development plans. Additional areas under boro/ summer rice, wheat, pulses are planned. Additional wheat minikits of rust resistance, heat tolerant varieties such as DBW 17 are being distributed. Enhanced pulses production through area expansion especially of green gram in rice fallows in Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, and chick pea in rice fallows of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh is planned. Additional seed quantity is made available to the states as per the required demand assessed in the zonal input review meetings.

Statement

Cropwise position of Kharif Crop Production

Crop	Kharif 2008	Kharif 2009	Increase/ decrease over last year (+)(-)
1	2	3	4
Rice	84.58	69.45	-15.13
Kharif Coarse Cereals	28.34	22.16	-5.58

1	2	3	4
Kharif Pulses	4.78	4.42	-0.36
Kharif food grains	117.70	96.63	-21.07
Kharif Oilseeds * *	178.82	152.33	-26.49
Cotton *	231.56	236.57	+5.01
Sugarcane *	2739.31	2494.82	-244.49

* in lakh bales

** in lakh tonnes

Sources: Directorate of Economic & Statistic. Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation

Standard testing system for pesticides and chemicals

†2474. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 153 given in Rajya Sabha on 3 July, 2009 and state;

(a) whether any standard norms have been fixed for all types of pesticide chemicals and non-chemicals;

(b) if so, whether there is any arrangement for testing the standards of these chemicals as soon as they come out of manufacturing site;

(c) if so, the reasons for not cancelling the licence of the manufacturer in case they are sub-standard;

(d) whether licence of the seller is seized and he is penalized in case the pesticides are found spurious at marketing stage; and

(e) whether pesticides appear to be ineffective and thus sub-standard because some insects have developed immune system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Registration of every pesticide, including pesticides of biological origin, is mandatory under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968 (the Act), which is done only after submission of specifications, method of analysis and testing of a sample thereof.

(b) and (c) As per Rule 28 of the Insecticide Rules, 1971 (the Rules), the Insecticide Inspector, has to inspect every pesticide manufacturing unit under his jurisdiction at least twice a year to satisfy himself about compliance of conditions of licence and the Act/Rules and also draw samples of pesticides from such units. In case, the samples fail to conform to the standards, action is taken under section 14 of the Act to revoke or suspend the licence issued to the manufacturer.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Licence for sale of pesticide of the dealer is also revoked or suspended under section 14 in case of violation of the conditions of licence or provisions of the Act/Rules except when he proves that he was not responsible for contravention of provisions in terms of section 30(3) of the Act.

(e) A pesticide is tested against laid down standards and, in case it fails to meet the standards, it is called 'misbranded' as defined under the Act. Development of resistance among pests is a different issue as a registered pesticide conforming to the prescribed standards may also face the problem of resistance.

Export of food items

‡2475. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of fruits, vegetables and other food items have increased sharply over the years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that export of these food items has increased during these years;

(c) if so, the break-up of export value of fruits, vegetables and processed food items during the year 2008-09 and first six months of year 2009-10; and

(d) the percentage their values exceed by against those of previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Increase in prices of primary agriculture products (which includes fruits, vegetables and other food items) in October 2009 on year basis was as under:

Fruits	5.83%
Vegetables	17.02%
Other food items	4.88%
Cereals	11.80%
Pulses	22.81%

(b) to (d) Export of fruits, vegetables and processed foods during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-June 2009) and percentage increase in 2008-09 over 2007-08 is given below:-

(value in Rs. lakh)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Percentage increase in 2008-09 over 2007-08
Fruits	146559	194531	58992	32.73%
Vegetables	147789	245374	62826	66%
Processed foods	579050	755919	149971	30.54%

*Provisional data from DGCIS currently available only for first three months of 2009-10. (Source: APEDA)

Sowing of pulses

†2476. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sowing area of pulses in Kharif crop in the year 2009 is more as compared to that of year 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of total production of pulses during Kharif crops in the year 2008 and 2009 respectively; and
- (d) the reasons for lesser production of pulses despite sowing area being more?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The area and production of pulses during 2008 & 2009 is given as under:

(area in '000' ha) (production '000 tonnes)

Crop	2008 (Kharif)		2009 (Kharif)	
	Area	Production	Area	Production
Total	9875.8	4776.2	10107.3	4421.2*

Pulses (Kharif)

*As per the 1st advance estimate of kharif

- (d) The reasons for lesser production of pulses during kharif 2009 are:
 - (i) Late sowing due to late setting up of South West monsoon;
 - (ii) Drought in kharif due to uneven distribution of rainfall/ deficient and erratic rainfall during kharif 2009 in the pulse producing states;
 - (iii) Damage by flood in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka due to heavy rains received during last week of September, 2009 and first week of October, 2009.

Commercial production of new variety seeds of pulses

†2477. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that yield of pulses per hectare in India is 635 kg. While average yield of pulses in USA and Canada is 1900 kg. per hectare;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether new varieties of seeds have been explored to enhance the yield of pulses during last three years;

(d) if so, the names of varieties of seeds and their yield per hectare; and

(e) the details of annual commercial production of these seeds in India?

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

(a) and (b) The productivity of pulses in India was 625 kg. per hectare. The comparative data of per hectare pulses production achieved in other pulses growing countries are given below:

Country	Productivity (kg/ha) during 2007-08
USA	1908
Canada	1804

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the pulses varieties developed during last three years are given below:

Crop	Varieties	Yield kg/ha
1	2	3
Chickpea	GNG-1581	2400
	IPCK 2002-29	2150
	IPCK 2004-29	2000
	Phule G 0517	1800
	PKV Kabuli 4-1	1900
Pigeonpea	TT401	1570
	PAU 881	1400
	TJT 501	1860
Lentil	IPL 406	1700
	WBL	1200
Fieldpea	HFP 9907 B	2300
Fieldpea	VL 42	1900
	Pant Pea	2200
	IPF 04-26	2200
Mung bean	MH 2-15	1100
	Pant M 6	1100

1	2	3
	KM 2241	1050
	IPM 02-3	1000
	Pusa 0672	1000
	PKV AM 4	1050
Urd bean	WBU 109 (Sulata)	1100
	IPU0 2-43	1000
	KU 99-21	10.00
Rajmash	Arun (IIPR 98-3-1)	1600

(e) Based on the indents forwarded by States, IIPR supplies the breeder seeds of these varieties to the States. State Agriculture Department, State Seed Corporation multiply the seeds for foundation & certified seeds. Thus, it takes three years for new variety to be introduced commercially in the market.

Crop losses due to pests

2478. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crop losses due to pests is to the extent of 30 per cent every year;

(h) in what ways the strengthening and modernization of pest management approach in India and integrated pest management have helped in containing pests in the country; and

(c) the physical targets achieved by Integrated Pest Management Centre in Andhra Pradesh in containing pests in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) It has been estimated that crop losses due to various pests range from 10 to 30 per cent every year depending upon the severity of pest attack.

(b) Under scheme titled "Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management approach in India", Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been adopted as main plank of plant protection strategy. 31 Central IPM Centres (CIPMCs) have the mandate for pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and human resource development in IPM by organizing Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs). Under the scheme so far 12,511 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) have been organized wherein 52,398 Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and 3,76,614 farmers in different States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh have been trained. Over 120.48 lakh hectares have been covered under pest monitoring and 29,291 million bio-control agents in 94.65 lakh hectares have been released for control of different pests and diseases. The IPM strategy has reduced the dependence on chemical pesticides for pest control.

(c) CIPMC, Hyderabad has organized 1,002 FFSs so far. Over 9.38 lakh hectares have been covered under pest monitoring and 2,573 million bio-control agents have been released in 7.14 lakh hectares for the control of different pests and diseases. Various IPM activities conducted by the centre have contributed to increase in crop yield and reduction in consumption of chemical pesticides from 4,741 metric tonne (MT) during 1998-99 to 1,400 MT during 2008-09.

Rise in cost of paddy cultivation

2479. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the input cost in paddy cultivation has gone up;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether farmers are reluctant of releasing their stocks of paddy in the market; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir, The input cost of cultivation of Paddy has gone up in recent years, noticeably from 2007-08, due to increase in cost on account of human labour, machine labour, etc.

(c) and (d) Under the existing policy of foodgrains procurement, all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies. The producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/ State Agencies at MSP or in open market as it is advantageous to them.

Arrival of paddy in mandies for procurement in the central pool/open market during current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009-10 as on 07.12.2009 has increased to 215.44 lakh tonnes against 210.39 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period in KMS 2008-09.

Effect of recent flood on Kharif crops in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

†2480. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the effect of recent devastating floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in production of Kharif crops; and
- (b) the percentage decrease in sugarcane production due to this flood and its likely effect on production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Recent devastating floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have caused reduction of area of Kharif crops. An area of 2.4 lakh hectares and 21.93 lakh hectares have been affected in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively, which will adversely affect Kharif crop production.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per 1st advanced estimate released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) the production of sugarcane in the country during 2009-10 has come down to 2494.81 lakh tones compared to last year is 2946.56 lakh tonnes (2008-09) and about 15.33% lesser than the previous year.

Low agriculture productivity

2481. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dependence of Indian farmers on rain is the main cause for fluctuation in agricultural production year after year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China can produce twice and Australia five times the amount of rice per acre than India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the main cause of low productivity is that Indian farmer is being drip fed like in a hospital with cheap rice, one-upmanship and other negatives created by such subsidies; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Indian agriculture is mostly dependent on rainfall as about 60% of the cultivated area is rainfed. Agricultural production is affected by extreme fluctuation in intensity, distribution and extent of rainfall.

(b) The productivity of paddy in India is comparatively at lower side than that of China & Australia. The production of paddy during 2004 to 2007 in these countries as per FAO's report is as follows:

Country	(Kg per hectare)			
	Year			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	8330.5	6616.7	9828.2	8150.0
China	6308.5	6252.6	6276.3	6422.3
India	2975.5	3153.7	3194.5	3302.9

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In order to meet the demand of growing population in the country Government of India has taken several initiatives to enhance the productivity of rice in the country through crops Development schemes that support the efforts of the farmer. Under these schemes assistance is given to the farmers to improve the soil health through micro nutrients and balance doses of fertilizers, timely availability of credit, improved crop production technology, better quality seed of rice varieties/hybrids, Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Nutrients Management, demonstra-tions on improved package of practices, improved farm implements and farm machinery etc.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) of rice has been increase in the past three years. So that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. Increase in MSP has encouraged farmers to grow more rice which have resulted in record production of rice during 2007-08 and 2008-09.

GDP percentage of last three years

2482. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPPANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that GDP of 3 per cent is not fulfilled;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the figure of GDP of last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) As per the Revised Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 Agriculture & Allied Sectors recorded a growth rate of 4.9 percent and 1.6 percent respectively in terms of GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices. The decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture & Allied Sectors during 2008-09 is partly due to the decline in the production of Coarse cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, Cotton, Jute & Mesta and Sugarcane.

(c) A statement on State-wise Total GDP and Agriculture & Allied Sector's GDP for the years 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Agriculture & Allied Sector's GDP from 2006-07 to 2008-09 at Constant (1999-2000) prices

(In Crores Rupees)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Total GDP		Agriculture & Allied Sector's GDP		
		2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2008- 2009	2006- 2007	2007- 2008
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	216140	239102	252318	51309	58927
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2647	2746		646	669
3.	Assam	48437	51372	54477	12790	12855
4.	Bihar	81716	88290	98393	25074	22888
5.	Jharkhand	48780	51794	54655	6197	6315
6.	Goa	9923	11028		800	698

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat	189436	213674		29663	34625	
8.	Haryana	95283	104189	1 12543	20839	21034	21415
9.	Himachal Pradesh	22854	24817		4727	5071	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	21698	23060		6055	6154	
11.	Karnataka	152832	172573	181338	26243	30363	28614
12.	Kerala	114521	126453		17919	18206	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	98344	103503		25377	24901	
14.	Chhattisgarh	41506	45086	48551	9171	9439	9543
15.	Maharashtra	381247	416248		50114	55311	
16.	Manipur	4283	4573	4899	1040	1073	1113
17.	Meghalaya	5350	5628		1135	1189	
18.	Mizoram	2221	2344	2495	365	376	385
19.	Nagaland						
20.	Orissa	69401	73462	78410	15872	16552	15913
21.	Punjab	91354	97325	103415	28834	30237	31774
22.	Rajasthan	122221	131183	140523	33078	34954	36845
23.	Sikkim	1514	1626	1756	285	295	305
24.	Tamil Nadu	209302	218538	228479	26748	24849	24332
25.	Tripura	8472				1925	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	237420	254422	270850	67538	70174	73166
27.	Uttarakhand	23150	25320	27516	4345	4365	4334
28.	West Bengal	204373	220198		48309	51006	
29.	A & N Islands	1469			282		
30.	Chandigarh	8687	9687	10693	55	54	53
31.	Delhi	97086	109201			741	713
32.	Puducherry	5864	7321	8110	246	279	298
ALL INDIA		2871120	3129717	3339375	531315	557122	566045

Source: For Sl. No. 1-32 — Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India — Central Statistical Organisation

Proper use of chemical fertilizer

†2483. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that use of chemical fertilizers by farmers is not being done properly;
- (b) if so, whether it is affecting agricultural land in the country negatively;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is required to check this negative effect without delay;
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereon;
- (e) whether there is a scheme to educate farmers regarding proper usage of chemical fertilizers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) It is fact that unbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter and neglect of secondary and micro nutrients over the years have resulted in deterioration of soil health in many parts of the country, particularly in intensively cultivated areas of Indo gangetic plains.

The Government of India has launched a new scheme, namely, "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme has provision for training of farmers, field demonstrations and organizing farmers' fair to promote balanced and soil test based application of fertilizers.

Import of rice

2484. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rice is being imported;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to boost domestic rice production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) According to the latest data provided by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, only 9.8 tonnes of rice was imported during the year 2008-09. The reasons for import was requirement of specific varieties not usually grown domestically.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with major component of NFSM- Rice to increase production of rice by additional 10 million tonnes through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity by the end of the eleventh five year plan. Government has also raised the minimum support price of rice significantly in last five years.

Dairy development projects in Madhya Pradesh

†2485. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether project proposals of Raisen, Vidisha, Burhanpur and Khandwa districts under Intensive Dairy Development Project have been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard and by when these would be cleared?

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir.

Madhya Pradesh State Cooperation Dairy Federation Ltd. Bhopal had submitted two proposals under Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP). The first proposal, covering Burhanpur and Khandwa districts at a total outlay of Rs.471.69 lakh was submitted through the State Government in 2005-06 and the second proposal, covering Raisen and Vidisha districts at a total outlay of Rs.582.27 lakh was directly submitted in 2006-07.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India had examined these proposals and observed that five projects covering 14 districts were already under implementation in Madhya Pradesh and are still on-going. The implementing agency was informed by this department *vide* letters dated 28/07/2006 and 02/08/2006 that time bound action plan to complete the old projects sanctioned earlier along with the project completion reports need to be submitted to this department before any new proposal is considered. No response has so far been received from the State Government/implementing agency. Details of the ongoing projects are given in Statement.

Statement

Ongoing projects under Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) in Madhya Pradesh

(Rs in lakh)

Project Name	Year of approval	Districts covered	Approved outlay	Fund released by GOI	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6
M.P-I&II	1993-94	Guna, Narsinghpur, Khargaoan & Chattarpur.	494.06	494.06	Project completion report has not been received.

1	2	3	4	5	6
M.P-IV	1995-96	Reva & Satna	475.26	475.26	Project completion report has not been received.
M.P-V	2005-06	Jhabua	228.89	192.44	Unspent amount of Rs.49.38 lakh is to be utilized by the implementing agency.
M.P-VI	2005-06	Balaghat & Chindwara	420.58	361.77	Unspent amount of Rs.28.02 lakh is to be utilized by the implementing agency.
M.P-VII	2006-07	Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Seoni & Sheopur	1422.09	332.59	Unspent amount of Rs.15.06 lakh is to be utilized by the implementing agency.
TOTAL			3040.88	1856.12	

Delay in settlement of claims under NAIS

2486. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of agricultural claims under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) pending with the concerned agencies during the last three years, yearwise and State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is enormous delay in settling of claims under the NAIS;
- (c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh and others have been demanding that 50 per cent of the likely claims be released in advance subject to final adjustment so that the farmers get some money for his next crop; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not accepting this demand by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) A year-wise and State-wise list of pending claims, as on date, under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No Sir. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which is the Implementing Agency of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), settles the admissible claims as per availability of funds after the receipt of yield data from the concerned State Government. Sometimes, due to discrepancies in yield data, legal cases etc. settlement of claims is delayed. Under such circumstances the matters are promptly referred to the Implementing Agency (*i.e.* AIC) for taking urgent action.

- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Statement

NAIS - claims approved but not yet paid (as on 3rd Dec, 2009)

Amount in Rs. Lakhs

S.No.	Approval Date	State	Season	Share in claims				Reasons - Non receipt of Govt. share of liability. Laibilities awaited in respect of
				Total Claims Outstanding	AIC's share	S.G.'s Share	GOI's Share	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	26.8.2009	Andhra Pradesh	Kharif 2008 1st Instl.	80120.47	8805.46	35657.51	35657.51	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
		Sub Total		80120.47	8805.46	35657.51	35657.51	
1	27.4.2009	Assam	Kharif 2008	5.36	5.36	0.00	0.00	State Govt. share Rs. 0.85 lac in Premium subsidy
2	9.10.2009	Assam	Rabi 2008-09	66.93	66.93	0.00	0.00	State Govt. share Rs. 6.16 lac in Premium subsidy
		Sub Total		72.29	72.29	0.00	0.00	
1	19.8.2009	Chhattisgarh	Rabi 2006-09	8.98	8.98	0.00	0.00	State Govt. share Rs. 0.94 lac in premium subsidy
		Sub Total		8.91	8.98	0.00	0.00	
1	21.8.2009	Gujarat	Kharif 2008 1st Instl	23350.51	3950.04	2660.66	16739.81	State Govt. share in Claims
2	14.9.2009	Gujarat	Kharif 2006 Addl	86.01	0.00	43.01	43.00	State Govt. share in Claims
3	14.9.2009	Gujarat	Rabi 2008-09	1148.84	106.69	521.07	521.07	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
		Sub Total		24585.37	4056.74	3224.74	17303.89	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	16.10.2009	Himachal Pradesh	Rabi 2008-09	446.11	34.08	206.01	206.01	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
Sub Total				446.1	34.08	206.01	206.01	
1	14.5.2009	Jharkhand	Kharif 2008	2632.72	507.06	1062.83	1062.83	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
2	26.10.200	Jharkhand	Rabi 2008-09	595.84	130.79	232.52	232.52	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
Sub Total				3228.56	637.85	1295.35	1295.35	
1	3.12.2009	Kerala	Rabi 2008-09	15.40	15.40	0.00	0.00	State Govt. share Rs. 3.51 lac in Premium subsidy
Sub Total				15.40	15.40	0.0	0.0	
1	23.11.2009	Maharashtra	Rabi 2008-09 1st Instl	544.61	71.57	236.52	236.52	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
Sub Total				544.61	71.57	236.52	236.52	
1	11.6.2009	Tamil Nadu	Kharif 2007 IIInd Instl	2.71	0.54	1.09	1.09	State Govt. share in Claims
2	27.3.2009	Tamil Nadu	Kharif 2008 1st Instl	196.61	136.08	30.27	30.26	State Govt. share in Claims
3	21.7.2009	Tamil Nadu	Rabi 2007-08 Addl	25.26	0.00	12.6	12.63	State Govt. share in claims
4	22.7.2009	Tamil Nadu	Kharif 2008 2nd Instl	44.58	36.08	4.25	4.25	State Govt. share in claims
5	7.8.2009	Tamil Nadu	Rabi 2007-08 Addl	119.75	0.0	59.87	59.87	State Govt. share in claims

6	28.8.2009	Tamil Nadu	Rabi 2008-09 1st Instl	26066.44	0.00	0.00	26066.44	Gol share in Claims and Premium subsidy Rs. 3.31 crore to be recd.
7	4.9.2009	Tamil Nadu	Rabi 2007-08 6th Instl	641.66	281.14	180.26	180.26	State Govt. share in Claims
Sub Total				27097.00	453.83	288.37	26354.80	
2	30.9.2009	Tripura	Rabi 2008-09	5.02	4.64	0.19	0.19	State Govt share in Claims and Premium subsidy
Sub Total				5.02	4.64	0.19	0.19	
1	28.8.2009	Uttarakhand	Rabi 2008-09	638.49	115.83	261.33	261.33	State Govt. share in Claims
Sub Total				638.44	115.83	261.33	261.33	
1	11.11.2009	West Bengal	Rabi 2008-09	38159.48	11194.17	13482.66	13482.66	State Govt. share in Claims and Premium subsidy
Sub Total				38159.48	11194.17	13482.66	13482.66	
TOTAL				174921.79	25470.85	54652.69	94798.25	

Price rise of essential commodities

2487. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that food prices are escalating unabatedly;
- (b) whether Government is preparing to intervene in the open market with its buffer stocks of wheat and rice; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 1993-94=100) for food grains as well as rice and wheat showed an overall increasing trend except a few months during the period January, 2008 to November, 2009. The statement of Monthly WPI of food grains, rice and wheat from January, 2008 to November, 2009 is given below.

Months	Food Grains		Rice		Wheat	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
January	217.7	242.2	195.5	225.2	231.4	243.6
February	219.1	247.9	196.8	230.5	232.6	246.8
March	222.3	248.1	198.9	232.2	233.4	244.2
April	223.9	250.6	201.7	231.3	233.4	246.8
May	222.8	254.3	200.8	233.8	232.6	249.9
June	223.8	256	200.7	235.8	233.8	249
July	228.1	259.1	203.1	237.1	240.8	248.7
August	229.7	262.3	203.2	238.8	239.9	247.6
September	229.8	262.4	203	237.2	241.7	250.6
October	235.3	266.6	214.9	243.3	238.5	254.9
November	237.5	266.8	218.5	246.2	239.3	268.7
December	239.6		222.2		240.9	

(b) and (c) Food Corporation of India has been allocated 5 lakh tonnes wheat during October-December, 2009 for sale through Open Tenders to bulk consumers of wheat like Roller Flour Mills, Biscuits Manufacture etc., who have processing units using wheat as raw material with an installed capacity of not less than 30 tonnes per month. In addition to this, Government has allocated 10 lakh tonnes wheat and 5 lakh tonnes of rice to the State/UT Governments under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) (Domestic) for distribution to retail consumers, for October-December, 2009 period which is given in Statement.

Statement

*Allotment of wheat and rice under OMSS(D) including wheat to
bulk consumers for October, 2009- December, 2009*

(Quantity, in Met. tonnes)				
Zone	Name of FCI Region/State Govt.	Allotment of wheat for retail consumer	Allotment of rice for retail consumer	Allotment of wheat to bulk consumers
1	2	3	4	5
North	Delhi	80481	8361	82422
	Chandigarh	0	0	7209
	Punjab	88982	0	33244
	Haryana	19522	0	16772
	Uttar Pradesh	51518	1593	231521
	Uttarkhand	26477	2196	20269
	Rajasthan	86932	39	7532
	Himachal Pradesh	49523	8780	1425
	J&K	40264	24684	25746
	TOTAL	443699	45653	217771
South	Tamil Nadu	30893	126422	38381
	Pondicherry	380	4	2810
	Kerala	40660	25675	29235
	Andhra Pradesh	8239	152753	30396
	A&N Island	798	650	0
	Lakshadweep	0	206	0
	Karnataka	18032	59215	66918
	TOTAL	99002	364925	167740
East	Bihar	5332	2	1475
	West Bengal	182990	7963	21206
	Sikkim	738	1897	42
	Orissa	31807	704	19920
	Jharkhand	3149	20	548
TOTAL		224016	10586	43191

1	2	3	4	5
North East	Assam	66247	41508	28355
	Arunachal Pradesh	1535	3674	0
	Meghalaya	3677	4476	0
	Tripura	4472	10368	0
	Mizoram	1885	3549	0
	Nagaland	7572	5871	0
	Manipur	3162	2756	0
	TOTAL	88550	72202	28355
West Maharashtra	68267	3210	29130	
	Goa	1604	1406	2107
	Madhya Pradesh	53885	351	8608
	Chhattisgarh	4939	960	1412
	Gujarat	15991	600	1686
	Daman & Diu	0	7	0
	D & N Haveli	45	100	0
	TOTAL	144731	6634	42943
	GRAND TOTAL	999998	500000	500000

Drought in the country

2488. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts in the country which have been affected by drought alongwith names of the districts, Statewise; and

(b) the amount of rainfall received this year till October, 31st against the average rainfall received by the country during this period, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) 316 districts in the country have been declared drought affected by 13 State Governments. The details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) On the basis of the information available from India Meteorological Department (IMD), the State-wise and District-wise cumulative rainfall from 1.1.2009 to 31.10.2009 is given at Annexure [*See Appendix 218 Annexure No. 9*]

Statement

Drought in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of State with number of districts declared drought affected	Name of Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh (22)	Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Kadapa, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Krishna, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal, West Godavari & Srikakulam.
2.	Assam (27) (Drought like situation)	Bongaigaon, Cachar, Dhubri, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi-Anglong, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Sivasagar, Baksa, Barpeta, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Kamrup (Metro), Karimganj, Nalbari, North Cachar Hills, Sonitpur, Tinsukia & Udalguri
3.	Bihar (26)	Arawal, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Gaya, Jahanabad, Jamui, Kaimur, Katihar, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Nalanda, Patna, Rohtas, Saran, Shekhpura, Sitamarhi, Siwan & Vaishali.
4.	Himachal Pradesh (12)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur & Una.
5.	Jharkhand (24)	Chatra, Garhwa, Latehar, Palamau, Dumka, Deoghar, Godda, Sahebganj, Pakur, Jamtara, Giridih, Bokaro, Dhanbad, East Singhbhum, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Koderma, Khunti, Lohardaga, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Ramgarh, Ranchi, Simdega & West Singhbhum.
6.	Karnataka (20)	Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Bagalkote, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajnar, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Gadag, Gulbarga, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Ramanagara & Tumkur.
7.	Madhya Pradesh (37)	Alirajpur, Anuppur, Ashoknagar, Badwani, Balaghat, Bhind, Burhanpur, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dindori, Guna, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Katni, Khandwa, Mandla,

1	2	3
		Morena, Narsinghpur, Panna, Raisen, Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Shahdol, Shajapur, SheopurKalan, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Singrauli, Tikamgarh, Umari & Vidisha.
8.	Maharashtra (28)	Akola, Aurangabad, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Wardha, Nanded, Latur, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Hingoli, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Thane, Raigad, Nadurbar, Jalgaon, Amravati, Buldhana, Washim, Gadchiroli, Kolhapur, Nashik, Dhule & Ahmednagar.
9.	Manipur (9)	Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Senapati, Tamenglong, Thoubal & Ukhrul.
10.	Nagaland (11) (Drought like situation)	Dimapur, Kiphire, Kohima, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Peren, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha & Zunheboto.
11.	Orissa (15)	Angul, Baragarh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nawarangpur, Nawapura, Subaranapur, Sambalpur & Sundargarh.
12.	Rajasthan (27) (Scarcity)	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswada, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur & Pratapgarh.
13.	Uttar Pradesh (58)	Ambedkarnagar, Ballia, Bareilly, Basti, Deoria, Farukhabad, Fatehpur, Ghazipur, Hardoi, Hathrus, Jaunpur, Kannauj, Kanpur Dehat, Kashiram Nagar, Mainpuri, Mau, Rai Bareilly, Sultanpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Unnao, Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Auraiya, Azamgarh, Badaun, Balrampur, Banda, Chandauli, Etah, Faizabad, Firozabad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Jalaun, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Mahoba, Mathura, Meerut, Moradabad, Rampur, Siddharth Nagar, Sitapur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Varanasi, Bijnore, Bulandshahar, Chitrakoot, Etawah, Jhansi, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Lucknow, Muzaffarnagar, Mirzapur & Pilibhit.

Requirement of water for agriculture in Tamil Nadu

2489. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the requirement of water for agriculture for a riparian State like Tamil Nadu in terms of percentage of intensity in million acre feet;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present total water availability from all resources in the State for the purpose; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to prevent water shortage for agriculture in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has assessed the requirement of water for Agriculture purpose. The estimated demand of surface and ground water is about 54,395 Million Cubit Metre (MCM) as on 2001.

At present total availability of water from all sources in the State are as under:-

1. Annual Water potential of both surface and ground water is 46,540 MCM.
2. Surface water potentials accounts 24,864 MCM.
3. The utilization of surface water for irrigation is 24 lakh hectare.
4. The utilization of ground water recharge is about 22,423 MCM.

The percentage usage of water in terms of domestic (6%) 3263.70 MCM, industrial use (27.7%) 5067.42 MCM and agriculture (66.3%) 36063.885 MCM as estimated, released by Government of Tamil Nadu.

Government of Tamil Nadu has taken various steps to prevent water shortage for Agriculture purpose. Agriculture Engineering department is executing Rain water harvesting and Run off management structures viz, Check dams, Percolation Ponds, Farm ponds etc. under stated funded as well as NABARD assisted Rain Water Harvesting and Run off management schemes.

The components executed under these schemes are Masonry Check dams, Percolation ponds with recharge shaft, Farm Ponds, Recharge Shafts in the existing water bodies and New village tanks/Ooranies.

Rehabilitation of farmers hit by drought

2490. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount disbursed by Government as on 31 October, 2009 to provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers whose crops have been affected by insufficient monsoon in the year 2009;

(b) the number of farmers covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, so far; and

(c) the measure proposed by Government to rehabilitate those farmers who have been hit by the drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per provisions of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), admissible claims for Kharif 2009 will be known after receipt of yield data from the respective State Governments for which the cut off date is 31st January/31st March, 2010 depending upon the crop. Similarly, admissible claims under Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) are known after October/November. However, as on date claims amounting to Rs.39.23 crore for Kharif 2009 season have been settled by the implementing insurance companies under Pilot WBCIS.

13.47 crore farmers have been covered under NAIS since inception *i.e.* Rabi 1999-2000 to Rabi 2008-09 season:

The Central Government has taken several steps in assisting the States in tackling the situation arising out of drought in several parts of the country which, *inter-alia*, include release of Central Government share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 1990.3275 crore and approval of Rs.4073.785 crores out of National Calamity Contingency Fund which is meant for providing input subsidy to the farmers, provision for drinking water and fodder etc.; assistance to save the standing Kharif crops through provision of additional power from the Central pool and providing subsidy on diesel; assistance from Central Sector Schemes for better input distribution for kharif as well as rabi cultivation; providing technical know how through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA); allocation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for livelihood support; allocation of additional foodgrains and periodic monitoring and review at all levels of the Central and State Government on mitigation measures. The Government has also constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), which has been mandated to take decisions on policy issues and schemes required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

Use of chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture

2491. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent use of chemicals and fertilizers in agricultural operations will spoil the soil fertility and quality on the one side and cause some adverse effect in the produce on the other;

(b) if so, whether there has been a study to prevent this spoilage and the preventive measures taken, if any; and

(c) the demand and supply position of chemicals and fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Balanced and judicious use of chemicals and fertilizers such as nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers and registered pesticides, primarily used in agriculture in the country is not known to cause damage to soil health, fertility and crop produce. However, imbalanced and injudicious use of chemical fertilizers has been observed to have affected soil health and productivity in some parts of the country.

Details of preventive measures being taken by the Government for maintenance and improvement of soil health for enhancement of crop production are as follows:

(i) Encouragement to use organic manure and bio-fertilizers under schemes such as the 'National Project on Organic Farming' and the 'National Project for Management of Soil Health and Fertility';

(ii) Encouragement to soil test based use of fertilizers under the National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility; and

(iii) Training of farmers by organizing Farmers' Field Schools under Integrated Pest Management Programme.

(c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/ de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during 2009-10 (April'09 to November'09) is given in Statement (*See* below). As can be seen, the availability of Urea, DAP and MOP has been adequate. There has been a little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported.

Statement

Cumulative requirement, availability & sales of fertilisers during the year 2009-10 (April '09 to November '09)

State	Require- ment	UREA Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	DAP Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	MOP Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Complex Availa- bility	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	1930.00	1714.04	1605.45	800.00	776.85	733.53	460.00	377.47	344.07	1550.00	1230.53	1175.21
Karnataka	1005.00	1052.11	989.94	605.00	665.25	653.55	380.00	421.24	380.94	795.00	648.71	627.04
Kerala	125.50	119.76	112.28	28.25	25.48	24.81	124.00	116.96	112.95	137.50	138.61	135.53
Tamil Nadu	765.00	638.60	633.32	331.00	245.69	244.56	399.00	329.15	313.61	263.00	397.16	390.83
Gujarat	1295.00	1187.34	1162.07	685.00	640.28	607.72	151.00	172.83	170.01	339.80	305.66	278.29
Madhya Pradesh	1125.31	1023.33	1011.93	804.15	884.93	814.30	109.65	101.40	94.58	334.48	194.24	178.68
Chhattisgarh	465.50	428.09	421.99	153.90	193.63	193.02	69.45	60.74	58.71	114.45	73.09	69.70
Maharashtra	1859.00	1743.38	1679.56	889.70	1140.09	1125.55	361.90	450.65	412.70	1065.00	681.49	657.64
Rajasthan	928.00	817.43	794.48	595.00	560.33	548.48	25.00	33.44	28.76	123.80	72.14	71.42
Haryana	1260.00	1067.49	1047.11	650.00	630.78	629.43	42.00	58.96	58.87	35.00	34.87	32.75
Punjab	1530.00	1606.86	1551.94	750.00	775.87	774.02	81.00	79.27	74.50	55.00	49.93	45.78
Himachal Pradesh	45.00	33.46	31.88	0.00	2.65	2.65	2.50	2.65#	0.00	35.00	19.43	19.29
Jammu & Kashmir	105.67	56.54	53.61	66.75	35.05	35.03	19.67	2.33	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	3300.00	3199.80	3010.98	1300.00	1309.32	1289.06	225.00	213.57	193.54	650.00	527.51	504.66
Uttarakhand	132.50	140.67	124.90	26.00	34.32	33.05	12.00	2.80	2.80	42.50	21.73	21.62
Bihar	1210.00	1074.62	1063.01	335.00	299.30	284.41	155.00	110.62	100.89	255.00	176.48	164.32
Jharkhand	160.00	116.69	111.41	100.00	70.48	66.55	14.50	8.55	8.11	46.00	48.78	44.57
Orissa	440.00	397.18	365.38	148.48	186.39	169.89	132.21	89.06	85.17	219.10	176.29	164.17
West Bengal	715.77	699.22	642.85	307.40	327.48	322.21	247.40	257.97	254.02	524.80	530.63	514.97
Assam	150.80	158.88	154.97	19.40	18.81	18.72	71.40	47.21	43.07	5.50	4.89	4.89
All India	18939.92	17336.32	16628.95	8627.05	8831.40	8578.45	3115.96	2945.42	2750.82	6624.68	5349.34	5118.44

Dispatch on 6.12.2009.

Sale of drugs at high prices

2492. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that several drug manufactures in the country are selling their drugs at a very high price whereas the manufacturing cost is very less;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) proposes to take any action in this regard against such drug manufacturers/ companies; and
- (d) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulation containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA / Govt. 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 / Govt.

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 the prices of 1737 formulation packs have been fixed / revised by the NPPA 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 are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities / packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc.

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

Based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulation, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

Artificial scarcity of fertilizers

2493. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that artificial shortage of fertilizers has been created in some of the States in recent past;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism for ensuring availability and distribution of fertilizers like Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers to farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and the steps proposed to be taken to provide fertilizers to farmers for the upcoming Rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/ de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilisers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during 2009-10 (April' 09 to November' 09) is given in Statement (*See below*). As can be seen, the availability of Urea, DAP and MOP has been adequate. There has been a little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported.

(c) The steps taken for supply of fertilizers are as under:

i) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertiliser Monitoring System (FMS);

ii) The subsidy on fertilizer is being paid only when it reaches the district;

iii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP & MOP through State Institutional Agencies/ fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;

iv) Department of Fertilizers has notified uniform freight subsidy scheme to transport fertilizers upto block level;

v) The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports;

vi) New pricing policy for attracting investment in urea sector has been announced on 4th September, 2008. Further, fertilizer sector has been given highest priority in allocation of gas, for debottlenecking, expansion and revival projects in the country;

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

Statement

Cumulative requirement, availability & sales of fertilisers during the year 2009-10 (April '09 to November '09)

State	Require- ment	UREA Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	DAP Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	MOP Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Complex Availa- bility	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	1930.00	1714.04	1605.45	800.00	776.85	733.53	460.00	377.47	344.07	1550.00	1230.53	1175.21
Karnataka	1005.00	1052.11	989.94	605.00	665.25	653.55	380.00	421.24	380.94	795.00	648.71	627.04
Kerala	125.50	119.76	112.28	28.25	25.48	24.81	124.00	116.96	112.95	137.50	138.61	135.53
Tamil Nadu	765.00	638.60	633.32	331.00	245.69	244.56	399.00	329.15	313.61	263.00	397.16	390.83
Gujarat	1295.00	1187.34	1162.07	685.0a	640.28	607.72	151.00	172.83	170.01	339.80	305.66	278.29
Madhya Pradesh	1125.31	1023.33	1011.93	804.15	884.93	814.30	109.65	101.40	94.58	334.48	194.24	178.68
Chhattisgarh	465.50	428.09	421.99	153.90	193.63	193.02	69.45	60.74	58.71	114.45	73.09	69.70
Maharashtra	1859.00	1743.38	1679.56	889.70	1140.09	1125.55	361.90	450.65	412.70	1065.00	681.49	657.64
Rajasthan	928.00	817.43	794.48	595.00	560.33	548.48	25.00	33.44	28.76	123.80	72.14	71.42
Haryana	1260.00	1067.49	1047.11	650.00	630.78	629.43	42.00	58.96	58.87	35.00	34.87	32.75
Punjab	1530.00	1606.86	1551.94	750.00	775.87	774.02	81.00	79.27	74.50	55.00	49.93	45.78
Himachal Pradesh	45.00	33.46	31.88	0.00	2.65	2.65	2.50	2.65#	0.00	35.00	19.43	19.29
Jammu & Kashmir	105.67	56.54	53.61	66.75	35.05	35.03	19.67	2.33	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	3300.00	3199.80	3010.98	1300.00	1309.32	1289.06	225.00	213.57	193.54	650.00	527.51	504.66
Uttarakhand	132.50	140.67	124.90	26.00	34.32	33.05	12.00	2.80	2.80	42.50	21.73	21.62
Bihar	1210.00	1074.62	1063.01	335.00	299.30	284.41	155.00	110.62	100.89	255.00	176.48	164.32
Jharkhand	160.00	116.69	111.41	100.00	70.48	66.55	14.50	8.55	8.11	46.00	48.78	44.57
Orissa	440.00	397.18	365.38	148.48	186.39	169.89	132.21	89.06	85.17	219.10	176.29	164.17
West Bengal	715.77	699.22	642.85	307.40	327.48	322.21	247.40	257.97	254.02	524.80	530.63	514.97
Assam	150.80	158.88	154.97	19.40	18.81	18.72	71.40	47.21	43.07	5.50	4.89	4.89
All India	18939.92	17336.32	16628.95	8627.05	8831.40	8578.45	3115.96	2945.42	2750.82	6624.68	5349.34	5118.44

Dispatch on 6.12.2009.

