RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Oral Answers to Questions (pages 1-26)

Written Answers to Starred Questions (pages 26-43)

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 43-185)

Statement by Minister Correcting Answer to Question - Laid on the Table (page 185)

Papers laid on the Table (page 195)

Report of the Committee on Government Assurances (page 195)

Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (pages 195-96)

Report of the Public Accounts Committee (page 196)

Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (page 196)

Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (page 196)

Statements of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways (pages 196-197)

Statements of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (page 197)

[P.T.O.]

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NEW DELHI

PRICE : Rs. 50.00
Statement by Minister—

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Forty-first Report on 'Pricing Policy for Agricultural Produce' of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (pages 198-199)

Matters raised with permission—

Selling of Gurudwara land in Lahore (pages 199-200)
Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute (pages 201-02)
Inadequate assistance to Rajasthan to fight drought situation (pages 202-04)
Shooting of workers from Bihar in Manipur (pages 204-05)
Suicide by weavers in the country (pages 205-06)
Land acquisition by Railways in Uttar Pradesh (pages 206-07)

Government Bills—

The Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009 - Passed (pages 207-15, 215-24)
The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 - Passed (page 227-36)
The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009 - Passed (page 236-39, 240-58)

Private Members’ Bills - Introduced

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend article 51-A) (page 224)
The Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill, 2009 (pages 224-25)
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend article 124 and 217) (page 225)
The Naxalite Affected Areas (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009 (page 225)
The Quality and Accountability in Education Bill, 2009 (page 225)
The Prevention of Hunger and Malnutrition and Right to Food Bill, 2009 (pages 225-226)
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (insertion of new articles 15A, 17A and 17B) (page 226)
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (insertion of new article 2A) (page 226)
The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2009 (page 226)
The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend Section 77) (page 226)
The Ban on Cow laughter Bill, 2009 (page 226)
Messages from Lok Sabha - Laid on the Table

The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (pages 239-240)

The Civil Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (pages 239-240)

The Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (pages 239-240)

The Commercial Division of High Courts Bill, 2009 (pages 239-240)

The Legal Metrology Bill, 2009 (pages 239-240)

Special Mentions—

Demand to take effective measures to block websites displaying pornography on internet (page 258)

Demand for completion of ongoing projects under National Child Labour Project in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa (pages 258-259)

Concern over alleged threat to security of Jagannath Temple due to on-going projects in Puri, Orissa (page 259)

Demand to invite the Naga rebels on negotiating table for resolving the Indo-Naga political conflict (pages 259-260)

Problems due to computerization in CGHS dispensaries (page 260-261)

Demand to maintain 50 per cent quota for people of Goa in National Institute of Technology in the State (page 261)

Demand to take measures to bring the income of farm house owners under the ambit of Income Tax (pages 261-262)

Demand for proper implementation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Amravati and Chikuldhara districts of Maharashtra (page 262)

Demand to introduce modern techniques for road safety norms to reduce accidents in the country (pages 262-263)

Demand to conduct the caste-wise census during the General Census of 2011 (page 263)

Demand to take effective steps for development of National Highways in Bihar (page 264)

Demand to strictly observe the V.I.P. security norms during air journeys (page 264)

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http://parliamentofindia.nic.in

E-mail Address : rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Concession to private parties for construction of godowns and cold storages

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

(a) whether Government is extending any concessions to private parties for construction of storage godowns and cold storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cold storages, with capacity, set up in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh at present, State-wise and district-wise;

(d) the assistance provided by Government for increasing the existing capacity of cold storages during the last three years and current year, State-wise and district-wise;

(e) whether Government proposes to set up more cold storages in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details of the scheme under which, assistance is provided by Government for construction of storage godowns and cold storages include:

(i) Government of India has formulated a Scheme for construction of godowns for Food Corporation of India. Under the scheme, the godowns would be constructed by private entrepreneurs for which Food Corporation of India would provide guarantee for 5 years for storage charges. Under the Scheme, Food Corporation of India has approved creation of 126.35 lakh tonnes of storage capacity in various States.

(ii) Government of India is also implementing a credit-linked back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme of Construction of Rural Godown with the objective of creating scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc. Under this scheme, subsidy up to @ 25% (33% for North East States & SC/ST entrepreneur) is given to different categories
of persons. Since inception of the scheme i.e., 2001-02, assistance of Rs.574.46 crores have been provided for construction of 20,962 rural godowns with a capacity of 243.79 lakh Metric Tonnes.

(III) Under National Horticulture Mission scheme, assistance is provided through State Horticulture Mission for construction of cold storages @ 25% (for general areas) and 33.33% (for hilly and tribal areas) of the capital cost of the project. The subsidy for the private sector is credit linked and back-ended. During the period from 2005-06 to 2009-10, financial assistance of Rs. 44.87crore has been given for establishment of 156 cold storages. The State wise number of cold storages established under this scheme is given in the Statement-I (See below). In addition, National Horticulture Board (NHB) also provides back-ended capital investment subsidy for creation/ modernization/expansion of cold storage @ 25% of the project cost. For North-Eastern Regions, the subsidy is @ 33.33% of the project cost with a cost ceiling of Rs 2.00 crore. Financial assistance of Rs. 604.60 crore has been provided for establishment of 2172 cold storages since inception of the scheme i.e., 1999-2000, The State wise number of cold storages established under this scheme is given in the Statement-II (See below).

(IV) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), Government of India has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas (75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas) subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved 10 such project proposals in the first phase.

(V) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce, provides financial assistance for establishment of common infrastructure facilities such as setting up integrated pack house, pre-cooling, sorting, grading and cold storage facilities. During the period from 2006-07 to 2008-09, assistance has been provided for establishment of 47 cold storages with a capacity of 2440 Metric Tonnes. The State-wise number of cold storages assisted under this scheme is given in the Statement-III (See below).

The details of State-wise number of cold storages with capacity including Andhra Pradesh are given in the Statement-IV (See below). District-wise data for cold storages in the state of Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement-V (see below).

(e) to (g) More cold storages can be set up in Public and Private sector through implementation of aforesaid schemes. Under the Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, State Governments can also take up construction of storage godowns and cold storages for agriculture produce. Government has also approved a scheme of Modern Terminal Market Complex which, inter-alia, provides for state of art market infrastructure through private sector. Infrastructure under Terminal Market complex project may include cold storage facilities for perishable produce.
In order to attract private sector, Investment-linked tax incentives have been announced for the business of setting up and operating cold chain and warehousing facilities for storing agricultural produce in the Union Budget 2009-10.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of achievement of cold storages under National Horticulture Mission from 2005-06 to 2009-10*  
(Rs. in lakh)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>State Name</th>
<th>No. of Cold Storage</th>
<th>Financial Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>658.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>229.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>58.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>198.90</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>151.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>2910.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>123.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>156</strong></td>
<td><strong>4487.17</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement-II**

*State-wise details of National Horticulture Board assisted cold storages*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Capacity (MT)</th>
<th>Subsidy released (Rs in lakh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>353777.7</td>
<td>2753.966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>137094.5</td>
<td>1425.563</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>No. of Cold Storages</td>
<td>Capacity (MT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>130100.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>212(2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>4873073</td>
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<td>Uttarakhand</td>
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<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>202824.4</td>
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<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>322349.8</td>
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<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>445105.5</td>
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<td>Orissa</td>
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<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>167994</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>400691.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
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<td>93160</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>429463.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>122228.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17956</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14993.53</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3633</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3983</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>J&amp;K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>114</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2172</strong></td>
<td><strong>8657275</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement-III**

Details of agricultural and processed food products export development authority assisted State-wise cold storages during 2006-07 to 2008-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>No. of Cold Storages</th>
<th>Capacity (MT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>310</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Statement-IV

**State-wise details of cold storages as on 31/12/2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
<th>Total No.</th>
<th>Total Capacity in MTs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands (UT)</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>210</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>875956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>88068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>1439629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chandigarh (UT)</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>12216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>286206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>126131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>1112254</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7705</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>243</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19858</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>170148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>57130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>421676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lakshadweep (UT)</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
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<td>460</td>
<td>564196</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>796506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>3200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sl.No.</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>No. of Cold Storages</td>
<td>Capacity (MT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chittor</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cuddappah</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>East Godavari</td>
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<td>26450</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Guntur</td>
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<td>Hyderabad</td>
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<td>60473</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Khammam</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>57690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Krishna</td>
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<td>67863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kurnool</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mahabubnagar</td>
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<td>5794</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Medak</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nalgonda</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nellore</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nizamabad</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, India is the second largest producer of fruit and vegetables. While moving these fruit and vegetables from farms to retail outlets, it seems that there is wastage of 40 per cent of the country’s fruit and vegetables. Now, the Government has formulated a new scheme under the Food Corporation of India. They have also created a capacity of 126 lakh tons of storage capacity. But in spite of taking all these measures, how much wastage is taking place and what are the further steps you are envisaging in the future to save this colossal wastage of fruit and vegetables?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the Government of India is taking various measures to decrease wastage. Various agencies like National Horticulture Mission, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and APEDA have taken steps to decrease wastage. We are taking up some flagship projects like the Terminal Market Complex projects which now the four States, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Bihar have started. Once these projects are found to be operative, we will go to the other States.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, my second supplementary is, there are several Food Corporation of India godowns, but we are not utilising them to the full capacity. And, inspite of having Food Corporation of India godowns, you have permitted several private godowns which do not have even 50 per cent capacity. Why are you not cancelling those godowns which are not being utilised fully? Is it not a national wastage?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, earlier, the Food Corporation of India, through CWC and SWC, have taken some private godowns, as the norms prescribed at that time, for a period of seven years. But later we found, about three-four years back, that those private godowns and some other godowns with the CWC and the SWC could not be fully utilised. At that time, I am talking about three or four years back, we stopped taking those private godowns. But now again we find out, especially last year and before that, that we have got a record production of wheat and rice, and also, Sir, in the case of vegetables, the production is increased. So, under a study, we found that we have to
increase our storage capacity. So, the FCI has approved creation of 126.35 lakh tons of storage capacity. In this, we are taking various agencies, not only the private agencies. We are mainly having these facilities through the CWC and SWC. We are also taking the facilities given by State Governments, cooperatives, panchayats and the local people.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: But, Sir, my question was not properly replied because these private godowns are not being utilised even to the 50 per cent of the capacity. Why is the Government wasting so much of money by unnecessarily giving permission to the private godowns? Why don’t you cancel the permission for those private godowns which are not fully utilised?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, looking at the storage capacity of wheat and rice in the last two or three years, we need more storage capacity, especially in States like Punjab, Haryana, and Orissa. In case of wheat, a large quantity of wheat is stored in open space. After a proper study, the Government has taken a decision that 126.35 lakh tonnes of storage capacity has to be increased. Keeping that in mind, we are giving first preference to the State Governments, the cooperatives. And if needed, Sir, naturally, with the assistance of the CWC and the SWCs, with proper condition, we would like to have assistance of private entrepreneurs also. ...(Interruptions)...
PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, there have been some complaints from different States mainly regarding rent. The rent is being fixed by the FCI and that is implemented by the CWC and the SWCs. Similarly, those godowns are managed by the National Horticulture Mission, and it is done through the State Horticulture Mission. On these complaints, we have got the opinion of different legal organisations, and we have constituted a Committee to find out how this can be settled. Sir, we will try to settle it as early as possible.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, lack of storage facilities in our country is leading to an increase in the prices of essential commodities to some extent. So, naturally, when we are discussing the matter, we have to connect this aspect also. As regards the efforts from the side of the Government, whatever steps are taken by the Government have not yielded expected results. This august House has passed a law in which they were told that private parties will come and improve the situation. But, that has not happened. With regard to States like Kerala, you see these two missions. The National Horticulture Mission has supported finance for the....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please stick to the question.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: There are two things. As far as these two missions from the Government are concerned, for board-assisted cold storage system, the total amount given was a little more than Rs.604 crores. Kerala got only Rs.1.27 crores. With regard to the National Horticulture Mission, Kerala got only Rs.50 lakhs. So, the States have bigger problems. With regard to our marine products, we don’t have sufficient storage on sea ports. Similarly, there is a package for Kuttanad. There was an assurance by the Government that they will provide financial assistance for storage facilities to the farmers of Kuttanad region as per the Kuttanad package. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What is the reason for this step-motherly attitude towards my State? Will he consider having a discussion with the State to mitigate this problem?
PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I am also from Kerala. I was just talking to the hon. Member a few minutes back. I am not bringing any politics into this. The Kerala Government did not bring forward the plans in time. ...(Interruptions)... I have got proof of those things. ...(Interruptions)... In respect of district level planning, Kerala has completed in 17 districts. But, State level planning has not yet completed. So, the Kerala Government has to take appropriate action in time. And, as these proposals are coming to us, we will take decisions. ...(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)... 

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, he has given an assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)... No, Mr. Vijayaraghavan. Please. ...(Interruptions)...

Feasibility of semester system

422. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers of universities do feel that the semester system is not practical and feasible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

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) According to some news reports, faculty in some universities have expressed a view that introduction of the semester system would increase the burden of the teacher and have raised concerns on the ability of the examination system to cope with the increase in evaluation load. Concerns have been stated on the difficulties that students admitted late would have in catching with the backlog of academic work.

(c) Based on the advice of experts bodies, Central Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have encouraged universities to implement academic reform measures including introduction of the semester system, however, universities have autonomy in academic matters. Section 6(2) of the Central Universities Act, 2009, provides for academic reform measures to be introduced in the 16 newly created Central Universities right from their inception. UGC has written to Vice Chancellors of all Universities for introducing a package of academic reforms, including the introduction of the semester system. Universities enjoy autonomy in academic matters and decision to introduce semester system is within the competence of the appropriate authority, namely the Academic Council of each University.
**SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:** Sir, as far as the semester system is concerned, this has been really part of the Eleventh Plan process. Sir, if you look at the Eleventh Plan document, you will find, it talks about universalising the semester system. So, as part of the Eleventh Plan document, we moved forward and for the new Central Universities that have been formed, there is a clause saying that they will only have semester system. We want all the existing universities also to follow suit. The advantages of a semester system are many. One, we don't have to wait for one long year to sit for annual examination which only tests your capacity to memorise. What the semester system does is to have two examinations in a year. So, you have a multiplicity of courses that you can attend and there are multidisciplinary academics. So, you can take a major and you can take a minor in different subjects. Actually, that helps you in continuous evaluation throughout the year instead of waiting for the end of the year. So, your depth of learning is more, your breadth of learning is more and you are continuously evaluated throughout the year. Now, in most modern universities in the world, it is the semester system that is followed. In fact, it allows you to interact with the teacher much more than in the previous system. In the previous system, what used to happen was that you started preparing for the exams three or four months before the exams or towards the end of the year and you never really bothered. Here, you have to start thinking about what is going to happen. If we make internal assessment and evaluation a part of the actual final result, children will be more focussed on preparing throughout the year than towards the end of the year. So, various Committees have sat to evaluate the benefits of the semester system, and overwhelmingly, we have found that the semester system is something that must be universalised, and hopefully, in the course of the Eleventh Plan, we hope to do it. In fact, U.G.C, has written to various universities and said that look, we want to put in place this semester system in two years' time. Hopefully, by 2011 or 2012, it will happen.

**SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:** Sir, first of all, I cannot give a timeframe as to when it will be completed. There are 3 kinds of universities in India, the Central Universities. As far as Central Universities are concerned, the new 16 universities are part of the statute. They have to only have a semester system.
and no other system, and as regards the existing universities, dialogues are going on. The UGC has written to the existing universities, and as I have mentioned in the previous answer, the UGC Chairman has said that hopefully, we put in place maximum during the period of two years. Now, Sir, it is really not possible to tell as to when exactly this process will be completed. What is required is a dialogue. There are a lot of universities which have a number of evaluating colleges. Now, can that university with a 100 or more evaluating colleges put up a system which allows the semester system and teachers to evaluate? This is going to be a very difficult process. This is not going to be done overnight. So, we are talking to them. Maybe, we need to change the Ordinances, the Academic Council, the structure of the universities for existing universities. The Academic Council will have to be taken on board, the Executive Council will have to be taken on board, and that is really the problem because universities are autonomous organizations. The State Governments or the Central Government cannot force them that you must do this by such and such time. So, this process of persuasion will go on, and hopefully, we will be able to universalise. These are the benefits of this. If we are able to universalise the semester system, then children studying in one university in one part of the State can do a semester in another university. So, there will be enormous facility for mobility of a student, and those students can take different courses in the different universities, and add those credits for a final degree from the university to which they belong. So, we must ultimately do this for the children because that is really a hope of the future.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: If the semester system is not there, without the semester system, तब भी universalize हो सकता है।

शी कपिल सिबल : नहीं, ऐसा नहीं हो सकता। इसमें बहुत सोच विचार किया गया है। सदन के प्रश्नात्मक अलग से एक-दो घंटे देकर में आपसे इस पर बात करेंगे।

श्री शामिल : नहीं-हां, आप बीच में न बोल।

प्र. राम गोपाल यादव : मैं मंत्री जी को यह बताना चाहता हूं कि इसी इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ने इतने कई-कई विद्यार्थियों को दिया गया है।

शी विक्रम दर्श : यह मजबूत रहे तो इसी सिस्टेम में पढ़े हुए हैं।

प्र. राम गोपाल यादव : जी हां, आप जैसे काबिल लोग भी तो इसी सिस्टेम से पढ़े हुए हैं।

श्री समाप्ति : यह अलग डिरेक्टर ने ... (व्यवधान) ... यह अलग डिरेक्टर ने ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री कपिल सिबल : ऐसे तो बिना पढ़े भी बहुत काबिल लोग हुए हैं ... (व्यवधान) ... इस सदन में भी कई ऐसे लोग हैं ... (व्यवधान) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request all concerned to get on with the Question Hour?

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, many universities in our country have tried this experiment of semester system but it has not succeeded. In most of the universities, semester system requires two things. Firstly, hard work. The teacher should be working continuously and they should be involved in that. And secondly, there is a lack of integrity on the part of the teachers. That is why the system has failed. In fact, we have failed the system. So, now what to do? There is no
Work culture in our universities. We have to inculcate it, we have to work very hard, and we have to make it compulsory. Then alone, it can be done. Would our Minister tell us whether the Government is going to make it compulsory?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I have already indicated that this is a process through which we must persuade the autonomous institutions like universities to actually adopt the semester system. We cannot do it through a process of compulsion, and I don’t think that is a right way forward. But I do not agree with the hon. Member that this has failed everywhere. In fact, in Delhi University itself, in the postgraduate courses, the semester system is already in place, and it is exceptionally successful. For example, in Ambedkar University, it is in place; the whole JN University runs on a semester system, and it is very successful. So, there are several universities where it is already functioning and is exceptionally successful. Now, you are absolutely right that it is not something that will happen overnight; so, we have to adopt it, not as a compulsion, as a way of moving forward, but through persuasion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rama Jois.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir generally, it is believed that the semester system, a also, other system called ‘trimester system’ are better than the ordinary non-semester, non-trimester system. Has the Government undertaken a comparative merit of the two systems? If so, what is the result thereof?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Well, Sir, the Government has done. In fact, as I said, it is part of the Eleventh Plan Document. The Planning Commission itself has suggested to universalise it, and I have indicated that to you. Other than that, there have been Committees for academic and administrative reforms. There is a Gyanam Committee which was set up under the UGC; that has gone into it. The National Knowledge Commission, through interaction with various stakeholders, has suggested that we should move a credit system. So, several institutions and several Committees have sat and deliberated upon it, and said that it is a much better system, that we must adopt it. The question is: how long will it take? I think, it will take some time. I don’t think there is any doubt that it is a much better system than the annual examination system.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Why it is said that the teachers are not accepting the semester system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; please, no supplementaries on supplementaries!

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Because they have to work harder.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Soz.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, the hon. Minister is right. In the written reply, he has said that the universities must enjoy academic autonomy and there are academic councils. But in response to the supplementary, he sounded very eloquent in favour of semester system, and very rightly. But my worry is different. Our university system has expanded enormously in response to the needs of the
society, but the University Grants Commission that was primarily instituted for ensuring academic excellence in the universities has become so big and the impression, today, is that it is a funded institution; it does not reflect adversely on the University Grants Commission. It has worked very nicely and, in no way, as for the present set-up - I have no adverse comment to make - they are doing excellent work. But the Minister is incharge of this very important Department and he represents, in a way, the aspirations of people in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question, please.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: How does he feel sure on the academic excellence in universities because the University Grants Commission may not be able to do that? Will he look into this aspect that the University Grants Commission is expanded? How can he ensures the academic excellence. Is he devising some instrument so that he feels sure that....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the question. ... (Interruptions) ... Mr. Soz, please put it.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: How will the academic excellence be ensured.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, it does not relate to the main question at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: But I want to send a message. ... (Interruptions) ... I want to send a message to the entire university system, and the message, Sir, is that we are committed to implement the semester system in this country; this is good for the student community, and when we look at education, we look at the students of this country, and not at the teachers. We want the teachers to cooperate for the future generations of this country to absorb and embrace a system which will better the prospects of this country.

Credit rating of MSMEs

*423. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN††

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which are awarded credit rating by different agencies every year;

(b) the steps Government is taking to increase their numbers; and

(c) whether Government is planning to advise National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to empanel more agencies for credit rating?

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The number of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) awarded rating by different Rating Agencies under Performance & Credit Rating Scheme since inception is given in the table below:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>D&amp;B</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>1356</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>CRISIL</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>SMERA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>1333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ONICRA</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>FITCH</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>ICRA</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>CARE</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>671</td>
<td>2170</td>
<td>3850</td>
<td>5011</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The scheme is being implemented by NSIC on behalf of the Government of India. Government, through NSIC is creating awareness about the benefits of the scheme by conducting seminars/ workshops etc.

(c) No, Sir.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, this credit rating system is a newly proposed one in the UPA-I. In the last five years, I would like to know - because it is a combination of not only the credit but also various other factors of operation, marketing, business, and also risk management - how many numbers in the micro and how many in the small industries had got the certification and how many were successful in this field.

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: माननीय समाधानपति जी, रेटिंग सिस्टम के बारे में माननीय सदस्य ने जो बताया, वह सही है। 7 अप्रैल, 2005 को क्रेडिट सिस्टम की सुरुआत हुई और उस समय जो नंजी थे, श्री पी. चित्रमंगल जी, उन्होंने रेटिंग सिस्टम शुरू की। रेटिंग सिस्टम micro and small industries को बढ़ावा देने के लिए शुरू की गई है। उन्होंने इसके अलग-अलग अंकों के बारे में पूछा है। फिर यह small और micro के लिए अलग-अलग अंक नहीं है, मगर करीब 15000 से ज्यादा micro and small industries ने रेटिंग का काम करवाया है। उसके लिए जो अलग-अलग 7 कम्पनियाँ हैं, उनके लिए रेटिंग करवाती हैं। रेटिंग के लिए कोई दबाव नहीं है। उसको NSIC द्वारा मदद दी जाती है और मदद देने में भी ऐसा है कि 25 प्रतिशत पेमेंट करके कोई भी इन्डस्ट्री अपना रेटिंग करना सकती है। रेटिंग करने से यह होता है कि उनको बैंक लोन में बहुत कामयाब होता है और उनकी prestige देश और परदेस में बढ़ जाती है। इससे उनको माल बेचने में भी बहुत बढ़ा कामयाब होता है। इसलिए रेटिंग सिस्टम में
करीब 15000 इन्डस्ट्रिज़ ने रेटिंग करायी है। यह उन्होंने अलग-अलग एजेंसीज़ के द्वारा करवाया है, क्योंकि यह forcefully नहीं है। इसमें NSIC का जो रोल यह है कि ये इन्डस्ट्रिज़ 25 प्रतिशत पैसे मर कर रेटिंग करवाती हैं और बाकी का जो 75 प्रतिशत का हिस्सा है, वह NSIC को मेजबान देती है। तब NSIC उसकी स्टाडी करके उससे व्यापा से व्यापा 40,000 रुपये देती है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, मैं इसके अलग-अलग आंकड़े मिकाल कर उनको मेजबान दूर करा।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, since I was told that more than Rs.20 crores have been allocated for this purpose, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is conducting any study on focussed areas like availability of credit at attractive interest rates, recognition of global trade, prompt sanction of credit by banks and financial institutions, subsidised rating fee structure for SSIs, facilitating vendors' and buyers' capability assessment of SSIs and enabling the SSIs to ascertain SWOT theory for existing operations taking corrective terms.

I would like to know whether these things have been taken into consideration in the past five years and whether any study was done on these things; if not, whether the Government proposes to undertake study on these things.

श्री खिस्ना जे. पटेल: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य जो बात कर रहे हैं, यह प्रश्न रेटिंग के बारे में है। इस देश में करीब 2 करोड़ 60 लाख industries हैं। इसमें 85 प्रतिशत industries ऐसी हैं जो micro and small scale industries हैं और उनमें से केवल 15 प्रतिशत ही रेटिंगटेड हैं, बाकी रेटिंगटेड नहीं है। बड़ी industries की बात अलग है। इसमें बैंकों से बड़ी हुई ओज सीमा का प्राप्त करने की बात है जिसमें उनके 23 प्रतिशत उत्तरदायित्व की प्राप्ति हुई है। इसके साथ ही इसमें ब्रांच फिर माँग मत्ती में बढ़ी, बैंकों से विभिन्न ओज सुविधाओं पर बेहतर व सस्ती व्यापा दे प्राप्त करना है। यौगिक मैंने पहले ही कहा कि उनके प्राप्त दरों में half per cent से 1 per cent या देढ़ per cent की गई मिलेंगी जाती है। उसकी भी स्टाडी की गई है। उसमें ब्रांच में करीब 60 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोत्री मिली है, निम्नतित्त ब्रांच में 25 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोत्री मिली है और स्थायी से ओज की ओपन में 14 प्रतिशत की और ओज हुई है। इसकी स्टाडी मैं नहीं की गई हैं। सरकार बड़ी स्टाडी कर रही है कि छोटे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा कैसे मिले, देश में स्मार्ट स्केल इन्डस्ट्रिज़ की व्यापा दे व्यापा स्केलार कैसे हो, व्यापा दे व्यापा लोगों को रोजगार कैसे मिले और जो skilled workers हैं, वे अपनी industries छोटे गांवों में कैसे स्थापित कर सकें। इसके लिए भी प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं और इसमें सरकार आगे बढ़ रही है।

श्री शिभान्धर वियारी: सभापति महोदय, मैं अपने माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि ये सुझाव, लघु और मध्य उद्योग रोजगार देने का बहुत बड़ा जरिया है। इस सेक्टर में बहुत से पैमाने पर लोगों को रोजगार मिलता है और साथ ही निर्यात के मामले में भी इस क्षेत्र का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा है। लेकिन, पिछले कई वर्षों से लगातार यह देखा गया है कि बैंकों द्वारा इस क्षेत्र में जो क्रेडिट देने की फैसलक रही है, वह लगातार घट रही है। यही नहीं, अतिन्द्रजनक बात यह है कि प्रति इकाई रोजगार देने का जो प्रतिशत था, उसका आकार भी घटा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस क्षेत्र के प्रति बैंकों का जो रुझान है, उसमें बढ़ती लगाने के लिए आप व्यापा कर रहें हैं ताकि उनका वित्तीय सहायता मिल सके और ये व्यापा से व्यापा तक्रार कर सकें?

श्री खिस्ना जे. पटेल: माननीय महोदय, वैसे तो यह प्रश्न इस प्रश्न के साथ जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है, लेकिन मैंने पहले ही बताया है कि स्मार्ट स्केल इन्डस्ट्रिज़ का बढ़ावा मिले, इसके लिए सरकार बहुत सी कोशियों कर रही है,
र नयाओ ऐसे कार्यक्रम से सीधे लाभ लाने में भी कठिनाई हो रही है। इसका कारण नयाया का कोई ऐसा दावा नहीं किया जा सकता है कि यह अर्थव्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए चाहिए।

**मेरा सुझाव**

1. उपायों का अनुप्रयोग स्वयं के लिए और नयाओं के लिए।
2. समस्याओं को पहले से सुधार करने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।
3. समस्याओं का निर्देशन स्वयं के लिए। यह अर्थव्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए चाहिए।

**श्री विनम्र के लिए**

सभी मेरे साथ हमेशा अपनी राजनीतिक सत्ता की अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।

**श्री विनम्र से पत्र**

सर, वैते कि यह स्वयं के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें। यह सरकार के नाम के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें। यह अर्थव्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।

**SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN**

मेरी अपनी राजनीतिक सत्ता की अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें। यह अर्थव्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।

**मेरा सुझाव**

1. उपायों का अनुप्रयोग स्वयं के लिए।
2. समस्याओं को पहले से सुधार करने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।
3. समस्याओं का निर्देशन स्वयं के लिए। यह अर्थव्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।

**मेरा सुझाव**

1. उपायों का अनुप्रयोग स्वयं के लिए।
2. समस्याओं को पहले से सुधार करने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।
3. समस्याओं का निर्देशन स्वयं के लिए। यह अर्थव्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाभ लाने के लिए कार्यक्रम स्थापित करें।
rating is made a point. My question to the hon. Minister is this. Definitely, they are making in-depth study for making available credit to the small scale sector. What is the percentage of unrated small scale and micro industries getting bank loans, vis-à-vis the rated ones? I would also like to know whether he takes note of the fact that among the small scale and micro sector big segments are also operating as proxy to large scale sector to avail of the advantage of this benefit. It is linked to it. It is a fact that the rating is also involved in that. A big section of the small scale sector is operating as proxy to the large scale sector. Most of them are rated, and the under-rated are not getting loans. As my colleague has pointed out, the share of the small scale sector loan, in the whole banking credit, is, gradually, going down. So, in this situation, how does the hon. Minister propose to address this issue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sen, your supplementary is longer than the original question.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: My supplementary emanated from the reply of the hon. Minister.

Trady pace of railway projects

*424. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH: ††

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has recently expressed serious concern over tardy pace of railway projects;

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N.K. Singh.
(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether there is steep cost escalation of various pending railway projects and the State Governments are not showing any positive interest in those projects; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Railways are likely to take up the pending railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d)

A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways have a huge throw forward of ongoing projects under new lines, gauge conversion, doublings, railway electrification and metropolitan transport project. Due to limited availability of resources, projects take long time in completion. Ongoing projects undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standard of construction and technology, scope of work, price escalation, inflation etc.

State Governments were requested to share cost of ongoing new line and gauge conversion projects in their State. Some of the State Governments have come forward to share cost of selected projects in their State. State Governments of Karnataka and Jharkhand have agreed for cost sharing in maximum number of projects.

(d) The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional funds through Public Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries, funds from Ministry of Defence, additional budgetary support for National Projects and execution of projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, the recent flash report for Central sector projects suggests that 427 railway projects are running behind time leading to a cost escalation of over Rs.45,000 crores and attributes this to a fundamental mismatch between the availability of resources and what is required for completing these railway projects. In the light of this, will the hon. Minister consider a rationalisation of the ongoing railway portfolio for bringing about a better match between the availability of finance and what is required to complete these projects?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, as far as the slow growth of the ongoing projects of the Railways and the limited availability of resources are concerned, the suggestion made by the hon. Member is very much worth considering. It is a matter to be decided by the Government at the highest level when the policy is being revised. It is a fact, because when we take into account the backlog of work and also the delay in completion of the projects, one main reason is inadequacy of funds made available for the railway projects. Even in the yesterday’s discussion, the hon. Member also must have noted that
my senior colleague mentioned here about the inadequacy of resources available to the Railways.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, my second supplementary to the hon. Minister arises from the answer which he has given to my first supplementary. If paucity of finance is one fundamental reason why projects are running behind time, then, in assessing the total availability of finance, what is the availability from the internal resources and internal revenues of the Railways, that is, those from the equity and those which will come from borrowing, to ensure that the railway revenues are not excessively overleveraged?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, this is one of the things that the Railways have been doing for making the general finance available to the Railways. But railway is one public utility service of the Government which is meant for ordinary and poor people. Therefore, internal resources cannot be mobilised by raising the passenger and other fares. Taking into account all these issues and, with a view that ordinary and poor people are not put more burden, the Railways are considering other ways of mobilising funds. The suggestion that the hon. Member has given here will also be given due consideration.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, foundation stones for a number of projects of new railway lines were laid but, for the last ten years, nothing has happened and there has been no progress. Every year, we are being told that there are no funds. In the reply, they have said that State Governments of Karnataka and Jharkhand have agreed for cost-sharing on the maximum number of projects. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why, despite the Andhra Government coming forward to share the cost of maximum number of projects, nothing has happened; no assurance is being given. What action are you going to take? When are you going to complete the projects? And, what costs are you going to share with the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, many others have also expressed the same opinion that the hon. Member has. Andhra Pradesh has cooperated with the Railways in sharing the project costs. Many of the projects in Andhra Pradesh are still going on. If the hon. Member would like to have a list of the projects, I can give him.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the other reasons for the delay in the completion of railway projects, except the one which is mentioned in the reply, that is, there is no source of income and, therefore, the projects are delayed. I would like to know the other reasons for the delay in the completion of railway projects. Also, there is a mention of public-private ownership. How many projects in public-private ownership are going on in the country and, particularly, in Maharashtra?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many other reasons also. It is not only the availability of inadequate funds, but also the failure of contractors, delay in land acquisition and forest clearance, adverse law and order situation prevailing in a particular area, etc. These are some of the
reasons. So far as the financial position is concerned, 286 projects are ongoing projects in the Railways. The estimated amount, at the time of the formulation of the projects, needed for the completion of those projects, was Rs.79,462 crores. The present position is that an amount of Rs. 6,000 crores has been allotted for the current year. If we take the backlog and the escalation in the project costs, we may require Rs. 1,00,000 crores. If we do not get these funds, the projects will be delayed. So, the delay is not a sort of deliberate action on the part of the Railways. The projects have to be completed. That is why, yesterday, the hon. Minister of Railways said that we would give importance to whatever we have announced in the Budget and, secondly, to all the ongoing projects. We have been trying our best to do that.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I had asked a question on Maharashtra and he has not answered it. ..."(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can register a complaint later.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has made certain suggestions. It is not easy for persons like me to choose which one is good and which one is bad. Maybe, both are best ones. Which one should be given preference is all analysis and assessment of the overall financial position of the railways. However, I would like to say that there is a monitoring mechanism the railways have set up for the expeditious completion of projects. The project monitoring group comprising members of various departments of the railways has been set up to monitor the projects on a monthly basis. An empowered committee consisting of members of the Railway Board, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment and Forests is also there to review the process. A high-powered committee is constituted. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...(Interruptions)... All right.
SHRI E. AHAMMED: These are all what the railways has been doing on its own. We are all very much anxious to complete the projects at the earliest. But, these are the unavoidable constraints. That is why, I just mentioned to take the House into confidence to explain the position of the railways as such.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Now, Q.No. 425. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, my question has not been answered. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM NARAYAN SAHU: सर, हमें भी बोलने का मौका दीजिए।

SHRI SAMPAT: आपकी भी बारी आएँ।...(व्यवहार)... बैठ जाएँ पत्तीः...(व्यवहार)... देखिए, खाम कम है, कोई फायदा नहीं।

UGC’s coaching scheme for Minorities

*425, SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cities/towns covered under UGC’s coaching scheme for Minorities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of beneficiaries under the above programme since its implementation in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there are any plans for opening of new degree colleges and universities for minority women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Schemes - (i) 'Remedial Coaching at Undergraduate and Postgraduate Levels', (ii) 'Coaching for Entry in Services and (iii) 'Coaching to prepare for National Eligibility Test (NET) or State Eligibility Test (SET) for Lectureship', 419 institutions were provided grants in 22 States/UTs during the Tenth Plan for 32535 beneficiaries belonging to the minority communities, incurring an expenditure of Rs.2065.39 lakhs. These Schemes have been merged during Eleventh Plan under the scheme of development grants to institutions with total allocation of Rs.2854.25 lakhs. Presently UGC is running these schemes in 88 State Universities, 22 Central Universities and 9 Deemed Universities. In addition, UGC has provided assistance to Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi (Rs.697.69 lakhs), Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Rs.414.39 lakhs), Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow (Rs.539.39 lakhs) and Aligarh Muslim University (Rs.664.39 lakhs) for setting up of 'Residential Coaching Academies for Minorities/SCs/STs and Women'. The Coaching Programmes in these institutions will start from January, 2010.
(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, under the University Grants Commission scheme, during the X Plan period, it has provided 32,000 students from the minority community and they are benefitted, Sir. I asked the Minister: 'What is the total number of minority students that are benefited during the XI Plan period?' This was the question. But, the Minister in his written answer has not given any categorical answer to that. In addition to that, the Minister has said, 'The scheme is going to be implemented from 2010-onwards.' Then, my question is: Is it a part of austerity measure not to implement the scheme from 2007-10?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the hon. Member is right. As far as the X Plan is concerned, the three schemes benefited 32,535 members of the minority community. In the Eleventh Plan the schemes were merged, in other words, the schemes related to SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities. Now under the Eleventh Plan, as the schemes are on-going, because the schemes are merged, there is no process by which we get the number of beneficiaries belonging only to the minority communities. We do not have those numbers. If we have those numbers, we will certainly, Sir, place them before the hon. Members of the House.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, our hon. Minister and the Government of India announced that a lot more is going to be done for the minority community students in the coming period. But in his reply he said that in the Tenth Plan period Rs.20 crores have been spent for coaching. For the Eleventh Plan period he has announced Rs.28 crores. It includes minorities, SCs, STs and women also. So, is it not an austerity measure? They are including everybody and reducing the money also. ...(interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to apply austerity measures by cutting down the amount meant for the minority communities. ...(interruptions)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, not only will there be no austerity measures, but, in fact, the question of applying austerity measures to such schemes also does not arise. I want to give a categorical assurance to the hon. Members. The Eleventh Plan scheme, which is, of course, now merged in the various categories, gives Rs.28 crores. But other than that, the UGC has provided assistance to Jamia Hamdard where the benefit goes to the minority community, which is about Rs.7 crores, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, which is about Rs.4 crores, Aligarh Muslim University, which is over Rs.6.5 crores, and Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, which is almost Rs.5.5 crores. So, these are special schemes other than those schemes which I have already mentioned for which Rs.28 crores are set apart. So, there is no question of austerity measures at all.
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Sir, the idea is to give free coaching to minority students in order to bring them on a par with other general students. But if you look at the scheme, UGC again conducts All India Merit Test to select minority students for giving coaching. The idea is to provide coaching to all minorities irrespective of their ability. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to do away with the All India Merit Test and provide coaching to all minorities.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the whole purpose of coaching is that they can sit for the Merit Test. The purpose is not to take away merit. So, these remedial coaching schemes are where the student is weak in a particular subject or he finds a particular subject too complicated. We give him additional coaching so that he actually passes the test. Wherever we feel that he is weak, we are willing to give him remedial coaching. Not only that, under these coaching schemes, we will give him about 50 clock hours of teaching. So, there are several components of the scheme through which we help the students belonging to the minority communities. Sitting for the test or sitting for the Public Service Examinations, it is a separate thing altogether. But remedial coaching means that he should be empowered through coaching, through teaching, through extra tuition outside the unified course system so that he is able to cope with the academic standards and he can pass the Degree. The MET and others are separate.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity, finally. ...(Interruptions)... I have been raising my hand since eleven o’ clock in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is bound to happen.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, my question is in two parts. You have said that this UGC scheme is there for three or four reasons. One can understand remedial coaching for entering service or for preparing for National Eligibility Test or for lecturership. I want to ask the Minister how many who have undergone this training in the past have got into the services or have got into lecturership? I want to know whether that money has gone down the drain or has it proved useful. (b) part of my question is: further you have stated that some universities which you have mentioned - Baba Saheb Ambedkar University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, only in these minorities or the weaker sections or the students of the socially weaker sections of the society go? There are many other universities where these students are studying. Why don’t you enlarge this, not university-wise, but student-wise? That is my suggestion. Kindly answer this.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as far as the number of people who have passed the eligibility test or who have gone into services is concerned, I don’t think there is any methodology that we have, that any person who gets into the UPSE reports back to us that he was in fact coached in NET or he was
coached in UPSE and therefore, passed the test and therefore, he was empowered. I don’t think there is any methodology available with the Government. So, I don’t think I will be able to provide you that figure. As far as your second question is concerned as to whether we should expand the scheme to other institutions, at the moment we have not expanded that scheme because there is a concentration of large minorities and wherever there is concentration of large minorities in large universities like Aligarh Muslim University, I think, it would be a good idea to put the scheme into action there than to go into several other small institutions. But, as and when, we have allocations which are available to us in order to expand this, certainly it is something that the Government is open to.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, it is a welcome idea of setting up of residential coaching academics for minorities, SCs, STs and women. My question is: when there is more number of minorities available, why are you clubbing SCs, STs and women together in this? Already SCs, STs and women have other institutions for coaching. Why not you have this for minorities so that it will be more helpful to them?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in fact these are not the only schemes of the Government of India. The Ministry of Minority Affairs also has several schemes which benefit the minorities. The Social Welfare Ministry also has several schemes which benefit the SCs, STs and the OBCs. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has one such scheme which benefits across the board. But, it is not as if there are no schemes available under Ministries which in fact impact and benefit SCs, STs, OBCs as well as minorities.