Gas supplies for fertilizer units

2494 SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 24,000 crore of investment for setting up of six new and renovation of existing fertilizer units is stuck for lack of firm gas supply commitments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has asked for long term gas supplies from KG gas field;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government as the fertilizer sector deserve priority which is importing almost 6 million tonnes of fertilizers every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The six fertilizer company viz. IFFCO-Kalol, Kribhco-Hazira, RCF-Thal, CFCL-Gadepan, TATA Chemicals Limited Babrala and Indo-Gulf Fertilizers Limited are investing for expansion of their units. The Ministry has asked for long term gas supplies for the investment decision so that expansion, revival of fertilizer plants could take place. The issue of firm gas supply commitments for fertilizer units and long term gas supplies from KG D6 gas field has been discussed in the meetings of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM). EGoM in the meeting held on October 27, 2009 discussed the demand of natural gas for conversion of Naphtha based and Fuel oil based fertilizer plants, expansion and revamp of fertilizer plants and decided that these plants would be supplied natural gas as and when these plants are ready to utilize the gas.

Action plan for rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims

†2495. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any action plan of Rs. 982.75 crore for medical/economic/social and environmental rehabilitation of the Bhopal gas victims;
- (b) if so, when was this action plan received and the action taken so far in this regard; and
- (c) by when this action plan will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had prepared and submitted a Memorandum on a new Plan of Action for the relief and rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims with an outlay of Rs. 982.75 crore to the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to oversee matters related to Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in its meeting held on 11.6.2008. As directed by the GoM, the Plan of Action was referred to the Planning Commission on 1.8.2008 for comments. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Planning Commission had sought clarifications on certain aspects of the Plan of Action on 13.3.2009 which were forwarded to the Government of MP on 20.3.2009. Simultaneously, this Department had also sought detailed clarifications on the Memorandum from the State Government. The revised Memorandum on Plan of Action along with clarifications was received from the Government of MP on 5.8.2009 and after examining the same, this Department forwarded the Plan of Action to the Planning Commission for their comments on 9th October, 2009. The revised Plan of Action is presently under consideration of the Planning Commission.

Requirement of fertilizers

2496. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of subsidy being given to farmers in the country for fertilizers in a year;
- (b) the total requirement of fertilizers in the country; and
- (c) whether India is self-reliant sufficient for fulfilling the requirement of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) The fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Price of fertilizers which is below the normated delivered cost at farm gate level. The fertilizer subsidy is released to the fertilizer companies on confirmation of receipt of subsidized fertilizers by the State Governments. The expenditure on fertilizer subsidy during the last three years and current year is as under:-

Years	Subsidy disbursed (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	28019.55
2007-08	43319.16
2008-09	99494.71
2009-10 (up to Nov 09)	44270.83

(b) The assessed requirement in respect of major fertilizers for the year 2009-10 in the country is as under:

(In lakh Metric Tonnes)					
Season	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex	Total
Kharif 2009	136.36	49.21	21.61	47.52	254.70
Rabi 2009-10	145.53	57.77	22.24	40.21	265.75
TOTAL	281.89	106.98	43.85	87.73	520.45

(c) India is not self sufficient to meet the fertilizer requirement. There are no economically exploitable potassic resources in the country leading to 100% import dependence on potash. In phosphate also, the indigenous resources are sufficient to meet 10% of requirement and hence, 90% of phosphatic requirement is also met through import of raw material (rock phosphate, intermediate (phosphatic acid) or finished fertilizers (DAP). In urea we produce 20 Million Tonnes in the country and thus, we are 70% self-sufficient. Here also 30% (approximately 6 million tonnes) is imported.

Fertilizer Subsidy

2497. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fertilizer subsidy currently touching Rs. One lakh crores has brought only 1.3 per cent annual growth in farm production over past six and seven years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India lags in fertilizer usage and its average consumption is merely 113.26 kg per hectare as compared to Bangladesh's 290 kg;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there has been no significant investment in urea and phosphate sectors for last ten years and import dependence has grown to 30 per cent in nitrogenous and 90 per cent phosphatic sector, respectively; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and remedial action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The foodgrain production in the country during 2001-02 was 212.85 Million Tonnes which increased to 233.88 Million Tonnes in 2008-09, the annual growth being 1.36%.

(c) and (d) The average consumption of fertilizers (NPK) in India was 128.58 kg per hectare (provisional) in 2008-09.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. There is no investments in urea sector during the last ten years. In the Phosphatic sector, only two Phosphatic Fertilizers units namely Indo-Gulf Chemical Ltd. (IGCL), Dahej in 2000-01 and Oswal Chemical & Fertilizers Limited (OCFL), Paradeep in 2001-02 have been established. Lack of investments in Phosphatic Sector is largely due to raw materials/input constraints. India is largely import dependent for Rock Phosphate and Phos acid and the dependence have been more than 90% of Phosphatic inputs.

The Government has announced on 4th September 2008, a policy for investment in urea sector to promote further investments in urea sector. For phosphatic sector, the Government has been encouraging setting up of joint ventures abroad in resource rich countries with an aim to secure future supplies of fertilizers inputs and finished fertilizers especially in this sector.

New proposal for fixing MSP of sugarcane

2498. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to help sugarcane growers to benefit by adding the earning of sugar mills in using the by products for producing alcohol and electricity as part of the sugarcane price while fixing the minimum price; and

(b) if so, the details of such earnings in every State by the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. The Central Government had been fixing the price of sugarcane after considering the criteria laid down under Clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. Another criteria viz. realization made from the sale of by-products, viz. bagasse, molasses and press-mud or their imputed value, for consideration in fixation of price of sugarcane by Central Government was added on 29.12.2008.

(b) Does not arise.

Release of wheat and rice in open market

2499. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not releasing enough quantity of wheat and rice in the open market to stabilize the volatile prices of these commodities;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

Government has allocated 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice for sale under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic). Government has allocated 10.0 lakh MTs of wheat and 5.0 lakh MTs of rice to State/UT Governments for distribution to retail consumers/small processors during October, 2009 to December, 2009. Another 5.0 lakh MT of wheat has also been allocated for sale to bulk consumers in various States/UTs through open tenders by FCI during October, 2009-December, 2009.

Details of state wise allocation of wheat and rice under OMSS for various States/UTs are given in Statement-I and II (*See below*).

State-wise details of wheat allocated for sale to bulk consumers through tender by FCI are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

*Lifting position of wheat by State/UT Governments
for distribution to retail consumers under OMSS (D)
For October, 2009 - December, 2009*

As on: 27. 11. 2009 (Qty. in MT)

S.No.	Zone	Name of the State/UT	Allotment	OMSS (D) Rate (in Rs. per qtl.)	Lifting
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	North	Delhi	80481	1113.47	9283
2		Chandigarh	0	1099.28	0
3		Punjab	88982	1099.28	0
4		Haryana	19522	1099.28	0
5		Uttar Pradesh	51518	1145.63	0
6		Uttarakhand	26477	1120.74	0
7		Rajasthan	86932	1133.48	0
8		Himachal Pradesh	49523	1154.12	0
9		J&K	40264	1109.54	0
		Zone Total	443699		9283
10	South	Tamil Nadu	30893	1260.74	0
11		Puducherry	380	1269.81	0
12		Kerala	40660	1295.74	0
13		Andhra Pradesh	8239	1239.56	0
14		A&N Islands	798	1499.03	0
15		Lakshadweep	0	1359.76	0
16		Karnataka	18032	1266.43	0
		Zone Total	99002		0
17	East	Bihar	5332	1186.06	0
18		West Bengal	182990	1220.63	0
19		Sikkim	738	1260.15	0
20		Orissa	31807	1238.31	0
21		Jharkhand	3149	1211.60	0
		Zone Total	224016		0

1	2	3	4	5	6
22	North-East	Assam	66247	1233.52	0
23		Arunachal Pradesh	1535	1288.50	0
24		Meghalaya	3677	1284.78	0
25		Tripura	4472	1342.22	0
26		Mizoram	1885	1324.55	0
27		Nagaland	7572	1268.73	0
28		Manipur	3162	1393.63	0
		Zone Total	88550		0
29	West	Maharashtra	68267	1217.03	0
30		Goa	1604	1259.73	0
31		Madhya Pradesh	53885	1170.00	5.5
32		Chhattisgarh	4939	1224.14	0
33		Gujarat	15991	1178.05	0
34		Daman & Diu	0	1237.26	0
35		D & N Haveli	45	1220.62	0
		Zone Total	144731		5.5
		Grand Total	999998		9288.5

Statement-II

The lifting position of rice by State/UT Governments for distribution to retail consumers under OMSS (D) for October, 2009- December, 2009

As on: 27.11.2009 (Qty. in MT)

S.No.	Zone	Name of the State/UT	Allotment	Lifting Position
1	2	3	4	5
1	North	Delhi	8361	0
2		Chandigarh	0	0
3		Punjab	0	0
4		Haryana	0	0
5		Uttar Pradesh	1593	0
6		Uttarakhand	2196	0
7		Rajasthan	39	0
8		Himachal Pradesh	8780	0
9		J&K	24684	0
		Zone Total	45653	0
10	South	Tamil Nadu	126422	111470

1	2	3	4	5
11		Puducherry	4	0
12		Kerala	25675	0
13		Andhra Pradesh	152753	0
14		A&N Islands	650	0
15		Lakshadweep	206	0
16		Karnataka	59215	7886
Zone Total			364925	119356
17	East	Bihar	2	0
18		West Bengal	7963	0
19		Sikkim	1897	0
20		Orissa	704	0
21		Jharkhand	20	0
Zone Total			10586	0
22	North-East	Assam	41508	0
23		Arunachal Pradesh	3674	0
24		Meghalaya	4476	0
25		Tripura	10368	0
26		Mizoram	3549	0
27		Nagaland	5871	0
28		Manipur	2756	0
Zone Total			72202	0
29	West	Maharashtra	3210	0
30		Goa	1406	0
31		Madhya Pradesh	351	0
32		Chhattisgarh	960	0
33		Gujarat	600	0
34		Daman & Diu	7	0
35		D & N Haveli	100	0
Zone Total			6634	0
GRAND TOTAL			500000	119356
The rates for sale of rice to State/UT Governments under Open Market Sale Scheme (D) for the month of October-December, 2009				
OMSS (D) rate for Raw Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS (D) rate for Raw Rice Common	OMSS (D) rate for Parboiled Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS(D) rate for Parboiled Rice Common	
1540.06	1495.28	1518.55	1474.43	

*Revised rates for sale of rice w.e.f. 06.11.2009 for the month of
November-December, 2009*

OMSS (D) rate for Raw Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS (D) rate for Raw Rice Common	OMSS (D) rate for Parboiled Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS(D) rate for Parboiled Rice Common
1614.68	1569.91	1592.08	1547.96

Statement-III

*The lifting position of wheat to bulk consumers under OMSS (D)
For October, 2009 - December, 2009*

				As on: 26.11.2009			(Qty. in MT)
S. No.	Zone	Name of FCI Region/ State Govt.	Allotment (October,09- December,09)	OMSS (D) Rates for October, 2009 (Rate: Rs. Per quintal)	OMSS (D) Rates for November, 2009 (Rate: Rs. Per quintal)	OMSS (D) Rates for December, 2009 (Rate: Rs. Per quintal)	Lifting
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	North	Delhi	82,422	1404.14	1420.94	1437.90	0.00
2		Chandigarh	7,209	1389.95	1406.75	1423.71	0.00
3		Punjab	33,244	1389.95	1406.75	1423.71	0.00
4		Haryana	16,772	1389.95	1406.75	1423.71	0.00
5		Uttar Pradesh	23,152	1436.30	1453.10	1470.06	0.00
6		Uttarakhand	20,269	1411.41	1428.21	1445.17	0.00
7		Rajasthan	7,532	1424.15	1440.95	1457.91	0.00
8		Himachal Pradesh	1,425	1444.79	1461.59	1478.55	0.00
9		J&K	25,746	1400.21	1417.01	1433.97	0.00
		Zone Total	217,771				0.00
10	South	Tamil Nadu	38,381	1551.41	1568.21	1585.17	0.00
11		Puducherry	2,810	1560.48	1577.28	1594.24	0.00
12		Kerala	29,235	1586.41	1603.21	1620.17	0.00
13		Andhra Pradesh	30,396	1530.23	1547.03	1563.99	0.00
14		A&N Islands	0	1789.70	1806.50	1823.46	0.00
15		Lakshadweep	0	1650.43	1667.23	1684.19	0.00
16		Karnataka	66,918	1557.10	1573.90	1590.86	0.00
		Zone Total	167,740				0.00
17	East	Bihar	1,475	1476.73	1493.53	1510.49	0.00
18		West Bengal	21,206	1511.30	1528.10	1545.06	0.00
19		Sikkim	42	1550.82	1567.62	1584.58	0.00
20		Orissa	19,920	1528.98	1545.78	1562.74	0.00
21		Jharkhand	548	1502.27	1519.07	1536.03	0.00
		Zone Total	43,191				0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	North - East	Assam	28,355	1524.19	1540.99	1557.95	0.00
23		Arunachal Pradesh	0	1579.17	1595.97	1612.93	0.00
24		Meghalaya	0	1575.45	1592.25	1609.21	0.00
25		Tripura	0	1632.89	1649.69	1666.65	0.00
26		Mizoram	0	1615.22	1632.02	1648.98	0.00
27		Nagaland	0	1559.40	1576.20	1593.16	0.00
28		Manipur	0	1684.30	1701.10	1718.06	0.00
		Zone Total	28,355				0.00
29	West	Maharashtra	29,130	1507.70	1524.50	1541.46	565.00
30		Goa	2,107	1550.40	1567.20	1584.16	0.00
31		Madhya Pradesh	8,608	1460.67	1477.47	1494.43	0.00
32		Chhattisgarh	1,412	1514.81	1531.61	1548.57	0.00
33		Gujarat	1,686	1468.72	1485.52	1502.48	0.00
34		Daman & Diu	0	1527.93	1544.73	1561.69	0.00
35		D & N Haveli	0	1511.29	1528.09	1545.05	0.00
		Zone Total	42,943				565.00
		Grand Total	500,000				565.00

Rental dues of APSWHC on FCI

2500. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWHC) has entered into an agreement with FCI to construct godowns and FCI has agreed to pay rentals and other charges as applicable and as revised from time to time;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that APSWHC has constructed godowns at various locations as per the requirement and approval of FCI and FCI has taken over the godowns for its use;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the revised rentals are not being paid to APSWHC from 1 April, 2002 as a consequence of which Rs. 39 crores is held up with FCI; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) had entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) to give seven year guarantee for using godowns to be constructed or to be got constructed by the APSWC. FCI

agreed to make such payment of storage charges to APSWC at par with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), subject to the specifications of godowns and services of storage being equal, as per instructions from time to time issued by FCI.

(b) It is a fact that APSWC has constructed godowns under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme through private investors and FCI has taken over the godowns for its use.

(c) and (d) The revised rentals at par with CWC rates are not being paid by FCI to APSWC from 01.04.2002., as APSWC is making much less payment than CWC rates, to private investors from whom it had hired godowns. The FCI has restricted payment of rentals to the hire charges paid by APSWC to the private investors as per agreement entered into by APSWC with private investors/owners. An additional 15% administrative charges, over and above these hire charges, are also being paid by FCI, to APSWC. The reason for this is to restrict the payment to APSWC to a reasonable level.

Additional storage capacity for foodgrains

2501. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total storage capacity for foodgrains in the country, particularly in Punjab;
- (b) the capacity that will be added over the next three years; and
- (c) whether Government plans to give incentive to Private Sector to set up additional storage capacity for foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The total storage capacity of FCI as on 31.10.2009 (owned and hired) is 278.59 lakh MTs. In Punjab, the FCI has total storage capacity of 71.21 lakh MTs (both owned and hired). Detailed position is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) As per the 11th Five Year Plan, the following covered capacities are proposed to be added over the next three years by FCI in the country as a wholes:-

(Fig. in MTs)

Year	Capacity
2009-10	10420
2010-11	42920
2011-12	65840

There are no proposals for addition of covered capacity in Punjab by FCI through Plan funds in the XIth Five Year Plan.

(c) The Govt. has declared a scheme for construction of storage godowns for FCI -Storage requirements through Private Entrepreneurs - 2008. Under the Scheme, the godowns will be constructed by the private investors at locations approved by FCI, and FCI would provide guarantee for storage for 5 years.

Statement

The State-wise storage capacity with F.C.I. as on 31.10.2009

(Fig. in Lac Tonnes)

Zone	Sl.No.	Region/U.T.	Covered					Cap					Grand Total	Stocks Held	Utilization (%age)
			FCI Owned	State Govt.	CWC	Hired SWC	Private Parties	Total Hired	Total Covered	Owned	Hired	Total			
East	1	Bihar	366	0.03	0.66	0.89	0.48	2.06	5.72	0.43	0.00	0.43	6.15	4.02	65
	2	Jharkhand	0.66	0.02	0.13	0.16	0.20	0.51	1.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	1.03	88
	3	Orissa	2.93	0.00	0.76	2.90	0.15	3.81	6.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.74	4.55	68
	4	West Bengal	8.59	0.19	0.95	0.00	0.87	2.01	10.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.60	8.32	78
	5	Sikkim	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.10	91
Total (E. Zone)			15.94	0.25	2.50	3.95	1.70	8.40	24.34	0.43	0.00	0.43	24.77	18.02	88
N.E.	6	Assam	2.07	0.00	0.18	0.10	0.37	0.65	2.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.72	2.00	74
	7	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.03	14
	8	Meghalaya	0.14	0.00	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.12	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.23	88
	9	Mizoram	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.17	74
	10	Tripura	0.29	0.05	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.39	76
	11	Manipur	0.20	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.12	50
	12	Nagaland	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.13	65
Total (N.E.Z)			3.30	0.10	0.46	0.15	0.37	1.08	4.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.38	3.07	57
North	13	Delhi	3.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.36	0.31	0.00	0.31	3.67	2.59	71
	14	Haryana	7.68	3.84	2.16	3.97	2.18	12.15	19.83	3.33	0.05	3.38	23.21	16.23	70

	15	Himachal Pradesh	0.14	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.19	76
	16	J & K	1.03	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.26	1.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.29	1.04	81
	17	Punjab	21.84	0.23	3.57	31.64	4.07	39.51	61.35	6.44	3.42	9.86	71.21	48.94	69
	18	Chandigarh	0.40	0.00	0.46	0.20	0.00	0.66	1.06	0.08	0.17	0.25	1.31	0.92	70
	19	Rajasthan	7.06	0.00	1.58	3.23	1.76	6.57	13.63	1.58	0.19	1.77	15.40	15.29	99
	20	Uttar Pradesh	1495	0.07	2.22	4.06	0.23	6.58	21.53	4.69	0.10	4.79	26.32	16.94	64
	21	Uttarakhand	0.66	0.30	0.50	0.56	0.05	1.41	2.07	0.09	0.20	0.29	2.36	12.33	99
	Total (N.Z.)		57.12	4.65	10.54	43.66	8.40	67.25	124.37	16.52	4.13	20.65	145.02	104.47	88
South	22	Andhra Pradesh	12.66	0.10	4.20	15.94	0.96	21.20	33.86	2.62	0.00	2.62	36.48	28.88	79
	23	Andaman Nicobar	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.03	43
	24	Kerala	5.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.17	0.20	0.00	0.20	5.37	4.25	79
	25	Karnataka	3.78	0.00	1.65	1.47	0.25	3.37	7.15	1.16	0.00	1.16	8.31	7.44	90
	26	Tamil Nadu	5.80	0.00	2.27	0.50	0.57	3.34	9.14	0.56	0.00	0.56	9.70	9.39	97
	27	Pondicherry	0.44	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.51	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.56	0.62	111
	Total (S.Z.)		27.92	0.10	8.17	17.93	1.78	27.98	55.90	4.59	0.00	4.59	60.49	50.61	84
West	28	Gujarat	5.00	0.14	1.11	0.00	0.00	1.25	6.25	0.27	0.00	0.27	6.52	7.38	113
	29	Maharashtra	11.77	0.13	2.22	2.12	1.17	5.64	17.41	1.02	0.00	1.02	18.43	13.73	74
	30	Goa	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.14	93
	31	Madhya Pradesh	3.37	0.57	1.65	2.55	2.90	7.67	11.04	0.35	0.00	0.35	11.39	10.88	96
	32	Chhattisgarh	5.12	0.18	0.34	1.70	0.10	2.32	7.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.44	6.16	83
	Total (W.Z.)		2541	1.02	5.32	6.37	4.17	16.88	42.29	1.64	0.00	1.64	43.93	38.29	87
	Grand Total		129.69	6.12	26.99	72.06	16.42	121.59	251.28	23.18	4.13	27.31	278.59	214.46	77

Supreme Court ruling on levy sugar pricing

2502. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether following Supreme Court ruling on levy sugar pricing, Government has decided to fork out over Rs. 2,300 crores to mill-owners on account of depressed payments for current sugar year (October 2008 to September, 2009);

(b) whether levied sugar is currently 10 per cent of total output which Government takes away from mills for supplying to the PDS;

(c) whether as per Government's sugarcane control order, levy sugar pricing would be based on the statutory minimum price; and

(d) if so, to what extent sugar mills have agreed to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken by the Central Government.

(b) No, Sir. The levy obligation on sugar factories has been increased from 10% to 20% for 2009-10 sugar season. Hence, the current levy obligation on sugar factories is 20%.

(c) The Central Government has issued an Ordinance under the title 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2009' (No.9 of 2009) on 21.10.2009 to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to make provisions for validation of certain orders issued by the Central Government determining the price of levy sugar and actions taken under those orders and for matters connected therewith. The said Ordinance provides for determination of levy sugar prices up to 2008-09 sugar season by taking into account Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane. The Ordinance also provides that for sugar season 2009-10 which has started on 1.10.2009 and in future, levy sugar price will be determined taking into account, *inter-alia*, the 'Fair and Remunerative Price' of sugarcane. Further, the Central Government has introduced a Bill on 4.12.2009 in the Lok Sabha under the title 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009' to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of Parliament.

(d) The levy sugar price is fixed as per statutory provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As such, there is no question of sugar mills having to agree to the Statutory Provisions of the Act.

Lethargic handling of foodgrains movement by FCI

2503. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

- (a) whether the lethargic handling of foodgrains movement by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has caused inflationary pressure on the food front;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether foodgrains stocks available with FCI are not moved quickly enough to the consumer resulting in scarcity of foodgrains in the open market and inflation;
- (d) if so, the existing position of foodgrains reserve in Central Pool as on 30 November, 2009; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. FCI undertakes planned movement of food grains from procuring States to other States keeping in view the requirement of food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System, Other Welfare Scheme and Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic).

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The food grains stocks are moved to the consuming regions depending upon the existing stock, requirement of the States & storage capacity available in the region. During 2009-10 (upto October, 2009), 71.49 lakh MT of wheat and 72.76 lakh MT of rice was moved as against 50.18 lakh MT of wheat and 71.32 lakh MT of rice respectively, during the corresponding period of 2008-09.

(d) and (e) In view of reply to part (c) above, question does not arise.

Food security

2504. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted to work on the modalities of the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA);
- (b) if so, whether the said EGoM has since submitted its report to Government;
- (c) whether Government is reluctant in implementing the National Food Security Act; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and strategies formulated to ensure food security to every citizen in the country?

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

(b) to (d) Government is committed to enact the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Empowered Group of Ministers is examining various issues related to the proposed NFSA to firm up its provisions.

Import of pulses

†2505. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that demand of pulses in the country is not being fulfilled with domestic production since many years;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the average percentage of annual requirement of pulses for domestic consumption met through import during the past one decade;
- (d) whether the percentage of import has increased during the years 2008-2009 and 2009-10; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. India has been a net importer of pulses due to a mismatch between domestic supply and demand for pulses. Domestic production of pulses has been around 13-15 million tonnes during the last decade. The demand for pulses is estimated around 14-18 MTs.

- (c) It is estimated that about 12-15% of total pulses requirements are imported.

(d) and (e) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) data, 2.44 million tonnes of pulses was imported during the period 2008-2009 as compared to 2.84 million tonnes in 2007-08. During April 2009-October 2009, 1.59 million tonnes of pulses was imported as compared to 1.32 million tonnes during the corresponding period in 2008-09.

Wheat import scam in FCI

†2506. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that CB1 has traced cases of disproportionate assets against former CMD of Food Corporation of India and an agent both involved in the wheat import scam of the year 1998;
- (b) if so, the details of the incriminating facts found against them; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Raw sugar import policy

2507. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to industry experts the current raw sugar import policy is unviable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government would like to take to tackle such issues to benefit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposal to double the quantum of sugar levy

2508. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to double the quantum of sugar levy from the present level of 2.5 mt;
- (b) if so, whether the industry has agreed to entertain such a move on the condition that Government would agree in return to remove restrictions on quantum of sugar that industry can release in market each month; and
- (c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The levy obligation on sugar factories is imposed in terms of percentage on production. The Central Government has-increased the levy obligation on sugar factories from 10% to 20% of production for 2009-10 sugar season.

(b) and (c) During consultations with sugar industry, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), the apex organizations of private and cooperative sugar factories, respectively, requested to remove restrictions on sale of non-levy sugar which the Government has imposed in terms of regulated release mechanism policy. The Government has not acceded to the request of the industry.

Black marketing of essential commodities

2509. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of raids carried out from 2008 onwards to check black-marketing of essential commodities, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the number of wheat, rice, sugar sacks and other essential commodities seized during these raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The details of the raids conducted, value of essential commodities seized/confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during the year 2008 and 2009 (updated upto 30.11.2009) as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations are given in the Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Action Taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the year, 2008 — Information received from States/UTs upto 31.12.2008

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated in Rs. Lakh	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	17235	29	6	-	86.12	December
2	Assam	1419	14	19	Nil	2.37	December *
3	Arunachal Pradesh	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
4	Bihar	16	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	September
5	Chhattisgarh	225	1	32	1	102.03	March
6	Delhi	153	135	119	4	61.7	December
7	Gujarat	31098	20	142	Nil	253.15	December
8	Goa	121	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
9	Haryana	46	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
10	Himachal Pradesh	25634	13	49	Nil	15.52	December \$\$
11	Jammu & Kashmir	422	376	94	Nil	Nil	September
12	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	April
13	Karnataka	3396	74	1	4	580.95	December
14	Kerala	87305	12	2	Nil	12.98	December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	Madhya Pradesh	14921	52	107	Nil	405.15	April
16	Maharashtra	2551	3376	2595	Nil	2365.92	December
17	Manipur	99	4	3	3	0.16	December
18	Meghalaya	70	1	2	1	0.05	December
19	Mizoram	61	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.49	July **
20	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
21	Orissa	2001	22	117	Nil	17.51	November
22	Punjab	20632	22	9	4	3.08	November
23	Rajasthan	450	13	170	4	18.12	July
24	Sikkim	1	2	2	Nil	0.01	December -
25	Tamil Nadu	20268	2525	1127	761	683.33	November
26	Tripura	35	12	9	Nil	2.69	December -
27	Uttaranchal						Not Reported
28	Uttar Pradesh	39474	1047	1734	Nil	1410.49	December
29	West Bengal	176	142	5	Nil	58.83	December
30	A & N Islands	291	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Dec.***
31	Chandigarh	6	9	Nil	Nil	2.01	December
32	D & N Haveli	13	2	Nil	Nil	5.49	December
33	Daman & Diu						Not Reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
35	Pondicherry	633	81	81	8	7.07	December
	TOTAL	268775	8001	6425	790	6095.22	

* - Except January & February.

** - Except April, May & June.

\$\$ - Except- October

*** - Except - Sept & October.

Updated as on 31.3.2009

Statement-II

Action Taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the year - 2009 - Information received from States / UTs upto 31.07.2009 upto 30.11.2009

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated in Rs. Lakh	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	6119	1	Nil	1	102.06	September
2	Assam	2025	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
4	Bihar	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
5	Chhattisgarh	160	31	12	5	330.95	April
6	Delhi	80	50	67	Nil	Nil	October
7	Gujarat	21281	21	74	Nil	480.72	October
8	Goa	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
9	Haryana	58	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
10	Himachal Pradesh	14946	3	2	Nil	6.28	July
11	Jammu & Kashmir						Not Reported
12	Jharkhand						Not Reported
13	Karnataka	881	39	5	2	22.68	July
14	Kerala	36231	21	2	Nil	26.4	September
15	Madhya Pradesh						Not Reported
16	Maharashtra	1011	1639	1008	Nil	12500.87	August
17	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	September
18	Meghalaya	8	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	September

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19	Mizoram						Not Reported
20	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
21	Orissa	12577	7	25	Nil	3.08	September
22	Punjab	65	46	29	21	462.74	September
23	Rajasthan	281	3	62	Nil	36.89	March
24	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil	September
25	Tamil Nadu	13189	3926	1143	4	497.4	October
26	Tripura	5	2	2	Nil	0.31	September
27	Uttaranchal						Not Reported
28	Uttar Pradesh	22315	514	860	Nil	979.93	July
29	West Bengal	94	69	2	Nil	44.89	September*
30	A & N Islands	148	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
31	Chandigarh	7	7	Nil	Nil	7.93	August
32	D & N Haveli	3	2	Nil	Nil	0.22	October
33	Daman & Diu						Not Reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
35	Pondicherry	357	49	54	13	15.12	October
TOTAL		131875	6436	3351	46	15518.47	

* - Except - May

Updated as on 4.12.2009

Appointment of Board of Directors in FCI

2510. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed or nominated a Board of Directors for the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details of their names, backgrounds and tenure;

(c) whether it is a fact that no Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe person finds a place on this Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India was constituted under the Food Corporations Act, 1964. As per the Act no distinction on the basis of caste is made for appointment to the post of Board of Directors of Food Corporation of India.

Statement

Board of Directors of the Food Corporation of India

Sl.No.	Name & Designation	Date of Appointment	Date of Expiry of Tenure
1	Shri Deepak Kumar Panwar, IAS (AP: 74), Chairman and Managing Director, FCI.	5.11.2008	Until further orders or date of superannuation from Government Service, whichever is earlier.
2	Shri A.K. Mangotra, Addl. Secy. & Financial Advisor Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	19.10.2009	Until further orders. Representing Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Finance.
3	Shri Siraj Hussain, IAS (UP: 79), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	10.1.2007	Until further orders. Representing Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Food.
4	Shri Mukesh Khullar, Joint Secretary (Deptt., of Agriculture & Co-operation), Min. of Agriculture.	23.11.2006	Until further orders. Representing Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Co-operation.
5	Shri B.B. Pattanaik, Managing Director, Central Warehousing Corporation.	15.7.2008	For five years or till the date of superannuation, whichever is earlier.
6	Shri S.P. Singh, IAS (Pb:88) Principal Secretary (Food), Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh (Non official Director)	15.7.2009	Two years.

Price rise of essential commodities

‡2511. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of essential consumable items like wheat, sugar, rice, pulses, edible oils and vegetables are rising day-by-day;
- (b) if so, the details of rise in prices of these items during year 2008-09 and up to November, 2009;
- (c) the plans of Government to check trend of price hike of these items;
- (d) the details of import of wheat, rice, pulses, sugar and edible oils during year 2008-09 and up to November, 2009 alongwith the import price of these items; and
- (e) the necessary steps being taken by Government to check the increase in inflation and increase the production of agriculture products and foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The All India average wholesale prices has increased in the case of wheat by 13.24%, sugar by 64.21%, rice by 8.83%, Pulses such as Tur dal by 65.83%, Gram by 1.83%, Potato by 115.44 % and Onion by 54.52% but had declined in the case of edible oil such as Groundnut oil by (-4.70%), Mustard oil by (-14.00%), Vanaspati by (-12.41%) respectively over the past one year. The detail of rise in prices of these items during year 2008-09 and up to November, 2009 is given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY. Pulses are distributed to the State Governments under the PDS @ Rs.10 per kg subsidy scheme. In view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oil through whatever outlets they decide on.

Government has taken steps to promote the consumption of yellow peas by mounting a campaign and asking NAFED, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar, Mother Dairy to distribute it through their selected retail outlets in Delhi.

(d) There has been no import of wheat and rice during 2008-09 and 2009-10 up to November 2009. Details of imports of pulses, sugar and edible oils, along with their values are given in Statement-II (See below).

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in Statement-III (See below).

Enhancement of MSP of foodgrains year after year is meant to make agriculture production remunerative.

The Government has in addition to ongoing schemes, new initiatives like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Horticulture Mission has been taken up.

RKVY aims at achieving 4% annual growth in agriculture and allied sector by ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sector. The outlay for Eleventh Five year Plan is Rs. 25,000 crore.

NFSM, whose primary objective is to enhance production of rice, wheat and pulses through increased productivity of rice and wheat and productivity/area coverage of pulses. The outlay for Eleventh Five year Plan is Rs. 4,883 crore.

National Horticulture Mission targets to promote horticulture crops with an outlay of Rs. 8,809 crore for Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

All India Average Wholesale Price of Commodities from (Jan. 08-Nov. 09)

Rice (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	1299.69	1526.84
Feb	1330.1	1528.28
Mar	1355.86	1531.15
Apr	1374.43	1542.63
May	1411.45	1553.31
Jun	1454.17	1542.06
Jul	1491.54	1540.54
Aug	1497.36	1557.49
Sep	1515.3	1576.19
Oct	1513.96	1619.09
Nov	1520.44	1654.66
Dec	1524.84	
Gram (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	2954.79	3102.55
Feb	2965.11	3118.02
Mar	3160.32	3088.29
Apr	3241.49	3065.34

Month	2008	2009
May	3193.8	3024.44
Jun	3141.94	3014.4
Jul	3163.95	3096.83
Aug	3292.23	3197.1
Sep	3297.58	3190.33
Oct	3246.47	3159.17
Nov	3192.69	3251.24
Dec	3156.81	
Wheat (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	1208.77	1263.46
Feb	1216.58	1274.43
Mar	1234.01	1281.07
Apr	1241.68	1278.29
May	1221.39	1271.36
Jun	1200.26	1269.84
Jul	1226.17	1276.55
Aug	1248.94	1295.29
Sep	1248.43	1311.3
Oct	1243.06	1342.19
Nov	1245.13	1409.98
Dec	1249.47	
Tur (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	3756.36	4285.1
Feb	3652.85	4418.35
Mar	3704.31	4488.12
Apr	3711.57	4676.53
May	3681.62	4837.89
Jun	3723.94	5007.53
Jul	3906.04	5733.85
Aug	4095.74	6472.72
Sep	4181.95	6615.63
Oct	4246.77	6705.23
Nov	4272.7	7085.27
Dec	7275.41	

Month	2008	2009
Groundnut Oil (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	8021.78	7913.02
Feb	8012	7799.28
Mar	8085.9	7669.19
Apr	8123.77	7678.54
May	8147.43	7680.0
Jun	8309.94	7567.02
Jul	8400.33	7609.57
Aug	8337.22	7679.3
Sep	8227.62	7677.36
Oct	8103.59	7780.15
Nov	8054.06	7677.08
Dec	7984.94	
Sugar (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	1504.42	1971.3
Feb	1537.03	2059.86
Mar	1561.04	2130.66
Apr	1600.74	2216.55
May	1604.91	2294.71
Jun	1608.67	2338.38
Jul	1630.32	2403.43
Aug	1807.91	2598.87
Sep	1916.28	2806.92
Oct	1892.01	2879.3
Nov	1872.28	3074.44
Dec	1899.05	
Mustard Oil (Rs. /Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	6307.72	7697.39
Feb	6523.79	7530.0
Mar	6959.29	7337.15

Month	2008	2009
Apr	6970.14	7044.55
May	6833.96	6963.67
Jun	7193.58	6848.66
Jul	7622.31	6677.11
Aug	7763.99	6500.98
Sep	7741.94	6435.41
Oct	7744.38	6604.43
Nov	7735.14	6654.24
Dec	7721.0	

Potato (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	833.31	626.06
Feb	723.6	596.09
Mar	680.19	615.76
Apr	609.75	713.65
May	610.95	804.68
Jun	606.66	894.85
Jul	626.31	1036.54
Aug	672.36	1158.9
Sep	701.95	1288.91
Oct	701.79	1451.4
Nov	700.91	1510.01
Dec	646.19	

Vanaspoti (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	5478.17	5145.49
Feb	5679.66	5048.43
Mar	6146.74	4871.7
Apr	6230.62	4773.59
May	6031.91	4922.96
Jun	6127.74	4912.92
Jul	6256.5	4864.01
Aug	6074.93	4791.26

Month	2008	2009
Sep	5790.69	4723.18
Oct	5534.54	4724.15
Nov	5411.05	4739.52
Dec	5295.72	
Onion (Rs./Quintal)		
Month	2008	2009
Jan	802.22	1253.37
Feb	648.73	1221.45
Mar	644.27	1198.9
Apr	613.39	1088.73
May	593.34	946.68
Jun	574.19	947.45
Jul	659.66	970.36
Aug	867.31	950.21
Sep	906.59	961.89
Oct	889.6	1314.38
Nov	985.45	1522.7
Dec	1135.03	

Statement-II

Import of pulses during 2008-09 and 2009-10

Import of Pulses

Commodity Description	Unit Qty in MTS, Value in Rs Crores			
	2008-09		2009-10 (Apr-Oct)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5
Peas (Pisum sativum)	1,214,073	2,736	802,021	1,328
Chickpeas (garbanzos) Beans (Vigna spp.. Phaseolus spp.):	198,159	467	132,973	325
Beans of the species Vigna mungo (L.) Hepper or Vigna radiata (L.) Wilczek	433,263	1,236	341,754	1,267
Small red (Adzuki) beans (Phaseolus or Vigna angularis)	626	2	1,615	5

1	2	3	4	5
Kidney beans, including white pea beans (Phaseolus vulgaris)	50,661	173	43,519	138
Lentils	31,747	138	35,261	129
Other dried & shld Leguminous Vegtbls, Split	507,784	1,369	138,583	940
TOTAL	2,436,313	6,121	1,595,726	4,133

Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Import of sugar during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10

Financial Year	Qunatity (in MTs)	Value (Rs.in Lakhs.)
2008-09	386098	58310.86
2009-10 (upto June 2009)	352492	59926.09

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Import of edible oil during 2008-09 and 2009-10

Year	Quantity (in lakh tons)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2008-2009	67.15	15819.01
2009-2010	21.58	5865.61
	(upto June, 09)	(upto June, 2009)

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Statement-III

Measures taken by Government to control prices of essential commodities

I. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for sugar, rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize;
- (ii) Reduced import duties on refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils to 7.5%;
- (iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. up to 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.12.2010 (notified on 17.4.2009). Furthermore, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31.12.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis.
- (iv) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED up to 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended upto 31.3.2010. Furthermore, the duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies.