*426. [The questioner Shri Ramdas Agarwal was absent. For answer vide page 26 infra.]

*427. [The questioner Shri Nand Kumar Sai was absent. For answer vide page 26 infra.]

Setting up of world class university in Gujarat

*428. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: ††

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat has provided land, free of cost, for setting up of world class university in Gandhinagar; and

(b) if so, by when the proposed university will be established?

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

†† [The question was actually asked in the floor of the House by Shri Kanjibhai Patel]
Statement

(a) The State Government of Gujarat has suggested sites in Sabarkantha district for the establishment of an innovation university aiming at world class standards. However, the Scheme of innovation universities envisages establishment of the proposed university at Gandhinagar in view of the required level of connectivity and infrastructure.

(b) 14 Innovation Universities, including one at Gandhinagar, are slated for establishment over 11th and 12th Five Year Plan periods.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as far as the location of this university is concerned; the Gujarat Government has suggested some sites in Sabarkantha district. But, in accordance with the decisions that we have taken, we believe that these universities should be at places where there is connectivity. There is no point setting up innovation universities and world-class universities where there is no availability of connectivity. They should be in places where there is urban infrastructure, where there is education infrastructure, where there is social infrastructure. Therefore, we suggested that this university should be set up near Gandhinagar and the State Government will then respond to us and give us sites in Gandhinagar. As and when that happens, we will be more than happy to carry on with the inspection.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this is something that we have to decide at the level of the Central Government. The State Government should give us various sites in the context in which we have suggested. And, as and when, the sites are given to us, we will, certainly, carryout inspection and when we find the site suitable we will carry forward and set it up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Formulation of SAPs by States

*426. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States so far formulated State Agriculture Plans (SAPs) by enhancing allocations to agriculture and allied sectors in order to reverse the declining trend;
(b) the cumulative allocation for agriculture during 2003-04 as compared to cumulative allocation in the last fiscal year; and

(c) the data from 2007-08 onwards on agriculture and allied Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in respect of all the States to assess overall agricultural growth, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched in 2007-08 with a view to incentivize the States to invest more in the agriculture and allied sectors based on agriculture plans. Under the new scheme, the states are required to prepare District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) and a comprehensive State Agriculture Plan (SAP) by integrating the DAPs. 577 DAPs have been prepared by States. Sixteen States have also formulated their SAPs.

(b) Aggregate State plan outlay of States for Agriculture & Allied Sectors during 2003-04 was Rs.5040.71 crore and Rs. 17,528.53 crore during 2008-09.

(c) The Gross Domestic Product from agricultural and allied sector at constant 1999-2000 prices for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are Rs.557122 crore and Rs.566045 crore, respectively. The growth rates for agriculture and allied sector’s GDP were 4.86% and 1.60% in 2007-08 and 2008-09, respectively. The GDP state-wise, which are available for 2007-08, are given in the Statement.

Statement


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>State/Union Territories</th>
<th>Agriculture &amp; Allied Sector’s GDP (In Crores Rupees)</th>
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<td>51</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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### Genetic modification of cash crops

*427. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Department of Bio-technology have recommended various cash crops for developing genetic modifications;

(b) if so, the names of cash crops under review in various institutes as on date, institute-wise;

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<th>State</th>
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</table>

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All India - Central Statistical Organisation

NA = Not Available
(c) the criteria fixed for examination of such crops; and

(d) the names of cash crops likely to be released by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting research on 18 crops namely rice, wheat, sorghum, maize, chickpea, pigeonpea, soybean, cotton, brassica, banana, papaya, tomato, brinjal, potato, cassava, groundnut, castor and sugarcane which includes cash crops also for genetic modifications. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has also supported research programmes on potato, cotton, sugarcane and banana under nine different projects at different Institutes.

The institute-wise and crop-wise details are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The Government of India has put in place a robust and transparent regulatory mechanisms for examination of Genetically Modified (GM) crops. The Government of India is following a case by case approval of GM crops even if it is approved for commercial cultivation in other countries. The GM crops are monitored and reviewed at all stages of development including research and field trial stage. The development of all GM crops is governed under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms / Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989', issued under the provision of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by Ministry of Environment and Forests. These Rules cover the areas of research as well as activities involving manufacture, use, import, export, storage and large scale applications of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products made there from throughout India. The Rules are supported by bio-safety guidelines for evaluating environmental and health safety aspects of genetically modified products.

Rules, 1989 are implemented through Competent Authorities namely:

- Institutional Bio-safety Committee (IBSC) at the institutional level
- Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under DBT to oversee research and development.
- Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under MoEF is the apex body to grant approval for large scale trials and commercial release of Living Micro Organisms (LMOs)/Hazardous Micro Organisms (HMOs).
- State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC)/ District Level Committees (DLCs) at the state level responsible for compliance and post release monitoring.

The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is the apex body under Rules, 1989 for according approval for large scale use and commercial release of GMOs.
(d) With new/modified cry genes Bt. cotton and Bt brinjal have been recommended by the GEAC to release. A few other GM crops viz. pigeonpea, banana, rice are in different stages of development and progress is being reviewed by the GEAC.

**Statement**

*Crop-wise and Institutes-wise details*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
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<th>Institutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack (Orissa) Indian Council of Agricultural Research-North Eastern Hill Complex, Shillong, Meghalaya, Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhanshala, Almora (Uttrakhand), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, University of Calcutta Bose Institute, Calcutta</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhanshala, Almora (Uttrakhand), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi, National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chickpea</td>
<td>National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pigeonpea</td>
<td>National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur (Maharashtra) National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, University of Delhi, South Campus, New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Brassica</td>
<td>National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi. Directorate of Rapeseed &amp; Mustard Research, Bharatpur (Rajasthan)</td>
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</table>
10. Banana  
   National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore (Karnataka), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)

11. Papaya  
   Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

12. Tomato  
   Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore (Karnataka), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.

13. Brinjal  
   Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, (Uttar Pradesh), National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad

14. Potato  
   Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

15. Cassava  
   Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvanantha-puram (Kerala), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

16. Groundnut  
   Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh (Gujrat) National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.

17. Castor  
   Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.

18. Sugarcane  
   Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

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**Setting up of an independent regulator for railways**

*429. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission in its mid-term appraisal has recommended for setting up of an independent regulator for Railways;
(b) if so, the mandate of independent regulator and the functional relationship between the regulator and the Ministry;

(c) whether such a step requires amendment to the existing Act or a new enactment by the Parliament; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) The mid-term appraisal by the Planning Commission for the 11th Five Year Plan is in progress and the recommendations would be known only when the appraisal is finalized. There is no proposal at present for setting up of an independent regulator for Railways.

Unauthorised railway employment forms

*430. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government’s attention has been drawn to cases of unauthorized railway employment forms being distributed in the State of West Bengal to dupe the unemployed youth;

(b) if so, the action taken so far; and

(c) if not, whether Railways would refer such cases to CBI for thorough investigation to bust the fake employment racket?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) As per recruitment procedure, vacancies in Group ‘C’ and Group ‘D’ are advertised in Employment News/Rojgar Samachar published by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The advertisement contains complete details along with the proforma of the application form. Application forms can be copied on A-4 size paper or can be downloaded from concerned Railway websites by the candidates. Thus, application forms are available freely and without any cost to the candidates. Railways do not authorize any agency/individual to distribute forms anywhere in the country including West Bengal. It is for the law and order enforcement agencies in the State to take appropriate action, if any individual/group of individuals/organization is/are engaged in any such activity.

Salary/wages of non-faculty employees of AICTE

*431. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee headed by a former Chief Justice of India to examine the fee structure of technical institutes affiliated to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);

(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Government has been seized of the fact that while salaries of faculty members of AICTE affiliated institutes are governed by AICTE rules, no rule exists with regard to salary and wages of their non-faculty employees;

(d) whether the Committee will examine the salary/wages of the non-faculty employees of the AICTE affiliated institutes; and

(e) if not, the rationale therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the case of P. A. Inamdar & Others v/s State of Maharashtra & Others, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Shri Ranganath Mishra, former Chief Justice of India to suggest, inter-alia, the suitable mechanism for charging of fee in technical institutions in the country. The list of members is given in the Statement (See below). The Committee is yet to give its report.

(c) to (e) The AICTE Act empowers the AICTE to "co-ordinate the development of technical education in the country at all levels". As part of its role for developing technical education in the country, AICTE lays down the salary structure for faculty of the institutions approved by it. The salary structure of non-teaching employees of the technical institutions are left to the States/UTs to decide. As such the terms of reference of the Ranganath Mishra Committee do not include the salary structure for non-teaching employees of AICTE approved institutions.

Statement

Composition of the National Fee Committee.

1. Justice Shri Ranganath Mishra, Former Chief Justice of India. Chairman
2. Justice Giridhar Malaviya, Former Justice of Allahabad High Court. Member
3. Prof. S.K.Khanna, Former Chairman, AICTE, New Delhi. Member
4. Prof. T.N.Kapoor, Former Vice Chancellor Punjab University, Chandigarh. Member
5. Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Former Vice Chancellor Anna University, Chennai. Member
6. Prof. C.K. Kokate, Former Vice Chancellor Kakatiya University, Warangal. Member
7. Prof. Pritam Singh, Former Director, IIM, Lucknow. Member
8. Prof. Amar Nath Sandhu, Former Partner PWC and Prof. of Accountancy & Finance VG SIM, IIT, Kharagpur. Member
9. Sh. S.J. Bhalla, Former President, Council of Architecture. Member
10. Dr. K. Narayana Rao, Member Secretary, AICTE. Convener
Budget provision for Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur railway project

†432. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the budget provision for tribal dominated Bastar district of Chhattisgarh in 2008-09 for proposed Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur rail line, after completion of survey work; and

(b) the cost of this new line and time by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) An amount of Rs. 124.99 crore was provided in Railway Budget 2008-09 for Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line project.

(b) Cost of the line at 2004-05 prices was Rs. 968.6 crore. The project is likely to be completed in 2014-15 subject to completion of acquisition of the required land for construction of the new line by the Government of Chhattisgarh and availability of resources.

Madarsa Reform Programmes

*433. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Madarsa Reform Programmes initiated by his Ministry; and

(b) whether his Ministry is constituting a Madarsa Board to oversee the Madarsa education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM) encourages traditional institutions to voluntarily introduce modern subjects like Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Languages in their curriculum. It also encourages linkage of Madrasas with National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS) to enable children studying in Madrasas get certification for class 5, 8, 10 and 12, transit to higher studies and also ensure quality standards akin to the national education system. Registration and examination fees to the NIOS and cost of teaching learning material is covered under this scheme. The NIOS linkage is also extended for Vocational Education at the secondary and higher secondary stage of Madrasas. For the monitoring and popularization of scheme, SPQEM envisages funding of State Madarsa Boards. During the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, 15 States/UTs were assisted under the Scheme by providing assistance of Rs. 9905.89 lakhs for 5297 madrasas and 10214 teachers in modern subjects.

(b) 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
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.

Problems relating to rainfed farming

434. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 152 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3 July, 2009 and state:

(a) the problems identified by Government with regard to rainfed farming;
(b) the programmes being formulated by his Ministry to resolve each of the problem;
(c) the total number of micro and macro watersheds identified under Integrated Watershed Management Programme in the country alongwith the number of such watersheds being developed, district-wise, particularly in Rajasthan; and
(d) the total area of rainfed land on which crop production has been insured as a result of the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Rainfed agriculture is complex, risk prone and is characterized by low levels of productivity and input usage. Since, rainfed farming depends primarily on rainfall received during the monsoon period which varies widely in terms of distribution, extent and intensity, it witnesses wide range of uncertainty in production and productivity. The risks involved in rainfed farming does not encourage farmers for higher investment in agricultural inputs and this results in low cropping intensity & productivity.

(b) Government has accorded priority to the holistic and sustainable development of Rainfed areas. To address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development, Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) in November 2006. For the promotion of rainfed farming, following watershed programmes are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development through an integrated watershed management approach.

Ministry of Agriculture

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).
(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR).
(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). Ministry of Rural Development

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP): Integration and modification of the schemes of Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

The programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Micro Irrigation (MI), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) also accord special focus to rainfed areas for improving the livelihood security and agricultural productivity.

(c) Under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), a total of 154510 micro watersheds covering 1042.46 lakh hectares have been identified covering 292 districts in 18 States. During the year 2009-10, 9689 micro-watersheds covering 53.93 lakh hectares have been sanctioned. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (See below). In Rajasthan 26655 micro-watersheds covering 173 lakh hectares have been identified against which 977 micro-watersheds have been taken up during 2009-10 to cover 9.26 lakh hectares. District-wise details are given in the Statement-II (See below).

(d) Since inception and upto the end of Tenth Five Year Plan, about 50.83 million ha. of degraded lands including rainfed areas have been covered under various Watershed Development Programmes. Parts of such developed degraded rainfed land are brought under cultivation. Lands so developed include rainfed agricultural lands, non-arable lands and drainage line areas. It has been observed that the production and productivity has improved in the treated watersheds due to better soil & water conservation measures.

Statement-I

State wise no. of micro watersheds identified under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and no. of watershed being developed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total No. of Micro-watersheds identified</th>
<th>Area covered (in lakh hectares)</th>
<th>No. of districts covered</th>
<th>No. of micro-watersheds sanctioned</th>
<th>Area sanctioned (in lakh hectares) during 2009-10</th>
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<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Total treatable watersheds/ clusters under IWMP</td>
<td>Treatable area under IWMP</td>
<td>No. of w/s under Micro W/S/IC</td>
<td>Total area under IWMP</td>
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<td>26655</td>
<td>17300279</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>925599</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: In Western Rajasthan where there are non distinguishable drainage lines i.e. watersheds can not be delineated, the development unit for rainfed areas is cluster (village / group of villages).

**Quality of food supplied in trains**

*435. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government is aware that the quality of food/snacks available at railway platforms and in trains is highly unhygienic;
(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
(c) whether regular inspections are not carried out by railway authorities to check food quality at platforms and in trains; and
(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to ensure availability of quality food in trains as well as at railway platforms?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) Improvement in catering services is an ongoing process. This includes maintenance of hygiene, standard and quality of food, introduction of good quality packaging, revision of menu, procurement of raw material from approved/quality sources, etc. Regular as well as surprise checks are conducted by the railway administration to monitor the catering services and remedial actions are taken.

Steps taken by Railways to ensure food quality, hygiene and nutritional content of food, etc. are as under:-

(i) The Food and Health Inspectors of Zonal Railways regularly take samples for verification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA).
(ii) A central control has been setup by IRCTC at New Delhi to monitor the quality of catering services. This is equipped with phone, Fax, PC with broadband internet connectivity and scanner and is operational round the clock.
(iii) On-line Complaint Management system has been introduced to facilitate online lodging of complaints by logging on IRCTC’s website at www.irctc.com.
(iv) A national toll free number 1800-111-139 has been launched for lodging of complaints by passengers. Facilities of receipt of complaint through SMS are under process of implementation.
(v) Food audit is being done in various areas including premium trains, base kitchens and food plazas.
(vi) A number of special drives have been conducted on premium trains, base kitchens, food plazas and other units through officers and Quality Control Professionals (QCPs) so as to improve quality of catering services. Punitive steps e.g. warning, fines, termination, etc. have been taken against defaulters.
(vii) Customer satisfaction surveys are conducted through reputed independent agencies such as IMRB International.

However, complaints on quality of food supplied to the passengers continue to be received. In order to further revamp the quality of services, the catering policy is being reviewed.

Dumping of steel by China and East-European countries

*436. SHRI NARESH GLURAL:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has recently decided to keep a tab on steel imports into the country;

(b) if so, whether several domestic steel majors have alleged large scale dumping by China and East European countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to curb the import of steel in view of adequate availability in the country; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) The Government has been closely monitoring various aspects of the steel market, including import of steel.

(b) and (c) M/s Essar Steels Limited, Ispat Industries Limited, and JSW Steel Limited had filed an application before the Designated Authority for initiation of anti dumping investigation concerning alleged dumping of Hot Rolled Coils, Hot Rolled Sheets, Hot Rolled Plates, Hot Rolled Strips or any other hot rolled flat products of iron or non-alloy steel originating in or exported from China PR, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Korea ROK, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine. Similarly M/s Jindal Stainless Ltd. had filed an application before the Designated Authority against dumping of Cold Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel originating in or exported from China PR, Japan, Korea, European Union, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and USA and requested for initiation of anti-dumping investigations for levy of anti-dumping duties on the subject goods.

Subsequently, on the request of the domestic industry the Designated Authority vide notification dated 11/8/2009 has terminated the anti-dumping investigation on imports of Hot Rolled Products. As regards dumping of Cold Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel, the Designated Authority in its Final Findings notified on 24/11/2009 has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty at various rates on all imports of subject goods from, the subject countries.

(d) and (e) During the past one year, the Government has taken the following measures to assist the domestic steel industry tide over the global economic crisis, which inter-alia includes discouraging of cheaper imports and encouraging of export of steel products:

(i) Export duty on all steel items withdrawn from 31.10.2008.

(ii) Re-imposition of import duty on steel items at 5% (except steel melting scrap) on 18.11.2008.


(iv) Reduction of Excise Duty on steel items from 14% to 10% in December, 2008 and further to 8% in February, 2009.
(v) Re-introduction of Countervailing Duty on TMT bars and rods.

(vi) Import of Hot Rolled Coil brought into “Restricted Category” of imports with effect from 21.11.2008.

Employment of Sanskrit Graduates

*437. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether Government is taking steps for the creation of employment opportunities for Sanskrit Graduates; and

(b) if so, the number of Sanskrit Graduates/Post Graduates passing out every year and how many of them are employed as teachers every year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Sanskrit Graduates are eligible for employment in different schools and educational institutions besides being eligible for pursuing higher studies and research. Government is making all efforts through its institutions viz. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), especially RSkS, to encourage Sanskrit education so as to create more employment opportunities. 1373 teachers are employed in these three Deemed Universities. 162 number of people are employed in Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodh Sansthas, which are financially aided by RSkS. 1177 full time and 406 part time teachers are engaged for traditional Sanskrit Schools for which RSkS is providing salaries to the Sanskrit teachers. The data for Sanskrit Graduates/Post Graduates passing out of universities is not centrally maintained. However, the number of graduates/post graduates who passed out from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, all Deemed Universities, during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

<table>
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<th>Name of the Deemed University</th>
<th>Graduates/Post Graduates</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<td>Graduates</td>
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<td>1891</td>
<td>1811</td>
<td>1778</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
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<td>1363</td>
<td>1190</td>
<td>1037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha</td>
<td>Graduates</td>
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<td>158</td>
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<td>196</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha</td>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discontent due to non-stoppage of trains

†438. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware that there is grave discontent among people as there is no halt of various trains at Dhenkanal Railway Station (Khurdha division of Eastern Railway) and Boinda Railway Station (Sambalpur division of East Coast Railway) in Orissa;

(b) if so, by when this feeling of discontent will be resolved;

(c) whether she will consider halting of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Mumbai-Bhubaneswar train at Dhenkanal Station; and

(d) whether arrangement for halting of Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express at Boinda Station will be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) At present, out of 13 pairs of trains passing Dhenkanal station, 12 pairs of trains including 9 pairs of Express trains are stopping at Dhenkanal and out of 11 pairs of trains passing Boinda station, 7 pairs of trains including 6 pairs of Express trains are stopping at Boinda. The stoppage of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express at Dhenkanal and the stoppage of proposed 8105/8106 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express at Boinda are under examination.

Private sector investment in education

*439. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to allow private sector investment in education;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Max India Chairman to prepare a feasibility paper thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Even at present private sector participation exists in the funding and management of educational institutions as long as surplus earned is reasonable and the same is ploughed back for development of institutions. The 11th Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to further explore private sector initiatives and various forms of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary efforts in Education, while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
commercialize Education. The Policy envisions that in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialization of technical and professional education will be curbed. An alternative system will be devised to involve private and voluntary efforts in Education, in conformity with accepted norms and goals.

Government had recently convened a Round Table on Higher Education on 21st October 2009 to advise on important areas of growth in the education sector including the finances to meet the demands of expansion and quality of higher education. During discussion, it was felt that in the matter of skill development and vocational education, a different model needs to be evolved which grants a greater role to the private sector and where the structural requirements of setting up institutions are far more flexible than that for other higher educational institutions. It was decided that alternative models that provide structural flexibility and financial freedom need to be evolved. The Round Table has decided to entrust the responsibility of development of a concept paper to one of its members, Shri Analjit Singh, Chairman of M/s. Max India Ltd.