- (v) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

2. Administrative Measures

- (vi) Permitted the export of edible oils in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs, subject to a limit of 10,000 tonnes up to 30th September 2010.
- (vii) Permitted export of wheat and wheat products (atta, maida and suji) on private account after 15th May 2009, with a cap of 2 million tonnes in 2009-10.
- (viii) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (ix) Effected no changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;
- (x) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, sugar, edible oils and edible oilseeds upto 30.9.2010; In order to discourage non-household sector consumers from stockpiling sugar and to ensure adequate availability of sugar in the open market for actual consumers, the Central Government has issued a notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding limit on bulk consumers.
- (xi) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at \$450 per tonne for December 2009) and basmati rice (\$900 PMT);
- (xii) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.
- (xiii) Futures trading in Rice, Urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and continues during 2009-10. Futures trading in sugar was suspended *w.e.f.* 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.
- (xiv) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs.15/kg.
- (xv) To augment availability of pulses, permitted the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED to import and sell pulses under a scheme and the losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.
- (xvi) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs. 10 per kg to State Governments.
- (xvii) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.
- (xviii) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009
- (xix) For the month of Nov, 2009, a quantity of 15.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar has been made available which includes 10.50 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 1.45 lakh tons of refined raw sugar imported by sugar mills. The estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.50 lac ton. Besides, the validity period of Oct. 2009 non-levy quota has since been extended for the first fortnight up to 25.10.2009 and for the second fortnight upto 10.11.2009, it is expected about 1.55 lakh ton of sugar would be spill over quota of Oct. 09.

Fake ration cards

†2512. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are around 3.5 crore fake ration cards in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the estimated losses occurred to public distribution system due to fake ration cards;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding fake ration cards and to ascertain the losses occurred due to that;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by Government to scrap the fake ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) Based on findings of earlier evaluation studies on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), a Nine Point Action Plan evolved for strengthening TPDS is under implementation by State/UT Governments since July, 2006. As a part of this action plan, States and UT Governments have been directed to continuously review lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families to eliminate bogus ration cards so that only eligible BPL and AAY families get covered under the TPDS. The State/UT Governments are competent to take penal action under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against those indulging in malpractices under TPDS.

To assess impact of implementation of 9-point action plan, Government has undertaken concurrent evaluation of TPDS in 26 States and UTs where earlier studies had indicated malpractices. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has completed this study in 12 States. Copies of the NCAER reports have been sent to concerned State Governments for necessary action.

Details of fake ration cards are not available. However, specific instructions were issued in January, 2008 to all States/UT Governments to take action as per law against the families / persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and also against officials found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

As part of implementation of 9-point action plan and as per these directions, State/UT Governments have been taking action to detect and delete fake/bogus/ineligible BPL and AAY ration cards. Since July, 2006 onwards, 17 State/UT Governments have reported detection and deletion of 159.42 lakh fake/bogus/ineligible ration cards (by 15.11.2009) as per details given in Statement (*See below*).

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*The number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT
Governments with effect from July 2006 onwards*

(Updated on 15.11.2009)

Sl.No.	State	Nos. of bogus/ ineligible ration cards deleted eliminated (in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2	Assam	0.07
3	Chhattisgarh	3.65
4	Delhi	16.32
5	Gujarat	7.83
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.02 #
7	Jharkhand	0.65
8	Karnataka	6.45
9	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
10	Maharashtra	29.45
11	Meghalaya	0.00 *
12	Orissa	2.50
13	Sikkim	0.01 @
14	Uttar Pradesh	3.96
15	Uttarakhand	0.16
16	West Bengal	52.92 (individual cards)
17	Lakshadweep	0.00 \$
Total		159.42

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

Rising prices of essential items

2513. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential items have increased very high in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to include more items in the category of essential items;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps Government is taking to provide these items at cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) During the last four months, the All India average wholesale prices has increased in the case of Sugar by 26%, Pulses such as Tur dal by 23.02%, Gram by 3.31% respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government had decided to include Cotton Seed as an essential commodity in the Schedule to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(e) The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY. Pulses are distributed to the State Governments under the PDS @ Rs.10 per kg subsidy scheme. In view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the oil through whatever outlets they decide on.

Foodgrains distribution under Antyodaya Anna Yojana

2514. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing foodgrains to States for distribution to BPL ration cardholders at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details of the total number of BPL cardholders in the country on basis of which foodgrains are provided to States indicating volume of allocation of foodgrains, State-wise during last three years;

(c) whether Government has also been providing foodgrains at greater subsidized rates to the States for distribution to poorer families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and

(d) if so, the details about its volume and number of beneficiaries during the last three years, State-wise?

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

(b) to (d) Government allocates subsidized foodgrains to States & UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) @ 35 Kg per Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) family per month, based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000 or number of BPL and AAY ration cards actually issued, whichever is less. Presently the allocations are being made for 6.5 crore such families.

AAY is a subset of the poorest of BPL families. Therefore, while the scale of issue of foodgrains per family per month is the same for BPL and AAY, the central issue prices for AAY are lower than those for BPL.

Details of State-wise allocations of foodgrains (rice & wheat) to BPL and AAY categories of families during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are at Statement-I (See below). The details of State-wise number of AAY ration cardholders during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Allocation of Rice and Wheat for 2006-2007, 2007-08 and 2008-09 under BPL and AAY categories under TPDS **

(in 000' Tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocations 2006-07			Allocations 2007-08			Allocations 2008-09		
		BPL	AAY	Total	BPL	AAY	Total	BPL	AAY	Total
1	AP	1052.088	654.288	1706.376	1052.088	654.288	1706.376	1052.088	654.288	1706.376
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25.524	15.972	41.496	25.524	15.972	41.496	25.524	15.972	41.496
3	Assam	476.7	294.216	770.916	475.47	295.446	770.916	475.224	295.692	770.916
4	Bihar	2019.013	662.091	2681.104	1719.804	1019.988	2739.792	1719.804	1019.988	2739.792
5	Chhattisgarh	483.688	295.25	778.938	472.688	301.944	774.632	485.688	301.944	787.632
6	Delhi	148.464	23.316	171.78	125.874	45.906	171.78	108.696	63.084	171.78
7	Goa	5.46	6.108	11.568	5.46	6.108	11.568	5.46	6.108	11.568
8	Gujrat	540.63	310.848	851.478	524.468	332.18	856.648	486.469	340.08	826.549
9	Haryana	221.151	109.394	330.545	208.572	122.82	331.392	208.572	122.82	331.392
10	HP	46.831	76.806	123.637	133.138	82.74	215.878	133.14	82.74	215.88
11	J&K	205.077	104.007	309.084	201.696	107.388	309.084	201.696	107.388	309.084
12	Jharkhand	700.224	305.268	1005.492	653.401	352.091	1005.492	619.956	385.536	1005.492
13	Karnataka	768.116	491.35	1259.466	770.384	503.892	1274.276	798.864	503.892	1302.756
14	Kerala	404.277	248.331	652.608	402.348	250.26	652.608	402.348	250.26	652.608
15	M. P.	1064.538	650.16	1714.698	1028.814	652.662	1681.476	1068.216	664.26	1732.476
16	Maharashtra	1911.084	833.22	2744.304	1682.633	1021.671	2704.304	1709.424	1034.88	2744.304

17	Manipur	48.552	21.18	69.732	47.166	22.566	69.732	43.008	26.724	69.732
18	Meghalaya	53.508	23.352	76.86	47.376	29.484	176.86	47.376	29.484	76.86
19	Mizoram	17.64	10.92	28.56	17.64	10.92	28.56	17.64	10.92	28.56
20	Nagaland	32.112	19.968	52.08	32.112	19.968	52.08	32.112	19.968	52.08
21	Orissa	1165.976	530.716	1696.692	1165.572	531.12	1696.692	1165.572	531.12	1696.692
22	Punjab	138.228	58.308	196.536	131.123	65.413	196.536	121.176	75.36	196.536
23	Rajasthan	635.306	385.714	1021.02	592.532	391.488	984.02	629.532	391.488	1021.02
24	Sikkim	11.766	6.474	18.24	11.304	6.936	18.24	11.304	6.936	18.24
25	Tamil Nadu	1259.232	783.144	2042.376	1259.232	783.144	2042.376	1259.232	783.144	2042.376
26	Tripura	95.364	28.536	123.9	77.962	45.938	123.9	76.38	47.52	123.9
27	Uttar Pradesh	2766.663	1720.014	4486.677	2765.7	1719.48	4485.18	2765.7	1719.48	4485.18
28	Uttaranchal	149.511	59.661	209.172	145.656	63.516	209.172	145.656	63.516	209.172
29	West Bengal	1522.066	621.684	2143.75	1553.58	621.684	2175.264	1553.58	621.684	2175.264
30	A&N Islands	5.04	1.8	6.84	5.04	1.8	6.84	5.04	1.8	6.84
31	Chandigarh	2.512	0.888	3.4	2.94	0.888	3.828	3.006	0.822	3.828
32	D&N Haveli	4.948	1.772	6.72	4.524	2.196	6.72	4.524	2.196	6.72
33	Daman & Diu	1.044	0.636	1.68	1.044	0.636	1.68	1.044	0.636	1.68
34	Lakshadweep	0.295	0.161	0.456	0.713	0.464	1.177	0.756	0.492	1.248
35	Pondicherry	21.564	13.548	35.112	21.564	13.548	35.112	21.564	13.548	35.112
TOTAL		8004.19	9369.101	27373.29	17365.14	10096.55	27461.69	17405.37	10195.77	27601.14

*These allocations also include additional quantities for 7.42 lakh APL families in KBK districts of Orissa but do not include some allocations of coarse grains made in lieu of wheat or rice.

Statement-II

*Number of ration cards in States/UTs under Antyodaya Anna Yojana
during years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09*

(Fig. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	15.578	15.578	15.578
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.380	0.380	0.380
3	Assam	7.005	7.040	7.040
4	Bihar	24.134	24.285	24.285
5	Chhattisgarh	7.189	7.189	7.189
6	Delhi	0.555	1.502	1.502
7	Goa	0.145	0.145	0.145
8	Gujarat	8.098	8.098	8.098
9	Haryana	2.924	2.924	2.924
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.971	1.971	1.971
11	J&K	2.557	2.557	2.557
12	Jharkhand	7.268	9.179	9.179
13	Karnataka	11.997	11.997	11.997
14	Kerala	5.958	5.958	5.958
15	Madhya Pradesh	15.645	15.816	15.816
16	Maharashtra	23.741	24.639	24.639
17	Manipur	0.504	0.636	0.636
18	Meghalaya	0.702	0.702	0.702
19	Mizoram	0.261	0.261	0.261
20	Nagaland	0.475	0.475	0.475
21	Orissa	12.645	12.645	12.645
22	Punjab	1.794	1.794	1.794
23	Rajasthan	9.279	9.321	9.321
24	Sikkim	0.165	0.165	0.165
25	Tamil Nadu	18.646	18.646	18.646

1	2	3	4	5
26	Tripura	0.679	1.131	1.131
27	Uttar Pradesh	40.945	40.945	40.945
28	Uttarakhand	1.512	1.512	1.512
29	West Bengal	14.799	14.799	14.799
30	A&N	0.043	0.043	0.043
31	Chandigarh	0.015	0.015	0.015
32	D&N Haveli	0.052	0.052	0.052
33	Daman & Diu	0.015	0.015	0.015
34	Lakshadweep	0.004	0.012	0.012
35	Pondicherry	0.322	0.322	0.322
TOTAL		238.002	242.749	242.749

Malfunctioning in marketing of packaged food products

2515. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any norms for marketing of packaged food products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many foreign packaged food products flout these norms;
- (d) if so, the details of the mechanism in the country to check the violation of such norms;
- (e) the number of cases of violation of such norms reported during 2008-09 and 2009-10 so far in various parts of the country, product-wise; and
- (f) the details of the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such malfunctioning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The standards for different foods articles and labeling provisions thereof have been laid down under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 in Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The Standards of weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 enacted under the Standards of weights and Measures Act, 1976 also apply to Packaged Food articles.

(c) Provisions for importing food in the country is regulated under section 5 and 6 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 whereby no article of food in contravention of any provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and rules made there under can be imported. Similarly all packaged food articles imported into the country are also required to comply with the Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977.

(d) Consignments of imported food articles are to be checked/ analyzed by the Custom authorities to ensure the compliance of provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 and Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977, before releasing the same for human consumption in the country.

(e) and (f) The States/ Union Territories Governments who are responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder are taking random samples of different articles of food including imported food available in the market and take necessary penal action against the offenders under the law for any violation. The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil and quality of different food articles sold in market and take penal action against the offender for any violation of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder.

Implementation of NFSA

2516. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Competent Authority has implemented National Food Security Act;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether quantity of foodgrains now allotted to BPL families will be reduced after the implementation of National Food Security Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether alterations in the National Food Security Act had been suggested by State Governments/agencies/individuals; and
- (f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) At present Government is examining various aspects of the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA), including number of Below Poverty Line families to be covered, scale of issue of foodgrains, etc in consultation with various stakeholders.

Based on a concept note circulated to State/Union Territory Governments on the proposed law, their responses have been received. They are also under examination.

Hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities

2517. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities is rampant in the country leading to their shortage and rise in prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating current demand and supply situation of these commodities in the country;

(c) whether State Governments have been directed to ensure declaration of excess stocks by wholesalers and take action against hoarders and black marketeers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating steps taken by States to enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act alongwith the number of raids conducted, hoarders arrested and goods confiscated during current year, Statewise, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The prices of some essential commodities have risen during the current year. Prices have risen on account of various factors like poor rainfall, high international prices, rising demand etc. In commodities like pulses and edible oils, imports take place every year because domestic production is not sufficient; 15-20% of pulses and 40-45% of edible oils are imported to meet the domestic demand. In the case of rice, due to poor monsoon, kharif production is likely to be lower than the demand. Similarly in the case of sugar, production has fallen short of demand in 2008-09.

In order to check hoarding and blackmarketing, the Government of India has taken the following steps:-

- (i) Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- (ii) To enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act., 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice and paddy for the period upto 30.09.2010. The commodity wheat which had also been included in the above list has been removed *w.e.f.* 01.04.2009.
- (iii) Further, in respect of sugar, the Central Government have also issued Orders providing for stock-holding/turnover limits which are as follows:

Stockholding:

- (i) **in Kolkata and extended area -**

- (a) recognized dealers who import sugar from outside West Bengal - 10,000 quintals;
- (b) other recognized dealers - 2000 quintals;

- (ii) in other places - 2000 quintals.

Turnover: No dealer can hold the stock of sugar for a period exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt by him of such stock.

- (iv) The details of the raids conducted, value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during the year 2009 (updated upto 30.11.2009) as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations is given in Statement (See below).
- (v) The State Governments/UT Administrations are empowered to detain such persons under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. Details of detention orders issued under the said Act and as reported to the Central Government by the State Governments/UT Administrations during the year 2009 (upto 30.11.2009) is given below:-

Name of the State	2009 (upto 30.11.2009)
Gujarat	26
Tamil Nadu	107
Orissa	02
Maharashtra	02
TOTAL	137

- (vi) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been repeatedly advised to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor such enforcements.

Statement

*Action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the
year - 2009 - Information received from States/UTs*

upto 30.11.2009

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No.of Raids	No.of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated in Rs. Lakh	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	6139	1	Nil	1	102.06	September
2	Assam	2025	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	July

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Bihar	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
5	Chhattisgarh	160	31	12	5	330.95	April
6	Delhi	80	50	67	Nil	Nil	October
7	Gujarat	21281	21	74	Nil	480.72	October
8	Goa	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
9	Haryana	58	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
10	Himachal Pradesh	14946	3	2	Nil	6.28	July
11	Jammu & Kashmir						Not Reported
12	Jharkhand						Not Reported
13	Karnataka	881	39	5	2	22.68	July
14	Kerala	36231	21	2	Nil	26.4	September
15	Madhya Pradesh						Not Reported
16	Maharashtra	1011	1639	1008	Nil	12500.87	August
17	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	September
18	Meghalaya	8	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	September
19	Mizoram						Not Reported
20	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
21	Orissa	12577	7	25	Nil	3.08	September
22	Punjab	65	46	29	21	462.74	September
23	Rajasthan	281	3	62	Nil	36.89	March
24	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil	September
25	Tamil Nadu	13189	3926	1143	4	497.4	October
26	Tripura	5	2	2	Nil	0.31	September
27	Uttaranchal						Not Reported
28	Uttar Pradesh	22315	514	860	Nil	979.93	July
29	West Bengal	94	69	2	Nil	44.89	September*
30	A & N Islands	148	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31	Chandigarh	7	7	Nil	Nil	7.93	August
32	D & N Haveli	3	2	Nil	Nil	0.22	October
33	Daman & Diu						Not Reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	October
35	Pondicherry	357	49	54	13	15.12	October
TOTAL		131875	6436	3351	46	15518.47	

* - Except - May

Updated as on 4.12.2009

Fair and remunerative price for sugarcane

2518. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently introduced changes in the sugarcane pricing norms under Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to accrue to farmers who were agitating in this regard;

(c) whether farmers have raised any objections; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps Government has taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Central Government had been fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane under the provisions of the Clause 3 of Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 (SCO) having regard to different criteria. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 has been further amended on 22nd October 2009 by inserting clause (g) which provided for giving reasonable margins to the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits. Powers were given to the Central Government to fix a fair and remunerative price (FRP). Accordingly, the FRP payable by sugar mills for 2009-10 sugar season has been fixed at Rs.129.84 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs.1.37 for every Rs. 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level. The FRP fixed at Rs. 129.84 per quintal for 2009-10 sugar season is about 51% higher than the SMP of sugarcane of 2008-09 calculated at 9.5% basic recovery rate.

(c) and (d) There is one representation from farmers' association in this regard. According to the representation and the media reports, there is misapprehension amongst a section of farmers that the FRP is the maximum price of sugarcane above which they are not entitled to get a price for

their cane from the mills. The Government has informed the farmers through clarifications in the press that FRP is a bench-mark price and the price payable will be a negotiated price between the farmers and the mills and will have to be equal to or above the FRP. The same has been conveyed to sugar mills.

It has also been represented that the powers of the State Governments to fix a State Advised Price (SAP) for sugarcane may be allowed to continue and that a 50% margin over the costs to the farmers may be given.

The Central Government has decided to delete the clause 3B in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

Negative inflation and rise in prices of essential goods

2519. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inspite of negative inflation, the prices of essential commodities have gone up substantially over the past one year;
- (b) whether there is a huge difference between wholesale and retail prices;
- (c) if so, the rate of increase in prices of cereals, pulses, salt, fruits and vegetables during the past one year and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the Consumer Price Index to protect the poor and the economically weak from such high prices?

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

(b) No Sir.

(c) The All India average wholesale prices has increased in the case of rice by 8.83%, wheat by 13.24%, Pulses such as Tur dal by 65.83%, Gram by 1.83%, Salt by 14.20%, Potato by 115.44 % and Onion by 54.52% respectively over the past one year.

The increase in prices of the rice and wheat can be attributed partly due to the increase in MSP.

Domestic prices of pulses rose mainly on account of the supply-demand mismatch and hardening of international prices.

The increase in price of salt was due to un seasonal and intermittent rains during the September/December 2008 in the salt producing areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan during manufacturing season.

Weather, apart from seasonal factors, may have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables and fruits. Potato prices increased as during 2008-09 potato production was estimated to

be less in the states of Bihar, West Bengal and M.P because of late blight disease and less water availability in M.P. Onion prices increased primarily on account of the floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the heavy rain in Maharashtra, which affected the kharif crop of onion and its supply to markets across the country.

(d) The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY. Pulses are distributed to the State Governments under the PDS @ Rs.10 per kg subsidy scheme. In view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the oil through whatever outlets they decide on.

Establishment of branches of foreign educational institutions

‡2520. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign educational institutions have proposed to establish their branches in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made about their effect on the educational institutions of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A legislative proposal to regulate Entry and Operations of foreign educational institutions in India is under consideration of the Government.

Complaints regarding corrupt activities of officials of AICTE

2521. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding involvement of officials of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in corrupt activities for the last two years;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and action Government has taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to stop such malpractices in such educational councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints alleging corruption have been received against officials of AICTE. Some cases have been referred to CBI which has registered various cases against officials of AICTE including its then Chairman and Member Secretary. In other cases AICTE has been asked to submit a report.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to enhance transparency in the working of the Council:-

(i) Steps have been taken to introduce e-governance system in the AICTE.

(ii) The approval process handbook is being modified to remove the inconsistencies and the scope for different interpretations.

(iii) The Appellate Committees have been strengthened with people of the level of Vice-Chancellors (current and former).

Raising of marks for appearing in IIT- JEE

2522. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

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

(a) whether the present minimum limit of 60 per cent marks for entrance examination (IIT-JEE) is proposed to be raised so that students' focus of study becomes achieving higher percentage of marks in 12th class rather than concentrating on studies received from coaching centres imparting specialized tuitions for appearing in such an examination;

(b) if so, whether broad spectrum of views from varied faculty members of such IITs have been considered for this proposed raising of higher percentage in 12th class; and

(c) whether this will not come in conflict with introducing scheme of awarding 'grades' than 'marks'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, makes recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class Xli results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating class XII results with JEE results would help reduce the dependence on coaching centres.

(c) As the scheme of awarding 'grades' is presently proposed to be introduced in class X only, the question of its coming into conflict with the scheme of cut-off marks in class XII for the purpose of admissions into IITs, does not arise.

New evaluation criteria for Class X

2523. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) whether CBSE has notified the new evaluation criteria for Class X;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that given skewed teacher and student ratio for private and Government schools in remote and smaller towns it would be difficult to conduct sustained continuous evaluation; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to overcome the constrained teacher-student ratio to ensure success of the new system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has strengthened the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation System for Class IX from the academic session 2009-10. It has also decided to introduce grading system from the class X Board examination, 2010.

(c) and (d) CBSE Affiliation Bye-Laws, prescribes 1.5 teacher per section to teach various subjects in its affiliated schools. CBSE has arranged for training of Principals and teachers of its affiliated schools from October, 2009 in the methods of continuous and comprehensive evaluation.

National board of sanskrit secondary education

2524. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

- (a) whether Government had constituted a committee to discuss the matter of establishing National Board of Sanskrit Secondary Education (NBSSE);
- (b) if so, who were the members, how many meetings took place, the outcome and the recommendations, thereof;
- (c) whether Government has acted upon the recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

- (f) the future course of action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The erstwhile Central Sanskrit Board, constituted by the Government for advice in various matters relating to Sanskrit, and later replaced by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Parishad in August, 2006, had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Gopalaswami, the then Home Secretary, Government of India, to make an in-depth study of the proposal for establishing a National Board of Sanskrit School Education. The Committee consisted of Joint Secretary (Languages), Ministry of HRD and Vice Chancellors of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth as members. This Committee recommended setting up of a National Board of Sanskrit School Education. The proposal is under consideration.

Communicative approach in teaching Sanskrit

2525. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

- (a) whether CBSE is still continuing with communicative approach in teaching Sanskrit;
- (b) if so, the impact and benefits of communicative approach in teaching Sanskrit;
- (c) whether number of students has increased due to communicative approach;
- (d) the plans CBSE has in order to strengthen the communicative approach in Sanskrit teaching; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) offers a course in Communicative Sanskrit for classes IX and X.

This has enabled

(i) Students are able to communicate effectively and appropriately in real life situations (ii) To develop and integrate the use of the four language skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing and (iii) to develop interest in appreciation of literature.

(c) There has been an increase in the number of students registered for Sanskrit from 18069 in 2006 to 25816 in 2009 at the senior secondary level and from 185447 in 2006 to 227020 in 2009 at the secondary level.

(d) and (e) CBSE has recently introduced the concept of formative tests under continuous and comprehensive evaluation system for classes IX and X which involve communication, interaction and other forms of presentation to further improve the communication skills of the students.

Streamlining of deemed universities

2526. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to come out with a blueprint to streamline deemed universities on the basis of Tandon Committee recommendations;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has coordinated with the UGC on this issue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which blueprint would be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Report of the Committee constituted by the Government to review the status of institutions deemed to be universities is under its active consideration at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Establishment of model degree colleges in Gujarat

2527. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated a plan for establishment of Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in the identified educationally backward districts of Gujarat;
- (b) whether the required funds have been granted by the Central Government for establishment of MDCs in the identified backward districts in Gujarat; and
- (c) if so, the time by when MDCs will be established in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) During the XI Plan, a new scheme has been envisaged to establish a model degree college with Central-State funding in each of the 374 identified higher educationally backward districts in the country including in each of the 20 such districts in the State of Gujarat, where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is less than the national GER. The scheme is yet to be finalised.

Recommendations of review committee on deemed universities

2528. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

- (a) whether the deemed university review Committee has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is finding it difficult to implement the report in view of the serious findings by the Committee and has asked the Committee to make additional recommendations; and
- (d) if so, the action that has been taken or proposed to be taken against the 'deemed to be universities' having below par infrastructure as a university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Review Committee constituted by the Central Government to review the functioning of the Institutions declared as 'Deemed to be Universities' has submitted its report, which is under active consideration of the Government and in the meanwhile, Government has asked the Committee to suggest an action plan for carrying out the recommendations.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise, in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

Facility to teach teaching method of Sanskrit

2529. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

- (a) whether all the Regional Colleges of Education have the facility to teach the teaching method of Sanskrit; and
- (b) whether they have any programme for the development of Sanskrit teaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Regional Institutes of Education (earlier called Regional Colleges of Education) do not have the faculty to teach "Teaching Method of Sanskrit". However, the Demonstration Multipurpose Schools attached to the Regional Institutes offer Sanskrit language as a course.

Encouragement for Sanskrit education

2530. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

(a) whether CBSE has taken any steps to encourage Sanskrit students to improve their Sanskrit language skills;

(b) the steps taken to encourage Sanskrit teachers to improve their communicative skills in Sanskrit;

(c) the steps taken to encourage schools to create congenial atmosphere for Sanskrit; and

(d) the steps taken to encourage new experiments in Sanskrit language teaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken following steps to encourage learning of Sanskrit language:

1. The Communicative Language Teaching was introduced in Classes IX & X in 1999-2000.
2. CBSE has brought out textbooks and workbooks from class VI to XII.
3. Support material like audio cassettes (Dhvani Mudrika) for Class IX has been prepared.
4. CBSE has conducted teachers training programmes and seminars across the country to orient the teachers in the communicative approach to teaching Sanskrit.
5. CBSE has brought out a Shikshan Sandarshika (Teachers Book) and Manika Darpan (Resource Manual) for training Teachers.

(c) School affiliated to CBSE conduct various activities such as debate, declamation, essay writing to promote Sanskrit.

(d) CBSE has recently introduced the concept of formative tests in classes IX and X involving communication, interaction and other forms of verbal presentation which help improve the communication skill of the students.

Modernization of Sanskrit Pathshalas

2531. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

(a) the programmes which have been taken up to modernize traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas under Central Plan Scheme for the development of Sanskrit;

(b) whether computer training facilities have been provided to these Pathshalas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), a Deemed University, implements a Scheme for the Development of Sanskrit Education which also provides for financial assistance for teachers for modern subjects in Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Mahavidyalayas. Under this Scheme, financial assistance, for appointment of a maximum of three teachers in modern subjects, for purchase of computer and honorarium for a part time computer teacher are provided to the Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Mahavidyalayas. Computer training facilities are also provided in all the campuses of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and also in Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas and Shodh Sansthans.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman of LBSRSV, New Delhi

2532. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether term of present Vice-Chancellor of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi has expired on 14th November, 2009 after fifteen years of service *i.e.* three terms;

(b) if so, the steps being taken for appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor;

(c) whether Government is considering reappointment of same person for fourth term;

(d) if so, whether it is not against UGC Regulation, 2009 which has prescribed under 7.40 (IV) that term of office of Vice-Chancellor shall be five years and there shall not be a reappointment for second term in same university; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prof. Vachaspati Upadhyay has been appointed as Vice Chancellor of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi *w.e.f.* 14.11.2009 for a fresh term of five years or till he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

(d) and (e) These Regulations are yet in draft form and not approved by UGC.

NASSCOM report about quality of engineering students

2533. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study report by NASSCOM, a software industry group, saying that 75 per cent engineering students in India are unemployable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the low quality of our engineering students and measures proposed to be taken to make them employable in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As per information given by the Department of Information Technology, the NASSCOM in their Report "NASSCOM Perspective 2020: Transform Business, Transform India" have indicated employability rate of 26 % for engineering graduates, A working group was constituted by the Ministry to examine the issues raised by NASSCOM. The Working Group has, *inter-alia*, recommended Finishing Schools for engineering graduates to enhance their employability, changes in the syllabi of various engineering colleges so as to make them compatible with the needs of the industry etc. For the present Finishing Schools are being organized by the IT sector to alleviate the problem.

Elections to students' unions in universities

2534. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

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

(a) the details of Central universities where elections to students' unions have been conducted since January, 2009 till date, university-wise;

(b) the details of central universities where unions are functioning at present and where the same have been dissolved from January, 2009 till date;

(c) whether elections to students' unions in Jamia Millia Islamia, BHU, AMU and Allahabad universities were conducted this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information provided by the Central Universities, elections to students' unions have been conducted since January, 2009 only in the University of Delhi.

(b) Students' union is functioning at present in University of Delhi and a Students' Council is functioning in Banaras Hindu University. The students' union in University of Hyderabad was dissolved on 20th August, 2009.

(c) No Sir.

(d) According to information provided by the concerned universities:

In Jamia Milia Islamia, a Committee in the University is continually reviewing the issue and it has been felt that any minor incident during the election process can spark off disruption on the campus and seriously impede and disrupt the Academic Calendar.

In Banaras Hindu University, a University Students' Council is functioning satisfactorily since 2007 in place of students' union.

In Aligarh Muslim University, in view of the past history of violence, elections to students' union is not being conducted.

In Allahabad University, no student body has been constituted.

Minorities status for Central universities

2535. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) the details of central universities which have been given minority status, State-wise;
- (b) the criterion for granting minority status to universities;
- (c) the details of facilities given to those institutions/universities which have been granted minority status;
- (d) whether Government will grant minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia; and
- (e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Section 2(1) of the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920 defines the University as 'the educational institution of their choice established by the Muslims of India, which originated as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh and which was subsequently incorporated as the Aligarh Muslim University', Section 5(2)(c) of the Act empowers the University 'to promote especially the educational and cultural advancement of the Muslims of India. In view of this, the Central Government treats Aligarh Muslim University in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a minority institution within the meaning of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India. However, the question relating to minority institution status of Aligarh Muslim University is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India where the interpretation of the term 'establishing' a University, as was laid down in the "Azeez Basha" matter is under challenge. Universities with minority status enjoy the rights under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

The demand for grant of minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University established under the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988, has been received from certain quarters. The orders of the Supreme Court in the AMU matter will have a bearing on the issue relating to the minority character of Jamia Millia Islamia, which is pending before the Hon'ble National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions.

National Commission for Higher Education and Research

†2536. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is constituting a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) in pursuance of the recommendations of the report of Yashpal Committee;

(b) if so, whether all institutions related to higher education viz. UGC, AICTE, NCTE, NAAC, etc. will become non-functional;

(c) whether UGC was the only institution in the beginning and other institutions were constituted at later stages;

(d) if so, what required to constitute them and the reasons for not conferring the powers of the proposed commission to the UGC by enlarging its jurisdiction; and

(e) the branches of the proposed commission which would work in various fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The need to establish an overarching regulatory body in higher, technical and professional education subsuming the existing regulatory bodies in these fields of knowledge such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic functions of the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the Council of Architecture(COA) etc. has been suggested by the Committee to Advise on Rejuvenation and Renovation of Universities (Yash Pal Committee). The National Knowledge Commission also had recommended an over-arching Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education. Para 32 of the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009 has stated the intent of Government to establish a National Council for Higher Education as recommended by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) and the Yash Pal Committee.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission was established for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education. Over time, Councils for regulation of several areas of professional education were established to focus specifically on certain fields of knowledge. While the creation of professional Councils did help in focusing attention on specialized areas of education, it has fragmented various fields of knowledge in the higher education from a policy perspective. It has become imperative that a holistic view of higher education is taken because of the increasingly converging nature of disciplines at the frontiers of emerging knowledge. This requires an entirely new regulatory architecture in higher education and the need to invest it with the autonomy to ensure the proper development of higher education with universities emerging as autonomous spaces where innovation can flourish.

(e) Government has constituted a Task Force to aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of the proposed regulatory structure which would unify technical, professional education and university education other than medical education and agricultural education, and the matter is under consideration.

Modernization of autonomous minority colleges

2537. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking steps for modernization and upgradations of autonomous minority colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds spent during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Whereas University Grants Commission (UGC) provides Development Grant to eligible autonomous colleges for modernization and upgradation, including those established by the minorities subject to their being eligible under the UGC Scheme for the purpose. Details of financial assistance provided to Minority colleges is not maintained separately.

Funds for University of Madras

2538. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether University of Madras has asked for Rs.100 crores from UGC as there is an urgent need to develop infrastructure such as hostel buildings for under privileged students, etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether funds worth Rs.4,000 crores allocated for expansion of general higher education in the country remain stuck in files with Planning Commission and have not reached UGC;
- (d) if so the details thereof;
- (e) whether University of Madras had been granted only Rs.16 crores as development fund under Eleventh Plan while Pondicherry University which is much younger and small had been granted Rs.252 cores; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), no proposal has been received by it from the University of Madras seeking grants of Rs. 100.00 crores to develop the infrastructure of the University. However, a Special Grant of Rs.100.00 crore has been sanctioned on the occasion of 150th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Madras.

- (c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The University of Madras is a State University established and maintained by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The Central Government provides only supplemental funds to State universities for development. Pondicherry University is a Central University established and fully funded by the Central Government. Therefore, the quantum of funds provided by the Central Government to the University of Madras and Pondicherry University can not be compared. However, grants for Plan Schemes of Rs. 11829.05 lakhs has been allocated and Rs.5647.22 lakhs has been released to the University of Madras and grants for Plan Scheme of Rs.12812.50 lakhs has been allocated and Rs. 5882.04 lakhs has been released to the Pondicherry University during the Eleventh Plan Period. Besides a sum of Rs 3062.00 lakhs has been provided to Pondicherry University in the Eleventh Plan period for expansion of capacity consequent to implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations for reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category in Central Educational Institutions.

Schemes for muslim girls

2539. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special schemes have been launched or are proposed to be launched for muslim girls, apart from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in Muslim concentrated districts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) are established under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme in educationally backward blocks for providing residential schools to SC, ST, OBC and Minority girls at upper primary level. KGBVs have been opened in 427 blocks in the country with a concentration of Muslim Population.

SSA also monitors programmatic interventions in 121 districts with a concentration of Muslim population. These include, *inter alia*, opening of new primary schools, opening of new upper primary schools, construction of additional classrooms and recruitment of teachers.

Apart from KGBV, the Department implements the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) to encourage traditional institutions to voluntarily introduce science, mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi, English in their curriculum so that children studying in these institutions attain academic proficiency.

(b) There are 13 KGBVs in Muslim concentration blocks in Andhra Pradesh. Apart from this, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that there is no special scheme for education of muslim girls in Andhra Pradesh.

Implementation of recommendations of Prof. Yashpal Committee

‡2540. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2695 given in Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2009 and state:

(a) the details of the funds demanded by his Ministry and Planning Commission for implementing the recommendations of Prof. Yashpal Committee, year-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to appoint additional 9.86 lakh teachers for improvement of student-teacher ratio, to provide twenty days in-service training for teachers, free distribution of text books to all children of primary and middle classes and regular evaluation of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No funds have been demanded by this Ministry for implementation of the recommendations of Prof. Yashpal Committee.

(b) Under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) since inception and till 30.09.2009, 10.11 lakh teachers have been appointed. Free textbooks have been provided to 9.05 crore children and inservice training to 21.79 lakh teachers during the current year up to 30.09.2009. For evaluation of students, NCERT conducts achievement surveys from time-to-time and the States are encouraged to put in place continuous and comprehensive assessment processes of students achievement.

Setting up of schools under PPP Model

2541. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel constituted by Planning Commission has proposed setting up of 2500 schools under the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model to cater to 40 lakh students;

(b) if so, whether 60 per cent of the enrolled students as select students, will be given Government assistance at the rate of Rs. 1600 each per month;

(c) whether the proposal suggests that Government should give the infrastructure grants for every school estimated to cost between Rs. 4.00 and Rs. 6.00 crore; and

(d) the other salient features of this 'Design, Build, Finance and Operate' model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not constituted any

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

such panel. A "Round Table on School Education" has been set up under this Ministry and that has constituted a sub-committee to develop a framework for public private partnership for schools.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Standard of education in the country

‡2542. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Prime Minister has recently remarked that the standard of education in the country is far below the standard of education at international level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In a speech made at the convocation of Punjab University on November 3, 2009, the Prime Minister had remarked that a major problem faced is in the quality of higher education that our institutions impart. It was stated that most of these institution produce pass outs who are nowhere near international standards.

(b) While there are several institutions of world class quality in India, the general standards of higher education requires improvement to match international standards. Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards, quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training; and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services, was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 years to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

Monitoring of children's right to education

2543. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to set up special cell to monitor children's right to education; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Section 31 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, or, as the case may be, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights constituted under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, shall perform the functions relating to the monitoring of child's right to free and compulsory education provided by or under the above mentioned Act regarding Right to Education. Section 33 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 also provides for constitution of National Advisory Council, whose function would be to advise the Central Government on implementation of the provision of the Act in an effective manner.

Minimum marks for JEE

2544. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the protests organized by Students' Unions across the country regarding change in the minimum marks required for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) from 60 to 80 per cent in class XII; and
- (b) the reaction of Government regarding this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, makes recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating class XII results with JEE results will help reduce dependence on coaching centres. Further, variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis. As the idea is yet to crystallise, it is too early to expect any reaction in concrete terms.

Launch of science channel by IGNOU

2545. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether IGNOU is launching a science channel to educate and create awareness among the students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken particularly for rural students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University has started the Test Transmission of Science Channel on 23.12.2008 on Gyan Darshan (GD-2). The transmission includes programmes produced by IGNOU and also Department of Science & Technology (DST). The channel aims to share knowledge and develop a scientific temper in the public and improve the teaching and research of the sciences. The programmes cater to the needs of viewers of both metro and non-metro regions. Initially, the programmes are in English and Hindi. This channel is also available on Direct to Home (DTH) platform of Door Darshan (DD) Direct Plus and Dish TV.

Seats for disadvantaged children in minority schools

2546. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is unwilling to let minority schools off the hook when it comes to setting aside 25 per cent of seats for disadvantaged children; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides for the following responsibilities of schools:

- (i) schools which are established, owned or controlled by the appropriate Government, or a local authority shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to all children admitted therein.
- (ii) schools receiving aid or grants to meet whole or part of its expenses from the appropriate Government or local authority shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to such proportion of children admitted therein as its annual recurring aid or grants so received bears to its annual recurring expenses, subject to a minimum of 25%.
- (iii) schools belonging to 'specified category' as defined in section 2 (p) of the Act, and unaided school shall admit in class I to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker 'Section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion.

Charging of exorbitant fee by schools

2547. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per norms of CBSE, no school affiliated to it should collect any fee, other than admission fee, from students;

(b) whether many schools affiliated to CBSE, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, are collecting exorbitant fee in the form of building fund or otherwise;

(c) if so, the details of such schools from A.P. and action contemplated against them;

(d) whether his Ministry has received any complaint that Navabharat School, affiliated to CBSE, at Paloncha, Khammam district, Andhra Pradesh has been collecting huge amounts as building funds, etc.; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Affiliation Bye-Laws of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) *inter-alia* prescribed the following:-

1. Fee charges of a school affiliated with the Board should be commensurate with the facilities provided by the institution.
2. Fees should normally be charged under the Heads prescribed by the Deptt. of Education of the State/U.T. for schools of different categories.
3. No capitation fee or voluntary donations for gaining admission in the school or for any other purpose should be charged/collected in the name of the school.

(b) and (c) The Board receives sporadic complaints against its affiliated private unaided schools. A complaint against Meridian School for Boys and Girls, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad A.P. was received in the year 2008 and the school was directed to adhere to the Affiliation Bye-Laws.

(d) No such complaint has been received by CBSE.

(e) Does not arise.

Visva Bharati University

2548. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESROUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that academic environment in the Visva Bharati has been witnessing sharp deterioration over the last several months, in particular, forcing virtual closure of the university for several weeks during October, 2009;

(b) if so, the reasons for the ongoing turmoil in Visva Bharati University;

(c) the steps taken, if any, - for restoration of the past glory and academic environment of this eminent seat of learning linked to Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore;

(d) whether any probe has been ordered into the conduct of the present Vice-Chancellor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Visva Bharati, the University has not witnessed any sharp-deterioration in its academic environment over the last several months. However, there had been a snap strike for eleven days from 24th October to 3rd November, 2009. The strike was triggered by transfer effected by the University authorities of two employees of 'Rabindra Bhavana' and issues raised subsequently regarding financial mismanagement, irregularities in appointments as well as allegations against the Vice-Chancellor. Following an intervention by the Chancellor (*Acharya*) of the University, the strike was called off from 4th November, 2009 and all academic and administrative activities were resumed from 5th November, 2009 onward. The University has reported that there is no disturbance on the University campus of present.

(c) To restore the University to its pre-eminence in the national and international arena and to re-establish it as a centre of excellence, keeping in view the recommendations of the High Level Committee headed by the Governor, West Bengal in his capacity as the Rector of the University, the Central Government, through the University Grants Commission, has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 95 crores, over and above its normal Eleventh Plan grant, to Visva Bharati.

(d) and (e) The University Grants Commission has, in exercise of its powers under Section 12 of the UGC Act 1956, *vide* its order dated 14th November, 2009 constituted a Fact Finding Committee to ascertain facts in regard to all allegations of financial mismanagement, misappropriation of funds, irregularities in appointments, charges of favouritism and nepotism against the University functionaries as also into the allegations against the Vice-Chancellor personally.

Central universities in North-Eastern States

2549. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESROUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central universities which have been established in North-Eastern States, particularly in Nagaland;

(b) the funds allocated to these universities during last three years;

(c) whether any proposals are pending before Government for providing latest modern technology and equipments for research in these universities;

(d) whether recruitment of staff has been completed or still some posts are lying vacant and the details thereof;

(e) whether any demand from these universities for financial assistance is pending before Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There are nine Central Universities under the purview of this Ministry that are located in the North-Eastern States. In Nagaland, there is only one Central

University. A list of such universities, as also the General Development Grant released by the University Grants Commission (UGC) during the last three years, is given in Statement-I (See below). In addition to this, the UGC has also released Rs 3911.96 lakhs under the Merged Scheme and of Rs. 8537.56 lakhs for development of infrastructure in these Universities.

(c) According to the information furnished by the UGC, there are no such proposals.

(d) Out of 1971 teaching posts sanctioned to these Central Universities, as on 31.3.2009, there are 657 vacant positions, The University-wise, post-wise, details are given in Statement-II (See below).

(e) and (f) The UGC has submitted a separate proposal to the tune of Rs. 75.25 crores in respect of certain Central Universities in the North Eastern Region for augmenting water supply, power, transport facilities, construction of road, etc, for taking up with the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region.

Statement-I

Central Universities in North - Eastern States

(Rs. in Lakhs)

<i>Grant allocated and released to the Central Universities in North Eastern Region</i>					
	Allocation	Year-wise release of grant			
	XI Plan	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Arunachal Pradesh					
1 Rajiv Gandhi University	5114.75	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Assam					
2 Assam University	7000.00	700.00	1050.00	800.00	2550.00
3 Tezpur University	9225.00	1158.76	4932.34	1200.00	7291.10
Manipur					
4 Manipur University	8797.20	1688.60	1619.12	1900.00	5207.72
Meghalaya					
5 North-Eastern Hill University	12380.00	2026.32	3689.53	0.00	5715.85
Mizoram					
6 Mizoram University	17032.50	1350.00	3857.13	1450.00	6657.13
Nagaland					
7 Nagaland University	8250.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Sikkim					
8 Sikkim University	10000.00	550.00	1725.00	0.00	2275.00
Tripura					
9 Tripura University	10000.00	1500.00	833.80	550.00	2883.80
Grand Total :	87799.45	10273.68	17706.92	5900.00	33880.60
As on 07.12.09					

Statement-II

Teaching staff-strength as on 31.3.2009 (Existing & vacant positions)

Sl. No.	Name of University	Sanctioned Posts					Existing Strength						No. of Vacant Positions									
		P	R	L	O	Total	Professor		Reader		SL/ SG		Lect	O	Total		Grand	P	R	L	O	Total
							DR	CAS	DR	CAS	CAS	DR			DR	CAS						
1	North Eastern Hill Univ.	81	112	151	0	344	58	46	91	29	22	39	0	188	97	285	23	21	15	0	59	
2	Assam University	28	75	163	0	266	20	20	56	8	15	100	0	176	43	219	8	19	20	0	47	
3	Tezpur University	32	46	90	0	168	23	3	24	9	19	48	0	95	31	126	9	19	14	0	42	
4	Nagaland University	44	50	114	4	212	14	11	39	3	15	73	0	126	29	155	19	8	26	4	57	
5	Mizoram University	43	67	228	0	338	22	2	40	4	12	135	0	197	18	215	21	26	76	0	123	
6	Manipur University	29	69	122	1	221	6	50	44	7	15	30	0	80	72	152	23	25	20	1	69	
7	Rajiv Gandhi University	13	27	84	0	124	5	10	6	19	8	41	0	52	37	89	8	11	16	0	35	
8	Tripura Unversity*	16	27	54	0	97	9	11	20	12	3	18	0	47	26	73	7	7	0	10	24	
9	Sikkim University*	29	68	104	-	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	201	
Total :		315	541	1110	5	1971	157	153	320	91	109	484	0	961	353	1314	118	136	187	15	657	

*New Central University; Posts Sanctioned recently.

Note: DR - Direct Recruitment, CAS - Career Advancement Scheme

Setting up of Central Madarsa Board

2550. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to set up Central Madarsa Board;
- (b) if so, by when and who will be the members; and
- (c) whether Government would seek experience of various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The proposal in regard to establishing a Central Madrasa Board, through an Act of Parliament, for standardizing the education in modern subjects of Science, Maths, etc. which are non-theological, was proposed in a report of a National Conference organized by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). Since it is not a proposal initiated by the Government, any decision in this regard shall be taken only in the event of there being consensus among all stakeholders. At present there are Madrasa Boards in the States of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education

2551. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide quality teachers in the country;
- (b) if so, whether National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has fixed any norms and standards for quality teachers and to ensure planned and coordinated development of teacher education in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education finalized by the NCTE for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government continuously takes steps for improving the quality of teacher education in the country. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) frames norms and standards for various teacher education courses, which are reviewed and revised periodically. Latest norms and standards have been notified on 31st August, 2009. The revised norms and standards *inter-alia* provide online receipt of applications, enhanced qualification for recruitment of teacher educators, improved teaching learning/instructional resources in teacher education institutions, increased number of working days for practical and school based experience, compulsory accreditation of the teacher training institutions by National Assessment and

Accreditation Council (NAAC) for additional courses and for additional intake to the existing courses. The NCTE also undertakes regular monitoring of the functioning of the recognized teacher training institutions to ensure quality teachers for the schooling system.

(d) The NCTE has prepared a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education which would be finalized in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders.

Setting up of NRI universities

2552. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced to set up NRI universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of universities to be established;
- (c) the steps taken so far in this direction and the reasons for inordinate delay in its implementation; and
- (d) the time-frame by which Government expects to establish such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, it is proposed to set up five Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)/Non Resident Indians (NRI) Universities in the country. The first PIO/NRI University is being set up at Bengaluru by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust. As per recommendations of the Advisory Board constituted for the purpose, action is underway on the part of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, to enact a Central legislation for setting up the university.

Proposals have been invited and received by the said Ministry for setting up four more PIO/NRI Universities in other cities. The time frame for establishing the four Universities would be worked out by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, after examination of the proposals received.

Modernisation of laboratories of polytechnic colleges

†2553. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal of modernization project of laboratories in 17 polytechnic colleges of Madhya Pradesh is pending before the Central Government since November, 2005;
- (b) if so, the reasons for pendency of this proposal; and
- (c) by when these will be sanctioned?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government has approved the Sub-Mission on Polytechnics under Coordinated Action for Skill Development in December, 2008 under which financial grant is provided for Modernization of Polytechnics during the Eleventh Plan. Till 7th December 2009, five polytechnics out of the 17 Polytechnic modernization projects of Madhya Pradesh have been sanctioned for release of funds.

Central grants for SSA

2554. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has substantially reduced Central share of grants under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme;
- (b) whether Government is aware that States have to incur huge expenditure on salary of primary school teachers, construction of schools/classrooms, etc.; and
- (c) if so, whether Government is considering to reverse its decision and to reintroduce the earlier Tenth Plan pattern of grants in the ratio of 75:25 between Centre and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Framework for Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme had provided a funding pattern of 50:50 during the 11th Plan period. However, taking into account the demand of State Governments for continuing with funding pattern of 10th Plan *i.e.* 75:25, the Central Government had reconsidered the matter and has notified the following revised funding pattern between Central Government and States for the 11th Plan:

- (i) 65:35 - during 2007-08 & 2008-09
- (ii) 60:40-during 2009-10
- (iii) 55:45 - during 2010-2011
- (iv) 50:50 - during 2011-12 and thereafter

In respect of the North Eastern (NE) States, the sharing pattern is in the 90:10 ratio after taking into account the Central share sourced from the 10% earmarked funds for the NE States in the SSA's Central Budget. Under SSA States incur expenditure on all components including teacher salary and civil works as per the approved sharing pattern. There is no proposal to revise the sharing pattern of SSA.

Central University of Koraput

2555. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central University of Koraput, Orissa is functioning at Bhubaneswar instead of functioning and working at Koraput;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government could consider also establishing Central university having medical college and engineering college one each at Bolangir and at Mayurbhanj-Baripada considering the poverty and backwardness of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central University of Orissa is functioning at Koraput and, pending development of its permanent campus, all the academic programmes offered by the University are being run from the campus of the Council of Analytical Tribal Studies (COATS) located in the heart of Koraput town. The University is, however, having a camp office at Bhubaneswar also for the time-being.

(c) Presently, it may not be possible for the Government to consider establishment of any more Central Universities in Orissa.

Schemes for promoting schooling of tribal children

2556. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of tribal children at the secondary and higher secondary levels in different States of the country;

(b) whether there is any specific scheme to promote the secondary and higher secondary schooling of tribal children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per Selected Educational Statistics 2006-07 compiled by this Ministry, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of ST students for classes IX-X was 41.75%. GER for ST students in classes XI-XII was 19.18%. The average pass percentages of ST students in the Secondary and Higher Secondary Examination - 2007 conducted by various Examination Boards in the country were 55.40 and 60.44 respectively. State wise details in this regard are given in Statement-I and Statement-II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education" implemented by this Ministry, a sum of Rs.3000 is deposited in the name of all eligible girls belonging to SC/ST, who enroll in class IX in Government, Government-aided or local body schools. The girl would be entitled to withdraw it along with interest thereon on reaching 18 years of age provided she complete 10th class successful and is not married. Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Girls' Hostel", which is meant for girls of secondary and higher secondary schools in educationally backward blocks, 50% of the seats are meant for girls belonging to SC/ST/OBC/minorities. There are also centrally sponsored scheme for construction of ST boys and girls hostels and for establishment of Ashram schools in tribal sub-plan areas which are implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Statement-I

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of Scheduled Tribe students (2006-07)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	GER for classes IX-X			GER for Classes XI-XII		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	59.10	50.01	54.98	55.93	33.35	45.12
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65.68	56.16	61.02	36.25	24.69	30.56
3	Assam	76.15	53.35	64.57	20.13	12.65	16.42
4	Bihar	21.78	13.18	17.76	21.04	9.77	15.86
5	Chhattishgarh	43.78	29.74	36.92	18.44	10.74	14.56
6	Goa#						
7	Gujarat	50.46	42.10	46.51	23.37	17.16	20.41
8	Haryana #						
9	Himachal Pradesh	108.83	109.80	109.31	73.94	62.57	68.21
10	Jammu & Kashmir	34.50	27.75	31.33	13.07	13.91	13.46
11	Jharkhand	30.61	23.38	27.12	3.75	2.42	3.08
12	Karnataka	59.62	53.33	56.66	35.52	27.39	31.81
13	Kerala	69.55	76.48	72.89	44.55	53.30	48.91
14	Madhya Pradesh	39.65	24.15	32.18	23.93	12.11	18.15
15	Maharashtra	50.34	38.50	44.76	29.82	17.95	24.10
16	Manipur	52.37	48.36	50.44	13.06	10.80	11.95
17	Meghalaya	44.89	47.77	46.32	24.86	22.38	23.63
18	Mizoram	68.84	71.27	70.03	27.83	25.58	26.70
19	Nagaland	32.07	30.27	31.18	15.89	15.96	15.92
20	Orissa	33.82	26.99	30.55	15.29	11.01	13.20
21	Punjab #						
22	Rajasthan	58.07	30.78	45.25	25.45	10.04	18.12
23	Sikkim	66.74	79.35	73.11	41.50	44.21	42.90
24	Tamil Nadu	76.04	72.97	74.62	35.82	37.74	36.72
25	Tripura	53.76	45.94	50.03	16.93	8.92	13.04
26	Uttar Pradesh	137.81	48.83	96.31	50.30	30.22	41.04
27	Uttarakhand	80.00	71.43	75.86	51.09	39.34	45.60
28	West Bengal	43.85	27.26	36.05	20.45	12.42	16.59
29	A&N Islands	87.20	94.35	90.53	25.84	37.61	31.59
30	Chandigarh #						
31	D&N Haveli	61.01	38.04	49.95	31.40	13.97	22.59
32	Daman & Diu	55.55	52.46	54.12	51.10	25.81	38.22
33	Delhi #						
34	Lakshadweep	53.29	52.25	52.79	34.54	46.69	39.77
35	Puducherry #						
	INDIA	47.48	35.49	41.75	23.39	14.72	19.18

Either there is no ST population or it is negligible, therefore GER rates in these States have not been calculated.

Statement-II

Examination Result of Scheduled Tribe students for the year 2007

High School			Higher Secondary					
Sl. No.	Name of the Board	Pass %age			Name of the Board	Pass %age		
		Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh	69.78	72.25	70.73	Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh	49.61	51.93	50.41
2	Board of Secondary Education, Assam	44.59	35.93	40.46	Assam Higher Secondary Education Council	55.02	53.81	54.46
3	Bihar School Education Board	54.53	52.94	54.07	Bihar Intermediate Education Council	62.75	67.66	64.19
4	Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education	39.15	38.16	38.74	Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education	64.41	70.11	66.40
5	Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi	76.80	71.56	74.52	Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi	71.54	75.34	73.16
6	Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Delhi	97.93	99.15	98.50	Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Delhi	92.75	96.86	94.72
7	National Institute of Open Schooling, Delhi	33.04	33.80	33.44	National Institute of Open Schooling, Delhi	36.66	38.01	37.32
8	Goa Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board	67.08	55.56	61.46	Goa Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board	74.15	79.49	76.00

9	Gujarat Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board	47.92	53.17	50.11	Gujarat Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board	83.49	91.11	86.77
10	Board of School Education, Haryana	62.42	74.07	64.20	Board of School Education, Haryana	76.67	82.35	78.72
11	H.P. Board of School Education	55.09	54.58	54.85	H.P. Board of School Education	63.56	68.32	65.70
12	J&K State Board of School Education	NA	NA	NA	J&K State Board of School Education	NA	NA	NA
13	Jharkhand Academic Council, Ranchi	76.35	81.92	78.54	Jharkhand Academic Council, Ranchi	65.72	73.65	68.95
14	Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board	81.79	83.48	82.52	Department of Pre- University Education, Karnataka	46.78	60.39	51.93
15	Kerala Board of Public Examination	56.19	64.78	60.27	Kerala Board of Higher Secondary Examination	64.74	62.12	63.29
16	Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education	61.81	61.94	61.86	Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education	49.72	56.31	52.00
17	Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh	42.32	42.65	42.43	Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh	70.36	77.21	72.49
IS	M.P. State Open School Board of Secondary Education	37.68	39.90	38.55	M.P. State Open School Board of Secondary Education	25.22	37.91	29.72
19	Board of Secondary Education, Manipur	78.82	69.85	74.30	Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur	60.76	60.92	60.83
20	Meghalaya Board of School Education	55.96	60.68	58.33	Meghalaya Board of School Education	55.96	60.63	58.30
21	Mizoram Board of School Education	89.83	77.07	83.31	Mizoram Board of School Education	56.11	58.70	57.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22	Nagaland Board of School Education	63.69	59.63	61.64	Nagaland Board of School Education	64.08	67.30	65.64
23	Board of Secondary Education, Orissa	53.37	48.15	51.27	Council of Hr. Secondary Education, Orissa	44.45	41.99	43.45
24	Punjab School Education Board	59.71	81.63	69.07	Punjab School Education Board	74.07	83.62	78.69
25	Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan	38.24	36.65	37.74	Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan	63.42	67.69	64.48
26	Tamil Nadu State Board of School Examination	70.10	73.17	71.48	Tamil Nadu State Board of School Examination	69.21	72.67	70.68
27	Tripura Board of Secondary Education	44.77	38.50	41.91	Tripura Board of Secondary Education	52.48	50.03	51.42
28	U. P. Board of High School & Intermediate Education	71.27	76.98	73.28	U.P. Board of High School & Intermediate Education	83.17	89.93	85.65
29	Uttarakhand Shiksha Evm Pariksha Parishad	NA	NA	NA	Uttarakhand Shiksha Evm Pariksha Parishad	56.10	76.01	64.40
30	West Bengal Board of Secondary Education	48.07	38.93	44.38	West Bengal Council of Higher Education, Kolkata	56.21	65.85	59.44
31	West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education	59.21	71.43	63.06	West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya (West Bengal State Open School)	26.17	27.96	27.11	Rabindra Mukta Vidyalaya (West Bengal State Open School)	7.02	11.76	9.38
	TOTAL	55.27	55.59	55.40	TOTAL	58.62	63.39	60.44

Requirement of specialized Post-Graduates

2557. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projection of annual requirement of specialized post-graduates over next five to ten years in different fields of specialization;
- (b) whether Government has planned infrastructure, qualified and trained faculty to deliver the good and world class standards;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per available information, no such projection of annual requirement of specialized post-graduates has been made. However, the Task Force constituted by the Government for strengthening basic scientific research in universities had *inter-alia*, recommended that the number of Ph.Ds from Indian Universities should increase five-fold within a span of ten years with proper standards and has suggested various measures to achieve this objective.

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

During the Eleventh Plan establishment of Central Universities in hitherto uncovered States has been envisaged. 15 New Central Universities have been notified on 15.1.2009 and a second Central University has been established in Jammu Division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) has been established for facilitating and promoting studies in areas concerned with the way of life of the tribal population in the country.

A new Regional Centre of the IGNTU has been inaugurated in Manipur. 374 model degree colleges in the districts having GER lower than national level with the Centre-State funding in the ratio of 1:1 for Special Category States and 1:2 for other States has also been proposed for which the University Grants Commission (UGC) has invited detailed project proposals from State Governments. Other scheme in the Eleventh Plan include incentivizing State Governments for setting up of new institutions or expansion of existing institutions with Central assistance, strengthening 6000 colleges and 150 State universities with focus on underserved areas to enable these institutions to fulfil the criteria for UGC assistance and additional assistance to 160 State universities and about 5500 colleges which are already declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. Eight new

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been set up during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan. Five new Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) have also been set up during this Plan period. Seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are also proposed to be established. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted second shift in certain engineering colleges and polytechnics. Expansion of intake in Central Educational Institutions by 54% has been undertaken consequent to the implementation of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 years to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

De-recognition of engineering institute

2558. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Jaypee Institute of Engineering and Technology, Guna, a constituent centre of Jaypee University of Information Technology, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, has been de-recognised by UGC on the ground that constituent centre of Deemed University has to be in same State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Institute at Guna was functioning for the last four years;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not raising any objection by UGC earlier;
- (e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for playing with the career of thousands of students; and
- (f) the efforts being made to save career of these students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) According to information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Waknaghat (Himachal Pradesh) is a Private University established by an Act of the Himachal Pradesh State Legislature. It came to the notice of UGC that the Jaypee Institute of Engineering and Technology (JIET), Guna (Madhya Pradesh) was functioning as a constituent unit of JUIT, Waknaghat. In the light of the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Prof. Yash Pal Vs. State of

Chhattisgarh & Ors., that universities established by State legislations can not have jurisdiction beyond the State, the UGC issued letters to Vice Chancellors of all Private Universities asking them to ensure that no off-campus centre is opened outside the State, and if any University has already opened any off-campus centre outside the State, it must be closed down. Accordingly, a resolution has been passed by the concerned Managing Trustee that no admission for academic session 2010-11 and onwards at JIET, Guna, shall be made under JUIT, Wagnaghat, and that Jaypee Institute of Engineering and Technology, Guna would cease to be a Constituent Unit of that University.

According to UGC, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JII), NOIDA, which is an institution declared as a deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC Act, has submitted a proposal to UGC to bring JIET, Guna as its "Off-campus centre".

Pay fixation anomaly cases of Kendriya Vidyalayas of Chandigarh Region

2559. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that many pay fixation anomaly cases of Sixth Pay Commission relating to Kendriya Vidyalayas of Chandigarh region have come to light;
- (b) if so, the details of Sixth Pay Commission's pending anomaly cases of Chandigarh region, Kendriya Vidyalaya-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not resolving such anomaly cases so far;
- (d) whether any responsibility has been fixed and action taken against officials responsible for the delay; and
- (e) the steps proposed to resolve such cases and by when these cases will be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that consequent upon implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission a number of cases of pay anomaly were reported from the Chandigarh Region of KVS and were disposed of. However, when the pay of an employee is stepped up after review, it is liable to give rise to discontentment of some other employees and may give rise to more cases of anomaly.

(b) The school-wise pendency of anomaly cases in the Chandigarh region of KVS is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Kendriya Vidyalaya	No. of cases pending
1	2	3
1	Ambala-2	01
2	Nahha Cantt	03
3	Jalalabad	06

1	2	3
4	Bathinda-5	01
5	Chandimandir-2	01
6	Patiala-2	01
7	Panipat (NFL)	01
8	Barnala (AFS)	01
9	Patiala-3	02

(c) The cases are pending in the Regional office, Chandigarh for various periods between February 2009 and October 2009. The main reason for pendency is the non-receipt of the required documents from the employees.

(d) and (e) KVS has informed that most of the cases of anomaly in fixation of pay have been resolved and no single individual is responsible for the delay. In order to settle the pending 17 cases of pay anomaly, the concerned employees have been asked to re-submit the complete proposals with necessary documents.

Setting up of model schools

2560. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up 6000 model schools including 2500 through public private partnership (PPP) by next academic session;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these proposed schools will impart quality education to 25 lakh underprivileged children;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has approved these proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Government has decided to set up 6000 model schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block as benchmarks of excellence. The first phase of the programme to establish 2500 schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) under the State Government was launched in November, 2008. The sharing pattern for both recurring and non-recurring expenditure of these schools would be 75:25 between Central Government and the State Governments except for the special category States for which the sharing pattern is 90:10. The schools are envisaged as co-educational schools having classes VI-XII or IX-XII. The outlay for the model school scheme during the 11th Plan is Rs. 12,750 crores and the budget provision during 2009-10 is Rs.350 crore. 2500 model schools out of 6000 are envisaged to be set up through public private partnership.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission was consulted before the finalization of the first phase of the scheme.

Effect of GST system

2561. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state in what manner changes proposed in the GST system would affect the units not currently paying excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): Under the central excise law applicable to goods produced or manufactured in India, the current exemption limit is Rs. 1.5 crore. The exemption is available to a unit having a turnover of less than Rs. 4 crore in the preceding financial year. The Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers has recently released first discussion paper outlining the scheme of Goods and Services Tax (GST). It has proposed a two tier GST system, one levied by the Centre (commonly known as Central GST or CGST) and other levied by the States (commonly known as State GST or SGST) on supply of goods and services. For CGST, it has recommended a threshold limit of Rs. 1.5 crore (applicable to both manufacturers and dealers).

Implementation of PMEGP

2562. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has pulled up Khadi and Village Industries Commission for failure of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme in 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether incidentally Government managed to provide funds to only 36287 projects in micro, small and medium enterprises sector against a target of financing 61227 projects during the year;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken action to improve implementation of decision of the programme; and

(d) whether with global and domestic economy showing signs of upturn, Indian companies engaged in man-made fibre business are back to drawing up expansion plans to ramp up capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit linked subsidy programme and banks finance as much as 60% of the project cost after assessment of their viability, the target in terms of number of projects, and employment likely to be generated are only estimated figures. Actual achievement would depend among various factors, on the nature, cost and location of projects/units.

Implementation guidelines of PMEGP could be issued in September 2008 after obtaining approval of the competent authority in August 2008. Preliminary activities of implementation like publicity, workshops, distribution of targets, etc. took some time as it involved coordination by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) of State Governments and about 850 nodal branches as well as 12000 financing bank branches spread across the country. Imposition of model code conduct of General Elections, elections in six States in 2008, and delay in constitution of District Level Task Force (DLTF) by concerned State Governments also resulted in less availability of time for actual implementation of the programme.

Despite the constraints in implementation of PMEGP mentioned above, a total of 36,281 projects could be got sanctioned by banks and loans could actually be disbursed in 25507 cases in 2008-09 for creation of estimated employment opportunities for 2.55 lakh persons.

For improved implementation of PMEGP and achieving the targets during 2009-10, all Chief Ministers have been requested to instruct the State implementing agencies, namely, DICs, KVIBs and Banks to put in more concerted efforts in improving the performance of PMEGP. Regular review meetings are also being undertaken by National Level Monitoring Committee, KVIC and others including communication of district level targets well in advance by KVIC, etc. Project profiles of more than 300 model projects have been made available in the websites namely www.kvic.org.in and www.pmegp.in and around 515 training centres across the country have been accredited by KVIC for imparting EDP training to the PMEGP beneficiaries for facilitating the offtake of bank finance with margin money subsidy.

(d) The Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has not noticed any significant expansion plan of Indian companies launched recently to ramp up capacities in the segment of man-made fibre production. Moreover, as per the records of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the installed capacity of man-made fibre industry during 2007-08 was 1659 Mn.Kg. and the same increased to 1763 Mn. Kg as in September 2009.

Dedicated units of KVIC

2563. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether there are dedicated units whose entire range of products are procured by Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, whether such units have adequate access to institutional finance on subsidized rate of interest; and

(c) the value of the products purchased by KVIC during 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) facilitates the marketing of the products produced by the khadi and village industry (KVI) institutions enlisted with KVIC and State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs). KVIC operates 12 Department Bhawans/salcs outlets, which are located in metropolitan cities and some other urban areas which are important links between the rural artisans producing a variety of products and the consumers living in urban areas in a regular way by making available the exclusive KVI items for all age groups of customers under one roof. The departmentally managed sales outlets secured the ISO 9001:2000 Certification for best management practices.

(b) Institutions registered with KVIC and State KVIBs are entitled to avail capital expenditure as well as working capital loan from banks at subsidized rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme of KVIC. The difference between the actual lending rate and 4 per cent is borne by the KVIC.

As far as village industries sector is concerned, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has been introduced in 2008-09 under which margin money subsidy is provided for setting up of micro-enterprises costing upto Rs. 10 lakh in service sector and Rs. 25 lakh in manufacturing sector. The margin money subsidy provided under PMEGP is 25 per cent (35 per cent for weaker sections) of the project cost for rural areas while it is 15 per cent (25 per cent for weaker sections) for urban areas.

(c) There is no centralized system of purchasing the items. As stated above, KVIC operates 12 Departmental Bhawans/sales outlets that procure saleable items from the producing KVI institutions/units as per the requirement and saleability of the products and the procurement price of the KVI items varies from State to State, depending upon the cost of materials, transportation as well as other overhead costs. The sales turnover of these departmental sales outlets during 2008-09 was Rs. 49.13 crore.

Sick units of MSMEs

†2564. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the number of sick units in small and medium industries of the country are increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to make small and medium sick industrial units in the country profitable; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in the country has come down from 1,14,132 as at the end of March 2007 to 1,02,951 as at the end of March 2009. Information in respect of medium enterprises is not being collated by the RBI.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance, by way of debt restructuring, including fresh loans, for the rehabilitation of sick MSE is provided by the primary lending institutions (PLIs), including commercial banks, which provide credit to the MSEs. For this purpose, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness in MSE at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick MSEs identified as potentially viable. RBI has also issued guidelines on 8th September 2005 on debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) based on the "Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises" announced by the Central Government on 10 August 2005. These, guidelines relate, *inter alia*, to viability criteria, prudential norms for restructured accounts, provision of additional finance and time frame for working out the restructuring package and its implementation. Further, the RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks on May 4, 2009 to apply the RBIs guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and put in place their own non-discretionary one-time settlement (OTS) policy for the MSE sector.

Funds released to Uttarakhand under PMRY

2565. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to Uttarakhand under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years;

(b) the number of villages benefited as a result thereof; and

(c) the funds proposed during the year 2009-2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is not being implemented with effect from 2008-2009 as a new scheme namely Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has been formulated by merging two employment generation schemes viz., PMRY and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) earlier being implemented by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The details of fund released to Government of Uttarakhand during 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 under PMRY are as under:

Year	Funds released (Rs. lakh)
2006-2007	83.49
2007-2008	81.14

Funds for subsidy payable to the individual beneficiaries were routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which in turn passed them to the implementing banks for crediting the admissible subsidy to the loan accounts of beneficiaries.

PMRY was a credit linked subsidy scheme and its objective was to assist the educated unemployed youth of economically weaker sections in setting up of self employment ventures in industry, service and business sectors. Initially, the PMRY was implemented only in urban areas of the country. With effect from 1994-1995, it was implemented in both urban and rural areas. The number of beneficiaries in Uttarakhand to whom loans were disbursed during 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 as reported by Reserve Bank of India are as under:

Year	No.of beneficiares (persons to whom loan disbursed by banks)
2006-2007	7573
2007-2008	7737

Protection and promotion of MSMEs

2566. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided, as a matter of policy, to promote micro, small and medium enterprises by investing substantial amounts of money;
- (b) whether Government believes in "small is beauty" principle in order to protect the small investors by giving them loans with meager interests; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken so far to protect and promote small-scale industries and enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) To facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and enhance their competitiveness, the Government has announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' on 10th August 2005 which envisages public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding of MSMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to the MSME sector. The Government has also announced in February 2007 a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure etc. Further, keeping in view the impact of global economic slowdown on MSMEs, the Government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Public Sector Banks have taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs which, *inter alia*, include: (i) extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.50 lakh to

Rs.1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50%; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent of credit facility up to Rs.5 lakh; (iii) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; (iv) refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; (v) grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vi) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent. These have resulted in increasing the outstanding credit to micro and small enterprises sector from public sector banks from Rs. 1,51,137 crore as at the end of March, 2008 to Rs.1,91,307 crore as at the end of March 2009.

New rail line from Sevak to Sikkim

†2567. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has started survey and work for the construction of new rail lines from Sevak to Sikkim;
- (b) whether Government is planning to upgrade Sevak railway station; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to open railway counter at Sevak station keeping in view the convenience of passengers of Duwars, Kalimpong, Sikkim regions etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The construction of new line from Sivok to Rangpo (Sikkim) has been taken up. The length of the line is 52.7 Km and cost as per the initial survey is Rs. 1339.48 crore. The Final Location Survey is in progress. The work has been entrusted to M/s IRCON, a PSU under Ministry of Railways, for execution.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Two railway counters have been provided at the station which is considered adequate.

Better facilities to foreign passengers

2568. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI GIREEESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Passenger Amenities Committee has recommended to allow travellers a better view of outside special coaches exclusive for foreigners and better communication system to reach train drivers in case of emergency so that ancient alarm chain system can be done away with;
- (b) if so, whether they have also recommended that railways should consider bigger size window with clear glasses; and
- (c) if so, the details of any other suggestions made and by when Government is likely to implement these suggestions and provide special rail coaches for foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No formal recommendation has been received.