Celebration of Sanskrit Week

*440. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

(a) the details of activities included in the celebration of "Sanskrit Week" by Government in the last three years; and
(b) the steps his Ministry contemplates to take to make "Sanskrit Week" an effective one?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi (RSKS), Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri / Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (SLBSRSV), New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (RSV), Tirupati, which are Deemed Universities, have been celebrating 'Sanskrit Week’ with great enthusiasm and fervour every year in the month of August. The last day of 'Sanskrit Week’, coinciding with Sharavana Purnima (Raksha Bandhan Diwas) is observed as the 'Sanskrit Diwas’. These Universities have been organizing various programmes to highlight the importance of Sanskrit language and its heritage, conducting literary and cultural competitions for students in essay writing, debate, antyakshari, music, dance, drama etc., and winners are awarded prizes at the end of the competitions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to NGOs in Uttarakhand

3237. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:


(a) the details of schemes being run by his Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations;

(b) the details of funds allocated to Uttarakhand, Organization-wise and scheme-wise, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide benefit of these schemes at village level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of schemes being run by this/Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations is given in the Statement-I (See below). No funds are released to NGOs directly by the Ministry, except for two schemes of Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India and National Project on Organic Farming.

(b) Details of funds allocated directly to NGOs in Uttarakhand, organization-wise and scheme-wise during the last three years are given in the Statement-II (See below).

(c) Most of the schemes implemented through NGOs are meant for village level interventions and are implemented through Self Help Groups (SHGs). Government also carries out publicity through print, electronic and other media to bring awareness of these schemes at the village level.

Statement-I

Details of schemes being run by the Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations

Department of Agriculture and Co-operation

1. Gramin Bhandaran Yojna - The project for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individuals, farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organisations, Self Help Groups, Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Local Bodies and other than Municipal Corporations, Federations, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards and Agro Processing Corporations in the entire country. Assistance for renovation of rural godowns will, however, be restricted to godowns constructed by cooperatives only. This is a back-ended subsidy scheme.

2. Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization - Assistance will be available to individuals, Group of farmers/growers/consumers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, NGOs, Self Help Groups, Companies, Corporations, Autonomous Bodies of the Govt, Cooperatives Marketing Federations, Local Bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees & Marketing Boards in the entire country. This is a back-ended subsidy scheme. Funds are released as per the specific proposal submitted by implementing agencies including NGOs.
3. **National Project on Organic Farming** - Approved components are being implemented through various State Govt. Departments and agencies and through various Non-Government Agencies (NGOs)/Voluntary Organizations and Autonomous Institute.

4. **Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms** - Provides for utilizing minimum 10% of the allocation on recurring activities at district level through NGOs, FOs, PRIs, Cooperatives, Para-Extension Workers, Agri-preneurs, Input Suppliers, Corporate Sector etc. The Work Plans for involvement of Non-Governmental Sector are, however, firmed up at State level.

5. **Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM)** - Private sector like NGOs, farmers, organizations, cooperative bodies, public sector agencies are involved the activities of seed production, supply of inputs, extension support and demonstrations to the extent of 15% of allocation of the programme through State Govts. No funds are given to NGOs directly under ISOPOM by this Department.

6. **National Bamboo Mission** - Funds are released to NGOs under this Scheme. This is also Back-ended scheme.

7. **Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India** - Government of India also provide "Grants-in-aid" in the form of subsidy to NGOs since, 2005-06 for purchase of laboratory equipments for setting up bio-control laboratories @ Rs. 5.0 lakh per NGO per bio-lab subject to the conditions laid down in guidelines prepared for the purpose. Funds are released as back-ended subsidy scheme.

8. **Integrated Development of Tree-Borne Oilseeds** - Under this scheme, various programmes namely Promotional, R&D, Technology Development & Refinement, Extension Programmes with 100% grant-in-aid and back-ended credit linked subsidy programmes, with 30% subsidy, 20% beneficiary share and 50% Bank Loan, are being implemented through Govt. agencies, Autonomous bodies, NGOs/VOs.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

(a) **Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme**

(i) **Assistance to Fodder Block Making Units** - Assistance of up to 25% of the investment cost is provided under the scheme. This assistance is provided for units under public or private entrepreneurship, including cooperatives and Self Help Groups. The relevant projects are required to be appraised by NABARD or any of the commercial banks.

(ii) **Grassland Development, including Grass Reserves** - Govt. of India provides 100% grant-in-aid to the Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Department of Forests for rehabilitation of degraded pasture/grasslands. NGOs/Village Panchayats are also involved for development of grassland on Panchayat land and other Common Property Resources.
(iii) **Fodder Seed Production and Distribution Programme** - The State Government furnishes, in its proposals, the details of fodder seeds, the extent of area, details of farmer with whom buyback has been entered into along with the modalities of this arrangement. The State Govt. may involve State Implementing Agency (SIA)/Cooperatives/NGO for implementing projects.

(b) **Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund** - implemented through NABARD. Eligible beneficiaries, under the scheme, include agricultural farmers/individuals entrepreneurs and groups of all sections of unorganized as well as organized sector including cooperatives and NGOs, from any part of the country.

(c) **Strengthening of Post Harvest Infrastructure** - The programme is implemented through Government undertakings, Corporations, Federation, Marketing Boards, Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups, NGOs, Self Help Groups of Women, SHGs of SC/ST, Private Companies owned by fishermen, SCs/STs. Funds are released on the Projects evaluated and recommended by the State Governments.

**Department of Agricultural Research and Education**

Department is operating *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (569) through 91 NGOs in different districts of the Country. In addition, the following Network/All India Coordinated Research Project/Centres are being operated at NGO’s level:

1. AICRP on Cattle - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
2. AICRP on Goat Improvement - Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute, Phaltan, Gujarat.
3. AICRP on Improvement of feed Resources and Nutrient Utilization in Raising Animal Production - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
4. AICRP on Animal Genetic Resources - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
5. AICRP on Animal Genetic Resources - Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urlikanchan, Pune.
6. AICRP on Cattle - Sri Trust Gaushala, Bhiwani, Haryana.

**Statement-II**

*Organisation-wise and scheme-wise details of fund allocated directly to NGOs in Uttarakhand during last three years*

(A) **Department of Agriculture and Cooperation**

There is no direct involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementation of most of the schemes of Department of Agriculture & Co-operation. However, the following Schemes have direct involvement of NGOs:

1. Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management Approach in India: Grant-in-aid to NGOs since 2005-06, for purchase of laboratory equipments for setting up bio-control
laboratories @ Rs.5 lakh per NGO. A sum of Rs.3,42,3937/- has been released during 2007-08 to M/s. Sarpit Sewa Sansthan, C-118, Mayapuri, Kumargali, Ajabpur Kalan, Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

2. National Project on Organic Farming: An amount of Rs.329.52 lakh has been released to Director of Agriculture, Government of Uttarakhand during 2006-07. An amount of Rs. 1.44 lakh and Rs.0.37 lakh has been released to Shri Jagdamba Samiti, Vinod Market, Dehradun Road, Rishikesh(UA) and Amber Samaj Sewi Sansthan, Vill. Bank, Th. Kitchha, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar(UA), respectively during 2006-07.

During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 22.17 lakh has been released to Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board, Dehradun. Further, Himalayan Institute for Rural Awakening, Ugrasen Nagar, Haridwar Road, Rishikesh (UA), Gramin Vikas Takniki Sansthan, Vill. Saini, Distt. Uttarkashi(UA) and Mahila Utthan Awaran Sansthan Bhramkhal Uttarkashi (UA) have been released an amount of Rs.1.92 lakh, Rs.0.10 lakh and Rs.0.10 lakh, respectively. No fund released to any agency during 2008-09.

(B) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

There is no direct involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementation of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, though in some schemes cooperatives, federations/self-help groups are involved through State Governments in implementing these schemes.

(C) Department of Agricultural Research and Education

Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research operates Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) through NGOs. No NGO-KVK is granted any financial assistance in Uttarakhand.

Decline in Agriculture land

3238. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the extent of cultivable land in the country is rapidly declining due to classification changed from agricultural zone to industrial zone, commercial-zone and institutional-zone, etc.;

(b) whether Government is visualizing the impending danger to the agricultural produce in the country and the food security;

(c) the initiatives taken by Government to contain the rapid declining of the extent of both wet and dry agricultural land for other purposes; and

(d) the steps which Government considers to boost the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates, the extent of cultivable land has marginally decreased from
182.88 million ha. of 2004-05 to 182.71 million ha. in 2006-07, mainly due to increase in area under non-agricultural uses such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc.

(b) to (d) Government of India is aware of the impending dangers to the agricultural produce and there are various measures in place to ensure food security across the country. With a view to prevent land degradation and for improving the productivity of the land under agriculture, Government of India is implementing various schemes/programmes namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (NWMP) etc. across the country. Parts of such developed lands under these programmes are brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses. Besides, three major initiatives namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched to enhance the productivity of agricultural land and sustaining food security across the country. It is due to these interventions that despite the marginal decrease in the extent of cultivable land, foodgrain production has increased from 198.36 Million Tonnes in 2004-05 to 230.78 Million Tonnes in 2007-08.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable Act/Legislation to protect use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. With a view to prevent the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security of the country, the National Policy for Farmers (NPC), 2007 has recommended that prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture. Only under exceptional circumstances, the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded / wastelands elsewhere. Further, the policy also envisages that for non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated. State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. In addition, the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 formulated by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources came into effect on 31.10.2007. The policy envisages that only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded lands or un-irrigated lands. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses in the projects may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped lands may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum.
Smuggling of cattle

3239. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of cattle mostly cows, are being smuggled to Bangladesh each day generally at midnight at Sahebkhali in Sundarbans, where they are being slaughtered; and

(b) if so, the details of such activities and Government’s reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There have been reports of clandestine smuggling of cattle through porous and everine border of Indo-Bangladesh. There are institutional mechanisms to take cognizance and legal action against criminals and anti-social elements on borders that are found involved in such activities. The Government has taken many preventive measures to stop the trans-border criminal activities including smuggling which, inter-alia, includes round the clock surveillance and patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation posts; construction of border fencing and flood lighting; introduction of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipments; up-gradation of intelligence set up; establishment of additional Border Out Posts along borders to reduce inter-se distance and co-ordination with the State Governments and the concerned intelligence agencies. Effective measures are taken to stop such activities.

Achievement of objective under NFSM

3240. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has succeeded in achieving objective of increasing production and productivity of rice, wheat and pulses on sustainable basis during the year 2008-09 under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Food Security Mission has been implemented since Rabi 2007 with an aim to obtain additional production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes. After the implementation of National Food Security Mission, the production of wheat has increased from 75.81 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 80.58 million tonnes in 2008-09 which is 4.77 million tonnes more than 2006-07. The total production of rice has increased from 93.35 million tonnes (2006-07) to 99.15 million tonnes (2008-09) which is 5.8 million tonnes more; whereas the total production of pulses has also increased from 14.20 million tonnes (2006-07) to 14.66 million tonnes (2008-09) which is nearly 0.5 million tonnes more.

(c) Question does not arise.
Damage to crops due to radiation from cell phone towers

3241. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per preliminary research carried out by some agricultural universities, it has been revealed that the electromagnetic radiation emanating from cell phone towers can damage the growth of agricultural crops and plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any steps to check such damage to agricultural crops and plants from towers of cell phones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. To our knowledge, no study with respect to damage to the growth of agricultural crops and plants due to electromagnetic radiation emanating from cell phone towers have been conducted by any Agricultural University in India.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Low production of pulses

3242. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a largest producer of pulses in the world and also the largest importer of pulses as in the case of oilseeds and edible oils;

(b) whether India’s pulse production average is 638 kg. per hectare against best-in-class countries like Canada which produces around 1800 kg. per hectare;

(c) whether a recent study by Tata Strategic Management Group has shown that by adopting best practices and increasing yield to higher levels, India can increase production of pulses 13 million tonnes per year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tata Strategic Management Group in their report published in the Business Standard dated September 24, 2009 claimed that "there is a potential to produce over 37 million tonnes of pulses in the country". A copy of the report has also been received in the Ministry. The Tata Group has conducted study based on the best practices prevalent in other countries & has recommended for development of markets to ensure profitability; promotion of good agronomic practices; enhanced focus on R&D; area increase involving fallows & improvement in efficiency through aggregation for enhanced production of pulses.
The report further suggested the possibility of yield enhancement by 25% with the use of HYV seeds; 25% with promotion of best pest management practices; 20% with supply of irrigation and nutrients and 15% by ensuring proper storage.

**Shortage of irrigation facilities**

3243. **SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to bring more area under irrigation and improve farm techniques to ensure food security;

(b) the steps taken by Government to upgrade the agriculture-based research and development and developing new crop varieties that are resistant to different weather conditions;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) in what manner Government is going to help the farmers during the Rabi season particularly in case of shortage of irrigation facilities?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)**: (a) to (d) Ministry of Water Resources is implementing “Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme” (AIBP) to provide financial assistance to expedite completion of surface water major and Medium irrigation projects. Central assistance is provided in the form of grant which is 90 percent of the project cost. Funding under programme is made on the basis of proposal made by the State Government. Also, Government is assisting for Promotion of improved method of irrigation like sprinkler and drip irrigation, water intensive crops by less water requiring crops, promotion of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) through crop development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed crop protection/production technologies, improved varieties /hybrids of different crops that are adapted to different weather conditions, amelioration technology for waterlogged, salt affected and acids soil, etc.

In consultation with Ministry of Power, need based additional demand of the States for power supply has been ensured during critical phases of rabi operations, apart from that irrigation/water conservation component scheme such as sprinkler/drips, pumpsset, percolation tanks have been provided under crop development schemes.

**Integrated efforts to mitigate impact of drought**

3244. **SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA**:  

DR. T. **SUBBARAMI REDDY**:  

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to provide some relief to people reeling under impact of drought he has asked various Ministries to reconsider imposition of fresh taxes, relax existing taxation and assist States in drought management;
(b) if so, whether he has also written to Ministries and Departments for integrated Governmental effort to mitigate the adverse impact of drought; and

(c) if so, to what extent the Ministries/ Departments have accepted the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In the wake of drought and drought like conditions in some parts of the country, various Ministries/ Departments of the Government were addressed to assist in reducing the adverse affects of drought / deficit rainfall to the minimum possible, Ministries/Departments, which are imposing Cess/Tax had been, inter-alia, requested to take a re-look at such taxes which have a bearing on people affected by drought.

Integrated efforts have been made to mitigate the impact of drought with active involvement of all concerned Ministries/ Departments. Mainly these include, provision of additional allocation of power by Ministry of Power from the Central Pool to the States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Assam and Andhra Pradesh to enable completion of agricultural operations in the fields; supply of adequate fertilizers by Department of Fertilizers in the areas receiving adequate rainfall; transportation of fodder and drinking water to the States in case of need at no cost basis to the affected States by Ministry of Railways; release of the central share of Calamity Relief Fund to the affected States as well as release of assistance under National Calamity Contingency Fund by Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation; broadcasting/telecasting of requisite advisories to the farmers by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; steps to enhance water sources in the urban and rural areas by Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Water Resources; provision of alternative employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by Department of Rural Development; introduction of a Diesel Subsidy Scheme to enable farmers to provide supplementary protective irrigation to the standing crops and relaxation in the matter of age for seed varieties etc., by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation; ensuring of adequate quantity of fodder for the animals by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries; additional ad hoc monthly allocation of foodgrains to the drought affected States by Ministry of Food and Public Distribution; assistance from Ministry of Earth Science by way of inputs in respect of rainfall status to enable monitoring of the drought situation from time to time; ensuring of availability of petroleum products by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; monitoring of diseases and taking preventive measures, in case of need, by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare etc.

Low interest loan to drought hit farmers

3245. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has discussed a proposal to provide interest subsidy to farmers hit by drought;
(b) whether the move will ensure that affected farmers get short-term crop loans at 7 per
cent with a provision to make it even more attractive at 6 per cent to those with a healthy track
record;

(c) if so, whether public sector banks also lend to farmers at low interest rates through
NABARD Regional Rural Banks, etc.;

(d) whether Government has also considered allocation of Rs. 1.473 crores as non-plan
grant to meet the losses; and

(e) if so, to what extent these proposals have been accepted and the steps being taken to
implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a)
to (e) There is no proposal to provide any separate interest subsidy to farmers hit by drought.
However, Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are
already providing short-term crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs.3 lakh to the farmers at 7%
rate of interest. This rate is applicable for all farmers including those hit by drought.

Further, during the year 2009-10 an additional interest subvention @ 1% would be given to
those prompt paying farmers who repay their short term crop loan within the period of interest
subvention i.e. within one year of disbursement of such loans. Hence, the prompt paying farmers
would get short term crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs.3 lakh @ 6% per annum during the
year 2009-10.

Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks
(PSBs), Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on their own funds used for providing
short term crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakh per farmer @ 7% per annum. As per the
interest subvention scheme, banks are reimbursed the eligible amount of interest subvention.
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
are getting claims from PSBs, RRBs and Cooperative Banks on regular basis which is being
reimbursed by them. Government releases necessary funds to RBI/NABARD so that the claims
received from lending institutions may be reimbursed by them in time. The Government has approved
the interest subvention scheme for the year 2009-10 with estimated cost of Rs.4,000.00 crore.

National Policy for farmers

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced National Policy for farmers in 2007;
(b) if so, the present status of the policy;
(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for proper implementation of the policy; and
Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), the Government announced the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007. An Inter-Ministerial Committee finalized a Plan of Action for operationalisation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October, 2008 to all the State Governments particularly with respect to the items falling within the purview of State Governments and the central Ministries/Departments concerned, for necessary action. A regular monitoring mechanism has also been put in place to oversee the progress of implementation of NPF 2007.

Special agriculture zones

3247. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some State Governments have decided to set up Special Agriculture Zones (SAZs) on the lines of Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, whether Central Government proposes to encourage the States who have set up such SAZs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pathetic condition of farmers

3248. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land available in India is 54 to 57 per cent of total land area while the world average is 10 to 11 per cent;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian farmers are in a very pathetic and miserable condition;

(d) if so, the details of farmers who committed suicide during last one year, State-wise;

(e) whether farmers are committing suicide due to very less increase in MSP of agricultural products in comparison to other essential articles; and
(f) whether Government will increase the MSP in accordance with the inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Total Agricultural land, which consists of net area sown, fallow lands, culturable waste land and land under miscellaneous tree crops was 55.6% of the total Geographical area of the country during 2006-07, whereas the percentage of arable land was 10.9% to the total land area in the world in 2006, according to FAO Statistical Yearbook 2007-08.

(b) A Statement on State-wise Geographical area and Agricultural Land for the year 2006-07 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted during 2003 in the rural areas by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure for farmer households at all India level during the year 2003 was Rs. 502.83 (less by 9.3%) compared to Rs. 554.15 for all rural households.

(d) State-wise cases of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons as per the information made available by the State Governments for the year 2008 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
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<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(e) and (f) As reported by the State Governments, the reasons for committing suicide by the farmers are broadly due to crop failure, indebtedness, drought and socio-economic factors.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after comprehensive analysis of the concerned crop sectors, has recommended a substantial hike of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for several crops for the year 2008-09.

While recommending Minimum Support Prices for agricultural commodities, CACP factors in inflation in terms of increase in input cost in real terms, apart from several other factors. The prices of all the inputs going into the cultivation of a particular crop are updated according to their respective relevant price indices to take into account inflation at the level of factors of production and at the same time the inflationary trends in market prices are also accounted for while arriving at the MSP.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Union Territory</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Cultivable Area</th>
<th>% of Cultivable Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>27507</td>
<td>15911</td>
<td>57.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>8374</td>
<td>422</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>7844</td>
<td>3224</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>9416</td>
<td>6638</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>13519</td>
<td>5581</td>
<td>41.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>53.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>19602</td>
<td>12412</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>4421</td>
<td>3782</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal</td>
<td>5567</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>22224</td>
<td>1048</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
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<tr>
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<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
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<td>28.1</td>
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<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>8875</td>
<td>5751</td>
<td>64.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A &amp; Nicobar Islands</td>
<td>825</td>
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<td>5.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18.2</td>
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<td>Dadar &amp; Nagar</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>49.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>All-India</td>
<td>328726</td>
<td>182708</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Per-capita availability of pulses**

3249. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability of per capita pulses in the country during last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
(b) whether it is a fact that availability of pulses is decreasing year by year;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps Government has taken to increase production and availability of pulses during the last three years, State-wise?

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

(a) to (c) State-wise data on per capita availability of pulses is not maintained. The per capita availability of pulses in the country as a whole has increased from 11.8 kg. per year in 2006 to 12.9 Kgs. per year in 2007 and further to 15.3 kgs. per year in 2008 (Provisional).