- (c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

New rail line projects in Gujarat

2569. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether survey with regard to construction of 10 new railway lines in Gujarat has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary support for the anticipated cost; and
- (c) the present status of the said new railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) In the last three years, surveys for following new lines in Gujarat have been completed:

- (i) Bhavnagar-Mahuva (118 km)
- (ii) Harij-Mahesana-Radhanpur (108 km)
- (iii) Porbandar-Porbandar Port (5 km)
- (iv) Ningala-Gadhad-Babra-Khijadiya (68 km)
- (v) Mahesana-Taranga Hill (Gauge Conversion) with extension up to Ambaji (New Line) (108 km)
- (vi) Modasa-Shamlaji (23 km)
- (vii) Bhavnagar-Tarapur (135 km).

Out of the above, proposal of Modasa-Shamlaji has been sanctioned as part of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project at an anticipated cost of Rs. 55.97 crore.

New policy for container train operators

2570. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry is considering a policy to allow container train operators to use private sidings to load traffic;
- (b) whether at present such operators are not allowed to load traffic from private sidings;
- (c) whether her Ministry is considering a proposal under which box train operators may be allowed to pick up such commodities as cement, foodgrains, chemicals and fertilizers and iron and steel;
- (d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped;
- (e) whether she had announced in budget for framing such a policy; and
- (f) if so, whether present policy has been helpful to operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, except in case of few private sidings where it had been permitted initially.

(c) to (f) As per existing instructions cement, foodgrains, chemicals, fertilizers and iron and steel are permitted commodities which can be loaded by Container Train Operators from a Rail Terminal including Railway goods sheds where container operations are feasible. In the Budget 2009-10, an announcement had been made for allowing Container Train Operators to use private sidings to load traffic. This will provide additional business opportunities to operators.

Unauthorised train journey

2571. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of touts, agents and passengers travelling on others' tickets or without tickets have been arrested by Railways since August, 2009 to 30 November, 2009; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise and division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Due to gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, some cases of touts buying and selling of railway tickets in fictitious names and passengers travelling on others' tickets and without tickets, do come to notice. The zone-wise figures in respect of the above for the period August, 2009 to October, 2009 are given in the table below. Since persons travelling on others' tickets in reserved accommodation and persons travelling without tickets are apprehended and charged by the ticket checking staff in the running trains, division-wise figures of such passengers are not segregated.

The zone-wise figures in respect of touts apprehended, passengers apprehended while travelling on others' tickets and passengers caught travelling without tickets for the period August 2009 to October, 2009 are as under:

Railway	No. of touts/agents apprehended	No. of persons apprehended travelling on tickets purchased in others' names	No. of passengers caught travelling without tickets. (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
Central	0	733	2.58
Eastern	0	52	1.22
East Central	10	0	1.07
East Coast	3	7	0.39
Northern	37	95	3.90
North Central	0	26	1.62

1	2	3	4
North Eastern	3	0	0.95
Northeast Frontier	1	27	0.54
North Western	2	47	0.83
Southern	437	5661	1.26
South Central	7	199	2.23
South Eastern	24	45	0.68
South East Central	2	0	0.44
South Western	0	1477	0.53
Western	13	476	2.51
West Central	3	128	0.80
TOTAL	542	8973	21.55

Sub-zonal headquarters at Ahmedabad

2572. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is predominately sharing in the Western Railway networks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the share of Gujarat in freight and passenger traffic carried by Western Railway has considerably increased; and

(c) if so, whether feasibility will be explored by her Ministry to establish a separate Sub-Zonal Headquarter at Ahmedabad in order to have easy access?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no provision to set up Sub-Zonal Headquarter on Indian Railway System. However, there is a divisional headquarters at Ahmedabad to cater to the needs of the area.

Proposal for new rail line projects in Rajasthan

2573. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not accepted the proposal of some new rail line projects for Rajasthan because of paucity of funds; and

(b) looking to the poor railway network in the State whether Government is going to accept the projects to link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line, Jaisalmer to Sanu Jaisalmer to Barmer, and Jaipur to Nathdwara for industrial, mining and tourism development of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Rajasthan has the second largest route kilometres among all the states of the country. Projects for new line are sanctioned based upon their financial viability, operational advantages, regional development, socio-economic considerations, etc.

An updating survey for a 27 km long new line linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad BG line has been completed recently. As per the survey report, the cost of this new line has been assessed as Rs. 153.73 crore. North Western Railway has been asked to review the cost of the proposed new line. A separate survey for Jaisalmer-Sanu (25 kms) new Broad Gauge line has not been taken up.

The survey for Jaisalmer-Barmer as a part of Jaisalmer-Kandla had been completed in 2005-06 and project was not taken up. Jaipur-Nathdwara is already connected by railway line via Ajmer-Marwar and via Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Mavli.

Vacant posts of safety personnel

†2574. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many posts of safety personnel are lying vacant in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that as a result of acute shortage of safety men, the number of rail accidents is increasing; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is going to fill up these vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.09, 89024 safety related posts are lying vacant.

(c) and (d) The number of consequential train accidents have declined over the years. As regards filling up of the vacant posts, the same is a continuous process and the policy of railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Augmenting trains in North-Eastern Railway

2575. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for augmenting train services in North-Eastern Railway;

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

(c) the details of the augmentation proposed to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Augmentation of train services is an on-going process. In the Railway Budget 2009-10, introduction of 8 pairs of new train services, extension of 2 pairs and increase in frequency of 2 pairs of existing trains has been announced catering to the areas covered under the North Eastern Railway.

Ticket checking in running trains

2576. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ticket checking in running trains has decreased considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to intensify the ticket checking in running trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the year 2009-10 (upto October,09), 9.61 lakh checks have been conducted against ticketless/irregular travel, as against 9.11 lakh checks during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) Regular/surprise checks are conducted in association with Railway Magistrates and Police against ticketless/irregular travel. These checks are monitored by officers at various levels and intensified during peak rush and festival periods. Besides, Intensive Check Posts have been set up at important stations to curb ticketless travel in unreserved segments. In addition, campaigns are also launched through various media to educate the public about the consequences of travelling without tickets. To deter ticketless/irregular travel, the minimum penalty has also been enhanced from Rs.50/- to Rs. 250/- with effect from 01.07.2004.

Trains between Mathura and Kanpur

2577. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains presently operating between Mathura and Kanpur *via* Kasganj and Farrukhabad; and

(b) the steps being taken to provide more trains on that sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) At present, there is no direct train service between Mathura and Kanpur *via* Kasganj-Farrukhabad. However, a direct train service between Mathura and Kanpur *via* Kasganj & Farrukhabad would become available upon the introduction of the proposed 5107/5108 Mathura-Chhapra Express, which will be introduced during the current financial year.

Repairing of old bridges

2578. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of old bridges have undergone strengthening over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, particularly in Maharashtra;
- (c) the present status thereof; and
- (d) the criteria adopted therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Rehabilitation/ rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is an ongoing work on Indian Railways. Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field. During the last three years, number of bridges which have been rehabilitated/ rebuilt/ strengthened are 1388 in 08-09, 1208 in 07-08 and 1114 in 06-07 on Indian Railway's network, which has 1,30,776 number of bridges as on 1.4.09.

(b) Details on Railway Bridges is maintained zone wise. Maharashtra is served by Central, South Central, South East Central, South Western and Western Railway. No. of bridges on these railways rehabilitated/ rebuilt/strengthened in last 3 years, which includes bridges in Maharashtra, are as below:

Railway	06-07	07-08	08-09
CR	62	65	67
SCR	80	83	66
SECR	65	65	40
SWR	21	26	58
WR	102	91	112
TOTAL	330	330	343

(c) Balance number of bridges on above railways sanctioned for rehabilitation/ rebuilding/ strengthening as on 1.04.09 are as below:

Railway	Balance no. of bridges as on 1.04.09
CR	122
SCR	214
SECR	168
SWR	167
WR	342
TOTAL	1013

(d) Railway undertakes rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field and not on the basis of age. Therefore, all old bridges do not necessarily require rehabilitation/ strengthening/ rebuilding. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/strengthening/rebuilding duty prioritizing the works as per requirement.

Computerized reservation facilities

2579. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places in respect of which requests/demands have been received for providing computerized reservation facility at railway stations in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) the details of stations where Government intends to provide this facility;

(c) the criteria for the same; and

(d) the stations where Government is not going to provide this facility along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) 18 requests/demands have been received by North Eastern Railway for providing computerized reservation facility. Out of this, 4 stations have already been provided with computerized reservation facility and work is in progress at 7 more stations. List is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per existing policy, computerized reservation facilities are generally provided at locations where the assessed potential is about 100 transactions per day. At places where assessed potential is less than 100 transactions per day, this facility is provided along with the Unreserved Ticketing System. Computer Reservation System is also provided at selected post offices.

(d) Proposal at balance stations will be taken up as soon as the requirement reaches the normative level.

Statement

Computerized reservation facilities

Sl. No.	Location	Remarks
1	2	3
1	Brimanganj	Under consideration
2	Dohrighat	Under consideration
3	Kasbathal	Under consideration
4	Sahjanwa	Under consideration
5	Khaira	Work in progress
6	Jharkhandi	Under consideration
7	Bazpur	Facility provided

1	2	3
8	Saharnatganj	Under consideration
9	Naipalganj Road	Work in progress
10	Nanpara	Facility provided
11	Bajjnath	Work in progress
12	Garun	Work in progress
13	Hatras	Facility provided
14	Mech. Work Shop/GKP	Under consideration
15	Utraula	Work in progress
16	Siwan Kachery	Work in progress
17	Gamri Bazar	Facility provided
18	Kathgodam Mill Station	Work in progress

Proposal for new railway lines from Maharashtra

2580. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals from Government of Maharashtra for new railway lines;

(b) if so, the present status of these proposals; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in sanctioning these lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of proposals from Maharashtra Government for new railway lines alongwith their status are as under:-

S. No.	Proposals for new line submitted by Govt. of Maharashtra during the last three years	Status
1	2	3
1.	Satara-Pandharpur-Miraj & Baramati to Miraj New Line.	Survey not sanctioned. However, Baramati -Lonand new line is sanctioned which would connect Baramati to Miraj.
2.	Manmad-Dhule-Shirpur-Indore (3.50 km) & Manmad Sillod	Survey completed. However, survey for Manmad-Sillod is not sanctioned.
3.	Pandharpur-Lonand	Survey completed recently.
4.	Guhagar (Chiplun)- Lonand	Survey not sanctioned.
5.	Jalna-Washim	Survey not sanctioned.
6.	Shegaon-Jalna	Survey not sanctioned.
7.	Manmad-Malegaon	Survey completed in 2004-05. Project could not be taken up due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.

1	2	3
8.	Pune-Nagar-Nashik	Survey completed in 2000-01. Project could not be taken up due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
9.	Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad	Survey completed in 2004-05. Project could not be taken up due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
10.	Miraj-Kavthe Mahankal Jat-Vijapur Miraj-Tasgaon Vita-Phalton-Baramati	Survey not sanctioned.
11.	Ghatnandur to Parli new line	Survey not sanctioned.
12.	Kalyan to Malshej Ghat <i>via</i> Ahmednagar	Survey taken up.
13.	Malkapur-Solapur	Survey not sanctioned.
14.	Rotegaon-Puntamba	Survey taken up.
15.	Kanakavli-Kolhapur	Survey not sanctioned.
16.	Kolhapur-Ratnagiri	Survey completed in 2000-01. Project could not be taken up due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
17.	Karad-Chiplum	Survey taken up.
18.	Jalna-Khamgaon	Survey completed in 2001-02. Project could not be taken up due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
19.	Dhule-Nardhana	Survey completed.
20.	Barshi-Beed-Jalna-Hingoli- Yavatmal-Wardha	Survey not sanctioned. However, Wardha-Yavatmal-Pusad-Nanded included in the Budget 2008-09.
21.	Wadsa- Armori - Gadchiroli	Survey completed.

Conversion of Chennai Central and Tiruchirapalli stations to World Class

2581. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has commenced the work of stations namely Chennai Central and Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu for conversion into World Standard level; and

(b) if so, the details of allocation made for the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Chennai Central has been identified for development into World Class Station through Public Private Partnership (PPP) by leveraging the real-estate potential of the land around and the air space above the station. Action for appointment of consultant for preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility Report has been taken.

As regards to Tiruchirapalli Jn., the same has been taken up for development as a Adarsh Station. A Multi-functional Complex is also planned at Tiruchirapalli Jn.

Development of high yielding seeds of pulses and oilseeds

2582. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Agriculture sector accounted for only 17 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to develop new high yielding seeds, especially of pulses and oilseeds, to increase the share of Agriculture sector in GDP; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to encourage agriculture scientists to develop new/ varieties of seeds of pulses and oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Revised Estimate for 2008-09 released by the Central Statistical Organization, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices for Agriculture & allied sectors accounts for 17 percent of total GDP.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. One of the thrust areas of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is refinement of seed-production technologies and production of breeder seed with added emphasis on hybrid cultivars. New initiatives like development of Cytoplasmic Male Sterility (CMS) based hybrids in pigeonpea, pyramiding of resistance genes for stable and durable resistance etc. and providing need based funds for research have been taken up. Research programmes like conservation of agriculture, precision farming, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) technologies are also under priority research. Scientists are encouraged to receive the training in advanced laboratories.

Railway Committees

2583. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of leading intellectuals have been asked to head Railway Committees;

(b) if so, the details of the Committees including names of the Chairmen and the Members; and

(c) the details of functions, status, remunerations and perquisites of Chairmen and Members of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) A Committee on Heritage and Culture headed by Ms Saoli Mitra has been formed.

(b) and (c) The details of the Committee, its composition, Terms of reference (functions), remunerations and other perquisites/status etc., are given in Statement.

Statement

Committee on Heritage and Culture headed by Ms. Saoli Mitra

Composition		Terms of Reference (Functions)	Remuneration	Perquisites
		Main functions of the Committee are		Travelling facilities & allowances
Chairperson		i) To review the existing cultural activities, organizations and related matters on indian Railways; ii) To review the developments and promote India’s rich rail heritage; iii) To give recommendations for setting up of professional institutions Cultural Centres, Film Cities and Studios etc. at locations identified by the Committee through PPP; iv) The Committee will also develop an 'Annual Cultural Events Calendar' for Indian Railways; v) To suggest and provide directions for holding cultural seminars, talk shows, TV programmes and making and showing of documentary films on various aspects of indian Railways and Indian Culture and Heritage; vi) To promote and showcase Indian Railways heritage and culture through exclusive exhibitions; and vii) To promote development of Art Galleries and Handicraft Centers at Railway Stations in major cities and moving libraries on trains.	As per Government Rules on Committees. However, several Members are not receiving any payment and are working on honorary basis.	As per Government Rules on Committees
Ms. Saoli Mitra				
Members				
i)	Shri Bibhash Chakraborty			
ii)	Smt. Arpita Ghosh			
iii)	Shri Ratan Thyiam			
iv)	Dr. G.S. Rautela			
v)	Ustad Rashid Khan			
vi)	Shri Joy Gosvami			
vii)	Dr. S.S. Biswas			
viii)	Shri Rituparna Ghosh			

High speed southern rail corridor

2584. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested that a high speed southern rail corridor between Chennai-Mumbai *via* Bengalooru and Hubli with an additional link between Bengalooru and Mysore, be planned; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by her Ministry on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among the six corridors that have been identified by the Ministry of Railways for carrying out the pre-feasibility studies for High Speed corridor, one corridor *viz.* Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam passes through the State of Karnataka. For the identified corridors, the policy of the Ministry of Railways is that the cost of pre-feasibility studies shall be shared equally between the Ministry of Railways and the concerned State Governments. For all other corridors, the Ministry of Railway's policy is that the concerned State Governments shall bear 80% of the cost of the pre-feasibility studies and the balance cost by Ministry of Railways. Ministry of Railways are therefore willing to bear 20% cost of the pre-feasibility study for the Bangalore-Hubli-Mumbai corridor and the same has been communicated to the Government of Karnataka. Since State Government of Karnataka has not responded, no further action could be taken.

Railway Pension Fund

2585. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Pension Fund constituted in 1964 for meeting the expenditure on pensionary benefits to retiring employees was to be financed on the basis of actual calculation;

(b) if so, whether Railways' contribution to the fund continued to be with reference to the trend of actual withdrawals every year; and

(c) whether an actuarial assessment done in 2005 reckoned the accrued liability of pension to Rs 5,41,947 crores and how Railways plans provisioning of such magnitude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. An actuarial assessment done in 2005-06 placed the accrued liability of pension on Railways at Rs 5,41,947 crore. Since Railways, as a part of Government of India follows Government accounting principles, actuarial assessment, which is based on accrual accounting,

was not considered for implementation. Provisioning of such magnitude was also not considered feasible by the Railways. The Railways have continued with the existing system of appropriation to Pension Fund based on the trend of withdrawals.

Rail accident near Mathura and installation of anti-collision device

2586. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the actual number of deaths in railway accident at Mathura due to collision of two express trains;
- (b) the preliminary findings of enquiry;
- (c) the time-frame of enquiry;
- (d) the status of installations of anti-collision devices in Railways; and
- (e) the number of anti-collision devices required and time to be taken to install the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On 21.10.2009 at 04.55 hrs., 2779 Goa Express collided with 2964 Mewar Express on Mathura-Vrindavan Road block section of Agra Division of North Central Railway. In this accident, 23 persons lost their lives.

(b) As per findings of Preliminary report submitted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, this accident occurred due to not maintaining integrity of the signaling system in the automatic signaling territory by Signal and Telecommunication department of Agra division.

(c) The Commissioner of Railway Safety is expected to submit his Final report shortly.

(d) The Anti-Collision Device (ACD), developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), was approved as a pilot project for Northeast Frontier Railway. It was installed on 1736 Route Kilometers of Northeast Frontier Railway. Based on the experience over Northeast Frontier Railway, revised specifications for Anti-Collision Device have been framed. ACD System to the revised specifications is to be developed by KRCL and this is planned to be installed for trial on three Railway Zones (Southern, South Central and South Western Railways) covering 1600 Route Kilometres.

(e) Further proliferation of Anti-Collision Device on Indian Railways will be planned based on performance evaluation of the equipment with improved specifications on the Southern, South Central and South Western Railways.

Proposal from new rail projects in Punjab

2587. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab has proposed any new rail projects and the extension of the existing rail links; and

(b) if so, the details of each pending project and the action so far taken/ proposed to be taken by Railways in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Chief Minister, Punjab had requested for certain new line projects, details of which alongwith action taken thereon is as under:-

S.No.	Proposal	Action taken
1.	New line between Patti (On Amritsar-Khemkaran line) and Mallanwala (On Jalandhar-Ferozepur line)	Survey has been conducted for different alignments to connect the two lines from Ferozepur to Patti and Mallanwala Khas to Gharayala. The cost of Mallanwala Khas-Gharayala (25 Km) new line has been assessed as Rs. 147 crore. The survey report is under finalisation.
2	Rama Mandi-Maur Mandi new line	Survey has been completed for Rama Mandi-Maur Mandi new line as per which cost of 32 Km long line was assessed as Rs. 123 crore. Northern Railway has been asked to examine alternative alignment from Rama Mandi to Sadda Singhwala.

Overground and underground rail bridges in Maharashtra

2588. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for construction of overground and underground rail bridges proposed by the State Government of Maharashtra and local bodies in the State that are pending with Government; and

(b) the number out of them which were cleared by Railways during last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Only 7 (out of which 6 have recently been received) proposals are pending.

(b) Since 2007-08 till 2009-10, 11 firm proposals were sponsored by State Government for sanction on cost sharing basis, which have already been sanctioned in the Railway's respective Works Programmes. These are at different stages of planning and execution.

Commencement of work of Adarsh Railway Stations

2589. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has commenced the work to convert railway stations into Adarsh Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details of fund allocations for Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of railway station as Adarsh Station is undertaken through works sanctioned under Plan Head - Passenger Amenities. State-wise allocation of funds for this Plan Head is not maintained. However, allocation of funds under this Plan Head for Southern Railway, which covers the State of Tamil Nadu, is Rs. 7536.40 lakh for the year 2009-10.

High speed parcel train

2590. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway is running a high speed parcel train from Tughlaqabad (Delhi) to Vapi (Gujarat);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways proposes to operate such trains in future on other sectors also; and

(d) if so, the details with destinations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A superfast parcel express train service is operating from Tughlakabad (Delhi) to Vapi (Gujarat) and Howrah as a pilot project. Another such service is being planned between Tughlakabad to Royapuram under the pilot project. Efforts are being made to popularize the superfast parcel express train services.

Absorption of Act Apprentices

2591. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 1 July, 2009, General Manager, Southern Railway issued a notification to absorb Act Apprentices of Railway;

(b) whether on 14 October, 2009, Railways published a list of Act Apprentices in its website and directed them to join on 15 October, 2009;

(c) whether on 14 October, 2009, Southern Railway administration received directions to stop the recruitment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On 1.7.2009, Notification was issued by Southern Railway calling applications from amongst Course Completed Act Apprentices for their engagement as substitutes in Group D posts.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Southern Railway has published the result on 10.11.09 and candidates have been advised to join as substitutes in Group 'D'

Nangal-Talwara-Pathankot rail line project

2592. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Nangal-Talwara-Pathankot rail line in Punjab, which was started decades ago;

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(c) the specific steps proposed to ensure speedy action in its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Nangal Dam-Churaru Takrala (33 Km) portion of Nangal Dam-Talwara new line project is completed. Work on Churaru Takrala-Amb Andara section (11.25 Km) is targeted to be completed by December, 2009. The work is progressing as per availability of resources. Steps are being taken to generate additional funds for expediting implementation of ongoing projects.

Construction of Indore-Peethampur rail track

†2593. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal with regard to construction of Indore-Peethampur rail track is pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the current status of the proposal and the steps taken for the construction of it;

(c) whether more time taken is likely to escalate the cost to execute the work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Indore-Pithampur is a part of Dahod-Indore new line project which has been taken up at an anticipated cost of Rs. 948.80 crore. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 41.43 crore has been incurred upto 31.03.2009 and an outlay of Rs. 40 crore has been provided during 2009-10.

(c) and (d) The works shall be completed in coming years based on availability of resources. Cost may escalate with time.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Surplus land of Railways near Sankrail in Howrah

2594. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to utilize surplus railway lands for mobilizing additional financial resources;
- (b) if so, whether Government has surplus land near Sankrail in Howrah;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and since when it has remained idle;
- (d) the details of original price paid as compensation to owners;
- (e) whether Government will consider reverting back this land to State Government for setting up industries;
- (f) if so, the future plans thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) whether the land may be reverted back to original former owners or to their descendants; if so, the plans thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Duranto Trains

2595. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Duranto non-stop express trains have started from Delhi to Sealdah and Chennai;
- (b) if so, the other Duranto non-stop express trains which are going to be commissioned;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Hyderabad Duranto non-stop express train was to start from October, 2009; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not commissioning the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Duranto Express trains, as announced in Railway Budget 2009-10, will be introduced in the financial year.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Relief to passengers of local trains in Mumbai

†2596. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the steps which are being taken by Government to give relief to passengers in local trains in Mumbai;

(b) whether Government proposes to constitute any committee consisting of Members of Parliament which would consider to provide better facilities to the passengers in local trains; and

(c) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) To give relief to the passengers in local trains in Mumbai area, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) services have been increased by 18.43% in Central Railway and 20.15% in Western Railway since 2004 onwards. Besides state-of-the-art Electric Multiple Unit (EMUs) with 3 phase (IGBT) Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor propulsion system and air suspension arrangement are being introduced in Mumbai area with following additional features for providing better facilities to the passengers.

- i) Forced air ventilation system.
- ii) GPS based Passenger information system.
- iii) Aesthetically designed quality passengers seats.
- iv) Higher acceleration and deceleration.
- v) Improved lift of windows with fixed Poly Carbonate Louver with tinted glass.
- vi) Soothing interior and exterior colour schemes.
- vii) Better illumination.
- viii) Regenerative braking.- resulting in reduced noise level & energy saving.
- ix) Running of ladies only EMU trains to specified timings.
- x) Augmentation by extra coaches in existing services.
- xi) Running additional local trains.

(b) and (c) At present there is no such proposal.

Silchar-Lumding broad gauge expansion project

2597. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Silchar-Lumding broad gauge expansion project;
- (b) the price escalation due to delays; and
- (c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) On Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam, Badarpur-Kumarghat gauge conversion project, earthwork, major and

minor bridges, tunneling and ballasting etc. have been taken up. Overall physical progress is about 45%. The progress is adversely affected due to law and order problems in the region. Cost of the project has increased due to various reasons including price escalation, change in scope of work, standard of construction etc. The anticipated cost as per Budget, 2009-10 is Rs.2500 crore. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2012.

Allocation of adequate funds for rail projects in Andhra Pradesh

2598. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has written a letter on 27th August, 2008 for adequate allocation of funds for the ongoing projects, sanction of new lines and introduction of new passenger services in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the requests made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Request from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been received for allotment of funds for ongoing projects, taking up new projects and introduction of trains. Funds are allotted for sanctioned works yearly, keeping in view stage of project and availability of resources. About Rs. 800 crore has been provided in Budget 2009-10 for the projects falling partly/fully in Andhra Pradesh. For new projects, survey have been conducted/taken up wherever necessary. Introduction of Visakhapatnam-Mumbai Express (tri-weekly) via Secunderabad and Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express (tri-weekly) via Secunderabad have been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10. These will provide additional service for Secunderabad-Mumbai and Secunderabad-Bangalore overnight passengers. The other requests have not been found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Delayed rail projects

2599. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay of conversion to broad gauge of Rangia-Ragapada-Morkongselek route under North Frontier Railway; and

(b) the reasons for delay in doubling the track on existing Meerut-Saharanpur route under Northern Railway which is pending since last 40 years despite assurances given by the then Railway Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On Rangia-Rangpara North section of Rangia-Murkongselek with linked fingers gauge conversion project, works of formation, bridges etc. has been taken up. On Rangpara North-Murkongselek section, tenders for bridges are being processed. The work is progressing as per availability of resources. Frequent bandhs are also affecting progress of works. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2013.

(b) An updating survey for doubling of Meerut-Saharanpur was completed in 2005-06. The doubling of the section is not considered justified from traffic considerations.

Survey of new rail lines in Kerala

2600. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are surveys on new railway lines in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details including the survey initiated, completed, to be completed and to be initiated, category-wise;
- (c) the decision taken, if any, based on the completion of survey, category-wise;
- (d) whether there is any delay on the above process; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Details of new line surveys completed during the last 03 years and ongoing new line surveys falling fully/partially in the State of Kerala alongwith decision taken thereon are as under:-

S.No.	New line Survey	Status	Decision taken
1.	Thalassery-Mysore (298 Km)	Completed	Proposal not taken up.
2.	Nilambur Road-Nanjangud Town (238 Km)	Completed	Report under examination
3.	Sabarimala-Chengannur (64 Km)	Completed	Proposal not taken up.
4.	Angadippuram-Kozhikode (77 Km)	Completed	Report under examination
5.	Kanjangad-Panathur (41 Km)	Completed	Report under examination
6.	Madurai (Bodinayakkanur) - Kottayam (211 Km)	Surveys taken up.	
7.	Madurai-Ernakulam (Cochin) (200 Km)		
8.	Erumeli-Pathanamthitta-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram (136 Km)		
9.	Idappalli-Guruvayur (77 Km)		

The ongoing surveys are expected to be completed in a time period of about 02 years.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

2601. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate budgetary provision for conversion/upgradation of broad gauge in respect of certain lines in Gujarat has been included in the Railway Budget 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the details of the provisions for each line approved for conversion/upgradation; and
- (c) by when the work relating to conversion/upgradation will likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing gauge conversion projects falling fully/partly in Gujarat alongwith outlay provided during 2009-10 is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Outlay 2009-10 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur	30
2.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	45.65
3.	Bhildi-Samdari	70
4.	Bhildi-Viramgam	40
5.	Bhuj-Naliya with extn. to Vayor	0.01
6.	Pratapnagar-Chhotaudepur	35
7.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalila to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	27.20
8.	Ankleshwar-Rajpipla	60
9.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Mahuva with extn. to Pipavav and Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra	24

The above projects are in various stages of progress and will be completed as per availability of resources.

Scheme to adopt railway stations

2602. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to adopt railway stations or sponsor part of railway stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any proposal from FICCI or any other organisation for maintenance or sponsoring of railway stations; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) There is no such policy of adoption of railway stations by private parties. However, some

development works as galvanised roofing, tiled flooring etc. alongwith provision or improvement of certain passenger amenity items *e.g.* display boards, steel basins, benches etc. are done at some railway stations by private parties at their cost. Such proposals are considered by concerned Zonal Railways. No details of such proposals are maintained.

Demand for super-fast train between Jamnagar-Mumbai

2603. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when a new super-fast train between Jamnagar-Mumbai will be materialized;
- (b) since when the demand for above mentioned new train is being made;
- (c) whether a demand for extension of Navjivan Express upto Rajkot is examined and a decision taken thereon; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Three pairs of Express trains are presently running between Jamnagar and Mumbai. Requests have been received from time to time for a superfast train, but introduction of a superfast train between Jamnagar and Mumbai has not been found feasible at present.

(c) and (d) Extension of 2655/2656 Chennai-Ahmedabad Navjivan Express upto Rajkot has been examined but it has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

2604. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that frequent accidents take place at unmanned crossings;
- (b) if so, the details of such accidents in last two years;
- (c) if it is not possible to provide manual service at each unmanned crossing, whether Government would consider some mechanical or computerized systems of alarm at the crossings; and
- (d) if not, the steps being proposed to be taken to prevent accidents at unmanned crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of unmanned level crossing accidents decreased from 65 in 2007-08 to 62 in 2008-09. In the current year during April to November 2009, unmanned level crossing accidents decreased to 39 from 46 during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD) to warn the road users at unmanned level crossings had been tried but the trials have not proved successful due to theft and vandalism of the equipment.

(d) Steps taken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings include provision of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings, namely, levelled road surface at the crossings, proper road signs to warn road users, speed breakers/rumble strips on the approach road and whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings. Since most of the unmanned level crossing accidents are caused due to the negligence of road users, public awareness programme and publicity campaigns through various electronic and print media are undertaken regularly. Joint ambush checks with the involvement of civil authorities are also conducted to check the erring road users. Manning of unmanned level crossings is also done upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning.

Shortage of staff

2605. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacant posts in Railways, category-wise;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the railway services are getting affected due to shortage of staff; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government contemplates to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of vacant posts in Zonal Railways as on 31.3.09, category-wise is 1704 in (A&B) category and 168109 in (C&D) category.

(b) and (c) In a large organization like the Railways, there will be certain vacancies at any point of time. However, there is no compromise made in the railway services including the operation and safety of trains. As regards filling of the vacant posts, the same is a continuous process and the policy of railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Annual requirement of coaches

2606. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated annual requirement of coaches in Railways in the next three years, year-wise;
- (b) the number of coach manufacturing units under Railways and outside Railways;
- (c) the rated capacity of all coach manufacturing units, unit-wise;
- (d) the envisaged annual production capacity of coach making units in Rai Bareli, Daukuni, Kanchrapara, Singur, Noapara and Majerhat; and

(e) the total estimated investment under (d) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Estimated approximate annual requirement of coaches in Railways is 4538 including mainline coaches, EMU, MEMU and DEMU.

(b) There are two coach manufacturing units under Ministry of Railways, viz., Integral Coach Factory, Perambur (ICF) and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala (RCF). The two other units, viz., M/s. BEML Limited and M/s. Jessops are not under Ministry of Railways.

(c) The rated capacity of ICF and RCF is 1000 coaches per annum each which is being enhanced to 1500 coaches per annum each. The other two units in private and public sectors have produced varying number of coaches depending upon their business plan.

(d) The envisaged annual capacity at different units are as under:

- Rae Bareilly (coach factory) - 1000 coaches per annum
- Kanchrapara (coach factory) - 500 coaches per annum
- Noapara (Mid life rehabilitation of metro coaches)
- Majerhat (Mid life rehabilitation of BG coaches)
- Railways 'in principle' agreement to West Bengal Government's proposal has been conveyed to the State Government. Railways plan to set up world class factory at this location, when land is made available to the Railways.

(e) The estimated investment for the Rail Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly is Rs. 1685 crore and the proposal for other units are under process.

Earnings of railways

2607. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any statistics regarding the earnings of railways from different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is being taken into consideration in prioritizing the sanctioning of new railway lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Status of rail projects

2608. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest details of the progress made on Dharmavaram-Pakkala; Guntur-Gundakal-Kallur; Gooty new line with lifting of Kaglluru-Dharmavaram; Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati line gauge conversion projects;

(b) the estimated cost of each project, year of their sanctioning; expenditure made so far and balance of funds required for each of these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) The details of the projects is as under :

<i>(Rs in crore)</i>							
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure incurred up-to 31.3.09	Outlay 2009-10	Balance Funds required	Progress
1	Dharmavaram-Pakala (227km)	1997-98	610.09	405.14	100.00	104.95	Pakala-Madanapalle (82km) Completed. Madanapalle-Dharmavaram (144.25km) nearing completion.
2	Guntur-Guntakal & Guntakal-Kulluru (478km) Incl. Pendekallu-Gooty new line with lifting of Kalluru-Dharmavaram (76km)	1992-93	592.49	585.06	4.00	3.43	Completed.
3	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati (104km)	1992-93	226.74	213.98	5.00	7.76	Completed.

Doubling of Belapally-Pullampet line

2609. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made so far on doubling of Belapally-Pullampet phase of Gooty-Renigunta line, Gooty-Renigunta patch, Hospet-Guntakal line, Raichur-Guntakal line, Gudur Renigunta, Renigunta-Tirupati line, Guntur-Krishna canal line, Samalkat-Kakinada port; and Raghavpuram-Mandamari patch tripling project; and

(b) by when all these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Status of the projects is as under :

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Status and target wherever fixed
1	Balapally- Pullampet (41km)	Completed.
2	Gooty-Renigunta Patch doubling (151 km)	The works has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Pullampet-Bhakrapeta has been completed out of which Pullampet-Hastavaram has been commissioned Earthwork, bridges etc. is progress in balance length. Target for completion is 31.3.2011.
3	Hospet-Guntakal (115 km)	Completed.
4	Raichur-Guntakal (81km)	The works has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works etc. have been taken up. Target for completion is 31.3.2011.
5	Gudur- Renigunta-Triupati (93km)	Completed
6	Guntur-Krishna Canal (27 km)	Completed.
7	Samalkot-Kakinada (15.6 km)	Completed.
8	Raghavpuram-Mandamari (24.47 km)	Tender for earthwork, bridges etc. processed. Work may take about 2 years for completion.

Late arrival of Chandigarh Janshatabdi trains

2610. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Chandigarh Janshatabdi, despite starting on time from New Delhi, arrives late, sometimes even by one hour, on intervening stations; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that the said train runs on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Presently, train No.2057 Chandigarh Janshatabdi Express between New Delhi and Una (Himachal) is running with electric traction from New Delhi to Ambala and, thereafter with diesel engine from Ambala to Una. Due to traction change at Ambala, the train sometimes gets delayed and sometimes arrives Chandigarh late. On completion of the work of electrification of Chandigarh-Morinda chord line, the train will run upto Una with electric engine and the time loss due to change of traction will be saved, thus improving the punctuality of the train.

Approval of sports complex at Howrah

2611. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sports complex at Howrah was approved in 1997-98 by the then Minister of Railways; and

(b) if so, the present status of the sports complex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work which comprises development of sports complex at Howrah and Gholsapur has been taken up in phases. The work at Gholsapur has been completed in April, 2006 and the work at Howrah is planned for completion by June, 2010.

Railway network in Rajasthan

2612. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the data regarding railway network in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the place of Rajasthan in comparison to other States with regard to railway network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The State-wise length of rail network (route kilometres) in the country as on 31.3.2009 is given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of State	Route Kilometres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5185
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	2284
4.	Bihar	3515
5.	Chhattisgarh	1186
6.	Delhi	182
7.	Goa	69
8.	Gujarat	5328
9.	Haryana	1553
10.	Himachal Pradesh	285
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	239
12.	Jharkhand	1968
13.	Karnataka	3007
14.	Kerala	1050

1	2	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4949
16.	Maharashtra	5602
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Mizoram	2
19.	Nagaland	13
20.	Orissa	2385
21.	Punjab	2133
22.	Rajasthan	5855
23.	Tamil Nadu	4107
24.	Tripura	151
25.	Uttar Pradesh	8703
26.	Uttaranchal	345
27.	West Bengal	3890
Union Territories		
1.	Chandigarh	16
2.	Pondicherry	11
TOTAL :		64015

Note: The remaining States/Union Territories have no rail line.

- (b) Among all States, Rajasthan has the second largest route length of 5855 kilometres.

Setting up of steel plant in Ujjain

†2613. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- the progress made in the process of setting up of steel plant in Ujjain district;
- by when this plant will start production;
- if not, the reasons therefor; and
- the measures being taken by Government to remove the hurdles, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) The Steel Processing Unit (SPU) in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh has been approved 'in-principle' by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Land for the project has been acquired and soil survey and testing has been completed. Presently, the tendering activities for various packages are underway. The time frame for start of production would be firmed up after completion of the tendering process.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As per the directive issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, environmental clearance is required for steel processing units which are having a Rolling Mill. Accordingly, action is underway for obtaining environmental clearance.

Exploring coal in foreign countries

2614. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), International Coal Ventures, which is being contemplated for exploring coal in foreign countries;
- (b) the details of constitution and membership of committee to oversee the functioning of Coal Venture Fund; and
- (c) the details of criteria for its membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Government had approved the formation of International Coal Venture Limited (ICVL), promoted by Steel Authority India Limited (SAIL), Coal India Limited (CIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for securing metallurgical and thermal coal assets from overseas for use by the participating Public Sector Undertakings. ICVL has been empowered with autonomy and freedom accorded to Navratna companies, it has been incorporated as a company on 20.5.2009.

(b) and (c) No coal venture fund has been instituted for ICVL. However, the company has been authorised with an initial equity capital of Rs.3500 crores. SAIL and CIL are to contribute Rs.1000 crores each and the remaining three companies are to contribute Rs.500 crores each. A Review-cum-Monitoring Committee has been constituted to review periodically and monitor the progress and performance of ICVL with the following composition:

- i) Chairman- Secretary (Steel)
- ii) Member- Secretary (Coal) / Representative not below rank of JS
- iii) Member- Secretary (Power) / Representative not below rank of JS
- iv) Convenor- Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel.

Ship breaking facility at Alang

2615. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been commissioned by Government to scientifically improve the ship breaking facility at Alang;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to train the labourers involved in ship breaking into the aspects of environmental and occupational hazards; and

(e) whether Government considers levying fee from the ship owners to provide better service conditions, health, safety and training to the labourers and their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

(d) and (e) Gujarat Maritime Board is running the safety training and labour welfare institute at Alang. A total of 44,974 workers have been trained into the aspects of environment, safety and occupational hazards. It is mandatory to engage trained labours by the ship recyclers. As such, there is no proposal under consideration for levying fee from the ship owners.

Environmental hazards of ship breaking at Alang

2616. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ship breaking facility at Alang is still functional despite complaints of occupational and environmental hazards involved in ship breaking by semi or un-skilled labourers in unprotected working environment;

(b) if so, the details of ship breaking activity during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of the number of labourers involved in the ship breaking at Alang; and

(d) whether any study has been commissioned by Government to scientifically improve the ship breaking facility at Alang?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) Ship breaking activities are undertaken at Alang and the operational procedures are being followed as

per the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

2. Based on the report received from Gujarat Maritime Board, it is stated that at present, there are around 17000-18000 trained labours engaged in ship recycling at Alang by the Ship Recyclers. The details of ship breaking activity at Alang during the last three years, year-wise and Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT) are given below:—

Year	No. of ships	LDT (in MT)
2006-07	136	760800
2007-08	136	643437
2008-09	264	1944162
2009 - up to Nov. 2009	214	1745297

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- I **Notifications of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.**
- II. **Annual Accounts (2008-09) of the Coir Board (Kochi) and Annual Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of FFDC Kannauj and NI-MSME, Hyderabad and Related Papers**
- III. **Memorandum of understanding between Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): Sir, I lay on the table:

12.00 Noon

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Notification No. G.S.R. 793 (E), dated the 4th November, 2009, publishing the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development) Furnishing of Information) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1079/15/09]
- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Notification No. G.S.R. 846 (E), dated the 6th November, 2009, publishing the Coir Board (Services) Amendment Byelaws, 2009, under sub-section (4) of Section 27 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.
- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Notification No. S.O. 3016 (E), dated the 26th November, 2009, publishing the Coir Industry (Registration) Amendment Rules, 2009, under sub-section (4) of Section 26 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1325/15/09]
- (iv) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 17 of the Coir Industries Act, 1953:
- II. (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1075/15/09]
- A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1079/15/09]
- (b) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME), Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (c) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1323/15/09]
- III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), New Delhi for the year 2009-10. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1078/15/09]

**Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of FACT, Cochin, MFL, Chennai,
PDIL, NOIDA and KRIBHCO, New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) (a) Sixty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Cochin, 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. 1168/15/09]
 - (b) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), Chennai, for the year 2008-2009, 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. 1170/15/09]
 - (c) Thirty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), NOIDA, 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.
 - (d) Review by Government on the working of the above Companies. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1169/15/09]
 - (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:
 - (a) Twenty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), 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 Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1167/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Railways

II. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Corporations and Boards and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification No. G.S.R. 828 (E), dated the 17th November, 2009, publishing the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Services of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1180/15/09]
- II. (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) Twenty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), 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. 1178/15/09]
- (b) Thirty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1177/15/09]
- (c) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of RITES Limited, 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. 1176/15/09]
- (d) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the RAILTEL Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), 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. 1175/15/09]
- (e) Twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), 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. 1174/15/09]
- (f) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC), 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. 1172/15/09]
- (g) Sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (h) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporations. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1173/15/09]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:
 - (a) Annual Report of the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1179/15/09]

- I. **Notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development**
- II. **Annual Reports and Accounts of various Universities, Institute of Technology, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Mission/Societies, Institute of Management, Jamia Millia Islamia for the years of 2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Notification No. F.1-16/2007 (CPP-II), dated from the 4th to 10th July, 2009, publishing the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009, under Section 28 of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 926/15/09]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Assam University Act, 1989:
 - (a) Sixteenth Annual Report of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2008-09.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1138/15/09]
- (i) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 32 and 33 of the Sikkim University Act, 2006:-
 - (a) First Annual Report and Accounts of the Sikkim University, Gangtok, for the year 2007-08 together with Auditors Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1141/15/09]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Tezpur University Act, 1993:
 - (a) Annual Report of the Tezpur University, Assam, for the year 2008-09.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1140/15/09]
- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (1) (a) Forty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal, Srinagar, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1135/15/09]
- (2) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1136/15/09]
- (3) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1137/15/09]
- (4) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Rajya Mission, Tripura, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1197/15/09]
- (5) (a) Annual Administrative Report and Accounts of the Goa Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Society, Panaji, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1396/15/09]
- (6) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Goa Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Society, Panaji, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1394/15/09]
- (7) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Society, U.T. Chandigarh, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1395/15/09]
- (8) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1132/15/09]
- (9) (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Allahabad, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1143/15/09]
- (10) (a) Annual Accounts of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (ABV-IIITM), Gwalior, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1399/15/09]
- (11) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkata, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1134/15/09]
- (12) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory Mission Authority, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, for the year 2006-2007, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 815/15/09]
- (13)
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, for the year 2004-2005, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 819/15/09]
- (14)
- (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, for the year 2008-09. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1131/15/09]
 - (b) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, for the year 2008-09.
 - (c) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1133/15/09]
- (15)
- Annual Accounts of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section 4 of Section 28 of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1145/15/09]
- (16)
- Annual Accounts of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2008-2009, and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1144/15/09]

Annual Report and Accounts (2008-09) of SAIL, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), 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 Authority. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1204/15/09]

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
- II. **Annual Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Corporations, Boards, Institutes, University (2007-08) and Council and Related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Rules, 1937:-
 - (1) G.S.R. 796 (E), dated the 5th November, 2009, publishing the General Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1090/15/09]
 - (2) G.S.R. 841 (E), dated the 25th November, 2009, publishing the Puwad Seeds Grading and Marking Rules, 2009.
 - (3) G.S.R. 842 (E), dated the 25th November, 2009, publishing the Karanj Seeds Grading and Marking Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1338/15/09]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (4) of Section 83 of the Standards of Weight and Measures Act, 1976:-
 - (1) G.S.R. 533 (E), dated the 17th July, 2009, publishing the Standards of Weight and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2009.
 - (2) G.S.R. 632 (E), dated the 2nd September, 2009, publishing the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1087/15/09]
- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Notification No. S.O. 1874 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2009, regarding inclusion of sugarcane, ginger and turmeric crops with their genera eligible for registration of varieties under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, under Section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1089/15/09]
- (iv) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) Notification No. DELNDDDB-02/09, dated the 23rd September, 2009, publishing the National Dairy Development Board

- (Administration of Fund, Accounts and Budget) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009, under Section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1344/15/09]
- (v) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. S.O. 2878 (E), dated the 11th November, 2009, publishing the Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2009, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1093/15/09]
- II. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 14 and sub-section (4) of Section 17 of the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962:-
- (a) Annual Report of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 884/15/09]
- (c) Annual Accounts (Employees Provident Fund) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (d) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 884A/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:
- (1) (a) Fortieth Annual Report and Accounts of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited (SFCI), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1335/15/09]
- (2) (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC) New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1336/15/09]

- (iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 29 of the National Dairy Development Board Act 1987:
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1334/15/09]
- (iv) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-
- (1) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1333/15/09]
 - (2) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1091/15/09]
 - (3) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1086/15/09]
 - (4) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Law School of India University (NLSUI), Bangalore, for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1085/15/09]
 - (5) (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Council for Fair Business Practices (CFBP), Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1083/15/09]
- (6) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited (J&K HPMC), for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 within the stipulated period.
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1088/15/09]

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 10th December, 2009, has allotted time for the Government Business as follows:

Business	Time Allotted
Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-	
(a) The National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009	4 hours
(b) The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009	1 hour
(c) The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009	2 hours

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of Seventy-third and Seventy-ninth reports of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):
Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventy-third and Seventy-ninth Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

Status of implementation of Forty-seventh reports of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on impact of Global Climate Change on Agriculture and Allied Sectors in India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF.
K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations as
contained in the Forty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Agriculture on the "Impact of Global Climate Change on Agriculture and Allied Sectors in India".

Statement regarding Government Business

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business for remaining part of the Session will consist of:-

1. Consideration and passing of the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2005.
2. Consideration and passing of the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha.
3. Consideration of Resolution seeking approval to constitute a new Railway Convention Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) for determination of 'Rate of Dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues and other ancillary matters'.
4. Consideration and return of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - a. The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2009;
 - b. The Jharkhand Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2009;
 - c. The Jharkhand Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009 - to replace Ordinance; and
 - d. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2009.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - a. The Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009 - to replace Ordinance;
 - b. The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009 - to replace Ordinance;
 - c. The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2009;
 - d. The National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009;
 - e. The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009;
 - f. The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009; and
 - g. The Civil Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The essential commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2009."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

RE: EVACUATION OF PRESS ROOM IN THE EASTERN COURT

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, yesterday I gave the notice regarding evacuation of press room in the Eastern Court. ...*(Interruptions)*... People who have been sitting there for a long time ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please ...*(Interruptions)*... See, just because you have given the notice, don't raise it here. Unless it is admitted, it will not complete.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I gave the notice yesterday.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You might have given the notice. But just because you have given the notice, you cannot raise it here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: It is an important issue, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, it is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Baishya, both of you get up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it is a very important issue. The people who have been ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: It is an important matter, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Press people were evacuated, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... We need ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We don't have your notice here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: I have given the notice, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: These Press people were evacuated, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... We need protection, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down Mr. Baishya. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your notice is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: But he has given the notice, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot take the House into ...*(Interruptions)*... I am saying that your notice ...*(Interruptions)*... You meet the Chairman separately. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't raise it here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Baishya, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी (असम) : सर, हमारे लिए यह बिजनेस में आता ही नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : थोड़ा सा किसी मैम्बर ने आवाज़ उठा दी इसके कारण ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमें भी मौका नहीं मिलेगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... If you have given a notice yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, हमें बुलाया नहीं जा रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम किसको बोले? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... Don't say that. ..*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : ऐसा हो रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम शांति से बैठे हैं फिर भी ऐसा हो रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप जीरो ऑवर के रूल्स अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं। You gave the notice yesterday. Because it is a matter of urgent public importance, you have to renew your notice if it is not coming on that day. There was no Zero Hour yesterday; and you gave the Zero Hour notice yesterday. So, that is lapsed now. You should have renewed the notice but you have not. So, having not renewed the notice, you cannot raise it now. You know the rules. You are not following the rules and the time of the House is being wasted. So, please, if you have any urgent thing, give the notice.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I just want two minutes from you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I can't allow. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Please, I can't allow. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have identified Mr. Venkaiah Naidu. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, they are evacuated ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, I cannot allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Mr. Deepak Das, please give the notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please give the notice.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: I have given the notice, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you have not renewed it. It is lapsed now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is difficult to say any thing to you. I am repeating, you give the notice. Your notice is lapsed.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Telangana issue

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I have to stand again with a heavy heart about what is happening in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, with regard to issue of formation of a separate Telangana State, I have been repeatedly saying in the House that the House must be taken into confidence. Some ground work has to be done and some consultation is needed to be held with different political parties and also with the Legislators and Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, it is not done. I am really pained, Sir, the way the things are happening and how the things are taken up in my State on both sides of Telangana as well as Andhra and Rayalaseema. It is really painful. My only suggestion to the Government is, we don't want to complicate the matter by Raising temperatures in the Parliament because, you know, it is a regional issue, emotive issue and sentimental issue. The Government should do some homework, prepare some roadmap and then take the concerned people into confidence. It should, at least, hold discussions with their own MPs and MLAs, because it is the ruling party, and prepare the ground and also have some clarity about different contentious issues—with regard to the Hyderabad city, what is the approach; with regard to formation of the State, what is the approach; with regard to regional aspirations of other regions, what is the approach? Unless these things are made very clear, unnecessary tension will be growing day by day. Students have come to streets. Now, there is a *bandh* in Rayalseema and some parts of the State. If this continues, Sir, there is again going to be unrest.

I only request the Government, as I have been doing for the last three days, to come to the House with some road map and also explain its thinking on these matters which have been raised from time to time, and then move forward. Yesterday, it was not my technical objection on making a statement outside; my worry is that unless people are taken into confidence, there are bound to be reactions. The reaction today is such that I just heard the hon. Chief Minister on television saying, 'Unless I have majority, I will not be able to bring a Resolution.' Technically, he is correct. But, at the same time, the Home Minister has announced something and he has done it outside the House. I don't find fault with the Ruling Party's MPs; whether it is this party or that party, and there are some MLAs of the Opposition Party also. Some 106 MLAs had gone to the Speaker and submitted their resignations. It is a very serious matter. I only urge upon the Government to. ..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): One is the sitting Member of our House also.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: One Member of our House also announced it. ...*(Interruptions)*... He might not have handed over it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know about his position. ...*(Interruptions)*... But my only worry is that the situation should not be allowed to go out of hand further and should not be allowed to be complicated further. I only request the Government to please take the House into confidence at the earliest and take steps to see that the situation is handled properly. Don't allow it to be messed up further.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I share the concern expressed by the hon. Member. The hon. Home Minister had come to the House yesterday and informed the House about what he had done. I think I can only appeal to all sections of the House here to use their good offices and see that the situation is managed and it does not create more divisions.

Sir, I assure you that I will apprise the hon. Home Minister about the concerns expressed here.

**Demand for inquiry into the incidents of alleged 'Love Jihad'
and to take strict measures to punish culprits**

श्री बलबीर पुंज (उड़ीसा) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय। बुधवार को केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने जबरन या प्रलोभन के बल पर एक मजहब विशेष की युवतियों के कंवर्सन - मर्तांतरण करने के और बाद में उनसे निकाह करने की साजिश जिसे लव जेहाद या रोमियो जेहाद की संज्ञा मिली है, देश के कई भागों में चल रही है, इसकी पुष्टि की है। केरल राज्य के डी.जी.पी. और केन्द्रीय गृह विभाग की दलीलों को दरकिनार करते हुए न्यायालय ने लव जेहाद के अस्तित्व को न केवल स्वीकारा, बल्कि उसकी गंभीरता को देखते हुए अन्य राज्यों की तरह केरल में भी मर्तांतरण के खिलाफ कानून बनाने का निर्देश दिया है।

Sir, the Kerala High Court has asked the Kerala Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I have a point of order.

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए, इसमें प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर नहीं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, what is the Rule under which he wants to raise the point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI: Sir, it is very objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, he is quoting a decision of the High Court. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is objectionable in it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is quoting a decision of the High Court.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Kerala High Court has, in fact, asked the Kerala Government to enact a law against such fraudulent conversions. Sir, the Kerala High Court has observed that 2,800 non-Muslim girls belonging to Hindu faith and Christian faith have been converted like this in the last four years. And 1600 girls are only from four Muslim-dominated districts, including Malappuram, Such conversions have taken place in these four districts alone. This has been done,' the High Court has observed, 'by Islamic Popular Front.' And there is a centre which directs these conversions in Kozhikode.

सर, लव जेहाद से इस देश के बहुसंख्यक हिन्दुओं के साथ तथा अन्य गैर मुस्लिम समुदाय की युवतियों को अपने मोहजाल में फाँसकर इन्हें इस्लाम में परिवर्तन करने की यह सुनियोजित साजिश है। यह षडयंत्र केवल केरल तक सीमित नहीं है, सीमा पार के जेहादी संगठन इस देश के आकर्षक युवकों को अपने झाँसे में लेकर यह षडयंत्र कर रहे हैं। इन युवकों के महंगे रहन-सहन और आधुनिक महंगे मोबाइल व अन्य गैजडट्स का सारा खर्च सीमा पार जेहादी संगठन उठाते हैं। These are some of the observations which have been made by the Kerala High Court.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Next, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy. हो गया, तीन मिनट के बाद अलाऊ नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Nothing will go on record. तीन मिनट के बाद रिकार्ड में नहीं जाएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : *

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: देखिए, मैं हाई कोर्ट या सुप्रीम कोर्ट की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ, जीरो ऑवर के तीन मिनट हो गए हैं। Three minutes are over. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, this is a complete misrepresentation and distortion of the judgment of Kerala High Court. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy. ...**(Interruptions)**... You see, in Zero Hour, you cannot argue. You have only to speak. You cannot have a response. Your three-minute time is over. I have given you three minutes. You cannot continue. Please. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is over. Mr. Rudy, do you want to speak or not? ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, what he raised is an interpretation of a judgment of the Court. If what he said is wrong, it should be expunged from the record.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will check it up whether it is wrong, आप बैठ जाइए। आपको हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप चाहते क्या हैं? आपको समय दिया गया था, आप बोल चुके हैं, आप और क्या चाहते हैं? आप बैठ जाइए। It is over. Nothing is going on record. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Yechury has raised a point. We will examine and see. ...**(Interruptions)**... श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी।

* Not recorded.

Three-day bandh in Darjeeling for carving out Gorkhaland

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (बिहार) : महोदय, देश के किसी कोने में कहीं बंद होता है, कहीं किसी राज्य में आवागमन बंद होता है, तो वह हमारे लिए चिंता का विषय होता है। आज दार्जिलिंग के सवाल पर, गोरखालैंड के सवाल पर सिक्किम प्रभावित हो रहा है। सिक्किम का आवागमन बंद होगा, तो इससे एक प्रांत प्रभावित होगा। जिस प्रकार से हाल-फिलहाल में तेलंगाना के संबंध में चर्चा हुई, देश में सबसे पुरानी मांग अगर किसी प्रांत को स्थापित करने की है, तो वह सौ वर्ष पुरानी है और उस प्रांत की स्थापना के लिए पिछले सौ वर्ष से दार्जिलिंग के लोग, गोरखालैंड के लोग मांग कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने घोषणा की है कि वे बंद करेंगे, जिससे सिक्किम और उत्तर-पूर्वोत्तर का भाग प्रभावित होगा।

महोदय, मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि जिस दार्जिलिंग की हम चर्चा करते हैं, वह कभी सिक्किम राज्य का भाग होता था, भूटान का भाग होता था। जब ब्रिटिशर्स इस देश में आए, तो पहले सिक्किम ने एक दस्तावेज के माध्यम से दार्जिलिंग का वह हिस्सा ब्रिटिशर्स को दे दिया। उसके बाद कुछ ब्रिटिशर्स ने कुछ हिस्से पर कब्जा कर लिया और जब भूटान के साथ ब्रिटिशर्स का युद्ध हुआ, तो वह हिस्सा उनके पास चला गया। आज हम यह देख रहे हैं कि जिस प्रांत की मांग पिछले सौ वर्षों से, अभी नहीं 1907 में भी, जब मोर्ले-मिटो रिफार्म्स का प्रतिनिधि मंडल आया था, तो उस समय भी, उस पहाड़ी क्षेत्र के लोगों ने अलग राज्य की स्थापना की मांग की थी। पिछले दो सौ वर्षों से गोरखा सिर्फ भारत के भीतर ही जंग नहीं लड़ते रहे, अपनी मांगों को लेकर के और सुरक्षा के मामले को लेकर वे पूरी दुनिया में लड़ते रहे और पूरी दुनिया में उन्होंने प्रशस्ति पई। जिस प्रांत में भूटियाज हैं, लेप्चाज हैं, गोरखाज हैं, वहीं नीचे द्वार क्षेत्र में संथाल्स हैं, उरांव्स हैं, मुंडाज हैं और राजवंशीज हैं और इन सब लोगों की मांग है कि उनके लिए एक पृथक राज्य बनाया जाए, उन्हें एक पृथक राज्य दिया जाए। यह मांग तो उनकी हो सकती है, लेकिन यह देश के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। महोदय, मैं इस विषय पर आपका ध्यान इसलिए आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि यह देश का एक ही प्रांत है, जहां तीन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बार्डर साथ लगते हैं। इन तीन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बार्डर में बंगलादेश है, भूटान है और नेपाल है। जिस प्रकार से इस पूरे इलाके का डेमोग्राफिक प्रोफाइल बदल रहा है, वह देश के लिए चिंता का सवाल है। यह मात्र उनके लिए इस राज्य की स्थापना का सवाल नहीं है। महोदय, जिस प्रकार से वहां का डेमोग्राफिक प्रोफाइल बदल रहा है, जिस प्रकार से वह भाग असुरक्षित हो रहा है और मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जो राज्य सरकार है, उसकी नीतियां पिछले 55 वर्षों से, उसे आप दमनकारी कहें या एक प्रकार से उनकी भावनाओं की कद्र न करना कहें और यहां तक कि कुछ वामपंथी नेता हैं जो कहते हैं कि तेलंगाना आम सहमति से स्वीकार करेंगे...

श्री उपसभापति : हो गया, हो गया। श्री तिरुची शिवा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, you start. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : *

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Siva, your time has started. ...(*Interruptions*)... आप शुरू कीजिए ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, nothing is going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my name has not appeared. ...(*Interruptions*)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You start now.

Missing Indian Coast Guard personnel

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, two sailors of the Indian Coast Guard are missing along with five Sri Lankan fishermen ...(*Interruptions*)... in mid-sea since Wednesday night. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, you are a disciplined Member. Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please sit down.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, nothing is going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Rudy, nothing is going on record.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I want my time to be restarted. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I want my time to be restarted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can save five, six seconds only.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Thank you, Sir. Two sailors of the Indian Coast Guard are missing along with five Sri Lankan fishermen in mid-sea since Wednesday night.

According to sources, a patrol ship noticed Sri Lankan fishermen on seven boats fishing in Indian waters. Our Coast Guard personnel intercepted them and deployed two sailors in each boat before towing them towards Chennai.

After some time, the seventh boat with two sailors of Indian Coast Guard and five fishermen of Sri Lanka were found missing. Sources said the sailors were overpowered by the Sri Lankan fishermen. Based on the information that the missing boat had reached the Sri Lankan Coast, the Coast Guard officials were trying to negotiate for the release of sailors through appropriate Sri Lankan authorities. It appeared that the sailors had weapons with them. The Coast Guard deployed its Dornier aircraft and other vessels on search operations in the last 24 hours but could not trace the missing boat named "Win Marine". The other Sri Lankan fishermen and six boats are in the custody of the Coast Guard. It appears that the fishermen who escaped are demanding the release of their colleagues. The status of the sailors is not clear.

* Not recorded.

Sir, it is entirely different from the issues we have been raising all these days. Those were the incidents of our fishermen being captured by the Sri Lankan Navy, but it has taken a different dimension now. Our sailors of the Indian Coast Guard are captured by the Sri Lankan fishermen. Taking a serious note of this issue, I urge the Government of India to take necessary steps and appropriate action to ascertain and ensure the safety and security of our sailors and fishermen in Indian waters. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Only associate.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by him.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Brinda Karat.

Supreme Court judgment on Honour Killings

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, at a time when Indian democracy continues to be shamed, profiled and polluted by anti-human notions of caste superiority and practices of untouchability, when women continue to be victimised for asserting, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... What is happening, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Time is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, there should not be a discrimination ...*(Interruptions)*... Interruptions should not be taken into account while... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALA (Jharkhand): Sir, the name is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*... The name "Ram Gopal Yadav" is appearing! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... There is some problem.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, this type of problem cannot be of gender! ...*(Interruptions)*... जेंडर की है, पोलिटिक्स की है, समय की भी है। सर, यह तो बहुत ही गलत है। ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Her mike is not on! ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you see that her mike is not on! ...*(Interruptions)*... The name is shown as "Ram Gopal Yadav", Sir! ...*(Interruptions)*... What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : वह बंद कर दीजिए। ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्योंकि मैं जेंडर पर बोलने वाली हूँ, ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह तो अपमान किया जा रहा है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Sir, because of this, no time limit should be there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will start right now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No time limit should be there, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... No time limit should be there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; you start now. ...*(Interruptions)*... वृंदा जी आप शुरू कीजिए।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): You are getting more time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will start right now. You should start.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No time limit should be there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, no time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

वृंदा जी, आप शुरू कीजिए। I have noted down the time. This is working. वृंदा जी, अब आप शुरू कीजिए।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am repeating the points. At a time, when Indian democracy continues to be shamed, defiled and polluted by anti-human notions of caste superiority and practices of untouchability, when women continue to be victimised for asserting their autonomy on decision-making on issues concerning their own lives, the highest court of the country, the Supreme Court of India, has delivered a judgement on an honour killing which can only be considered a gigantic step backward in terms of upholding the values of social reforms which we have been taught by many great emancipated, and enlightened men and women in the country. The case concerns an honour killing. An, Ezhava boy from Kerala married an upper caste girl from UP and they lived in Mumbai. The family of the girl, on completely wrong and false notions of family honour, went to Mumbai and brutally killed four members of the family at a time when his sister was pregnant. Fortunately, she escaped. She is in Mumbai today looking after her girl on her own. The lower court and the Bombay High Court gave the death sentence saying that this was the rarest of rare cases and constituted an extreme cruelty. In such a situation, the Supreme Court has come out with a judgement which actually advocates leniency in the name of social issues. What does it, first of all, say about the girl, about her autonomous choice, about her self-choice of marriage? This is what the Supreme Court says, "His younger sister imposed upon his family her choice". In other words, the Supreme Court is openly disapproving the right of any adult man or woman of this country given by our Constitution to take a decision pertaining to their own lives, regarding self-choice in marriage. So, that is the first point.

The second point, which is abhorrent and outrageous, is this. It says, "The murders will be the outcome of a social issue like a marriage with a person of the so-called lower caste. The man

must have been insulted by members of his community. It was 8 considered it a family defeat. The time has come when we have to consider these social issues as relevant while considering the sentence in this case". That means the Supreme Court of India is now advocating leniency in such cases saying to take social traditions into account. That means everything that this country has achieved in fighting casteism, in fighting gender discrimination, instead of upholding.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions, Shri D. Raja. ...*(Interruptions)*... All are associating.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

DR. (SHRIMATI) KAPILA VATSYAYAN (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shrimati Brinda Karat.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions. Shri D. Raja. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : पाणि जी, देखिए, आप चेयरमैन साहब के चैम्बर में जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

श्री उपसभापति : मैं आपको जवाब नहीं दे सकता ...*(व्यवधान)*... यहां rules के हिसाब से काम होता है, इस तरह पूछने से हम जवाब नहीं देंगे ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप rule break कर रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, नोटिस देने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि आपका हर नोटिस accept किया जाए। यहां rules हैं, rules के हिसाब से उसे examine किया जाएगा, उसके बाद वह accept किया जाएगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप rule break कर रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : *

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, नोटिस देने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि नोटिस accept करना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... श्री डी. राजा।

* Not recorded.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Request for withdrawing regulatory clearance of Bt Brinjal

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, an Expert Committee, set up by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), recommended Bt Brinjal for commercial cultivation in India and, subsequently, this first GM food crop in India and the first ever such GM vegetable in the whole world was cleared by the GEAC. Independent analysts have concluded that this Bt Brinjal is unsafe for human and animal health.

Reports now indicate that there has been a systemic interference by American agencies to get this Bt Brinjal approved. On the one hand, the USAID supported the ABSP II project (Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project) in which Mahyco (developer of Bt Brinjal), Indian universities and others were made consortium partners. The project states expressly that it is 'to support Mahyco's efforts to complete regulatory approval' Members of this ABSP II project did studies for Mahyco and also sat to review their own findings in the Expert Committee.

Pirna facie, the Expert Committee has not responded to the issues raised about the safety of Bt Brinjal adequately. Several valid technical points raised by internationally acclaimed scientists have been answered by statements like "this point does not merit consideration", or, "this is not part of the newly adopted guidelines". The new guidelines have been put into place by American agencies like USAID in the first place, through their South Asia Biosafety Programme (SABP). The Expert Committee Chair himself is unsure of the safety of Bt Brinjal.

In this context, we demand that the Expert Committee Report and the subsequent clearance by the GEAC be withdrawn by the Government immediately.

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

Denial of loan to students by banks for studies abroad

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, education is central to Human Resources Development and Empowerment in any country. National and State policies are framed to ensure that the basic needs of the population is met through appropriate public and private sector initiatives. With a gradual reduction in Government subsidies, higher education is getting more and more costly and hence the need for institutional funding in this area.

The scope of education has widened both in India and abroad covering new courses in diversified areas. Development of human capital is a national priority, and it should be the endeavour of all that no deserving student is denied opportunity to pursue higher education for want of financial

support. The model Educational Loan Scheme, formulated by Indian Bank's Association, 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. But there have been instances that due to lack of financial support from the banking system, meritorious students have been denied the opportunity to pursue higher education abroad including in our neighbouring countries like China.

I urge upon the Government to kindly look into the matter and impress upon the Banking Authorities that financial assistance be provided urgently to students keen to study in China or any other country of their choice.

Caste based discrimination

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, my Special Mention is with reference to the Human Rights Day which we celebrated yesterday. Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recently stated that "Untouchability is a social phenomenon affecting approximately 260 million persons world-wide, including India. This type of discrimination is typically associated with the notions of ritual purity and pollution which are deeply rooted in different societies and cultures. The problem is neither confined to one geographical area nor exclusively practised within one particular religion of belief system. It is a global phenomenon."

She further stated that caste is the very negation of the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. The focus of this year's Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2009, was on non-discrimination. I have, therefore, to request the hon. Prime Minister to please explain to this House, why the Government of India argues to the Human Rights bodies that caste discrimination is not an issue relevant to the evaluation of its performance *vis-a-vis* the human rights conventions to which India is a party? Is the Government aware about the stand taken by the NHRC in the Durban Conference on 5th September, 2001 regarding discrimination that persists in India?

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

Request for upgradation of Tiruchi Airport as international airport in Tamil Nadu

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Tiruchi the geographical centre of Tamil Nadu is well connected by road to various cities in Tamil Nadu as well as to other States, namely, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. Next to Chennai, Tiruchi is the only airport which has been having international operations for the past twenty years. Annual domestic and international operations at Tiruchi Airport are 686 and 1659 respectively. Tiruchi Airport is a Customs Airport where the customs and immigration facilities are available and all international flights can be operated. It is an ISO9001:2008 certified Airport. Right from the beginning, Tiruchi Airport is catering to the need of common man to reach their destinations, particularly on international sectors like Middle East

countries and other nearby countries like Sri Lanka and Singapore. All the essential infrastructure is available in this Airport to meet the operational requirements round-the-clock. Operators are very keen to take market survey and potential for their service. If the status of Tiruchi Airport is elevated to that of international airport, the upgradation would boost further development of the region to benefit the people at large.

**Demand to resolve problems being faced by students due to refusal to
give student visa by British High Commission**

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to a very serious issue of hundreds of students, who applied for admission to British colleges. For this purpose, they deposited an advance of one-year fees in the concerned colleges, after which the colleges issued offer letters of admission to the students. On the basis of this letter, the students applied for visa in the British High Commission. Of late, the British High Commission has refused issuing visa to many students belonging to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. It is surprising to know that the British High Commission has not returned the original offer letters of admission along with their passports to such students. When these students applied for refund of their fees, from concerned British colleges, they have been refused, as they require original offer letter along with the application for refund. As the rate of visa refusal by the British High Commission has gone up considerably during the recent past, a huge amount of hard-earned money of these innocent students is stuck up in various British colleges for no fault of theirs. This is not only trifling with the innocent students but also landing them into a sort of financial crisis.

Sir, I strongly urge upon the Government to kindly take up the matter with the British High Commission immediately so that the students can get the refund of their fees from the concerned British colleges. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

Plight of weaver community in Varanasi

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I want to raise an important matter related to the plight of weaver community of Varanasi. The city is famous for Banarasi sarees world over but the weavers of the city are passing through a serious livelihood crisis. The city which employed 7,00,000 people in handloom a decade back, now employs only 2,50,000, and there are over 50 reported cases of suicide. Due to liberalisation, silk cloth imports, indiscriminate mechanisation, loose control over cheap imitations, rising price of silk, etc., weavers, like other artisans, are being dispossessed.

The income of handloom weavers has declined to such an extent that they cannot even meet their basic needs. Due to this livelihood crisis and related indebtedness, many weavers in recent times have committed suicide, or they have been selling their blood to meet the needs of their families. Why has such a serious crisis emerged? The WTO trade regime under which silk cloth imports have increased very fast due to which Indian weavers' livelihoods are destroyed. Another threat is from powerloom owners who have been producing cheap imitation products at various places. Rise in the price of silk yarn as well as fluctuations in its price have proved harmful for weavers.

The Government has not even carried out a proper survey to get a reliable estimate of how many looms and weavers still survive. There should be greater opportunities for weavers to sell their products directly. There should be more emporiums where their product is sold and the Government should step up the efforts to promote handlooms.

The Central Government should learn from the experience of places from other centres of handloom industry -- Pochampally, Chanderi and Kancheevaram where patents could be obtained.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

**Demand to take suitable measures to protect children from
severe malnutrition in the country**

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, according to National Family Health Survey-III, conducted during 2005-2006 in India, 6.8 per cent of children below 60 months of age, were suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) [acute variety of severe under-nutrition, *i.e.*, weight-for-height less than - 3SD]. With the current estimated total population of India as 1100 million, it is expected that there would be about 132 million 'under five children' (about 12 per cent of the total population in the country). Of these 132 million children, it is expected that 6.8 per cent, *i.e.*, 8.97 million children, will be suffering from SAM.

SAM kills children directly by significantly increasing the case fatality rate in those suffering from common childhood illness such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. Deaths amongst SAM children are preventable provided timely and appropriate actions are taken. WHO and UNICEF recommend the following two major approaches to the treatment of SAM:-

- (i) Hospital-based approach for clinical management using the WHO protocol, and
- (ii) Home-based approach, an integrated public health response to acute malnutrition without medical complications, with the use of ready-to-use therapeutic food or medical nutrition therapy.

Presently in India, we are caring for children with SAM in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres; but these NRCs are very few in number and hence majority of SAM children never get admitted and receive any kind of treatment. Therefore, at the national level, it is critical to identify the measures that need to be taken to ensure timely and quality care for children with SAM, by providing the food security based on nutrition to the mother and child.

Depleting ground water level in northern parts of the country

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, a new study using satellite data has found that amount of groundwater pumped out by Northern India is the highest in the world and is contributing as much as five per cent to the total rise in sea levels. The region extracts a mind-boggling 54 trillion litres from ground every year, a figure that is likely to cause serious concern over the future of water availability. The water that is pumped out eventually reaches the sea through rainfall or runoff from the land. The 54 trillion litres that is extracted from the ground, in this region, leads to a sea-level rise of 0.16 mm. That's roughly equivalent to the contribution to sea level rise from melting Alaskan glaciers which is around five per cent. This is also the largest rate of groundwater loss in any comparable-sized region on earth. The study, conducted by National Geophysical Research Institute in Hyderabad, along with scientists from University of Colorado, US, found that the average depletion of groundwater level in the Indian part of the region was an alarming 10 cm a year. The region of maximum groundwater loss centred around Delhi, including Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh. The net loss of groundwater was around 25 trillion litres a year. High level of groundwater depletion means the region is likely to witness acute shortage of water in the foreseeable future. In view of the above worrying scenario, I would urge upon the hon. Minister for Water Resources to take corrective steps.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI (Rajasthan): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania.

**Demand to look into the problem of global warming and rising sea level
and take pre-emptive steps to stop the migration of Bangladeshis
into the country due to climate change**

SHRI THOMAS SANGMA (Meghalaya): Sir, it is a common knowledge now that due to global warming the glaciers of the world are melting fast as a result of which level of the sea is rising. It is apprehended that during the years to come level of the sea would rise to such an extent that many low lying areas of the world would vanish from the globe. Our country has not been left out from this global warming and rising sea level and many areas particularly, in Lakshadweep, Sunderban delta and other coastal areas would submerge under the sea. But there is another dimension which would

emanate from submerging of a large area of our neighbouring country Bangladesh under the sea. Most parts of the Bangladesh are low-lying area and if the water level rises in future it will go under water. As a result of this, a large population of Bangladesh will be forced to migrate to India particularly in States like West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya which share their boundaries with Bangladesh. Meghalaya shares a border of more than 400 kilometers with Bangladesh.

The influx from world's seventh most populous country to a small State like Meghalaya will create a huge imbalance in the State in terms of available natural resources and would definitely upset the existing fragile ethnic balance. One should also not forget that many societies in the region are a potent mix of ethnicity, culture and religion. Therefore, I believe that human security will be the main casualty as climate change delivers a major blow to vulnerable economic sectors.