(d) The Government implements a number of programmes/schemes to increase the production and availability of pulses in the country which includes, inter-alia, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc.
Need to encourage oilseed and pulses production

†3250. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rising edible oilseeds production over the years in the world leading to their declining prices, country’s oilseeds producers are faced with adverse impact thereof;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that oilseeds and pulses require less irrigation water than other agri-products; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not starting an additional scheme to encourage production of oilseeds and pulses in the country in view of present situation of water scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per reports of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) available up to the year 2007, there has not been any significant increase in the world’s oilseeds production during the period 2005-07. Further, as annual production of oilseeds in the country is considerably lower than its projected demand, the marginal increase in the world’s oilseeds production is not likely to have any adverse impact on the producers of oilseeds in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. Oilseeds and pulses are mostly grown in rainfed conditions in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research developed several short duration and drought tolerant/resistant varieties of oilseeds and pulses for cultivation under moisture stress conditions in the country.

(d) Government of India is implementing various schemes to encourage cultivation of oilseeds and pulses as given below:

1. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing States.


3. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme which provides assistance to the States not covered under ISOPOM.

4. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under which States can undertake oilseeds and pulses development programme.

Reforms in NARS

†3251. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the declining productivity of agricultural soil and constant depletion of water in the country National Agriculture Research System (NARS) needs to be revamped;

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

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines for reforms in this system during last years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and when these guidelines were issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The ICAR is already addressing these issues through its All India Coordinated Research Projects involving ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities located in different agro-ecological regions of the country and has developed site specific nutrient management and ground water recharge measures to tackle such situations. ICAR is also consistently taking up research in frontier areas, to develop cutting-edge technology.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment of crop insurance compensation

3252. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the payment of the crop insurance compensation of Kharif 2008 season for an amount of Rs. 356.58 crores is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which collects insurance premium under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is entrusted with the responsibility to make payment of crop insurance compensation to farmers under the scheme. The financial liability on account of claims (for food & oilseeds crops) over and above 100% of premium and for annual commercial/ horticultural crops above 150% of the premium collected is shared by the Govt. of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

Total claims amounting to Rs.1496.22 crore including Central and State Government share of Rs.946.60 crore and Rs.405.65 crore respectively, for Kharif 2008 season and other seasons, under NAIS, are pending for settlement with the AIC.
(c) The Government has provided Rs.250 crore of additionality under the NAIS in the First Supplementary Demands for Grants towards Central Government’s share. Further, the Government is committed towards proving adequate resources for this scheme to meet the liabilities on account of claims towards Central Government’s share.

**Loss of foodgrains production**

†3253. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has compiled details with regard to loss occurred to crops in various States due to shortfall in monsoon;

(b) the shortfall of Kharif crops recorded this year as compared to the previous year;

(c) whether Central Government has given those States any package, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government has any proposal to provide aid for coming crops of Rabi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government has estimated/presented State-wise & Crop-wise production loss due to delayed/abnormal monsoon indicate shortfall in area thereby loss in production for kharif, 2009 as per 1st Advance estimates released by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture. The shortfall of kharif, 2009 as compared to kharif, 2008 is given in the Statement (See below).

For increasing rabi production, Government of India conducted rabi conference and video conferences with states to review the issues relating to drought management and preparedness for Rabi crops.

Government of India has taken following strategies to enhance the productivity as well as more area coverage during rabi seasons:

States have been given flexibility to utilize the funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) under Macro Management and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oiipalm and Maize (ISOPOM), age limit norms of certified seed of wheat, rice and pulses varieties have been relaxed. Seed subsidy has been increased for wheat and rice crop from Rs.500/- to Rs. 700/- per quintal, for pulses from Rs. 1200/- to Rs.2000/- per quintal and Jowar and Bajra from Rs.800 to Rs.1000/-per quintal for Rabi 2009-10 season. Additional allocations of rust-resistant and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikits have been made Available. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizers, additional power for irrigation etc. have been ensured in coordination with the States and concern Central Ministries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
Statement

State-wise Loss in Area and Production of Kharif crops during 2009-10 as compared to Kharif 2008-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Loss in Area ('000 Hectare)</th>
<th>Loss in Production ('000 Tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>Coarse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>Food+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>755.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>236.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>30.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kerala</td>
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<td>-10.3</td>
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<td>-332.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>All India</td>
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<td>567.9</td>
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<td>2648.8</td>
<td>24449.6</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Production (*000 Bales of 170 kgs each*)

3254. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed for agricultural credit this year and achievements made so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 17 per cent target has been achieved so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps which are being taken by Government to achieve remaining target; and

(e) the steps being taken to give timely agricultural credit to the farmers to save their crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the data made available by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the details of target fixed for agricultural credit for the year 2009-10 and achievement there against as on 31 October, 2009 is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Disbursement (April-October 2009)</th>
<th>Achievement (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Banks</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>110,204.35</td>
<td>44.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Banks</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>32,924.89</td>
<td>73.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Rural Banks</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>20,065.37</td>
<td>66.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>325,000</td>
<td>163,194.61</td>
<td>50.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50.21 per cent of the agricultural credit flow target fixed for the year 2009-10 has been achieved as on 31 October.

(a) and (e) Government has implemented Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 and the beneficiary farmers under this scheme are eligible for availing fresh bank credit.

Reserve Bank of India has issued comprehensive guidelines to the banks for providing debt relief to farmers affected by natural calamities including droughts etc. These relief measures include, *inter alia*, restructuring of existing loans by way of conversion/rescheduling of loans, provision of fresh crop loans for affected farmers, non-compounding of interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled, treatment of converted/rescheduled agriculture loans as "current dues", moratorium period of at least one year, while restructuring, relaxed security and margin norms etc.

Government has advised all the State Governments/UTs and NABARD to closely monitor the disbursement of agricultural credit on a regular basis. They have also been advised to hold special State Level Bankers’ Committee (SLBC) meetings for ensuring that farmers get adequate and timely credit during the Rabi season.

Technical support to farmers through ATMA

3255. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government proposes to extend technical support to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA);

(b) if so, the details of achievements made by ATMA during the last three years in providing technical support to farmers;

(c) whether in the absence of technical support to farmers, the production of agricultural commodities has been badly affected; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to encourage farmers to adopt latest technologies, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" popularly known as ATMA Scheme was launched in May, 2005. Its objective is to support State Governments’ efforts in revitalization of the extension system by promoting a new institutional arrangement for technology dissemination in the form of an Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level. The scheme is under implementation in 588 districts of 29 States and two UTs across the country. Under the scheme technical support is being provided to the farmers through different extension activities viz. Farmers Training, Exposure Visits, Demonstrations, Kisan Melas, Field Days, Kisan Goshties, Farmer-Scientist Interactions, Mobilization of Farmer Interest Groups (FiGs) and setting-up of Farm School on the fields of outstanding farmers for providing season-long technical back-stopping to the group leaders of the farmers. Over 95 lakh farmers have been benefitted so far since 2005-06 through various extension activities.

(b) Under Extension Reforms Scheme technical support is being provided to the farmers, through ATMAs. A statement containing details of achievements (State-wise and year-wise) for the last three years as reported by the States is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) No such study has been conducted so far under ATMA. However, production of Food grains has only increased during last few years.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Department to encourage farmers to adopt latest technologies viz:

(i) Farm Schools in the field of outstanding farmers are being promoted at Block/ Gram Panchayat level.

(ii) Farmer-to-farmer extension support within a village is being promoted.

(iii) Funding window has been provided at both state and district levels for implementing innovative extension activities not specifically covered under the Programme.

(iv) Farmers’ Awards have been instituted at block, district and state levels.

(v) Community Radio Stations (CRS) are being set up by KVKs under the Programme.

(vi) For Non-Governmental implementing agencies, States have been given the flexibility of having Extension Work Plans prepared and approved at the State level. Minimum 10 per cent of outlay of the Programme is to be utilized through them. Non-governmental implementing agencies would also be eligible for service charge up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the cost of the extension activities implemented through them. Apart from other NGOs financial assistance is also available for implementation of extension activities through agritrpreneurs.
### Statement

State-wise and year-wise details of achievements by the State for last three years

**Farmer oriented activities (2006-07)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Expo-visit</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Demo</th>
<th>Kisan Melas</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>FIGs., Mobilized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M  F  M  F</td>
<td>M  F  M  F</td>
<td>M  F  M  F</td>
<td>M  F  M  F</td>
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<tr>
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<td>15072 8414</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>3300 4465</td>
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<td>Demo.</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>Figs. Farm</td>
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<td>M  F</td>
<td>M  F</td>
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**Farmer oriented activities (2007-08)**

M = Number of male farmers, F = Number of female farmers.

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<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Expo-visit</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Demo.</th>
<th>Kisan Melas</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Figs. Farm</th>
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<td>11151</td>
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**Grand Total:**

M = Number of male farmers, F = Number of female farmers.
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<tr>
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**Total Sum:** 112
### Farmer oriented activities (2008-09)

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Total: 2008-09  

| Total | 2008-09 | 230378 | 74555 | 854375 | 382310 | 310116 | 45782 | 2066714 | 522571 | 3461583 | 1025218 | 23615    | 5268 |

*Information awaited from rest of the States.

M = Number of male farmers, F = Number of female farmers.
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit margin of agricultural production is on the decline in many parts of the country and farmers are falling to debt trap and even committing suicide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to increase the agriculture productivity in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) The net income (net return) on paddy, wheat, jawar and bajra during the period 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in States with major share in production, is given in the Statement-I (See below).

As per the NSSO Report No.498, based on the survey conducted in 2003, out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted. The average outstanding debt, per indebted farmers household was at Rs.25,902. The details of farmers debt at that time in the country, is given in the Statement-II (See below).

The incidents of suicides by farmers have been mainly reported from 31 districts spread over the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala. Besides this, some cases of farmers' suicide were also reported by the State of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. As per the State Governments, indebtedness is one of the reasons of suicides by farmers. A study sponsored by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, on 'Market Imperfection and Farmers’ Distress' conducted by Agriculture Development and Rural Transformation Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore covering the State/s of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka during the period 1997 to 2002 focusing on identification of the agro-economic causes
of distress faced by the farming community has observed that suicide by farmers cannot be attributed to any single reason. It is a combination of different circumstances including indebtedness, crop failure and social factors, such as, family problems, chronic illness, individual mindset/psychology etc. In order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers and to enhance the economic viability of farming, 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 declogged due to clearing off of their principal and interest liabilities. Moreover, the Government’s price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production. The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for various agricultural commodities are fixed as per recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP while recommending the MSP for various agricultural crops takes into account the cost of all kinds of inputs at their prevailing rates which also included seeds, fertilizers and irrigation charges etc. Substantial increase in the MSP of major cereals ranging from 49% to 78% was provided during the last 5 years. MSPs of pulses & oilseeds were enhanced by up to 83% during the same period.

Besides this, the Government of India is implementing the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 with an objective to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers and to ensure that agriculture progress is measured by advances made in this income. The policy provisions, *inter alia*, include supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers to facilitate application of integrated pest management and integrated nutrient management system. For revitalization of agriculture sector, which *inter alia* includes increase in production and productivity, a number of plan schemes and programmes are under implementation across the country which include National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the States so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors in a decentralized manner, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management and Support to Agriculture Extension Services etc.
### Statement-I

Net income (Net return) of following Crops in different states during 2004-2007

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<th>Net income (Rs./hect)</th>
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Note: * - Crop was not selected for study in the block period 2002-03 to 2004-05.
Value of Gross-product = Value of Main product + Value of By-product
Net Income = Value of Gross product - Cost of Cultivation (C2)
(Rs./hectare) (Rs./hectare)
Statement-II

The details of Estimated number of Rural Households and total indebted farmer households in each State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Estimated number of rural households ('00)</th>
<th>Estimated number of farmer households ('00)</th>
<th>Estimated number of indebted farmer households ('00)</th>
<th>Percentage of indebted farmer households</th>
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Deep sea fishing

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been seized of the hindrances being faced by Indian fishing entrepreneurs in deep sea fishing activities;

(b) if so, the details of the hindrances confronting the deep sea fishing enterprises;

(c) the steps being contemplated, if any, for mitigating the same;

(d) whether it is a fact that an Empowered Committee was constituted to examine the problems;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the recommendations of the said Committee indicating status of implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There are no hindrances as such being faced by the Indian entrepreneurs in deep-sea fishing. However, representations have been received from the Indian entrepreneurs on some issues related to operation of deep-sea fishing vessels, such as Coast Guards inspection, short voyage period prescribed, short validity of provisional registration of vessels and shortage of trained Indian crew.

(c) Steps have already been taken to remove the operational difficulties faced by the entrepreneurs like extension of voyage period from 45 days to 60 days (for vessels below 40 meters), and 75 days (for vessels above 40 meters), and validity of No Objection Certificate/provisional registry of deep-sea fishing vessels from six months to one year. A check-list of the requisite documents onboard fishing vessels has also been finalized to avoid undue hardship during the Coast Guard inspections of deep-sea fishing vessels.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. With the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries (EC) has been constituted on 17th November, 2004 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry,

(f) Some of the main recommendations of the EC pertain to percentage of Indian crew onboard deep-sea fishing vessels, voyage period, submission of voyage reports, stipulation on payments towards the cost of vessels, requirement on registration, mid-sea transshipment of catch, mandatory Coast Guard inspections etc. All the recommendations of the EC have been implemented.

RKVY in Orissa

3258. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to Orissa;
(b) the amount spent by the State;
(c) whether funds were spent to achieve the objectives under RKVY;
(d) the output and achievements under RKVY in Orissa; and
(e) whether implementation of RKVY resulted in increased productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) An amount of Rs. 230.67 crore has been released under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to Orissa during 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 (up to 15.12.2009).
(b) State has spent Rs. 139.00 crore from 2007-08 to 15th December, 2009.
(c) Yes, Sir.
(d) The State have undertaken several projects in Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Agriculture Marketing, Irrigation and Agriculture Research sectors. Production of foodgrains has increased, more crops have been taken up under organic cultivation in horticulture sector, milk production has increased in Puri, Nayagarh and Khurda districts, two cotton mandis have been established and water use efficiency has improved in Orissa as a result of RKVY projects.
(e) Yes, Sir.

Impact of drought on Rabi crop

3259. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) the impact of drought on the Rabi sowing in various States; and

(b) the details of plans made by Government to ensure that the drought does not affect Rabi sowing adversely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Overall good late rains at the end of Kharif season at most places has improved the soil moisture making the soil conducive for Rabi sowing. Hence, barring States like Gujarat and Rajasthan there is no major overall impact of drought on Rabi as such. However, Government has taken several steps to tackle the impending situation for increasing the area under Rabi cultivation to compensate losses of kharif 2009-10. Sowing of Rabi crops is in progress in the all states in the country. The area coverage of wheat, Rabi rice, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds as on 10.12.2009 reported as follows:

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<th>2008 in lakh hectares</th>
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<td>Total Pulses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Oilseeds</td>
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Some area of oilseeds is diverted to pulses in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. The less coverage under Coarse Cereals has been reported in the states of Karnataka due to area diverted to pulses and oilseeds.

State Government have been given flexibility to utilize the funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) under Macro Management and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) funds for Agricultural Development programme. Age limit norms of certified seed of wheat, rice and pulses varieties have been relaxed. Seed subsidy has been increased for wheat and rice crop from Rs.500/- to Rs. 700/- per quintal, for pulses from Rs. 1200/- to Rs.2000/- per quintal and Jowar and Bajra from Rs.800 to Rs.1000/- per quintal for Rabi 2009-10 season. Additional allocations of rust-resistant and terminal heat-tolerant wheat varieties of minikit have been made available. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizers, additional power for irrigation etc. have been provided in coordination with the States and concerned Central Ministries.

Investment for transgenic research

3260. SHRI RAJNIITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) whether National Action Plan on Climatic Change (NAPCC) Mission on Agriculture is proposing huge financial investment for transgenic research claiming to be the solution for climatic crisis;

(b) whether it is opposed by farmers and civil society groups;

(c) whether Government has received large number of representations from various sections of society and eminent scientists urging for moratorium on GM foods; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was released by Prime Minister in June 2008 which envisages a National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture amongst its 8 National Missions. The National Mission aims at developing strategies to make Indian Agriculture more resilient to climate change through development of new varieties of thermal resistant crops, new credit and insurance mechanisms, better access to information and use of biotechnology.

Mission on Agriculture is proposing greater focus on dryland agriculture, risk management, access to information and use of biotechnology. The priority areas in biotechnology include use of genetic engineering to convert C3 crops to C4 systems for higher productivity at higher level of carbon dioxide, development of crops with better water and land use efficiency, development of nutritional strategies for managing heat stress in dairy animals.

(b) to (d) Different views and representations when received are dealt with appropriately on merits.

Investment in agriculture

†3261. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is working on a scheme for encouraging investment in agriculture sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price of sugar is high in Indian markets;

(c) if so, whether Government is taking measures to control the hike in its prices and also assessing the effect of foreign investment in agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Sugar prices in Indian markets this year are higher than prices prevailing last year.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government to control prices are indicated in given Statement (See below). FDI in agriculture is allowed upto 100% under the automatic route in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
the floriculture, horticulture, development of seeds, animal husbandry, pisciculture, aquaculture and
cultivation of vegetables and mushrooms sector under controlled conditions and services related to
agro and allied sectors. FDI is not allowed in any other agricultural sector/activity. The Government
assesses the flow of foreign investment in agriculture regularly.

Statement

Measures taken by the Central Government to augment domestic stocks
of sugar and moderate sugar prices:

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills. Later
  extended upto 31.3.2010. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by
  domestic factories on job basis. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto
  1 million tonnes by 01.08.2009 which was extended upto 30.11.2009. Further, duty free import
  of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central / State Government
  agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies upto 30.11.2009. This
  has been further extended upto 31.03.2010 and the cap on import of white/refined sugar has
  been removed.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined
  sugar. The white/refined sugar has also been allowed to be sold at the discretion of the
  importing organizations but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to
  accelerated releases.
- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the
  imports competitive.
- The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production
  w.e.f. 01.10.2009 for 2009-10 sugar season to ensure availability of sugar for PDS.

Besides augmenting the sugar stocks by permitting import of raw and white/refined sugar in
2008-09 sugar season, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turnover limits to
moderate prices of sugar as follows:

- Stock holding and turnover limits have been fixed for sugar dealers. Subsequently, Khandsari
  sugar has also been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit.
• An order has been issued imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use. The order is in respect of stocks of domestically produced sugar.

Futures trade in sugar has been suspended in domestic exchanges w.e.f. 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Sale of paddy at lesser rate

3262. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Orissa are selling paddy at much lesser rates as State Government agencies are not coming forward to purchase it from farmers; and
(b) if so, whether that is the main reason for farmers suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a)
Under the existing policy for foodgrains procurement, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Agencies of State Governments purchase all the foodgrains, conforming to the prescribed specifications, offered for sale by farmers at procurement centers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

As reported by FCI, there have been no reports of distress sale of paddy by farmers in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

Insurance scheme for fishermen

3263. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) whether there is an insurance scheme for fishermen and fishworkers;
(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and
(c) whether it requires that the person concerned should be missing for seven years for the dependent to get the claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) :
(a) and (b) Under the Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen which is a component of the Centrally Sponsored ‘National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, fishermen are insured for Rs. 1,00,000/- against death or permanent total disability and Rs., 50,000/- for partial permanent disability. The benefit of this scheme accrues to the fishermen free of cost as the entire amount of annual premium i.e. Rs. 29/- per fishermen per year is subsidized by the Central and the State Governments on 50:50 basis. In case of North-Eastern States, 75% premium amount is subsidized by the Centre and 100% in case of Union Territories. All the fishermen registered/ licensed with the State/Union Territory Governments between the age group of 18-70 years are eligible for insurance.
coverage. A claim has to be filed within 9 months of accident with the required documents i.e. i) copy of the FIR, ii) Post-mortem Report, iii) Medical Certificate, iv) Death Certificate and v) Legal heir Certificate.

(c) As per general policy of settlement of claims for missing persons, a claim is settled after seven years but under the above said Insurance Scheme, as a special case, claim can be settled after a period of two years.

Aims and objectives of NFSM

3264. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Food Security Mission;

(b) whether it is a fact that only in selected districts in the country NFSM is being implemented;

(c) if so, the details of districts identified for NFSM and the components like rice, wheat, pulses, etc., that are being supplied through NFSM in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the quantity of components so far supplied in identified districts of Andhra Pradesh since the beginning of the Mission, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched from Rabi 2007-08 with three major components viz. NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses with the aim of reaping additional production of 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the XI Plan (2011-12). The objective of the Mission is to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity; creating employment opportunities; and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of NFSM is being implemented in 312 identified districts of the country in 17 States including Andhra Pradesh covering all the three components i.e. NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses.

Under NFSM-Rice, 11 districts of Andhra Pradesh namely, Adilabad, Guntur, Khammam, Krishna, Mahaboobnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Srikakulam, Vishakapatnam and Vizianagram are covered with interventions like demonstrations on improved package of practices, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) & hybrid rice technology; promotion of hybrid rice seeds through their production & distribution; distribution of HYVs seeds; seed minikits; micro-nutrients; liming; conoweeders; zero till seed drills; multi-crop planters; seed drills; rotavators; pump sets; power weeders; knap sack sprayers; plant protection chemicals & bio-pesticides; farmers field schools (FFS); local initiatives; award for best performing districts; mass media campaign; and project management team.
Similarly, under NFSM-Pulses, 14 districts of Andhra Pradesh namely, Adilabad, Anantpur, Cuddapah, East Godawari, Guntur, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Prakasham, Srikakulam and Warangal are covered with interventions like assistance in the form of production & purchase of breeder seeds; production of foundation & certified seeds; distribution of certified seeds; strengthening of seed certification agencies; INM; IPM; sprinklers sets; zero till seed drills; multi-crop planters; seed drills; rotavators; sprinkler sets; knap sack sprayers; pump sets; farmers field schools (FFS); training for extension workers; award for best performing districts; local initiatives and project management team.

(d) The details of the interventions along with the physical achievements of both the components of NFSM-Rice and NFSM-Pulses implemented in the identified districts of the State since the beginning of the Mission till date are as under:

**Physical achievements under NFSM-Rice in Andhra Pradesh**
for the period from 2007-08 to 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Demonstrations on Improved Package of Practices</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>2172</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>2196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Demonstrations on System of Rice Intensification (SRI)</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>3405</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Demonstrations on Hybrid Rice Technology</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1304</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Production of Hybrid Rice Seed</td>
<td>Qtls.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>213225</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Distribution of Hybrid Rice Seeds</td>
<td>Qtls.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1086.21</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Distribution of HYVs Seeds of Rice</td>
<td>Qtls.</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>66751</td>
<td>266157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Micro-nutrients</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>44408</td>
<td>52131</td>
<td>49762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Liming in Acidic Soils</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Improved Farm Machineries including Water Saving Devices</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>10230</td>
<td>12239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Plant Protection Chemicals</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>27918</td>
<td>17102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Farmers’ Trainings</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>1241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Ending November, 2009

**Physical achievements under NFSM-Pulses in Andhra Pradesh**
for the period from 2007-08 to 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Purchase of Breeder Seed of Pulses</td>
<td>Qtls.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>417.59</td>
<td>40.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Production of Foundation and Certified seeds of Pulses</td>
<td>Qtls.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10457</td>
<td>166892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposals from Madhya Pradesh for pure milk production

3265. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether project proposals from Madhya Pradesh Government have been received relating to strengthening of infrastructure for quality and pure milk production for new districts; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far and by when these proposals will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Nine new proposals for Bhopal, Jabalpur, Indore, Gwalior and Ujjain Milk Union were submitted by the Madhya Pradesh Government during 2006-07 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production”. The State Government was requested to complete 4 ongoing projects in the same districts, approved earlier by this department and submit completion report before new proposals are considered.

Drought in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh

3266. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Rs. 16.76 lakhs to ascertain reasons of drought prevailing in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh and for scientific analysis of its solution had been received in the year 2007; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard and by when it will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
Depletion of nutritional value of wheat and rice due to climate change

3267. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether climate change is reportedly depleting nutritional value of wheat and rice, the main sources of energy for Indians, who are already having problem of 20 per cent protein deficiency;

(b) whether a study by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research has also found that protein content in wheat can fall by 10 per cent and iron content by 8 per cent due to carbon emissions; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take so that climate change may not rob food of nutritional value and save people from major health implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Several studies conducted globally indicate that protein content of wheat decreases as carbon dioxide increases. On the contrary, increase in temperature is known generally to increase the protein content in wheat. The net affect of climate change would therefore depend on the relative change in carbon dioxide and temperature. As such, there is no confirmed and validated result of the impact of climate change on nutritional value of wheat and rice, as a direct consequence of climate change. However, reduced water or varying temperature will almost certainly cause translocation related problems to the grain, during grain formation stage, thus affecting productivity.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research launched a national Network Project entitled Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change in Xth Plan. The network started in 2003-04 and the total outlay of the network during the Xth Plan was close to Rs.9.5 crores. The project has been structured during XI plan also with more budgetary support (Rs.16.15 crores). The network is focusing on a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of global climate on different sectors of agricultural production such as crops, fish, livestock etc. This project also aims to determine the available management and genetic adaptation strategies to meet the impact of climatic change and climatic variability, as well as mitigation options for reducing climate changes in agro-ecosystems.

Centrally sponsored schemes to help farmers

3268. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the centrally sponsored schemes to help the farmers and the subsidy component of the said schemes;

(b) whether Government has initiated any appropriate awareness campaign among the farmers regarding the availability of those schemes so that the rural farmers can be benefited; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

There is a subsidy element in most of these schemes. However, funds are released by the Department to the State Governments as grants in aid. State Governments only disburse funds as subsidy to beneficiaries. Details of subsidy element of various schemes are part of guidelines of schemes which are available on the website of the DAC - WWW. agricoop. nic. in.

(b) and (c) Both the Central and State Governments carry out extensive awareness campaigns through print, electronic and other media among farmers regarding availability of schemes. Component for publicity is provided under the schemes of the DAC. The scheme of Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension is meant exclusively for disseminate information through radio, television, etc.

**Increase in fertilizer subsidy**

3269. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep increase in fertilizer subsidy over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the annual growth in farm production over the same period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to bring about reforms in such subsidy policies to enhance productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The expenditure on fertilizers subsidy during last three years has been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Subsidy (Rs. in crores)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>28,019.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>43,319.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>99,494.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) The annual growth in foodgrain production is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Annual growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>4.16 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>6.21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>1.34 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(d) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers for review of the Fertilizer Policy including examination on nutrient based subsidy policy towards *inter alia* higher agricultural productivity and production for food security.

**Production of apples**

3270. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the production of apples in the country due to Government/private efforts to bring more areas under apple cultivation, particularly in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the actual production of apples during the last three years, area-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to further augment the production of apples in the country; 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 available data on production of apples for the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and that for the year 2008-09 indicates that there has been consistent increase in overall production of apples except during 2006-07. The details are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme *i.e.* Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) to harness the potential of horticulture of the region by increasing production and productivity of horticultural crops including apples. In order to augment the production of apples in the country, assistance is being provided for area expansion, establishment of nurseries for raising quality planting material, protected cultivation, rejuvenation of senile orchards, integrated nutrient and water management, integrated pest management, post harvest management, processing & marketing including HRD under this scheme.

**Statement**

*Details of production of Apples during last three years*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>540.4</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>268.4</td>
<td>94.5</td>
<td>592.6</td>
<td>94.72</td>
<td>510.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>1151.7</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>1222.2</td>
<td>126.4</td>
<td>1268.5</td>
<td>133.1</td>
<td>1332.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Column 1</td>
<td>Column 2</td>
<td>Column 3</td>
<td>Column 4</td>
<td>Column 5</td>
<td>Column 6</td>
<td>Column 7</td>
<td>Column 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttaranchal</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>112.3</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>123.3</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>130.5</td>
<td>32.67</td>
<td>132.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>226.64</td>
<td>1814.04</td>
<td>251.64</td>
<td>1623.72</td>
<td>263.94</td>
<td>2001.45</td>
<td>271.3</td>
<td>1985.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Shift from producing foodgrains to cash crops

3271. **SHRI MATILAL SARKAR**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to which extent the farmers have switched over from producing foodgrains to producing cash crops during the last five years;

(b) the names of the States where this shifting has been predominant;

(c) the facilities Government is going to extend to the foodgrains growers to maintain the quantity of land under this crop cultivation; and

(d) by when the trend will be reversed?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) There is no major area shift from foodgrains to cash crops during last five year. Infact, area under foodgrains has increased from 120.01 million hectares in 2004-05 to 123.22 million hectares in 2008-09 as per 4th advance estimates released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

In order to enhance the production and productivity of foodgrains, Government of India has been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) under Macro Management mode of Agriculture and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).

Under these schemes States have been provided assistance for production & distribution of quality seed, improvement of soil health through lime/Gypsum/micro nutrients application, improved package of practices, field demonstrations and farmer training through farmers’ field school (FFS) etc.

### Establishment of soil testing laboratories

3272. **SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish soil testing laboratories and mobile soil testing laboratories during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified, so far;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and the expenditure so far incurred in establishing such laboratories in these States; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to achieve the targets of Eleventh Plan period fixed in this regard?
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government of India has introduced a new scheme, namely, “National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility” (NPMSF) from 2008-09. The components of new scheme include setting up of 500 new static Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) and setting up of 250 mobile STLs during Eleventh Five Year Plan. The locations of STLs are identified by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The details of funds released up to 10.12.2009 for setting up of static and mobile STLs are given in the Statement (See below). Proposals are invited from States every year to achieve the target fixed for the Eleventh Plan period.

**Statement**

Details of Funds released under the Scheme NPMSF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of States</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Static STLs</td>
<td>Mobile STLs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Nos)</td>
<td>(Nos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fall in sown area and yield of crop

3273. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fall in sown area as well as yield in certain crops in the country;

(b) if so, the decline in the area as well as yield in these crops during the last three years;

and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the area as well as yield of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Increase/decrease (over the previous year) in area coverage and yield of major crops during the last three years, i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) In order to increase area under various agricultural crops in the country, the Government has setup a National Rainfed Area Authority as an advisory, policy making and monitoring body to provide knowledge inputs regarding systematic upgradation and management of country’s dryland and rainfed agriculture. Programmes like National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River, Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas, Reclamation and development of Alkali and Acid Soils and other externally aided projects are also being implemented for development of rainfed and degraded land including arid and barren land through soil and water moisture conservation measures. Further, in order to increase the production and productivity of various crops in the country, the Government is implementing a number of schemes/programmes through State Governments. Major schemes/programmes are National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and the Integrated Cereals Development programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture.

Statement

Increase/Decrease in Area and Yield in respect of major crops during 2006-07 to 2008-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease in Area over the previous year ('000 Hectares)</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease in Yield over the previous year (Kg./Hectare)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>153.8</td>
<td>100.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1510.9</td>
<td>44.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse</td>
<td>-356.7</td>
<td>-226.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>800.4</td>
<td>441.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodgrains</td>
<td>2108.4</td>
<td>359.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td>-1120.9</td>
<td>676.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapeseed</td>
<td>-486.5</td>
<td>-964.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>-1120.9</td>
<td>676.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseeds</td>
<td>-486.5</td>
<td>-964.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>-486.5</td>
<td>-964.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>621.2</td>
<td>553.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; Mustard</td>
<td>621.2</td>
<td>553.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Election of management board in IFFCO, KRIBHCO & NAFED

†3274. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for electing management board in cooperatives like IFFCO, KRIBHCO and NAFED with details thereof;

(b) the reasons for elections to KRIBHCO going unopposed over the years, whether it smells of individual conspiracy or monopoly;

(c) the number of allegations against KRIBHCO, Chairman, under consideration of the Government;

(d) whether frequent unopposed election of an individual accused of corruption and embezzlement is not indicative of some people hijacking this institution through money and muscle power, if so, the measures being taken by Government to remove them; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred on foreign tours of KRIBHCO chairman, by Government and KRIBHCO?


†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(b) The superintendence and control of elections is vested in the Returning Officer appointed by the Board of Directors of a Multi-State Cooperative Society (including KRIBHCO) as per the provisions of the MSCS Act, 2002 and Rules made thereunder. It is not true that the elections are going unopposed over the years.

(c) As per information available, no complaints/allegations against the Chairman, KRIBHCO are reported.

(d) The frequency of elections is as prescribed in the MSCS Act, 2002, the Rules framed thereunder and the Bye-laws of the Society and hence, there does not seem to be any indication of use of money and muscle power.

(e) No expenditure is incurred by Government of India on foreign tours of Chairman, KRIBHCO. However, for the year 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 7,87,081/- had been incurred by M/s. KRIBHCO on foreign tours of Chairman, KRIBHCO which includes his visits to KRIBHCO’s Joint Venture Project in Oman and International Cooperative Conferences.

Issue of price fixation of drugs

†3275. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical companies and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority are at loggerheads over the issue of price control of drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present policy of Government regarding price fixation and price control and whether Government proposes to make any type of amendment in the present policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986, announced in September, 1994, the drugs having minimum annual turnover of Rs.400 lakhs and drugs of popular use in which there is monopoly situation, having annual turnover of Rs.100 lakhs or more or there is a single formulator having 90% or more market share in the Retail Trade (as per ORG), have to be kept under price control. The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO1995) was promulgated by the Govt India on 6th January; 1995 in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955. As per the criteria specified in para 22.7.2 of the Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986, 76 bulk drugs (subsequently reduced to 74) are included in the First Schedule of DPCO'95. These bulk...

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
drugs are called Scheduled bulk drugs. The prices of these 74 bulk drugs, and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled by the Government/ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as per the provisions of DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. NPPA has fixed / revised the prices of Scheduled bulk drugs in 470 cases and 10253 formulation packs since its inception in August, 1997. Of these, the prices of 18 Scheduled bulk drugs and derivatives and 1737 formulations were fixed / revised during the period from 01.4.2009 to 30.11.2009.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 i.e. non-Scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities / packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. However, 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 (this was 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' 95 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process. Based on monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non-Scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the formulations of specified strength of essential medicines as contained in NLEM, 2003 (subject to certain exemptions) in addition to the 74 bulk drugs and formulations thereof which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the formulations based thereon.

Annual growth rate in Pharmaceutical industry

†3276. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian pharmaceutical industry is estimated to have an annual average growth of 12.3 per cent in the coming years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the estimated value of business in this industry in 2007, 2010 and 2015; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(c) the estimated share of patent and non-patent drugs in the growth rate of this industry and the rate of growth of this industry in the domestic and international market between 2009 and 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c ) The sales of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals are expected to grow by 8.7% during 2009-10, according to Centre for Monitoring of Indian Industries, Nov. 2009. During 2007-08, the total Pharmaceutical market size was Rs. 78610 Crores. No official estimates of market size for future years has been made.

Memorandum regarding Bhopal Gas leak disaster

3277. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMUS) and Bhopat Gas Peedit Sangharash Sahayog Samiti (BGPSSS ) have submitted a memorandum titled "The Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster: Twenty five year after" to the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details of their demand and Government’s reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No such memorandum titled "The Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster: Twenty five year after" from Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMUS) and Bhopal Gas Peedit Sangharash Sahayog Samiti (BGPSSS ) was received by the Prime Minister’s Office in the recent past.

Imported finished medicines

3278. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names, pharmacopoeial contents and quantity of finished medicines that have been allowed to be imported when the same is available in the country at lower prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no inter-ministerial meetings on import of finished medicines being imported at higher prices and fixations of maximum retail price;

(c) whether such finished medicines are being sold with higher maximum retail price and Government has failed to check the high promotional expenses of the importers unethically being passed on to the medicine profession; and

(d) the reasons for not regulating the import price of finished medicines with quality and affordability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Drug Industry are broadly spelt out under Chapter 29 and 30 of ITC
Classifications of Export and Import Items. Most of these items are free and therefore, no licence is required. However, for few Chemicals which are under Restricted List the cases are decided by Export Facilitation Committee which comprises of representatives of various Departments. The prices of scheduled formulations are fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The NPPA consists of officials of NPPA, Ministry of Finance and Drugs Controller General (India).

(c) and (d) There are 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995. As per provisions contained in the said Order, NPPA fixes/ revises the prices of formulations containing any of the 74 scheduled bulk drugs. The prices are fixed/revised as per paragraph 7 of DPCO, 1995.

In the case of imported scheduled formulations, the landed cost forms the basis of fixing its price along with such margin to cover selling and distribution expenses including interest and importer’s profit which shall not exceed fifty per cent of the landed cost. For the purpose of this provision, landed cost means the cost of import of formulation inclusive of customs duty and clearing charges.

There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the medical reports, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumers/patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/Industry, this Department has been able to persuade most of the associations to have Code of ethics.

Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Indian Drug Manufacturers’ Association (IDMA) have informed that they along with Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical (CIP), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the ‘Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices’ (UCMP). However, in a news article appearing in The Economic Times, Delhi dated 11.12.2009, it has been reported that a Senior Vice-chairman, SPIC has stated that they do not agree with the draft proposal. This Department has written to IDMA and OPPI to clarify the above statement.

No one can sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than that fixed by NPPA/Govt. Prices are fixed as per paragraph 7 of DPCO, 1995. The prices of non-scheduled imported finished formulations are not fixed by NPPA. NPPA, however, monitors the price movement 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. Whenever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is
asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

Acquisition of pharma units by multinational companies

†3279. SHRILALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disinvestment and accession by multinational companies have increased in the areas of drug research and drug manufacturing in Indian pharma industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for Indian companies selling their shares to multinational companies;

(c) whether foreign patent laws and politics are hurdles in the progress of Indian pharma industry and instrumental in increase in accession of multinational companies in the country; and

(d) the details of planning of Government to check the monopoly of foreign pharma companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) At present 100% FDI is allowed in the Pharmaceutical sector. Acquisitions, strategic takeovers, mergers etc. are taking place both ways - by Indian companies overseas and by foreign companies in India to broaden their scope of functioning across the globe. Sector specific policy interventions may be required through a study to conform to the broad policy objectives of the Govt. of India on FDI flows.

Land of closed units

3280. SHRITAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of land along with character of usage of Land possessed by closed units of HFCL, FCIL, and PPCL for factory and township purposes separately and the valuation of the same based on present market rate, unit-wise;

(b) the reasons for the land in possession of those closed units being allowed to remain idle since last seven or eight years and not being returned to respective State Governments which had given the land on lease; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to rehabilitate the units and requisite permission has been obtained from respective State Government with details thereof, unit-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The detail of quantity of land along with character of usage of Land possessed by closed units of HFCL and FCIL is as under:

**HFCL:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Area</th>
<th>Durgapur</th>
<th>Barauni</th>
<th>Haldia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>539.42</td>
<td>405.89</td>
<td>167.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township &amp; others</td>
<td>245.21</td>
<td>279.54</td>
<td>86.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>784.63</td>
<td>685.43</td>
<td>253.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FCIL:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Factory</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Miscellaneous: Like link road, ash ponds, railway line &amp; siding, water pipelines, vacant, etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sindri</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>2533</td>
<td>2720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorakhpur</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramagundam</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talcher</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The preliminary valuation of land has been done by M/s PDIL. According to the PDIL, the estimated valuation of land is Rs. 192.99 crore for Durgapur Unit of HFCL and Rs. 367.70 crore for Gorakhpur Unit, Rs. 120.45 crore for Ramagundam Unit and Rs. 143.21 crore for Talcher Unit of FCIL. As the Companies are sick and before the Hon’ble Delhi High Court/ BIFR, the matter of revival is being considered by the Hon’ble Court/BIFR. Therefore, the valuation, the subject matter of the Question is subject to the outcome of the proceedings.

**PPCL:**

PPCL is under liquidation and official liquidator has been appointed after the order of the Hon’ble Patna High Court.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed Public Sector Fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas. As a result, the land was not returned to the respective State Governments. The Government of India has already initiated steps for the revival of the above companies and accordingly taken up the matter with the respective State Governments seeking their support and there has been positive response from the State Governments for the revival of these closed fertilizer units.
Rehabilitation of closed urea producing units

3281. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to rehabilitate all the closed units of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited and Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited in PPP route in Revenue Sharing Model;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed for the rehabilitation of the closed urea producing units in Public Sector?

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

Manufacture of urea through coal gasification route

3282. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Fertilizers is seriously following up on the coal gasification route to manufacture urea in the closed Talcher Plant of M/s. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the road map for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) an (b) In respect of Talcher Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, Government is considering the coal gasification option also, along with all other options subject to the availability of interested parties to come forward for the revival with the improved technologies. A proposal is under discussion with M/s. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF), M/s. Gas Authority India Limited (GAIL) and M/s. Coal India Limited (CIL) for Revival of Talcher Unit based on coal gasification route.

Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme

3283. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Department of Pharmaceuticals has finalized the process of Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS);

(b) if so, the details in this regards along with the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which small and medium pharma enterprises will be benefited by the said scheme; and

(d) the details of existing grants and incentives available to small scale pharma units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium, Enterprises (MSME), on submission by the Department of Pharmaceuticals regarding the difficulties experienced by the small & medium enterprises in the pharmaceutical sector in respect of the additional financial burden in implementing the mandatory measures under the revised Schedule 'M' Standards relating to Good Manufacturing Practices and requirements of machineries/equipments etc., for pharmaceuticals production, issued revised Guidelines through the Second Supplement dated 13th July, 2009 to the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS). Under the revised guidelines, the benefit of the CLCSS would be available to the small scale pharma enterprises for an increased number of upto 179 equipments / machineries recommended for Drug and Pharmaceuticals Products, Sub-sector-wise for up-gradation to Schedule 'M' Standards as per the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. It is expected that more than 3000 small scale pharma enterprises will be benefited from this enhanced scheme.

There is no separate incentive scheme available for the small scale pharma units in the country. However financial assistance in the form of 15% capital subsidy limited to the project cost of up to Rs. 100 lakhs i.e. total capital subsidy limit of Rs. 15 lakhs per small scale unit is available under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for technology up-gradation.

Supply of complex fertilizers to Himachal Pradesh

3284. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that shortage of complex fertilizers like NPK 12:32:16 and NPK 15:15:15 is being experienced in the State of Himachal Pradesh due to non-issuance of required supply by Government;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to ensure required supply of complex fertilizers to the State;

(c) whether Government has received any request to issue supply plan as per month-wise requirement and also to direct suppliers to ensure supply accordingly to the State; and
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, 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. Department of Fertilizers gives State-wise/month-wise supply plan indicated by manufacturers/importers of these fertilizers 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).

The month-wise requirement, availability and sale of NPK (complexes) fertilizers in Himachal Pradesh during the current Rabi season 2009-10 (October’09 to 13th December’09) are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Sale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPK (Complexes)</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td>6.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.17*</td>
<td>0.06*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As on 13th December, 2009

M/s Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) has planned to supply one more rake (2600 MT) of NPK (Complex) fertilizers to Himachal Pradesh during December, 2009.

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).
Area expansion programme for palm plantation in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as against the annual requirement of 11 million metric tonnes of edible oil, India imports 4.2 million metric tonnes by spending around Rs. 10,000 crores;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of palm oil in the country with coverage of 32,142 hectares in Tenth Plan and already covering an area of 29,125 hectares in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has prepared action plan for 2009-10 to cover 30,000 hectares under Area Expansion Programme and sent the same to his Ministry for assistance of Rs. 51.38 crores; and

(d) if so, the reasons for restricting the assistance to Rs. 12 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of the availability of edible oils (from domestic and import sources) and the quantity and value of imported edible oils during the last two years is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total availability of edible oils from domestic and imported sources</th>
<th>Import of edible oils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Nov. to Oct.)</td>
<td>(April-March)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>14.26</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>16.78</td>
<td>6.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: *Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils & Fats and Solvent Extractions’ Association of India.

**DGCI&S, Kolkata, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.**

(b) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of palm oil in the country with coverage of 32,171 hectares in Tenth Plan and has expanded the area by 29,123 hectares in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan.

(c) and (d) The State of Andhra Pradesh had proposed an Annual Action Plan of Oil Palm Development Programme under ISOPOM for an amount of Rs. 51.38 crores with central share of Rs. 38.53 crores during 2009-10. In view of the slow pace of expenditure in past years and unspent balance of Rs. 7.54 crores available with the State as on 1.4.2009 under Oil Palm Development Programme, the Project Evaluation and Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the ISOPOM approved the Annual Action Plan for an amount of Rs. 9.33 crores including Rs. 7.00 crores as central share for the year 2009-10.
Biometric technology for issuing ration cards

3286. SHRI PENNUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is using Iris biometric technology for issuance of ration cards;

(b) whether it is a fact that BPL card was issued to a famous tennis player from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, how does Government justify to say that Iris biometric technology is a foolproof method to issue ration cards in the State; and

(d) the action taken, on the basis of instruction issued by his Ministry, on persons having a bogus ration cards in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No ration card was issued to any famous tennis player in Andhra Pradesh. However, a card was fraudulently generated by the operator using a tainted photo of Ms. Sania Mirza, the famous tennis player.

This has not happened because of failure of iris technology. The main reason for that is the fact that there were more than 1800 Designated Photographic Locations spread all across the State and it was not possible to connect all of them to one another. These DPL centres worked as stand-alone centres and therefore de-duplication at the time of enrolment could not be done.

(d) Since iris images are unique for individual persons, all such instances are now getting unearthed. This has been possible during a de-duplication exercise taken up by Andhra Pradesh government, which includes bio-metric based de-duplication and door to door verification at field level for weeding out bogus/ duplicate cards and cards held in the names of the non-existing persons/families. Based on results of this, the state government is taking action to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards from coverage under Targeted Public Distribution System. The state government would complete this exercise in the whole state by end of January, 2010.

Shortage of sugar in Andhra Pradesh

3287. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

(a) whether Central Government is aware of the fact that due to non-release of entire quantity of levy sugar by some sugar factories, Andhra Pradesh has been facing shortage of 13,998.30 metric tonnes of sugar from March, 2009 to September, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the response of Central Government to the request of the State for re-allotting the undelivered quantity of 13998.30 metric tonnes of sugar to other sugar factories; and

(d) by when the requested allotment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The monthly levy sugar quota of Andhra Pradesh is 9690.0 MTs. The allocation of monthly levy sugar quota has been made to Andhra Pradesh in full during the period from March, 2009 to September, 2009. However, the State Government has informed that some sugar mills have not delivered allotted levy sugar quantity to the tune of 13998.30 MTs during the said period.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has taken appropriate action on case to case basis by re-allotting the shortfall of levy sugar in some cases and directing the defaulting sugar mills to deliver levy sugar against allocation orders.

National Food Security Act

3288. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has been inching towards finalizing broad contours of proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA) as it has zeroed in to take only central estimates of number of BPL people in country for providing subsidized foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether Empowered Group of Ministers headed by the Finance Minister in its meeting has decided to set aside all other BPL estimates put forward including by the Ministry of Rural Development under the proposed Act;

(c) if so, whether Group of Ministers (GoMs) has given its final decision in this regard; and

(d) whether many States have objected to the stand taken by GoMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) At present Empowered Group of Ministers is examining various issues related to the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA), including the number of Below Poverty Line families to be covered under the proposed Act.

Unhygienic packaged drinking water bottles

3289. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the packaged drinking water bottles/jars are highly unhygienic;
(b) whether the bureau of Indian Standards has revealed that most of the samples of packaged water bottles failed the drinking water standards set by it;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to enforce compulsory ISI mark on each packaged water bottle being sold in the markets; and

(d) the details of other steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Packaged Drinking Water in bottles/jars with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification (ISI Mark) are generally not unhygienic.

(b) Out of 3061 samples of Packaged Water tested by BIS during the period 01-12-2008 to 30-11-2009, 824 samples failed.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already brought Packaged Drinking Water under mandatory certification of BIS under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. Action in cases of violation of the PFA Rules, 1955 is taken against the offenders by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned.

(d) BIS on its part ensures the quality of Packaged Drinking Water manufactured by its licensees through a well defined certification scheme wherein visits are made to the licensees’ premises, samples are drawn from factory and market to check conformity of the product to the relevant Indian Standard. In cases of deviation from the prescribed standard, action is taken as per the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder.

Creation of strategic reserve of wheat and rice

3290. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether Government has proposed to ban futures trading of almost all farm products and to create a strategic reserve of wheat and rice to control spiralling commodity prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also proposes to create a strategic reserve of pulses to check its prices; and

(d) if so, the details of strategies formulated to ensure ban on futures trading on almost all farm products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. The forward trading in a commodity is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management and not a mechanism to check price rise. The futures market gives price signals for future periods of time based on the most likely supply
and demand situation at those points of time and has been observed not to lead to price rise. An Expert Committee appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission Member Prof. Abhijit Sen to examine whether futures market was responsible for rise in the prices of essential commodities in its report submitted in April 2008 did not find futures market responsible for the increase of the prices of essential commodities.

In order to ensure food security in the country, to keep the prices under check and to maintain adequate supplies of food grains for Targeted Public Distribution System, other welfare scheme, etc., it has been decided by the Government that a strategic reserve consisting of 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and 20 lakh tonnes of rice will be maintained by Food Corporation of India.

(c) India has always been a chronic net importer of pulses due to the mismatch between domestic supply and demand for pulses. A reserve stock of pulses is not contemplated in view of its limited availability.

(d) In view of the answers (a) and (b) above, there is no proposal to ban futures trading in farm products group as of now.

**Adulteration in toor and batri dal**

3291. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that ‘toor dal’ (Pigeon Peas) is being adulterated with lathyrus sativas (kesari gram or kesari dal) and batri dal by miscreants in the market;

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

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken against such miscreants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No such report has been received by the Government.

The Rule 44 (A) of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 provide that no person in any State shall, with effect from such date as the State Government concerned may by notification in the Official Gazette specify in this behalf, sell or offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of the sale, under any description or for use as an ingredient in the preparation of any article of food intended for sale - Kesari gram (lathyrus salivus) and its products, Kesari dal and its products, Kesari dal flour and its products and mixture of Kesari dal and Bengal gram dal or any other dal.
The implementation of PFA Rules, 1955 is entrusted to Food (Health) Authorities of State/U.T.s. In case of any violation to the provisions of the PFA Act / Rules, penal action is taken against the offenders by the State Governments.

Policy to face hunger challenge

3292. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether according to the report prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 25 million more children will go hungry by 2050 in the world;

(b) if so, whether South Asia will be affected the most due to hunger;

(c) if so, whether Government has formulated any policy to face such challenges; and

(d) 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) International Food Policy Research Institute(IFPRI)’s Report on 'Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation' released in October, 2009 mentions that due to effect of climate change 24-26 million more children under 5 years of age are likely to be malnourished in developing countries by 2050.

As per that report, out of all regions, the impact may be most visible in Sub-Saharan Africa followed by South Asia.

(c) and (d) Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to face the challenges of climate change. This includes action plans for climate change assessment and programmes for adaptation and mitigation such as:

• National Network of Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) - (Ministry of Environment and Forests);
• Various missions under National Action plan on Climate Change;
• Strong disaster management and calamity mitigation policies for future natural calamities; and
• India’s association as a member with various international bodies like Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC) and Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate to hasten the process of education & outreach, research & Development and policy formulation.

Starvation deaths

3293. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government is aware of deaths of several people in various parts of the country due to starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government and the State Governments have jointly formulated any policy to prevent starvation deaths; and

(d) 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) As per reports received from various States/UT Governments, no incidence of starvation death has taken place in any State/Union Territory Government in the country.

(c) and (d) For tackling the problem of hunger and starvation in the country and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, the Government has been implementing the following schemes:

1. **Targeted Public Distribution System:** Government is allocating food grains @ 35 Kg per family per month at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families in the country under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Depending upon availability of food grains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of population. Presently, allocations of food grains under this category range from 10 to 35 Kg per family per month.

2. **Under Annapurna scheme** implemented by Ministry of Rural Development through State/UT Governments, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting old age pension, are provided 10 Kg of food grains per person per month free of cost.

3. **Under Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP)** implemented through the State Government of Orissa in eight KBK districts, rice at BPL price is allocated for approximately 2 lakh beneficiaries in these districts.

4. To provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity and lean season, under the **Village Grain Bank Scheme** being implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State & UT Governments, food grains are loaned to people in need of food grains from the Village Grain Banks. In each village where a VGB has been set up, food grains @ one quintal per VGB member for a maximum of 40 families are allocated.

Allotment of foodgrains to Gujarat

3294. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees to allot to Gujarat sufficient foodgrains per ration card considering 27 lakh cards as indicated by the State Government;

(b) if so, the supply of foodgrains during 2008-09, month-wise;
(c) whether this will meet the demand; and
(d) if not, how it is proposed to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Allocations of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are not based on demands of States/UTs. Government allocates foodgrains to States & UTs under TPDS based on allocation norms. For 21.20 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including 8.128 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in Gujarat, foodgrains are allocated in full quantity at the scale of 35 kg per family per month as per allocation norms.

Allocation of foodgrains under Above Poverty Line (APL) category is made based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, allocation of foodgrains under APL category to Gujarat is made @ 10 kg per APL family per month in respect of accepted number of 66.37 lakh APL families. The total month-wise TPDS allocations of foodgrains including coarsegrains for all categories of families for the State of Gujarat during 2008-09 are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month(s)</th>
<th>Allocation made per month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April, 2008-September, 2008</td>
<td>83215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October, 2008-February, 2009</td>
<td>93215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2009 onwards</td>
<td>140574</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†Adulteration in foodgrains

†3295. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
(a) the total number of individuals/companies found involved in adulteration in foodgrains during last three years;
(b) the details thereof, State-wise, district-wise and year-wise;
(c) the total number of cases filled by Government on the charge of adulteration of foodgrains;
(d) the details of their names and addresses, State-wise, district-wise and year-wise;
(e) the number of people sent to prison under these charges, so far; and
(f) the details thereof, State-wise, district-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) As per information received from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the implementation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules 1955 is entrusted to Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs. The statement giving number of samples of foodgrains found adulterated, state-wise, during last three years are enclosed (See below). In case samples are found adulterated, action is taken by the State Governments and UT Administrations under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 to prosecute the offenders in the court of law. The information regarding district-wise cases of adulteration of foodgrains are not maintained centrally.

**Statement**

*Number of samples of foodgrains tested and found adulterated,*  
*State-wise during last three years from 2006 to 2008*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the State</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tested</td>
<td>Found</td>
<td>Tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>adulterated</td>
<td>adulterated</td>
<td>adulterated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>3402</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>3024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>1699</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>1528</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>A&amp;N Islands</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Damai &amp; Diu</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Chattisgarh</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>01</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Uttaranchal</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12839</strong></td>
<td><strong>812</strong></td>
<td><strong>8172</strong></td>
<td><strong>488</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA: Information not made available by the States / UTs.

**Black marketing and hoarding of essential commodities**

3296. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that black marketing and hoarding of essential commodities is on the rise in the country leading to rise in prices and shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard and action taken against those people involved in hoarding and black marketing;

(d) whether Government has directed State Governments to ensure declaration of excess stocks by wholesellers to prevent hoarding and black marketing; 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) The prices of some essential commodities have risen during the current year 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.

(c) No such records are maintained centrally. 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. However, the action taken by the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against persons involved in hoarding, black marketing etc. in respect of essential commodities during the year 2009 (upto 30.11.2009) as reported by them is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of raids</th>
<th>No. of Persons arrested</th>
<th>No. of Persons prosecuted</th>
<th>No. of Persons convicted</th>
<th>Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>131875</td>
<td>6436</td>
<td>3351</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>15518.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The State Governments/UT Administrations have taken action and reported detentions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The total number of detentions in 2009 (upto 30.11.2009) is 137.

(d) and (e) 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.

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;
  - (c) 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.

The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have fixed the stock limits as per their requirement. As per information furnished by the State Government/UT Administrations 23 State Governments / UTs have either issued stock limits for all the six items or for individual items or have
issued only licensing requirements/stock declaration (of these 23, 18 States/UTs have actually issued stock limit Orders; 5 States/UTs have issued licensing requirements/stock declarations).

Speculative trading of essential commodities

3297. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that even before the impending drought conditions arose, speculative trading in essential commodities was playing havoc with the prices;

(b) whether Government is also aware that in the month of June, 2009 alone, the cumulative value of trading in the commodity exchanges, according to the report of the Forward Markets Commission of India was a staggering Rs.15,64,114.96 crores from Rs. 2,21,888.06 crores in June, 2007; and

(c) if so, by when Government would ban the speculative trading in essential commodities in order to control the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Facts show that futures trading in essential commodities has not been responsible for the price rise in recent period. There is no future trading in Urad and Tur since January 2007 when it was suspended. But the prices of these commodities are showing sharp increase during 2008-09 and 2009-10. The year-on-year price increase (in terms of Wholesale Price Index) at the end of financial year 2008-09 (29.3.2009) was 14.7% for Urad and 17.1% for Tur. During the year 2009-10 (as on 28.11.09) Y-o-Y increase was 59.46% and 72.25% for Urad and Tur respectively. As against this there is futures trading in Gram. Year on Year change of Prices of Gram was negative at -6.8% in 2008-09 and 4.32% during 2009-10 (as on 28.11.09) respectively. Therefore, the increase in prices of commodities need not necessarily be attributed to future trading. In fact an Expert Committee appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission’s Member Prof. Abhijit Sen to examine whether futures markets was responsible for rise in the prices of essential commodities in its report submitted in April 2008 did not find futures market responsible for the increase of the prices of essential commodities.

The forward trading in a commodity is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management and not a mechanism to check price rise. The futures market gives price signals for future periods of time based on the most likely supply and demand situation at those points of time. The market is tightly regulated. There are various effective tools like margins, price band, open interests limit etc. which the Regulator (Forward Market Commission) employs to regulate futures trading.

(b) The total value of trade during period three months of April to June 2009 was Rs.15,64,114.96. The value of trade during the corresponding period of April - June 2008 was
Rs.1,15,326.99 and that of the corresponding period of April-June 2007 was Rs.8,97,816.52. Figures for the month of June 2009, June 2008 and June 2007 were Rs. 5,77,056.71 crores, Rs. 4,13,551.34 crores and Rs. 2,82,550.35 crores respectively.

(c) In view of the answer to part (a) above, there is no case for banning futures (speculation) trading in essential commodities.

Price-rise of pulses and edible oils

3298. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a significant increase in the prices of edible oils and pulses in the country and in the international market during the period May-November, 2009;

(b) if so, the average prices of different edible oils in the country and in the international market during the said period;

(c) whether Government has taken any action to meet these price differences in the country and in the international market; and

(d) 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) The domestic and international prices of edible oils have been stable during the last six months, whereas, prices of most of the pulses in the domestic and in the international market have increased during May-November 2009. The details of monthly average prices of edible oils in the country and in the international market during the period May-November, 2009 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Government have taken the following actions to contain the prices of edible oils:

(i) The custom duties on crude and refined edible oils have been reduced to nil and 7.5% respectively since 01.04.2008. It has been decided that this duty structure would be continued till 30.9.2010.

(ii) The Government have banned export of all major edible oils from the country since 17.3.2008 upto 30.9.2010.

(iii) The Government have launched a Scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute upto 10 lakh tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs.15/- kg, which was enhanced to Rs.25/- kg. from January, 2009 to March, 2009. The Scheme is believed to have helped to soften the prices of edible oils in domestic market as per feed back received from State Governments. The Scheme has been continued in the current year also with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg. to import upto 10 lakh tons of oils till 31.03.2010. So far, nine State Governments/UTs had intimated their requirements of edible oils, have been allocated edible oil under the Scheme. As on 11.12.2009, 106500 tons of edible oil has been contracted for import under the Scheme.
Statement

Details of edible oils in the domestic market and international market

The monthly average prices of edible oils in the country and in the international market during the period from May-November, 2009 are as follows:

(A) Monthly Average Prices of Edible Oils in the Domestic Market

(Rs./Quintal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Mustard Oil</th>
<th>Groundnut Oil</th>
<th>Sunflower Oil</th>
<th>RBD Palmolein</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May, 2009</td>
<td>4821</td>
<td>5773</td>
<td>4379</td>
<td>4314</td>
</tr>
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<td>June, 2009</td>
<td>4626</td>
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<td>July, 2009</td>
<td>4723</td>
<td>6069</td>
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<td>3606</td>
</tr>
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<td>August, 2009</td>
<td>5144</td>
<td>6383</td>
<td>4307</td>
<td>3959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, 2009</td>
<td>4980</td>
<td>6244</td>
<td>4095</td>
<td>3724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October, 2009</td>
<td>5018</td>
<td>6330</td>
<td>4063</td>
<td>3541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 2009</td>
<td>5370</td>
<td>6831</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>3654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Solvent Extractor’s Association of India.

(B) Monthly Average Prices of Edible Oils in the International Market

F.O.B (US$/Ton)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Crude Palm Oil</th>
<th>Soyabean Oil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May, 2009</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June, 2009</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July, 2009</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August, 2009</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, 2009</td>
<td>644</td>
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<td>641</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 2009</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Solvent Extractor’s Association of India.

New variety of rice

3299. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any rice variety in the country that does not need cooking but only soaking;
(b) if so, whether it will be proper to eat without cooking;
(c) the positive and negative effects of this new variety;
(d) whether the above said variety has come to the market; and
(e) whether it will be promoted for public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, parboiled form of a rice variety called Aghonibora developed by the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Titabor, Assam has been found to be fit to eat by soaking in normal water for about 40 minutes without boiling/steaming.