With this in view, I urge upon the Government to look into the problem of global warming and rising sea level from this perspective and take proper pre-emptive measures to counter it. I also urge this House to join me in raising this concern and come to a reasonably acceptable solution. Thank you.

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague. Thank you.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague. Thank you.

Constitution of National Youth Commission and Youth Development Corporation

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, India is a country in which more than 60 per cent population is youth. We have to empower our youth to face global challenges.

I, on behalf of youth, request you that National Youth Commission and Youth Development Corporation should be constituted to initiate and implement youth welfare schemes. The Youth Development Corporation should be a Constitutional body and can be formed with necessary corpus to finance the developmental activities of youth.

To eradicate unemployment, adequate financial support in the form of soft loans may be provided to young entrepreneurs based on their educational and technical qualifications like:

- (i) Rate of interest shall not exceed 4 per cent per annum;
- (ii) Loans must have provisions like breathing time for repayment *i.e.*, the entrepreneur shall get time to start repayment till his/her firm start generating income; and
- (iii) Provision for rescheduling of loan.

There must be a provision for rescheduling loans as per the performance. If the firm's performance cannot cope with repayment regime, relaxation shall be provided to entrepreneur in repayment module so that the firm can be saved from being killed by repayment measures initiated by the financial institutions, *i.e.*, penal interest and recovery activities.

Technical support missions have to be set up at district level to support such young entrepreneurs. Target must be set to banks on number of loans disbursed instead of amount of loan distributed. Sir, 60 per cent of such loans should be distributed in rural areas.

Budgetary allocation for education and health sector must be increased. The Government shall ensure educational loan to every deserving students at lower rate of interest than the present rate of interest.

I, therefore, request that the Government must take the above initiatives for proper development of youth of the country. Thank you.

SHRI THOMAS SANGMA (Meghalaya): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by colleague. Thank you.

DR. JANARDHANA WAGHMARE (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by colleague. Thank you.

Fire incident in the Indian Oil Company

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this august House to the recent devastating fire accident in the Indian Oil Depot in Jaipur. The tragedy has taken, at least, 12 innocent lives, more than 150 seriously injured and lakhs of people had to be evacuated. Sir, eleven tanks in the depot burned for six days spewing poisonous smoke, thereby causing severe health hazards to the citizens. The country has lost Rs. 1,000 crores as per initial estimates. This accident has serious implications for ensuing tourist period, at least, in short-term. The Government has instituted a high level enquiry to look into the causes. By initial assessment, human error was behind this accident. If so, the Government should consider taking action against the culprits treating this as culpable homicide. The inquiry must also look into the inaction by the local and IOC authorities in the initial stages. It should be ascertained if outsourced unskilled contract labourers were working in the core areas of the depot. Whether the local disaster management failed to minimise the damage should also be ascertained. The Government should also inform if the well laid out safety guidelines were followed and the safety audit was done regularly. The Government should frame rules to relocate such oil depots out of populated areas and ask the oil companies to procure enough buffer area. I also request the Central Government to extend generous assistance to the State Government to rehabilitate the affected populations and to recover revenue loss. The Report of enquiry should not be delayed and it should be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. Thank you.

Request for computerization of records pertaining to registration of properties

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, एक अनुमान के अनुसार भारत में दो करोड़ से अधिक मुकदमों जमीन या मकान संबंधी विवाद के बारे में विभिन्न न्यायालयों में लंबित हैं। यदि यह मानें कि एक-एक मुकदमे में कम से कम दो परिवार अर्थात् दस व्यक्ति प्रभावित होते हैं, तो 100 करोड़ से अधिक आबादी वाले देश में 20 करोड़ से अधिक लोग संपत्ति विवाद की समस्या में जकड़े हैं। जमीनी विवादों के कारण आपसी झगड़े, मारपीट तथा हत्या जैसे गंभीर अपराध जन्म लेते हैं। साथ ही, रातोंरात धनवाद एवं शक्तिशाली बनने के लिए भू-माफियागिरी का बढ़ता चलन सरकार एवं जनता दोनों के लिए गंभीर समस्या के रूप में उभरा है। इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए यदि सरकार गंभीर रूप से सोचें, तो जनता की बहुत सी समस्याएं स्वतः समाप्त हो सकती हैं।

जमीन या मकान के बानामा के समय सरकार स्टाम्प शुल्क के रूप में क्रेता से 6 प्रतिशत का भारी शुल्क वसूलती है। जिसके बदले में सरकार कोई सुविधा या सेवा प्रदान नहीं करती है। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि भले ही स्टाम्प शुल्क 6 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 8 प्रतिशत कर दे, परंतु बदले में क्रेता को सेवाएं अवश्य दें, अन्यथा सेवा कर वसूलना अन्यायपूर्ण है।

यदि सरकार सभी जमीनी संपत्तियों के सौदे में बानामा से पहले title clearance तथा बानामा के बाद भौतिक कब्जा दिलाने की जिम्मेदारी ईमानदारी से निभाएं, तो मेरा मानना है कि 80 प्रतिशत विवाद स्वतः समाप्त हो जाएंगे। यूं भी जनता की संपत्ति की रक्षा करना सरकार की मूलभूत जिम्मेदारी है। Title clearance का कार्य आसानी से हो सकता है, यदि सरकार भू-संपत्ति संबंधी सभी अभिलेख को कम्प्यूटरीकृत कराए, जिससे किसी भी संपत्ति की जानकारी त्वरित उपलब्ध हो सके। इससे काले धन के रूप में अर्जित संपत्तियों पर भी रोक लगेगी तथा भू-माफियाओं की नकेल भी कसी जा सकेगी। Title clearance ठीक होने पर भौतिक कब्जा दिलाना भी आसान होगा। आशावान हूं कि सरकार इस गंभीर समस्या पर कोई ठोस एवं त्वरित कदम उठाएगी। धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-nine minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE -- *Contd.*

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 159 of Customs Act, 1962, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), together with Explanatory Memoranda:-

- I. Notification No. 137/2009-Customs, dated 11.12.2009 seeking to provide a concessional basic customs duty of 2.5% with Nil additional duty of customs on specified goods for expansion of existing mega power projects and for making some changes in the existing exemption for mega power projects.

- II. Notification No. 138/2009-Customs, dated 11.12.2009 seeking to provide exemption from Education/Secondary and Higher Education Cess to Brownfield expansion projects of mega power projects.
- III. Notification No. 139/2009-Customs, dated 11.12.2009 seeking to provide exemption from 4% additional duty of customs to Brownfield expansion projects of mega power projects.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, we shall take up further discussion on the Resolution regarding all round development of State of Sikkim moved by Shri O.T. Lepcha on 26th November, 2009. Mr. Ahluwalia to continue.

Need to prepare an action plan for allround development of Sikkim

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I just started on that day. I spoke only for half-a-minute on that day.

Sir, I was speaking on 26th November on the Private Member Resolution of Shri O.T. Lepcha regarding all round development of Sikkim.

Sir, this beautiful State was created on 26th April, 1975 by virtue of Thirty-sixth Constitution Amendment of 1975 and this became the 22nd State of the Indian Union.

Sir, it is a fact that it is a land-locked State. They don't have a port; they don't have enough roadways; they are linked through one NH 31 A; and on its one side is Bhutan, one side is Nepal and one side is China. On the other side, of course, it is their motherland, India. Due to all that, there are lot of problems in its economic development. Although they are doing a very fine job in floriculture, medicinal plants, alternate resources of medicine, and there are good tourist centres and places of pilgrimage, everything depends on basic infrastructure, that is, road connectivity, air link and road link. They do not have a rail link and they do not have enough road link. They do not have an airport; they have only helipads. I think, they have constructed an airport but private airlines are not allowed to function there. So, under such circumstances, this beautiful State is trying to survive. My hon. friend and learned Member of this House, Shri O.T. Lepcha, tried to draw the attention of the House, and through the House, that of the Government, to take certain measures.

Sir, sometimes, when I think about Sikkim, the beautiful State, it reminds me of the old couplet written by Firdaus, "गर फ़िर्दौस बर रुप ज़मीं अस्त, हमीं अस्त, हमीं अस्त, हमीं अस्त।" One wonders whether it was written for Kashmir, Darjeeling or Sikkim; it is such a beautiful State. Still, it is out of

reach for the common people. If proper infrastructure is provided, the State can develop and flourish; poverty of the local people can go; literacy percentage can grow higher, even though their literacy percentage is good. But they are now dependent on certain things. Now, whether it is famous or infamous, there is the online lottery; it is from Sikkim. The Manipal University went to Sikkim. But proper infrastructure is not there. Outsiders cannot go there. These problems are there. So, they are handicapped.

Talking of development of the border areas, Sir, there are some good places. I am a devotee of Guru Nanak. There is a place situated at a height of more than 7500 feet, known as Gurudangmar 'to' it can be located on the map. 'Dang' means *lathi*; 'tso' means water body. There were glaciers there. Guru Nanak went there. He is known as Nanak Lama there, not as Guru Nanak of the Sikhs, but Nanak Lama of the Buddhists. Nanak is known as a Buddhist saint there. He went there. He had broken the glacier with his *lathi* and water came out. You would be surprised to know that even at that height, water is not frozen; it is not ice. Even military vehicles are using that water for their radiators. People of that area consider that water holy; it is nectar for them. There is a small *gurudwara* constructed by the Army people. People go there, worship and come back; you cannot stay there. Then, there are many other Buddhist temples and people pass through difficult routes to reach them. If you can provide good infrastructure, many more people can go there and pay their respects.

Sir, prior to becoming the 22nd State of the Indian Union, there were certain provisions provided to the citizens of that State where even a non-Sikkimese, I mean biologically he is not a Sikkimese but of Indian origin, can do everything whatever is allowed under Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Indian Constitution. But after this State was created, the Union Government, in exercise of its power under Section 7 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, Citizenship Order, 1975 conferred Indian citizenship on every person who immediately before the 26th day of April, 1975 was a Sikkim subject under the Sikkim Subject Regulation, 1961, but ignored to deal with the fate of those Indian nationals who were residents of Sikkim prior to the appointed date, that is, 26th April, 1975. As a result of such negligence on the part of the Union Government about the necessity of protecting the status of those Indian nationals who had been residing in Sikkim prior to its merger in India but did not comprise Sikkim subjects, these Indian national residents of Sikkim are being treated virtually as second-class citizens in Sikkim State for no fault of theirs. So, the Citizenship Order has denied their right to stay. How many people are there? There are only 400 families and they are residing in that area for centuries together. Their forefathers were born there; they are doing small business. But under this Order, they were denied everything. To make things worse for these Indian nationals, who are estimated to be comprising about 400 families and their descendents who have been residing in Sikkim for generations since pre-Independence days, Notification No.26030/69/88 ICI, dated 20th March, 1989 was issued by the Government of India and a subsequent Notification No. 66/Home/95,

dated 22nd November, 1995 was issued by the Government of Sikkim by dint of which all fundamental rights, of citizens enshrined in Articles 14, 15 and 16 in particular in the Constitution of India, except the right to franchise, are being grossly denied to these *bona fide* Indian nationals residing in Sikkim. Sir, you have made it a State under the Indian Constitution. You amended the Constitution and then you made it the 22nd State of the Union. Those who were non-Sikkimese, their population is very less; they are all Indian people. They were living there but they were denied all their rights. Sitting here in Delhi - - both the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry are sitting at the North Block - they cannot see the problems in Gangtok. One can say that they don't have infrastructure, they don't have roads, air connectivity, rail connectivity and that is why our officials are unable to see their problems and hear their grievance, or anything else. What is the problem? Though the Indian nationals in Sikkim do enjoy the exercise of their rights and exercise the political rights and freedom since the first General Elections to the Legislative Assembly held on 12th October, 1979, all such Indian nationals who had their hearth and home in Sikkim prior to April 26, 1975 have been denied all socio-economic and political rights by the State through a series of legislative measures. We are proud of our judiciary. We are proud of our Constitution. We are proud of our justice system. We are proud of our grievance-redressal system in the country. But why are these 400 families suffering under the dome of democracy, where we can say proudly that the Indian politics or Indian democracy is better than the others; the Indian Constitution is better than the others. We speak about equal rights for everybody.

Sir, prior to merger with the Indian Republic as the 22nd State on April 26, 1975, the bilateral relationship between India and Sikkim used to be governed by the Indo-Sikkim Treaty of 1950 under which Sikkim was conferred the status of Himalayan protectorate of India whereby Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) residing in Sikkim were accorded the freedom of choice to reside, carry out lawful occupation including trade and commerce, and, they were eligible to enjoy all the rights and privileges including employment under the local administration.

Section 5(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 provided for dealing with such Indian nationals who were residents of Sikkim prior to 26th April, 1975. What happened after 26th of April, 1975? Why were these rights snatched from these people? Why? How can a natural born citizen of India be treated as second-class citizen in his own land of birth, which is now Sikkim, a part of India for over thirty three years. This legal anomaly requires a judicious analysis and treatment by the Central Government which alone is the competent authority to determine and decide upon the claims of citizenship of India. Sir, according to our Citizenship Act, with regard to the identification, by features, you can make out whether he is a man of Indian Origin or not. But a Person of Indian Origin is denied his rights in his own land. Sir, by virtue of being *bonafide* Indian nationals settled in Sikkim since decades, their claims should have been settled first by an authoritative, unambiguous order or notification of the Union Government and the same ought to have been given due publicity.

The notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India bearing no. S.O.214E, and S.O.216E, reproduced and printed in the Sikkim Government Gazette no. 11 dated 21st June, 1975 have failed to confer the socio-economic and political rights to the Indian nationals settled in Sikkim. The discrimination has become pronounced over the past 33 years and is in violation of Right to Equality, guaranteed in the Constitution of India.

Sir, the nature of discrimination against the Indian nationals settled in Sikkim prior to April 26, 1975 has been further aggravated owing to the amendment effected by the Parliament of India in the Income Tax Act, 1961 *vide* the Finance Act, 2008. Section 10 of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended by the Finance Act, 2008, introduced clause 26AAA, and, has exempted the Sikkimese, the Sikkim Subject holders from the payment of Income Tax.

So, now, Sir, there is a register. Only the Sikkim subject matter can be registered in that, not these 400 families. Their families and their descendents cannot enter their names in that register; only the Sikkim subject can be registered there. Now, they are getting the benefit out of this exemption notice that they are exempted from paying income tax. Whereas these 400 families are concerned, whatever they earn, whatever they produce, whatever they sell, they have to pay income tax. It looks really amazing that under the same Constitution, the India works from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Kohima and in between it is Sikkim, which is the only State where they are exempted, the only State. Why?

Sir, the Indian nationals residing in Sikkim, prior to April 26, 1975, have been kept out of the ambit of section 26AAA as they had for all along been Indian nationals. On the other hand, 73,431 persons, who were neither subject holder nor Indian citizens were conferred Indian citizenship *vide* Union Government notification number 26030/69/88 I.C.I., dated 20th March 1989. Consequently, these persons have been treated Sikkimese and hence granted exemption under section 26AAA by virtue of above order, and order of even number dated 8th April, 1991, Sikkim subjected nomenclature becomes unconstitutional after 26th April, 1975 when Sikkim joined the Union of India as its constituent unit in Schedule I of the Constitution.

Sir, the other thing is that those who are from Nepal, those who are from Bhutan, those who are from Tibet, those who are Lepchas, those who are not resident of that area but looks like same, they can register. But a person of Indian origin, his features are different, his looks are different, although they also speak the local language or the Sikkimesee are also speaking Hindi, the language is not a barrier

SHRI B.K. HARIPARASAD (Karnataka): There are three races in the Indian origin, the Aryans, the Dravidians and the Mongolians. They all are Indians.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am grateful to my learned friend, Mr. Hariprasadji, who has just reminded me about this. I did not want to say that they are Mongol origin.

SHRI B.K. HARIPARASAD: It is a race. The Aryan race, the Dravidian race and the Mongolian race.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I never wanted to raise the issue of race because I don't want to fight in between. It is between the Aryans or Dravidians or Mongolians because I know the consequences also. There is Mongolian agitation going on in the country to make a separate nation from Chindwin Valley to Chittagong Hill Tracts. I don't want to give popularity to that. This may be a design of that part. That is not the point. The point is, I am talking about Indian origin. Indian origin means right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Kohima. That is my plea. I knew that point but I did not want to raise that.

Sir, I support whatever my friend, O.T. Lepcha, said; I support his stand because it is the NDA Government which brought a separate Department for North East development in the Home Ministry, and a Minister is also designated for that. Mr. Handique, now the Minister, belongs to Jorhat in the North East. He will understand the problems of North East. The problems of Sikkim should be addressed in the North East Council and their dues, I mean, whatever they demand for development of their infrastructure should be considered.

While supporting the Resolution, I support the demands of 400 families of Indian origin, those who are living in Sikkim and denied their rights under Articles 14, 15, and 19 of the Indian Constitution. They should be given their due rights. I would like to make a prayer here.

One, the Government be directed to ensure executive action with a view to treat all such Indian citizens and their descendents residing in Sikkim prior to 26th April 1975 as Sikkimese Indians for the purpose of automatically becoming eligible to all the socio-economic and political rights on a par with those of the erstwhile Sikkim subjects while availing of such rights and benefits from the Governments at the Centre as well as the State in the interest of justice, equality and welfare of its citizens.

Two, the Government be directed to ensure equity before the law by removing the discrimination arising from the amendment of the Income Tax Act 1961 *vide* the Finance Act 2008 as narrated by me earlier. This is the Section 26AAA which exempted Sikkimese subject matters from payment of Income Tax. They should also get this benefit.

With these words, I support the Resolution. Thank you.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I could see the Resolution which actually exposes whatever feelings the Sikkimese are having in their heart. At the same time, we have

3.00 P.M.

to remember how our democratic system worked so well. It was during the tenure of Shrimati Indira Gandhi that this State was added to our country. We can even say it a new nation. It voluntarily came into the fold of the Indian Union. Except this State, all the States were in existence at the time of Independence in 1947 and also when the Constitution was drafted. This was the new rich land which came to India. We are very proud of the 36th Amendment of the Constitution which annexed Sikkim as part of India. It was a very strategically placed country. Now it is part of our nation. It is a very beautiful State. We are also very proud that it is a very peaceful and peace-loving State. Buddhists are living there in large numbers. The beauty of this place is seen not just by every Indian but by every human being in the world.

Sir, I would like to stress only on two points in this matter. One is, we have to gear up our own administration to find out who are our citizens and how many people are in India who have to be catered by our own administration. I raised two questions through Unstarred Question. One was: 'How many people were given employment visa from various countries more so from China and other neighbourhood countries?' The reply given by the Ministry of Home Affairs was: 'We don't have any compiled information at the Centre, Another question was: 'How many foreign refugees are in India?

How many were under the supervision of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees? How many of them have asked for the citizenship? How the Government is considering it? The reply given was, "We don't have any data at the Centre." Sir, I am very surprised that we cannot understand how many people are in our country on the basis of the visas at the national level-we could not even have the data - and if we could not find out as to how many people have come legally as refugees and settled in India. We are allowing them and spending huge money for their welfare. Also, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is also looking after them and reporting to the United Nations then and there. If we can't even have the figures at the national level, how are we managing our development activities? Crores of people are in India without our own calculations. How our Planning Commission can work and allocate funds to various States? How are we going to look after their health and education? How are we going to utilise their human resource? Sir, it is high time that we found out a way or brought forward an enactment for identifying the clear-cut number of persons who are in India and how are we going to manage them. On all our borders on four sides, whether it is sea route or land route, everything is poor. Anybody can come in India. More so, all intellectuals are going out of India, settling in Western countries and getting Nobel Prize. But, all unnecessary people are pushed towards India and we are bearing all the costs. Therefore, we have to come forward with a debate on this issue and see that we have a system for clear-cut identification of Indian citizens. Even if a single person enters into the territory of India, he should be known to the Government of India. They should have a system like that. They have got a lot of

electronic systems. Even if a bird or animal enters into the Indian boundary, that should be known to the Government of India. Then only, we would be safe. We should have this system of identification of persons who are repatriates, who are illegally coming inside the country, who are legally coming inside, when are they returning back, how many days they are going to live and enjoy our system, development, money and resources, etc. If we cannot know that, we are very much in the backwardness. Sir, I want to focus upon this Sikkim issue. Our friend, Shri Ahluwalia, very correctly drew attention of the House and also the Government regarding how Persons of Indian Origin could not get the recognition as citizen there while all others were recognised by a simple executive notification. Therefore, everything is to be properly done to make our legal system perfect so that our system is obeyed by any person who enters into Indian territory. Sir, every country where I got the opportunity of going, thanks to Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji who sent me as a delegate, they have a clear-cut number of citizens and non-citizens. That is why, their planning is excellent and they have made their security perfect.

Sir, secondly, I would like to stress that Sikkim is one State which we can proudly say that the whole humanity would like to come and stay there and enjoy the nature and go back. Such are the tourist spots! How much have we developed? How much money have we spent for tourism? Is there any national plan? Is there any plan by the State? Whether it is properly executed. How much are we earning every year through that planning? Are we having that type of thinking now? When the world becomes a village, we are part of that village and we have to see that our citizens get all the facilities. Similarly, we have to earn through the international monetary system. It is not the industry alone which is important now. It is the service industry which is much more important where already, the nature has given all facilities, but the only thing is, we have to protect the nature and, at the same time, we have to meet the minimum requirement of infrastructure development so that any person who comes to Sikkim could be in a position to return back the same day or the next day, at least. Even the air route is insufficient and the rail route is not at all thought of. Such is the situation. Therefore, we have to, at least, think of expanding the air route. That should be the position. And international tourism should also be developed so that we can earn huge money through that.

The citizens of Sikkim are having all intellectual powers and resources. Those resources are our nation's resources. Therefore, they should be allowed to have their own persons throughout India and, more specifically, to occupy the higher posts. There was one part of the request made in this Resolution; I am reading the seventh point - "There is no representation of the people of Sikkim in high Constitutional posts and other higher authorities." This thing has to be looked into and the persons who are coming from Sikkim should be involved at the national level. They should occupy different positions which are accepted by the Constitution.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Thank you, Natchiappanji. Now, Dr. Janardhan Waghmare,

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir. Now this Resolution is meant for development of Sikkim. The historical background is given here by Ahluwaliaji. He has talked about its historical background, its culture and heritage, its resources and the natural beauty of this place.

Sikkim has emerged in Indian territory in 1975. Even after 35 years, no development has taken place; very little. There are no railway lines; there is no airport; there is no university, and the State does not have any infrastructure facilities there! Roads are, in fact, blood vessels of a particular region. Without that, there cannot be any communication, no connectivity with the world, and no development takes place. Therefore, the demand in this Resolution is that there should be roads. The National Highway runs from that particular State but it is in a very bad condition. So, we have to look into it. In fact, it is called a "Mini Switzerland" and the beauty of this place is just like a Heaven as has been prescribed just now. This could be a very big tourist destination which can give a lot of money and income to us. Now, the development of this region is important from two points of view. Development is needed for the welfare of the people living there in Sikkim itself. And development is necessary for national integration also. The Sikkim people have merged with India with the hope that their aspirations will be fulfilled and they will have no discontentment in their mind.

Sir, there are many parts in this country which are backward, economically and socially. In developed States like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, and even in U.P., backward places are neglected, for instance, Marathwada in Maharashtra, Telangana in Andhra Pradesh and Bundelkhand in U.P. So, there is no plan, no roadmap for weaker sections of the society, for backward sections of the society. You have certain Constitutional provisions. But what about the backward regions? So, they should be meted out socio-economic justice. The principle of equality should be followed. Otherwise, these places will be neglected. They will again become backward and, therefore, they will have discontentment, as Telangana is having. Such places will have discontentment. Therefore, now we have to consider the aspirations of the people there. Why don't we establish one Central University in Sikkim? We are establishing universities. Every State is getting one. Even though Sikkim is a small State, it requires a Central University. Unless you have higher education and advanced higher education with excellence, people can't get good services also. For appointing people in high positions in Government, higher education is needed. Therefore, I would like to say, let us establish a Central University there. At least, one airport with all good facilities is needed in that particular part.

The region has to be developed with its own resources. There are abundant resources in

Sikkim. But we have to just implement our own plans properly. Then only will Sikkim have good and proper development. Development is the key word. We have to look into these things. With these words, I support this Resolution. Thank you.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Resolution. I am afraid, we strayed into certain other related issues primarily regarding citizenship. The plea of Shri Lepcha was primarily for special aid for development, more care and more total inclusive growth for the land-locked Sikkim.

Regarding citizenship, certain vital issues have been raised. So, I just speak for a minute about it, with your permission. Firstly, as has been pointed out, citizenship must be accounted for and properly marked, and India must know who Indian citizens are and who are not. There is confusion even now about it. What is the total strength? How many of them have come to India across the border unauthorisedly? How many of them are staying here? They are people who are natural hazards and who are hazards for the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation.. Maybe, they are Bangladeshis; maybe, they are Pakistanis; maybe, they are from many other places. If they are not Indians, they should be marked as "not Indians" and if they are Indians, they should be categorised as Indian citizens. Shri Natchiappan has pointed out this issue.

Another issue which has been pointed out by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia is pertaining to the plight of Indian-born, Indian-origin, people. A handful of 400 families, unfortunately, due to oversight by the administrative authorities or by the Government of India or whatever you call it, had been left high and dry and cut-off. They don't have socio-economic-political right as a citizen which they should get. So, I think a very validly argued out case has been put forward in a historical perspective. It has touched, perhaps, the heart of everyone present here and, I think, the Government will, through you, Sir, take proper notice of it and do the needful at the earliest. A kind of misery has been perpetuated on those unfortunate 400 families. We must come to their rescue.

As far as the Resolution of Mr. Lepcha is concerned, we should consider Sikkim as an Indian sovereign State which, voluntarily, merged into the Indian Union. It was a great gesture of neighbourhood, friendship and goodwill, and we must take special care of the person, of the entity, of the earlier State which merged with the Indian Union and became one of its part. And it must share total inclusive growth which India is enjoying. Its health issue has to be taken care of; its education issue has to be taken care of; its housing issue has to be taken care of; its road connectivity, its air connectivity, its rail connectivity and its teledensity, all these have to be taken care of. We have to see how the infant mortality rate, in Sikkim is, and how their maternal mortality rate is. All these should be looked into and compared with other progressive States of the Union of India. And, if they are lagging behind, we should go some extra miles with a view to helping this State. It is a landlocked

State. But it is a very strategic State for us because it has its borders, as pointed out earlier, with Nepal, Bhutan and China. It is an international border. It needs very special security. It needs very special watch. It needs very special care. That can happen only when economic development takes place properly and rightly in Sikkim. So, the first plea and the real plea for Sikkim will be, how to make it forward in the sphere of development. And, as very rightly pointed out, roads are arteries of growth, and if there is no connectivity, if there is no civil airport, very great potential, immense potential, of international tourism cannot be exploited. So, the first and foremost need will be the connectivity. The education needs must be catered to. It may not be possible to establish a university there because of very less population and because of certain other constraints. But, at least, a college of eminence, as the centre of learning, must be there, worth its name, in Sikkim. It is high time this is looked into. We may call it a 'mini-Switzerland'; we may call it a 'heaven on the Earth', or, that it is 'another Kashmir'. There is no doubt that as far as the gift of Nature is concerned, God has been, abundantly, kind to Sikkim. Unkindness has come from we people only. And, Sikkim, legitimately, looks forward to its brethren in other States of the country that they will extend a hand of friendship, goodwill and good faith. This would inculcate a feeling amongst the people of Sikkim that 'all is for one and one is for all'. That kind of a feeling must be created. It will be the basis of national integration, as has been pointed out by my colleagues here. An all-round development will be required. Infrastructure is, at present, at an infant stage in that part of the country. The Special Category Status has been given only because it is a hilly and a difficult terrain; it has low population density; it has strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries; there is backwardness in infrastructure. All these things justify the Resolution of Mr. Lepcha that a special treatment should be given to Sikkim.

I know generosity of this great land, known as India; it has never been unfair to its own people and Sikkim is its part and parcel. So, I again plead that apart from giving legitimate right of citizenship to those who have been left out from the mainstream, a few extra steps should be taken by the Government of India to give a kind of thrust to development activities so that Sikkim can enjoy all benefits of inclusive growth, and Sikkim can legitimately feel that it was a right decision in 1975 that it voluntarily merged into the Indian Union. Thank you very much, Sir, for bearing patiently with me.

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have heard the concerns of the hon. Members of the House for the development of the State of Sikkim. Broadly, the issues are; socio-economic development, connectivity and tourism. It will be my endeavour, Sir, through this reply, to

allay the apprehensions raised in the House by the hon. Members. I assure the hon. Members that Sikkim will see development within a couple of years. As a matter of fact, projects mentioned in the hon. Members speeches are now well under way. Before I dwell on the subject, I place before the House a remark made by the hon. Chief Minister of Sikkim on 5th December, 2005. In reply to a query of the newspaper *Hindu*, in an interview, on the occasion of his twelfth year in office, he said, I quote, "It is regrettable that Sikkim is the only State in the country where there is no airport, no rail link and university, even though it is the declared Government norm that every full-fledged State of India must have these facilities." Sir, that was the year 2005, the second year, just the second year of the first UPA Government led by Congress after long eight years. All these projects mentioned by the hon. Members and also mentioned by the Sikkim Chief Minister were all launched and had taken off during the first tenure of the UPA Government. And fresh proposals with substantial dose of funds are in the pipeline, during the first six months of the UPA Government's second tenure. I think, you can trust us. We are committed to bring in development to make Sikkim a modern developed State. We still remember the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, when she declared with throbbing emotion to the people of Sikkim on the historic occasion of Rashtrapati's assent to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill accepting Sikkim's vote for merging with the Indian Union in the wake of the referendum on 14th May, 1975. The message of Indira Gandhi on 16th May said, "The good wishes of the entire country are with the people of Sikkim as they enter a new era of democracy and Constitutional Government."

It is still, indeed, our commitment to translate that message into a reality. Rest assured, Sir, we are committed to build a modern developed Sikkim. I want to assure the Members of the House that the Government is fully committed to the socio-economic development. It was for this reason that the States like the other north-eastern States have been accorded the status of a special category State which entitles it to receive 90 per cent of the Plan assistance as grant. Sikkim has been receiving substantial funds from the Central Government for its development. The quantum of Central assistance to the State Plan in the year 2008-09 was Rs.497 crores.

The State has also been included in the North-Eastern Council by amending the NEC Act. As a result, the State is getting project funding from the NEC. An amount of Rs.167.80 crores has been released to the State between 2003-04 and 2008-09.

Let me mention that it is not correct to say that the Plan allocation to a State is given solely on the basis of its population. Other factors like the relative backwardness of the State, the poverty-level, etc., are also taken into account. In fact, the per capita Plan assistance to the north-eastern States, including Sikkim, is among the highest in the country.

My colleague Shri R.P.N. Singh has comprehensively explained the initiatives which the

Central Government is taking for improving the road connectivity at the State and district level. My esteemed colleague, hon. MOS (Surface Transport), on the very first day, gave a detailed statement on how, many roads have been taken up. I am proud to say that even road is one of the sectors where we have spent a lot of money. Given some time, the road connectivity will be complete.

The State has also been included in the ADB assisted north-eastern State Road Project. The Members would appreciate the fact that Sikkim has a difficult topography and there are legitimate environmental concerns whenever a big project is undertaken. What we are looking for is sustainable development and not development at the cost of environment. Ministry of Environment & Forests is also providing assistance to the State under its various afforestation and environment-related schemes for preservation of its forests and other natural resources.

As regards air-connectivity, Sikkim is presently served through Bagdogra airport from where a helicopter service operates in Sikkim. But, a Greenfield Airport project at Pakyong in the State of Sikkim is being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 358.36 crores. Airports Authority of India are planning to complete the execution of the Project by January, 2012. For bringing the State on the Railway Map of the country, Sevoke-Rangpo Project has been approved by the Government of India as the Tenth National Project. For promoting tourism in the State, the Government has relaxed the LTC rules to permit Central Government employees to travel by air to the North Eastern States. This has immensely helped promoting tourism in the Region, especially, in Sikkim. Ministry of Tourism is remarkable, I should say. The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 150.49 crores during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan, up till 2009-10 (till date) to the Government of Sikkim for various tourism related projects. The rural tourism site Lachen in North Sikkim has been selected as one of the 15 rural eco-holiday destinations for Visit India Year 2009. I am also happy to inform the respected House that Tourism Ministry has recently declared the State of Sikkim as eco-tourism State. Ministry of Tourism has also recently approved three schemes for construction of Helipads/Heliports. The State of Sikkim has also got loan from the Asian Development Bank for development of tourism sector. Sir, to promote international tourism, my Ministry has initiated North-East India-ASEAN Cooperation. Recently, a Thai delegation visited the State in this regard. Sikkim, with Buddhist sites, would definitely appeal to these countries where large number of people practice Buddhism. Further, the Ministry of Tourism has been promoting the North-Eastern Region as Paradise Unexplored in their campaign in India and abroad. Increased tourist activity in the State has led to a number of new hotel projects. In this regard, I am happy to note, the North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy 2007 provides *inter-alia*, concessions for setting up tourism infrastructure. As a result of these measures, tourism in Sikkim during 2008 has grown at a healthy rate of about ten to twelve per cent over the year 2007 for international and domestic tourists who numbered about 19 thousand and 3.68

lakh respectively. Some Members have raised the issue of higher education. In this regard, as pointed out by one hon. Member, the Central Government has set up a Central University in the State. Besides, the State also has Sikkim-Manipur University which has been set up under a unique PPP mode.

The university has a facility for medical as well as engineering education. The Government feels that the present set up adequately meets the requirements of the State. Under the NLCP Scheme of the Ministry of DoNER, so far, 197 projects have been sanctioned for speeding up the development of infrastructure in Sikkim. The total cost of the approved projects is Rs. 664.84 crores. Out of which, Rs. 505.31 crores have already been released. Out of an approved amount of Rs. 664.84 crores, about Rs. 400 crores was released during the period between 2004 and 2009 under the NLCP. As a result of the concerted attempts of the Central and the State Government, Sikkim is surging ahead in the march towards the well-being State in the country to achieve 100 per cent sanitation and was the proud winner of the first Rashtriya Nirmal Gram Puraskar.

Sir, hon. Members have raised concern about officials of the State going on Central deputation. In this regard, my humble submission is, the officials go on deputation on the recommendation of the State Government. The All-India Services officials are common to both the Centre and the States. Their movement to the Centre broadens their outlook and horizon and, moreover, they act as an important link in appreciating the problems of the State.

Sir, Shri Ahluwaliaji, Shri Natchiappan and a few other hon. Members have raised the issue which is a legal and Constitutional matter. Well, at the moment, since I am concentrating on the socio-economic development of Sikkim, I think, I don't like to go into the matter. I have to discuss the issue with Constitutional, legal and other experts and only then I get back to the hon. Members concerned, I hope they will excuse me for this. At least, for the time being, I am not able to say anything on this.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I will just make a point so that the hon. Minister can respond to that. The hon. Minister has just now mentioned that it needs consultation with Constitutional and legal expert. I would only like to say, please assure the House that you will take up the issue with the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry. I need only that much. It does not need any consultation of DoNER Ministry with the Constitutional or legal experts. It needs the attention of the Finance Ministry and the Home Ministry. I need only this assurance from the hon. Minister.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I have already stated that I will examine this issue with appropriate Ministries and get back to the hon. Members.

Sir, in 2004, the Ministry of DONER was created. Let me inform Ahluwaliaji that from 2002-04, it was a Department only. It is the UPA Government which created the Ministry first in 2004. I do agree that two years before 2004, that is, 2002-03, 2003-04, they did some trial to start development

process in the North Eastern region. For that, we shall always be grateful. I have never said that they have not done. So, it is a kind of ongoing process. It started in 2002-03. So, I believe, Sir, that, I have clarified the position. Necessary steps are being taken. Sufficient funds are being provided by the Ministry for the development of Sikkim. I would like to assure my friend, the hon. Member, Shri O.T. Lepcha that necessary steps will be taken to complete all the projects in time. Now, I appeal to Mr. O.P. Lepcha to withdraw the Resolution and cooperate with us in going ahead with our development plans. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you, Mr. Minister, but I believe Shri O.T. Lepcha is not here to give the reply or withdraw the Resolution. Now, the question is:

"Having regard to the fact that --

- (i) Sikkim was merged to the Union of India out of emotions in the year 1975;
- (ii) the Hindi speaking people of the State are proud to be Indian;
- (iii) Sikkim is the land locked State with no air and rail link to the State;
- (iv) the State shares its international borders with Nepal, Bhutan and China;
- (v) Sikkim is popularly called "mini Switzerland" of India with abundance of natural and scenic beauty including Mt. Kanchenjunga at its peak;
- (vi) even after 35 years of its merger, there is not much development in the State;
- (vii) there is no representation of the people of Sikkim in high Constitutional posts and other higher authorities;
- (viii) only life line of the State *i.e.*, the National Highway No 31-A remains disturbed throughout the year; and
- (ix) there is resentment in the peace loving people of Sikkim in view of its neglect, this House, therefore, in order to bring the people of Sikkim in the mainstream of the Country, urges upon the Government-
 - (a) to prepare an action plan for an all round development of the State of Sikkim;
 - (b) to connect the State with air and rail link at the earliest;
 - (c) to improve the road infrastructure in the State by acceding to the proposal received from the State Government;
 - (d) to consider appointment of the people of Sikkim to the Constitutional posts and in other higher authorities;
 - (e) to develop Sikkim as an international tourist destination in view of its vast potential; and
 - (f) to preserve the natural reserves of the State."

The Resolution was negatived.

Need to enhance the role of Parliamentary Sovereignty in the sphere of international treaties entered into by the Government of India

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (WEST BENGAL): Sir, with your permission, I will first read out the Resolution. This House holds that political differences, notwithstanding a broad consensus across party lines in the area of foreign policy, particularly, in the sphere of international agreements, is in the national interest. Towards achieving such a consensus, the House believes it is necessary to enhance the role of parliamentary sovereignty in the sphere of international treaties entered into by the executive. In the recent past, the Government of India has entered into several international treaties and agreements both, bilateral and multilateral which have major implications for the people of our country. These include the WTO agreements, the bilateral Free Trade Agreement with the ASEAN and the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement. Many more such agreements are in the process of negotiations, like the one on climate change or FTAs with other countries like the EU. These agreements are not merely of a technical, administrative or executive nature but also have an impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people. Some of these agreements also have an impact and areas that fall under the domain of the States, like agriculture.

That the House considers that given the wide implications of these agreements, the present role of the Parliament in India in the case of international treaties and agreements which is restricted to adopting domestic legislation in keeping with the international agreements is inadequate and unsatisfactory.

The legal validity and binding nature of international treaties in most cases goes beyond the tenure of the Government which may have signed such a treaty. Given the possibility in the parliamentary democratic framework of change of Governments and ruling political parties of combinations, the requirement of parliamentary ratification before such a treaty is finalised becomes self-evident.

Precisely, to ensure bi-partisan support, many parliamentary democracies have adopted such a model. In the United States of America, Senate ratification is essential. Countries like Argentina and Mexico follow the same practice as the USA.

In the recent past, countries like South Africa and Australia have amended their Constitutions to enhance the role of their Parliaments in ratifying the international treaties and agreements. In a majority of OECD countries, parliamentary approval is required, at least, in cases of certain categories of treaties.

This House resolves that all such bilateral and multilateral international treaties and agreements, which are not of a technical, administrative or executive nature, be ratified by the Parliament after being negotiated by the Government of India before they are signed.

The House recommends that if such ratification requires a constitutional amendment, the Government may move such an amendment without delay.

Sir, this is basically the Resolution. I am really happy that luck favoured me this time and my Resolution got the first number in the balloting, and I am able to move this. I believe, it is essential because of the immediate relevance of such a discussion in the present situation. Our team is at present in Copenhagen and we hope that they are going to come to some kind of an understanding which is going to help the world in meeting the challenge of climate change. But the question remains how are the Indian people to be consulted in this process of coming to an agreement; what are the rights of the people of India in coming to such agreements and how are the rights of the people of India reflected in our legal and constitutional framework?

When you talk about international treaties, Sir, it is being calculated by a former Governor-General of Australia that since the end of the Second World War, there have been over 50,000 treaties which have been signed in the international sphere. When we look at the large number of treaties which have already been signed and are being implemented and we also look at the present international situation where the implications of a single treaty signed have such great ramifications, I think, it becomes very important, in the first instance, to come to some understanding as to the increased importance and relevance of international treaties in the current international situation.

I would like to, in putting my arguments forward, Sir, discuss it in three sections. The first is the political aspect. The second is the constitutional aspect and the third would be to have a look, at least, as to what the situation is in other countries and then I would like to make certain recommendations for this House to consider.

Coming to the first aspect, the political aspect, it is a fact, Sir, that since 1990s and collapse of the Soviet Union, another socialist countries of Eastern Europe, the balance of power and the co-relation of forces in the international sphere have undergone a great change.

And within this change, it is also an undoubted fact that, at least, in the first decade, or may be the first decade-and-a-half, of this changed international situation, the advantage did lie with the United States of America. This was reflected, to a great extent, in the kind of international developments that we were witness to in the first decade after the collapse of the Soviet Union and that block of East European socialist countries. Parallel to that political development which, I believe, put the developing world, countries like India, at a disadvantage, because of the shift of power to the United States and to the Western Block, causing difficulties for the non-aligned countries, of which India had played the leading role and could get some space and advantage for the interest of the country and for the developing world, the parallel economic development was that of the development of, what is now called, the neo-liberal framework. That, Sir, is a set of economic

policies, which is multinational in character, which crosses international boundaries and which is also given the term 'globalisation'. Personally, I am not in agreement with just calling it globalisation because I don't think any thinking citizen of the world can ever be against globalisation *per se* we are all products of globalisation; our civilization is a product of globalization. We learn from the cultures of other countries; we have given so much to other countries in so many spheres. Therefore, the process of globalisation is perhaps as old as civilization is. So, it is not globalization, which we at all question, or the processes of exchange between countries, but it is the present international political context on the substance of that globalization, and which is the driving force of that globalization, which we have to enquire into and question, whether those processes of globalization which, I believe, are driven by imperialist interests, are, indeed, affecting the international situation in such a way as to make the issue of governance itself in countries like India having to question the impact of such globalization on our own country and on our own institutions. As I said, one of the core efforts of this process of economic globalization is, to cross the border and to have an approach in which the strongest forces driving this process of globalisation can dominate the world economy. International markets which are dominated by big multinational companies, which do not accept borders and which move around the world at will, looking for profits and who, therefore, require legal frameworks internationally and within nations to be able to satisfy this drive for profits, this international economic model which is being pushed today in the name of globalization and within new liberal frameworks is what constitutes, I believe Sir, one of the most driving forces behind the whole question of international treaty-making. That is because we cannot look at international treaties or the process of making treaties divorced from the present international context, divorced from the forces which are working in the present international interest, divorced from the powerful interests which are driving those international treaties.

And since 1990s, we have seen how international treaties actually impact in an extremely widespread way the lives and livelihoods of people within countries who have actually nothing to do with the process of international treaty-making. This is a reality. And if this is the international context of globalisation in which the process of international treaty-making becomes core and crucial, and is admittedly so by all the parties concerned, then, undoubtedly, we, in India, who are also willingly part of that process, whether we want to be or not be, are part of that entire international community, we are affected by the developers of that international community, and precisely because of that we have to once again reconsider and look at our own processes of international treaty-making. Therefore, I would say that given the international context, given the political context, given the importance of international treaties in the present processes of globalisation, this goes beyond political parties and beyond a particular Government. And, therefore, when I move this Resolution, in the very first paragraph of my Resolution I say that please let us not look at it from the

4.00 P.M.

prism of the spectacles of our own parties. I belong to the CPI(M) and everybody knows that my party has a very clear position as far as international situation is concerned, as far as our analysis of US imperialism is concerned and as far as our belief in the alternative of socialism is concerned. It is well known. Other parties have got their own positions. But when we look as a nation, when we look as Members of the Indian Parliament and when we look at it as Indian citizens, then, undoubtedly, it is true and undeniable, Sir, that today it is in the national interest to have the widest possible participation in this whole process of international treaty-making. So, it goes beyond political parties and, as I have said in the Resolution, Sir, the life of a Government is for five years, the life of a treaty may go far beyond the life of that Government and, therefore, the next Government which gets elected, according to the parliamentary procedures that we follow in India, has to, undoubtedly, follow that treaty. It cannot, all of a sudden, say 'No' to that treaty. Of course, it can and it has a right to, particularly if it has been elected on the plank to go against the treaty it has a right to say 'No'. But, normally speaking, Governments are expected to uphold the international treaties which their previous Governments may have arrived at. This is the normal way of doing things. Given the importance of the international treaties in today's world, I believe that we really have to have a very serious consideration, Sir, as to the methods of how we do this within India. The second political aspect is that, in India, we have treaties which also may have an impact on the federal nature of our Constitution. Now, as everybody knows, there is a Union List and there are State subjects also which are entirely under the jurisdiction of the States. In the present situation, a treaty may be reached in which a very direct impact of that treaty has to be borne by the States. I am going to give you several examples of that. But, at the outset, the point that I am making is that international treaty-making also has an impact, more so today, on the federal nature of our polity and on the rights of the Centre and the States and on various responsibilities of the Central Government *vis-a-vis* the States.

And, therefore, we can have a position where the Central Government comes to an understanding and signs the international treaty which directly has an impact on the people living in a State, and, where that State itself has got little or no right and no say in any measure in trying to understand that treaty -- I am saying, by law, at present, by procedure, and, also by practice.

Hon. Vice-Chairman himself comes from the State of Kerala, and, he is very well aware that only very recently the large sections of people of Kerala had to form a human chain from one end of the State to another, precisely because of what they consider as infringement on their rights, right to livelihood after the Government of India had signed an FTA with the ASEAN countries, which they believe would directly have an impact on the rights of fishermen, on the rights of the fisher people, on the rights of other traditional industries, which, they believe, would affect them very deeply. They also believe that this was an impingement on their democratic rights as Indian citizens.

So, the issue of the federal character of the Constitution makes it incumbent on the Government of the day to take into consideration the requirement of a much wider participation since those treaties have a very long-term impact on the lives of the people of the State.

The third aspect of the political background is the fundamental rights of the people. For example, if I sign an agreement under the WTO, which removes Quantitative Restrictions on the number of commodities which are to come into India, immediately, there is a possibility that our markets would be flooded with imported goods, which are highly subsidized by the developed countries, which would immediately have an impact on the lives and livelihood of farmers who are producing that particular agricultural product. It has happened. But I am saying that even at the theoretical level, you can see how an agreement like the WTO can have a direct impact on the fundamental rights of our citizens granted to us by the Constitution of our country, for example, the Right to Life.

It is not just one agreement. Since 1994, when the WTO came into existence, the implications of WTO are there. Just now, we had a discussion in this House on what is going to come out after the failure of the Doha Round of talks, how the Government is going to take it forward, or, how the developed countries are putting pressure on India at certain levels. I am not here on the point whether the Government is going to defend the interests of the farmers of this country or not, that is not my point. My point is that these are issues which affect the fundamental rights of every citizen of this country. Because, for taking any decision, when, a person, as our negotiator, who has been given the responsibility, signs an agreement, that agreement has an immediate impact on all. Take, for example, the cotton farming community in Vidarbha. So, the fundamental rights of the people, which get directly impacted by signing of such treaties, is another very important aspect of the political framework today in which we are moving forward.

The fourth aspect of the political framework is the question of accountability, and, when I come to the Constitutional aspects, we can discuss it a little further. Sir, regarding the accountability, after all, the Constitution of India and the founding Fathers and Mothers of our Constitution... I am glad that you smiled. Sir, very often, the 'Mothers' in the Constitution are ignored. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Oh yes. Always, it is 'fathers' and you are saying, 'mothers'. It is good. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Thank you, Sir. There were many women in the Constituent Assembly, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Certainly. It is true. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: So, we can certainly talk about those enlightened men and women who founded our Constitution. Of course, the most-towering figure was Baba Saheb Ambedkar, and, he had many important comments to make on the issue of accountability of the Executive to the Legislature. And, that was the spirit of the Constitution -- the accountability at every single level to the people. The Constitution of India also starts, "We, the people give to ourselves..". Therefore, I believe, that when the power vests solely with the Government, as it does today, to go into signing these international treaties, the basic issue of accountability which is one of the most important prevailing basis of our Constitutional framework, that unfortunately, Sir, gets completely eroded. This erosion is not just a technical issue of being eroded. This erosion hits at the very pillar of democracy which is that whatever action the Government takes, that action, it has to be accountable for. Now, some people, I have seen in the earlier debates on this, say, "Yes, we are accountable. We go back to the people. The people don't want us. We are voted out and thrown out. Or, the people have voted us into power, and, therefore, we have every right to do it. I signed the Indo-US Nuclear Deal. You opposed the deal. Your seats have been reduced; my seats have been improved, and, therefore, it is proved that the people of this country want the Indo-US nuclear deal". I beg to differ with that kind of understanding because that understanding skips over one of the major questions which is that these treaties which are binding in nature, which bind this country, such treaties which are done without the assent of the elected Members, elected from all corners of India, credibility of that process itself comes into question. Therefore, I would like to stress, Sir, that diktats or the use of majorities, whether manufactured or genuine, in the formation of Governments do a disservice to the interests of our country. We talk about decentralisation, Sir. I believe that India's experience in the Panchayati Raj is certainly an example that we can be proud of, in which we believe in decentralisation of power. We believe in the participation of the largest number of people in issues which concern their lives. But on the one hand, we advocate decentralisation of power, on the other, we practise the most highly centralised application of power in this way of international treaty making. It is so highly centralised that sometimes even hon. Members of the Cabinet and their acquiescence is taken as a formality. Sir, these highly centralised methods do not suit a democracy like India. So, whether it is in the decision-making process, whether it is in the implementation of the principle of accountability, whether it is in the defence of the livelihood of our people who are impacted by such treaties, whether it is in the upholding of the federal nature of our Constitution and being extremely cautious before taking any decisions which impinge on the rights of the States in matters which are under their jurisdiction on all these matters, Sir, I believe that the present process of international treaty-making requires a very strong reconsideration.

I want to give the hon. House and the hon. Members here an example of one of the WTO processes which has been documented by the National Working Group on Patent Laws which set up

a People's Commission on GATT. The membership of this Commission included eminent persons like Justices Krishna Iyer, Chinnappa Reddy, D.A. Desai and others. They made a very detailed account of what was the political process which went into taking forward the issue of the WTO by the then Government and how Parliament handled the negotiation. Sir, this is what the Report says.

On March 15 and 30, 1990, the Government stated "that it will not participate in any negotiation under threat of retaliation." This was the Government's answer in the Lok Sabha to Questions No.33 and 2873.

On March 19 and 27, 1990, the Government stated that there was no proposal to amend the Indian Patents Act which was a salutary legislation. This was in an answer given in the Rajya Sabha.

On May 3, 1990, the Government stated that investment and services lie in the domain of sovereign decision-making not covered by GATT or any other multi-lateral or bilateral agreement. This was in an answer given in the Rajya Sabha.

On 4-10th May, 1990, the Government reiterated that it cannot enter into bilateral negotiations to change basic economic policies which are in the domain of our sovereign decision-making, and that too, under threat of retaliation. India would provide support and leadership to the concerns of developing nations.

On 4th and 11th May, 1990, the Government maintained that the present intellectual property laws are adequate.

I am telling you the decisions of that time and how they changed. How they changed without any reference to Parliament, and how short-sighted was the Government that it could not see what was coming before it.

On 17th May, 1990, the Indian Government repeated, 'The Indian delegation also reiterated its stand that it would not negotiate under the threat of retaliation under Super 301.'

This whole report is there. Then by 1991, how did the Government of India change its stand? It said, India would not negotiate under threat of retaliation. It was softened to say that 'We regret the unilateral decision of the U.S. while these issues are already being negotiated, In other words, the US was retaliating, but we were continuing our negotiations.

On July 19, 1991, the Government talked of different perceptions on patent and trademarks, but it did not take any stand.

On 11th September, 1991, the Government reiterated that there was no proposal to amend the Patents Act. We know what happened to that. And we know how the Patents Act had to be amended.

And what is happening today in the field of patents. We are all aware of that. Therefore, we find that in the first five years of the Uruguay Round, the Indian Government failed to make any substantive policy statements in Parliament, the State Assemblies, to Chief Ministers representing the people. It failed to issue any White Paper detailing the status of the negotiations or the position taken by various countries and subsequent to that, the situation entirely changed. We signed the WTO in 1994 without reference to Parliament and following that, we had to go through domestic legislations which did to our economy precisely what the Government earlier had assured the House would not happen. Why did it happen? Because the Governments change. In the period of the last ten to fifteen years, while the WTO negotiations were on, after India joined the WTO and following the signing of the WTO, the implications on our own domestic legislations, various Governments were there. But, once you signed the WTO without reference to Parliament, every Government subsequently had to follow the given path. And, Sir, precisely because it was done by Executive order, today again, the people of India and the Parliament of India are entirely in the dark as to what is actually happening in the negotiations at present and what is going to be the final outcome. Sir, on the basis of the experience of the last so many years, it becomes very apparent that the entire political process which has been followed, which was followed and which is being followed is entirely in contrast to what any democracy actually requires. Then, we know about the whole political process which was behind the signing of the Indo-US nuclear deal recently. We may have great differences on the agreement. We do have differences on the agreement and because of which, as you know, the Left Parties withdrew support from the Government. But, the fact of the matter, the core issue, at that time, the majority of Parliament was against the signing of the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. The sense of both Houses of Parliament was against that agreement. It is true that the Government came before Parliament. It is true that we had several discussions on the issue in Parliament. But, at the end of the day, the Executive, at that time, when the process was on for negotiations, did not take Parliament into confidence before the *fait accompli*. It is not only taking into confidence because taking into confidence can also become a euphemism and also bypassing. Unfortunately, that is precisely what happened.

Today, Sir, we are in the middle of climate change negotiations. There are so many different pressures on us. We know that. We have heard all their arguments in the House. I am not going into that. There are different views about it. But, surely, in our democratic process, before signing an agreement which is going to bind India, should it not be incumbent on the Government to come to Parliament, take the sense of Parliament, take a vote of Parliament on aspects of any agreement that the Government wants, which is going to bind this country and then go forward? So, after the next elections, if this Government comes back with greater majority, it will have greater power. But, if people of India decide another Government to come to power, that Government will be morally, politically, democratically, constitutionally and legally bound and will be committed to taking that treaty forward.

And, therefore, I believe that politically, that is what is extremely important.

Now, the second aspect that I want to bring to the notice of the House is the Constitutional aspect because in my Resolution I have said that, if it is so required, a Constitutional amendment, and why I say that is, there are two opinions on this. Even among those who want parliamentary ratification before a Treaty is signed, there are opinions on this. One opinion is that you require a Constitutional amendment. In 1997, there was a debate in this very House on a similar Bill -- not on a Resolution but on a Bill -- moved by a Member of my Party, comrade M.A. Baby. He had moved the Constitutional amendment to ensure ratification of Parliament. It is a very interesting debate; I have been through that debate. Pranabda also participated in that debate and, you know, he had argued, of course, against any ratification and he had given some examples why a ratification was dangerous. In any case, it was an interesting debate. But that was on the issue of Constitutional amendments. Some people believe in the present legal constitutional framework, a constitutional amendment is required. But there are many others who believe that the Constitution itself, in the present set-up, enjoins on the Government to consult. Not only consult Parliament. But suppose the Government does not have the sole Executive right to sign an international treaty without ratification by Parliament. Another aspect of this is that the debate, at present, is whether it is required that Parliament should pass a legislation by a simple majority which enjoins on the Government to get the ratification to sign an international treaty. Sir, you know, when the BJP was in power, they had set up a Committee to look into different aspects of the Constitution. Of course, there were many criticisms of that Committee because it was felt that they were trying to hijack the Constitution of India etcetera and, maybe, some of that criticism had some validity. But I have been going through some of the papers relating to different aspects of the review of the Constitution and how it has been working. I came across an extremely interesting paper which is precisely on this topic which was called "The Treaty-making Power under our Constitution", and it was included in the volume on the "Review of the Constitution". Sir, from that, I just want to, for the information of the House, point out to you some of the major issues in the Constitution which they believe give Parliament the right to ratify the treaties.

Now, the first point that they have raised is that Article 246 of our Constitution affects a distribution, which I have already mentioned, of legislative power between the Union and the States. Article 246(1) says:

"Parliament has exclusive power to make the laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in List I of the Seventh Schedule (in this Constitution referred to as the "Union List")."

I will repeat that:

"Parliament has exclusive power to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in List I."

Clause (2) speaks of the Concurrent power of Parliament and State Legislatures to legislate with respect to matters in Concurrent List while clause (3) empowers the State Legislatures to legislate with respect to matters in the State List. Clause (4) empowers the Parliament to make laws with respect to Union Territories without any limitation of division of legislative power. The Seventh Schedule to the Constitution which is referable to Article 246 contains three Lists, which I have just mentioned: Union, State and Concurrent.

If you look at the relevant entries, particularly entry 14, they are as follows:

"13. Participation in international conferences, associations and other bodies and implementing of decisions made thereat.

14. Entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries and implementing of treaties, agreements and conventions with foreign countries.

15. War and peace.

16. Foreign jurisdiction."

From a reading of article 246 along with the said entries, it is obvious that the Parliament is competent to make a law with respect to several matters. That we all know. I am not going into all that. But by virtue of article 73 of the Constitution, however, the Executive power of the Union extends, in the absence of Parliamentary legislation, to matters with respect to which the Parliament has power to make laws, subject to, of course, Constitutional limitations. It is well known that the Parliament has not so far made any law regulating the procedure concerning entering into treaties and agreements, nor with respect to implementation. Equally, clearly no law has been made regulating the manner in which the Government shall sign or ratify international conventions and treaties. The Parliament has a right to make the law. The Parliament can make such a law. The Parliament has not yet made such a law. However, the Constitution gives the Parliament the right to make such a law. Therefore, the other question that you require a Constitutional amendment for this is answered by these arguments. Under these articles which I have quoted the Parliament can itself make a law which can bind the Government both in the manner and the extent, and the procedure of signing such international treaties.

Now, let us turn to article 253. Article 253 is one of those set of articles which provide certain exceptional situations in which the Parliament can legislate in respect of matters in the State List. Ordinarily speaking, the Parliament can't make a law with respect to a matter in the State List. The State Legislatures alone have the exclusive power to legislate in respect of the States. This is my point about the federal issues which are being impinged on. Article 253 reads as follows:

"Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, Parliament has power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries or any decision made at any international conference, association or other body."

The opening words of the article "notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter" mean that this power is available to the Parliament notwithstanding the division of power between the Centre and the State by virtue of article 242. It is essential. Basically, what it means is that the present Constitutional provisions give the power to the Parliament to make any legislation regarding international treaties which the Government may sign. It also has power conferred upon it by the Constitution of India and the clauses, which I have mentioned, which allow it to insist that the Government itself mandatorily take the ratification of Parliament before going forward to sign any such treaties.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Brindaji, how much more time do you want?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I would really like to continue the discussion and there are other speakers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): There are others also.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, my request is that we will go on with this discussion later. I have got another full section which I want to present before you. So, with your permission, may I continue? On Private Member's Resolution, if you have any time limit....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): The point is that the total time allotted is two hours. You try to conclude.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, if it is going out of the point, then I can skip it. I am on the Constitutional provisions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You try to conclude. That is all.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, further to this, I would also like the hon. House to refer to an extremely important analysis which was made by the Chairman of the Law Commission, Justice Jeevan Reddy, and in an article, which he wrote after he finished his tenure as the Chairman of the Law Commission. Continuing the arguments, which were made by this Paper, which I have just read out to you, he says: "Clause 3 of article 75 says, 'the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of People'. This is the principle of accountability of the Executive to Parliament. In short, whatever the Executive does, in exercise of its executive power, or otherwise, it is accountable to Parliament." Indeed, in a Parliamentary democracy, and particularly, under our constitutional system, it is unthinkable that there is any sphere of activity of the Executive in respect to which it is not accountable to Parliament." He further says, "There is no such thing as the prerogative power of the Executive, immune from Parliamentary scrutiny and intervention." Now, of course, there may be other equally eminent jurists who may give the Government of the day legal opinion that they can go ahead into exactly what they want, when they want, where they want and

how they want, without reference at all. There are people, who may also hold that point of view. But, I believe, in the national interest and looking at the present international situation, the views of these eminent jurists, whom I have quoted, provide ample constitutional and legal evidence as to how the Executive power cannot and should not be used, in any way and by any action, bypassing the elected representatives of the people. And, since today, the governance itself is determined by substantive measures, by the writ of international Treaties, just as we discuss every single policy matter, through our own legislations in Parliament and decide by vote whether it is to be adopted or not, similarly, international treaties do not, in any way, have any less implication than our own laws, and, therefore, if we subject our own laws, before adoption, to such scrutiny, what is the logic to take out, of the purview of the elected representatives of the people, such an important matter, as that of international treaties which have the same binding aspect as our own laws? Therefore, legally and constitutionally, there is a very, very strong position for Parliament to legislate such a law, and I, strongly, recommend that we adopt this Resolution and ask the Government to bring a law, for prior Parliamentary ratification, before signing any international treaty. I would also like to differentiate here, because I am not saying this about each and every international treaty. There may be, for example, an extradition treaty. There may be treaties of recognition of a country. There may be certain treaties which do not impact, in any major way, on the livelihood and the various aspects, which I have already mentioned. Certainly, as Government Executives, you have such treaties to sign. You can bring them back. But how do we go ahead with that? Who is to decide which treaties of such importance should come to Parliament, and which treaties are not of such importance? The Government alone cannot decide. For that, there are very important recommendations which have been made by these Committees.

There is a lot of work which has already gone in for this, and there are some very important recommendations which have been made. Some of the recommendations made by a very important Committee which had been set up to look precisely into this matter was: One that Parliament should make a law, and the second point that was made is that there could be an all-party committee set up by Parliament to look at these various treaties, to categorise various treaties, and those treaties which the all-party committee felt need not go to Parliament for parliamentary scrutiny, automatically, the Government has the right to go ahead with those treaties and sign it. So, there is already a...*(Interruptions)*... What is the problem? Please speak, Vayalar Raviji, if you want to. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): When you provide a law for a treaty, it is a legal thing. You cannot discriminate a treaty.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: You see, there are rules and the laws. We also know. When you write the treaties, and there you define which specific treaties you are talking about and how those treaties are to be considered, which categories they can be put in. Certainly, you can draft the rules,

in which the rules can state specifically that. Sir, because Vayalarji raised an important question, I want to read out the exact recommendation which has been made. Anyway, this is quite a long thing. But, these are the recommendations of the Seminar on Setting up a Parliamentary Committee. "Looking at treaties with a federal structure, and also taking into account the views of the State Governments; mandatory consultations with State Governments on treaties which directly impinge on the State List. Certain classes of treaties shall be acceded to only after Parliamentary ratification."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, Brindaji, conclude. You have made all the points.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No, Sir; I have got one more point, I would just give you an example here. I am saying this because these are not things which I have suddenly plucked. When all these important recommendations have been made by these eminent jurists, they have also referred to certain international experiences, Sir. And, of course, there is a completely wrong perception that Communists are "anti-America". Very often on the floor of this House, we have had occasions to state, time and again, "Please don't say, we are anti-America. We are very pro-American people." ...*(Interruptions)*... We are very pro-American people. We are pro-people. We are pro-people of all countries. It is the Governments' of specific countries, and not just the Governments, but the actions of those Governments or the policies of those Governments, which we believe go against basic democratic and civilisational norms which we oppose. And, in that context, when these countries, whose certain policies we strongly oppose, also adopt certain policies which are good, we have to learn from that. And, in the context of international treaties, the United States of America...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You have nearly taken one hour, remaining only one hour for others.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I am just going to finish. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes, nearly one hour.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: No, Sir, I started at...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You started at 3.43.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Is your watch right?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes, it is 4.43. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am just finishing, Sir. I am just going to quote three examples.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): She does not want that anybody should participate in it.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: So, it can be extended. You are going to participate in it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): His name is also there to support you.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the Constitution of the United States has had, as Krishna Iyer says, the salutary sagacity to circumscribe the President's treaty making power by article 2, section (ii), "He shall have the power by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to make treaties provided 2/3rd of the Senate Members present concur. With Senate validation absent, Presidentially signed treaties have been casualties." This is the United States of America, Sir. Therefore, at least, on this point, it would be very good to take the model of the United States, as far as international treaty is concerned. Sir, even a small State like Nepal, in its earlier Constitution has a ratificatory imperative for foreign treaties. Its Constitution 1999; of course, it is being revised; I am sure, they will keep this clause; I do not know what finally they will decide. But, in any case, let me read: "The ratification of accession to acceptance or approval of treaties or agreements, to which the kingdom of Nepal or His Majesty's Government has become a party, shall be as determined by law, shall *inter alia* require ratification of accession to acceptance or approval of treaties or agreements on the following subjects by a majority of two-thirds of members present at a joint sitting."

South Africa, Mexico and many other countries, Sir, similarly have these provisions. Therefore, I would appeal to the House to support the Resolution. I would appeal to the Treasury Benches also to rise above the party considerations. This is not a criticism of this or that party, it is not a criticism of this or that Government; it is a collective experience of the country. I hope, the House will support the Resolution I have moved.

Thank you so much, Sir.

The question was proposed.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, thank you Mr. Vice-Chairman for allowing me to speak. I am really thankful to Smt. Brinda Karatji for raising this particular topic being discussed, which is very much relevant now. But, at the same time, I am also surprised to hear from a very staunch communist ideologue and leader getting inspiration from the U.S.A. I would read clause 6 where every word is from the American dictionary: "To ensure bipartisan support, many Parliamentary democracies have adopted such a model, for example, in the U.S.A., ratification by the Senate is essential and countries like Argentina, Mexico follow the same practices as the U.S.A." I am really surprised to see the U.S.A inspiration through Smt. Brinda Karatji, from the Constitution of the U.S.A. But, I would like to be very frank, Sir. I would like to say that our Constitution is much better than the U.S.A. It can also be said that it cannot be compared with other Constitutions in certain cases. The history of the Constitution should be taken into consideration. Our Constitution is

made on the basis of a quasi-federal set up; it is a Union of States but it is a Unitary Government. The constituent States are not having any sovereignty in India; no State has got any separate Constitution except Jammu and Kashmir. The rest of the States are having common Constitution, that is, the Constitution of India. But the case of U.S.A. is totally different. The constituents have got separate Constitution. They have got separate citizenships. They have got separate systems for everything. The U.S.A. is a Union of States where they can secede from the U.S.A. on the basis of certain rights which are given in the Constitution. The Indian States have got no provision to secede from the Union of India. We have succeeded in getting more nations to join with us; just before some time, we debated on Sikkim. So, we cannot compare ourselves with the U.S.A., but, at the same time, we have got our own historical moments. We felt that by surrendering certain rights of the States—linguistic-based or kingdoms—Union of India is a better forbearance of geo-political system which can withstand the global system which was evolving after the Second World War.

Sir, after the First World War, the world tried to have a United Nations, but it failed. But, the Second World War created awareness among the peoples at the international-level; they came forward to have the United Nations. They wanted to have a global trade system; they wanted to have a global bank, but they could not succeed in establishing a trade institution and also a monetary institution. They could succeed establishing only a political institution, that is, the United Nations which is accepted even today. But, the so-called system -- which was followed in USA at that time -- could not accept the global trade system. They wanted to have a global system. Many of the countries have united and got GATT, *i.e.* General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In that, 23 countries participated. One of the countries is India. But, at that time, all the countries felt that we should have an international trade system also. But the country which could not have that system, which could not be palatable for them, was the United States. The United States felt that they could not have a control of our own sovereignty by way of trade system which would have an equal participation of all other nations. Therefore, they withdrew from that. That is the reason why we could not succeed in having a World Trade System. But, at the same time, we could also not accept the World Bank system which later became International Monetary Fund or World Bank. Those things were not at all accepted as a binding nature for all the other countries. It was only voluntary nature on which we have accepted it. But, after eight round of talks, you know, Sir, in the history of the evolution of the World Trade Organisation—eight countries, various places, various participation—various number of countries have grown up from 23 to 60. Many countries participated on various trade talks and every trade talk which was held in different countries was having certain obligations on the Nation States and every time the Executive of India has brought amendments before the Parliament by their own enactments. More or less, the important enactments were only reduction of excise or customs duty. Those things were brought before the Parliament and it was debated and

afterwards the obligations which were given in the trade talks, *i.e.* GATT and which was having a participation of the Executive could come forward and tell the nation that these were the things we have committed, therefore, kindly accept it. Therefore, the Parliament has accepted it. Therefore, there were amendments in many of the Acts, more so, on the Finance Act and Income Tax Act and we brought the amendments according to the international obligations. Sir, at the same time, I feel that it is a correct thing to bring it to the notice of the Executive that in many cases they take it for granted that Parliament need not be informed of. Before beginning or sitting for a convention or agreement they never got the consent from the Parliament to go and participate in a particular event. They participated. You know very well at international levels, there may be participation, they may be just witnessing the happenings in a particular convention and then, they will come forward and say, no, we will not accept this convention. We are not party to it".¹ In certain things, India participated. They deliberated, they made amendments but finally, they have not signed the covenants or agreements and in certain cases they said that we will sign the agreement but we will not come forward with certain laws. But, unfortunately, these are the main things and I feel, Madam Brinda Karat wants to bring many of the things that were not brought or the Parliament was not taken into confidence by the Executive when they were going for international conventions. That is why I feel climate change is also very much upon the mind of the hon. Member to say, before and after you had to come forward with what happens and what is your proposition and what is the demand by the international forces and its aspect. Before going this time, UPA1 and also UPA2 Government have taken the Parliament into confidence in each and every aspect. In the matter of Civil Nuclear Agreement with US, more than four times the same matter was threadbare discussed and in both the Houses, it was discussed and in both the Houses, hon. Prime Minister replied and all the concerned nodal Ministers have also participated and intervened in the debate.

Every debate was telecast by the electronic media and also published. Finally, they came to the conclusion of signing the document. Therefore, this is the best method and the best practice. The Executives have to follow this practice before going in for an agreement. Similarly, Sir, the UPA - 2 has taken up the issue climatic changes. That issue was brought before the Parliament. Both the Houses deliberated at each and every stage. According to the Opposition, there were contradictions which were also brought before the House and which were clearly clarified by the hon. Minister. Afterwards only, they are going for the talks at the international level. Therefore, we are following the proper convention. There are other Governments which have not followed conventions. But I would like to mention here that the WTO was also discussed before signing the Dunkel Agreement. We know very well that this discussion was held in 1985. There were many talks at that time. I remember,

at that time, the hon. Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the concerned Minister who explained to Parliament why we are going for discussion and, subsequently, the Dunkel Agreement was brought before the Parliament. At that time, it was Mr. Narsimha Rao's Government. The Congress Government was there. In 1993, for the first time, the Parliamentary Standing Committees were constituted. There was a Committee by the name of the Committee on the Ministry of Commerce. In that Committee, as per the usual practice, there were 13 Members from Rajya Sabha and more than 30 Members were there from Lok Sabha. It was chaired by the Member of Parliament who subsequently became the Prime Minister of India, Shri Gujaralji. He presided over that meeting. Then, about 13 sittings were held of that Parliamentary Standing Committee. In that Parliamentary Standing Committee, everything was discussed. The officials who participated in the discussion of the GATT Agreement, the Dunkel Agreement and the evolution of the WTO, whoever participated in those meetings on behalf of the Government of India, those who were criticising this Agreement, those who were saying that you are surrendering the sovereignty of India, those people were also examined as witnesses before that Committee. And, then, finally, there was a recommendation given by the Parliamentary Standing Committee saying that be careful when you are going in for international agreement and do not surrender your sovereignty, but, at the same time, protect the interests of India at the international forum. That was the recommendation made by that Parliamentary Standing Committee. On the basis of that recommendation, the Government of India, the Executive represented at the WTO and we are a part of the WTO now. Sir, we have to clarify one thing. The WTO is totally different from the United Nations because here, everybody, every nation, whether it is the least developed nation or a small nation, they have got the same one vote, just like the United States of America. They do not have any provision for taking any unilateral action or they cannot have a veto power. They cannot take any decision by veto system. That is why the United States of America and other nations are not accepting the WTO seriously, because they feel that all the small nations are also sitting there; they are also talking equally; therefore, why should they give a chance to the small nations. That is the main reason why the Ministerial talks were stalled, or postponed, or even Doha talks could not take place. Can I continue, Sir.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yes, you have five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, I think, after two, three minutes, Mr. Pilania would like to start.

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: No, Sir, this is an important discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I have no problem. The total time allotted is two hours. If the House extends the time, I have no problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... Next day we will decide. Try to conclude anyhow.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, therefore, when the WTO was taken seriously by other countries, more so, by the developing countries, the developed countries felt that the developing countries have united together and, therefore, they could withstand the onslaught of the developed countries.

Sir, here, we have to clarify certain things. We are bound by many of the treaties, many of the multilateral agreements which will be coming before the WTO. That is why we are repeatedly requesting the Government that before taking up any discussion in the World Trade Organisation, the matter should be discussed at various fora. Sir, I can refer here to the constitutional provisions also. For signing the international agreements or the covenants, which can be entered into with various countries, the powers are vested with the Central Government. If we just look at the provisions of Article 246 of the Constitution of India, it has given the power to the Legislature. Then, there is Article 245, 'Extent of laws made by the Parliament and by the Legislatures of States.' It is under the main heading "Distribution of Legislative Powers". As far as the Legislature powers are concerned, Sir, we accept that the States' interest should be protected when a law is made by the Parliament, and more so, if they are trade laws. That is why we have given the powers to the Executive to go for any international agreement. It is binding upon the nation and that is given in Article 253. I will just quote Article 253 for consideration. The heading is, "Legislation for giving effect to international agreements." It says, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, Parliament has power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries or any decision made at any international conference or association or other body." This is the power given to the Parliament and the Parliament can take up any legislative work on all these issues which are taken at the international level.

Now, if you see Article 73, Sir, which is regarding the powers of the Executive, 'you will find how this discussion is very much relevant. I appreciate once again Brindaji for brining this Resolution at this juncture because when we read Article 73, it clearly shows -- and I am reading that part of Article 73 - 'Extent of Executive Power of the Union' (1) subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Executive power ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Dr. Natchiappan, I think, you can continue your speech provided the Resolution is taken up next time. ...*(Interruptions)*... One second. please.

5.00 P.M.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, in view of the importance of this subject, I request that this unfinished Resolution should be carried to the next Session and be taken up as the first item on the first day allotted for Resolutions in that Session.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : I hope, the House agrees.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): So, the discussion is not completed. Dr. Natchiappan can continue his speech on the next day when this Resolution is taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*... that is, in the next Session.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : It should be the first item on the first day allotted for Resolutions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I have agreed to that; there is no problem. So, the discussion is unfinished and it will continue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 14th December, 2009.

The House then adjourned at five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 14th December, 2009.