(c) It has the advantage that there is no loss of nutrients during cooking.

(d) and (e) Only small quantities of this variety of rice is grown by farmers and it is not being procured for Central Pool for distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System.

Shortage of sugar

3300. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of sugar in the market;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) whether there will be any effect in the open market on sugar prices due to the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no shortage of sugar in the market.

(c) The price of sugar in the open market depends upon a number of factors like demand, supply, international prices and market sentiments etc. It is therefore, difficult to indicate the impact of a single factor on sugar prices.

Food Security Bill

3301. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNITIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is bringing Food Security Bill in the Parliament; and
(b) in view of the rice being provided at Rs. 2/- per kg in Orissa and other States what is the exact subsidy share of State Government and Central Government in providing subsidized rice to poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
(b) For distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders, subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIP) communicated by Central Government to States and Union Territories are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AAY</th>
<th>BPL</th>
<th>APL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Rs./Qtl)

At the above CIPs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), subsidy, i.e. the difference between economic cost of rice to Food Corporation of India and these CIPs, provided by the Government of India for the allocated quantities of rice during 2009-10 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AAY</th>
<th>BPL</th>
<th>APL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1593.71</td>
<td>1328.71</td>
<td>1063.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Rs./Qtl.)

Some of the States / Union Territory Governments, however, charge issue prices lower than CIPs by further subsidizing the issue prices. In such cases share of subsidy of concerned State Government would be the difference between CIP and actual issue price charged from ration card holders at fair price shops.

Delay in disposal of audit case by CMFA

3302. SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

(a) whether there has been delay in the disposal of audit case concerning procurement of paddy till 2006-07 by the Chhattisgarh Marketing Federation and Administration;

(b) whether the State Government has demanded additional burden of expenditure thereon to be compensated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No. Sir. Audit in its Para No. 5.2.1 contained in its Report No 16 of 2006 regarding excess expenditure of Rs. 1047.34 crore by Chhattisgarh Government during the period 2000-05 had observed that the procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh under the scheme of Decentralized Procurement (DCP) was much in excess of the capacity of custom milling of paddy due to the absence of project plan for procurement, storage and custom milling. Thus, the milling of paddy was delayed from 21 to 30 months, which resulted in excess overhead expenditure by the State Government, mainly on account of interest and driage loss.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
This Department in the Action Taken Note sent in July, 2007 did not agree with the conclusion drawn by the Audit, as all the paddy offered by the farmers was required to be procured as per the Government’s policy on Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. The milling capacity in the State has improved substantially to 7.42 lakh tonnes per month over the years. These efforts have led to reducing dependence for rice on Punjab and Haryana and also led to increase in milling capacity and increase in employment generation in the State. Audit has accepted the above position, as it had made no further comments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Functioning of consumer courts

3303. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consumer courts which are working in different States and the details of data with regard to pending, disposed off and appealed cases against the order to the Supreme and High Courts after National Appellate Tribunal; and

(b) whether there is any demand for more consumer courts and additional National Appellate Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) A total of 35 State Commissions and 621 District Fora have been established in different States/UTs. The details of the data as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which has administrative control over all State Commissions as per provisions of Consumer Protection Act with regard to the filing, disposal and pending of cases is enclosed as Statement-I and II collectively. (See below):

As regards Appeal filed against the order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission before the Supreme Court and the High Court, the data is not available with NCDRC.

(b) In some of the districts, additional District Fora are also functioning. Additional Benches of the State Commissions are functioning in the following States:

(a) Gujarat 03 Additional Benches
(b) Maharashtra Circuit Bench at Nagpur & Aurangabad
(c) Uttar Pradesh 01 Additional Bench
(d) West Bengal 01 Additional Bench
(e) Madhya Pradesh 01 Additional Bench (non-functional)

Section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides that a Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, to be known as the "District Forum", be established by the State Government in each district of the State by notification. It further provides that the State Government may, if it deems fit, establish more than one District Forum in a district.
In other words, the State Government can establish more than one District Forum in the
district. Some of the State Governments have established more than one District Forum in a district,
where the institution of cases are more.

Presently, in the National Commission 5 Benches are functioning. However, a proposal for
creation of ad-hoc Benches in the National Commission has been received.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Cases Filed/Disposed of/Pending in the National Commission and State Commissions*

(Update on 10.12.2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>Cases filed since inception</th>
<th>Cases disposed since inception</th>
<th>Cases Pending</th>
<th>Status as On</th>
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<td>54286</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>21218</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A &amp; N Islands</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31.01.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>2277</td>
<td>1331</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>31.10.2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>5171</td>
<td>605</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Daman &amp; Diu and DNH</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Gujarat</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5004</td>
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</table>
### Statement-II

**Details of Cases filed/disposed of/pending in District Fora**

(Update on 10.12.2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>Cases filed since inception</th>
<th>Cases disposed since inception</th>
<th>Cases pending</th>
<th>Status as On</th>
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<td>262</td>
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</table>

**Effects of rise in prices of essential items**

3304. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to some reports per capita intake of calories by the poor has further gone down following the unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities;
(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to focus on cheaper and healthier calories’ substitutes; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring down the prices of essential items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of the reports of decline in per capita calorie intake due to rise in prices of essential commodities. However, the Government advocates intake of balanced diet from locally available low cost foods as part of nutrition education and counseling imparted through several programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Food and Nutrition Board in Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The ICDS Scheme being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development caters to children of 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. The component of Supplementary Nutrition in the ICDS is primarily designed to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) and the Average Dietary Intake (ADI). The Government has also enhanced the financial as well as nutritional norms for different categories of beneficiaries.

There is also the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) Scheme which is being implemented in 51 districts in the country. Under this scheme, 6 kg of food-grains is given to under nourished adolescent girls with body weight less than 30 kg in the age group of 11-15 years and 35 kg in the age group of 15-19 years.

As a separate initiative, Government has taken steps to promote the consumption of yellow peas through its sale in select retail outlets of NAFED, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Dairy in Delhi.

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

Statement

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. 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) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).

(vii) Effected no changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;

(viii) 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.

(ix) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at $450 per tonne for December 2009) and basmati rice ($900 PMT);

(x) 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.

(xi) 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.

(xii) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs.15/kg.

(xiii) 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.

(xiv) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg to State Governments.

(xv) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.

(xvi) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009

(xvii) 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 lakh 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.
Implementation of TPDS

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

(a) the actual amount spent by Central Government under the subsidy head for Public Distribution System (PDS) prior to the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(b) whether there is any reduction of subsidy amount due to the implementation of TPDS; and

(c) if not, the advantage of the present TPDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The amount of food subsidy released by Central Government in 1995-96 and 1996-97, prior to introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997 is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>4960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>5166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) No, Sir. Food subsidy depends on economic cost, Central Issue Price and offtake of foodgrains. The subsidy has been increasing on account of increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year while the Central Issue Prices (CTIs) of foodgrains have not been revised since 01.07.2002.

(c) With a view to target poor sections of the population for distribution of foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System was launched in June, 1997. The allocation of foodgrains to the eligible beneficiaries under TPDS is helping in containing the prices of foodgrains in open market.

Hike in sugar prices

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tumbling domestic sugar prices in the country have heightened speculation that importers are backing out of some deals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the exact reasons for such high sugar prices in the country compared to the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received.
Shortfall in production and productivity of sugarcane owing to adverse weather conditions has resulted in low production of sugar in the last sugar season 2008-09 and is also likely to impact production of sugar during the current sugar season 2009-10. This has led to mismatch between demand and availability of sugar leading to escalation in sugar prices. International prices have also firmed up during 2008-09 sugar season due to drop in global production which have made imports dear.

**Impact of subsidy on palm oil import**

3307. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the liberal import policy and the generous subsidy extended to palm oil imports is leading to a critical situation for the coconut farmers in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Kerala has demanded from Centre to provide subsidy to the coconut oil as is given to imported palm oil; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Government subsidy this year has been extended only to a small quantity of edible oil imported under the Scheme for distribution of imported edible oils through States/UTs, implemented in order to moderate prices of edible oils in the country and to augment its domestic availability. In 2009-10 only about 74,868 tons of refined palmolein has been imported under the Scheme so far. About 45% of edible oils consumed in the country is imported. In 2008-09 (Nov. to Oct.) 65,35,448 tons of palm oils was imported. Export of major edible oils is banned since 17.3.2008. Further, import of palm oil is prohibited through Kerala ports and export of coconut oil is permitted through Cochin port.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala, vide its letters dated 29.3.2008, 23.6.2009 and 25.6.2009 had requested that the subsidy given under this Scheme may be allowed for coconut oil. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala, vide his D.O. letter dated 12.8.2008 had also requested to extend the subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. for distribution of coconut oil through the Public Distribution System of Kerala.

The Government of Kerala had been informed that the subsidy under the "Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs" is restricted to edible oils imported by PSUs and supplied to the States/UTs for distribution, and that the Scheme had no provision to subsidise domestic oils including coconut oil.
Dependence on import of edible oils

3308. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the dependency on the import of edible oils is increasing in the country over the years in order to meet the requirement of consumption;

(b) if so, the percentage of dependency in the years 2004-05 and 2008-09;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this dependence was only 2 per cent in the initial few years after the setting up of Oilseeds Technology Mission in the year 1986; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shares of imported edible oils in total domestic availability in the years 2004-05 and 2008-09 (November to October) were 41.03% and 48.76% respectively.

(c) and (d) The percentage share of imported edible oils in total domestic availability had come down from 33.14% during 1986-87 to 0.88% during 1992-93. During the period from 1993-94 to 2008-09, the percentage share of imported edible oils went up from 3.14% to 48.76%.

Setting up of IIT in Kerala

3309. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority of Kerala had submitted representations on 10 August, 2006 to set up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kerala;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the competent authority of Kerala vide letter dated 28th November, 2006 had informed that the land for setting up of IIT in Kerala had been identified;

(d) if so, whether any action had been initiated to inspect the above land and to set up an IIT;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI):

(a) to (c) The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala vide his letters dated 10th August and 27th November, 2006 had requested for setting up of a satellite campus of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, in Kerala. The State Government had reportedly identified sufficient land at Palakkad for this purpose. However, the Government had taken a decision that establishment of large satellite campuses with regular Bachelor and Master programmes amount to setting up of new IITs and should be avoided.

(d) to (f) Based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), the Government in 2006 decided to establish three new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Bihar in the East, Rajasthan in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South. The Government subsequently, keeping in view the regional imbalance, decided to establish five more IITs in Gujarat, Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Presently there is no proposal to establish an IIT in Kerala, which already has an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and a National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Kozhikode and an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Thiruvananthapuram. Besides, a Central University has been established in Kerala with effect from 15.01.2009 and is functioning from temporary premises at Kasargod. Further, the Government have identified Thiruvananthapuram as one of the 14 Innovation Universities to be set up during the XIIth Plan periods.

Model colleges in educationally backward districts

3310. SHRI R. C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee constituted by UGC for establishment of model colleges in the country has submitted its report;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee has recommended for opening up of 400 model colleges in educationally backward districts of the country;

(c) if so, the details of districts identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh for opening up of such colleges;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open some colleges exclusively for girls;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the colleges are going to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI) D. PURANDESWARI: (a) to (f) Based on the report of a Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission, the Government has identified 374 higher educationally backward districts (HEBDe) where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is less than the national GER, for establishment of a model degree college in each of these districts, with Central-State funding. The list includes 11 districts in Andhra Pradesh, namely, Adilabad, Ananthapur, East
Godavari, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and West Godavari. It is for the State Government to consider whether any or some of the colleges should be exclusively for girls. The scheme is yet to be finalized.

**Regulation of SHGs**

3311. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik: Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a study of Self Help Groups (SHGs) as a human resource or otherwise;

(b) whether Self Help Groups are regulated by any Central legislation or scheme;

(c) whether Government is considering regulating these Self Help Groups by a definite legal mechanism in view of the fact that crores of rupees of the exchequer are disbursed through such organizations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Shrimati D. Purandeswar): (a) to (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development had a scheme called 'Swayamsidha', under which a study was conducted to see the achievement of Self Help Groups under the scheme. The Scheme was under operation since 2000-01 and ended on 31-3-2009 after achieving its targets.

Ministry of Rural Development has a holistic scheme called 'Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana' (SGSY) with the objective of bringing assisted poor families (swarojgaries) above poverty line by *inter-alia* organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through a process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. There is no proposal to enact a legislation to convert the SGSY Scheme into an Act of the Parliament.

**Persons with technical education**

3312. Shri Tarini Kanta Roy:

Shri Prasanta Chatterjee:

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state the number of persons above 15 years of age having technical education, State-wise?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Shrimati D. Purandeswar): This Ministry does not maintain the data on the number of persons above 15 years of age having technical education.

However, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have forwarded the information provided by Lead Center of National Technical Manpower Information System (NTMIS) at Institute of Applied Manpower and Research, New Delhi which has the State-wise turnout of Engineering Diploma holders and Engineering Degree holders in the year 2006 and the same is given in the Statement.
### Statement

State-wise details of holders of Diploma and Degree in Engineering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>12632</td>
<td>32814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar &amp; Jharkhand</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>1501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>2557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa, Daman &amp; Diu</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>5738</td>
<td>8576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>3517</td>
<td>6546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>12075</td>
<td>38639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>5556</td>
<td>12912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh &amp; Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>3926</td>
<td>11488</td>
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<td>Manipur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
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<td>Nagaland</td>
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<td>Orissa</td>
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<td>Punjab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>47916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh &amp; Uttaranchal</td>
<td>9016</td>
<td>20417</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>3946</td>
<td>8784</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>127131</strong></td>
<td><strong>256626</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conversion of OBC seats to general category

3313. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1000 OBC reserved seats in different courses across about 60 Delhi University (DU) colleges were converted to general category seats and opened for admission this year;

(b) if so, the number of such seats and the reason for not filling up such a huge number of OBC reserved seats, college-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that OBC reserved seats are not converted to general category in the next academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, 1483 seats reserved for OBCs in different courses of its 37 colleges were converted into General Category seats due to non-availability of OBC candidates even after allowing 10% relaxation with reference to the percentage for General Category candidates in accordance with the interim order dated 26th August, 2009 passed by the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 11147/2009. The college-wise number of such seats is given in the Statement.

Statement

College-wise details of OBC seats converted into General Category seats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the college</th>
<th>No. of OBC seats converted into General Category seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Acharya Narendra Dev College</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Delhi College of Arts &amp; Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dyal Singh College</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Indraprastha College for Women</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Institute of Home Economics</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Janki Devi Memorial College</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lady Shri Ram College for Women</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lakshmi Bai College</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Miranda House</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Motilal Nehru College (Day)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Name</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>P.G.D.A.V. College</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Rajdhani College</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Ram Lal Anand College</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Ram Lal Anand College (Evening)</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Satyawati College (Evening)</td>
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<td>Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (Day)</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Shivaji College</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Shyam Lal College (Evening)</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Sri Aurobindo College</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Sri Venkateswara College</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Motilal Nehru College (Evening)</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Keshav Mahavidyalaya</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Deen Dayal Upadyaya College</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Vivekananda College</td>
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<td>Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies</td>
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<td>Zakir Husain College</td>
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<td>Hans Raj College</td>
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<td>Hindu College</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Central Health Education Bureau</td>
<td>05</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for Physically Handicapped</td>
<td>07</td>
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<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Kamla Nehru College</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** 1483

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**Teaching Sanskrit through Sanskrit**

3314. **SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:**

**SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:**

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

(a) whether Government has received a report of the sub-committee on teaching Sanskrit through Sanskrit, constituted by the Central Sanskrit Board;
(b) if so, the action taken on the sub-committee’s report; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Central Sanskrit Board (CSB),
constituted by the Government for advice in various matters relating to Sanskrit, and later replaced
by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Parishad in August, 2006, had constituted a Core Group to study the status
of Sanskrit studies in Central Schools. One of the recommendations of the Core Group was to make
efforts for teaching Sanskrit through the medium of Sanskrit. The three Sanskrit Deemed Universities
under the control of Ministry of Human Resource Development viz., Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan,
New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastry Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Rashtriya
Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati are imparting training to about 1200 students every year to enable them
to teach Sanskrit in Sanskrit medium through the Shiksha Shastry and Shiksha Acharya courses.

Improvement of Sanskrit teaching methods

3315. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

(a) how much grant has been given to Government or Non-Government Institutes for
improving Sanskrit teaching methods and production of text books in Sanskrit language during the
last three years; and
(b) how many teachers were trained in teaching Sanskrit through Sanskrit, under the
Central Plan Scheme for the Development of Sanskrit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) During the last three years, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan
(RSKS), New Delhi, a Deemed University under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has
given the following grant to various institutions for improving Sanskrit teaching methods:

(Rs. in lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Government Institutes</th>
<th>Non-Government Institutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>751.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>20.016</td>
<td>1019.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>74.016</td>
<td>1027.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The Central Plan Scheme was administered by the Ministry of Human Resource Development till 2007. The Central Plan Scheme is being implemented by the Rashtriya Sanskrit
Sansthan from the financial year 2007-08. As intimated by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, every year about 800 student teachers are imparted training enabling them to teach Sanskrit through Sanskrit medium in the Shiksha Shastri Course.

**Sanskrit medium in universities**

3316. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

(a) whether Sanskrit universities which have Pedagogy Department impart training through Sanskrit medium;

(b) whether they have produced text/reference books in Sanskrit;

(c) whether their students write examinations in Sanskrit;

(d) the steps National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has taken to check the quality with respect to the above aspects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The three Deemed Universities under the Ministry of Human Resource Development namely, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RShS), New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (SLSRSV), New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (RSV), Tirupati have Pedagogy Departments and they impart training through Sanskrit medium.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, in SLSRSV, for one of the papers i.e. Modern Subjects teaching, the students are allowed to write examinations in Sanskrit or Hindi medium.

(d) and (e) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) prepares and recommends Curriculum Framework for different Teacher Education Programmes, and specifies the areas of studies only. The curriculum is developed and implemented by the Universities, who decide the syllabus and the subjects/languages to be taught in B.Ed. and M.Ed. programmes.

**Corporal punishment in schools**

†3317. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the incidents of different methods of torture to students by teachers in schools of the country are increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(c) whether any legal provision has been in place to prevent incidents of torture to students by teachers in schools;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, whether Government is considering formulation of a law in this context, in view of a ruling by a Delhi court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has registered 27, 50 and 31 cases of corporal punishment in schools during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (till date) respectively and has also taken *suo moto* cognizance of 10 such incidents since January, 2009.

(c) to (e) This Ministry has issued instructions to all States and Union Territories in December, 2007 to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under their jurisdiction. Section 17 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment to children in school.

**Opening of polytechnics in Chhattisgarh**

†3318. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
(a) the names of districts of Chhattisgarh which have polytechnics and engineering colleges;
(b) whether the State Government has sent proposals to the Central Government for opening of additional polytechnics;
(c) whether these proposals sent by State Government are meant for tribal dominated districts; and
(d) the funds provided by the Central Government to the State Government of Chhattisgarh upto 2008-09 for opening of polytechnics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The names of districts of Chhattisgarh which have polytechnics and engineering colleges are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Engineering Colleges</th>
<th>Polytechnic College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bastar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bijapur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Durg</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
Yes, Sir, the bulk of the proposals are from tribal areas. The State Government has sent the proposals to the Central Government for opening of additional polytechnic in the following districts of Chhattisgarh:

- Bastar
- Kanker
- Bijapur
- Koriya
- Bilaspur
- Narayanpur
- Dantewada
- Raipur
- Janjgir-Champa
- Surguja
- Jashpur.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 8.47 crore to the State Government for setting up of new polytechnics at Koriya, Jashpur, Kanker and Dantewada upto 2008-09.

Out-of-school children in absence of creche facilities

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children in the age group of 6-14 years for whom education has been made a Fundamental Right are still out of school, particularly in the slum areas in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether any survey has recently been conducted to assess their number, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the manner in which this problem, particularly of children in this age group, in metropolitan cities and areas around them, whose parents are unable to send them to school as there are no creche facilities for their younger siblings and their parents are out for work during the day, is proposed to be tackled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per independent sample survey commissioned by Ministry of Human Resource Development, the estimated number of out of school children is 81.5 lakh, of which 1.36 lakh children were out of school in slums of urban areas. The total estimated
State-wise number of out of school children in the age group 6-14 years, and out of school children in slum areas is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach for universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in Education and improving the quality of education for all children, including children in slum areas in urban and metropolitan cities.

The interests of out of school children in urban slums are addressed through Education Guarantee Centres (EGS), Residential Bridge Courses and Non-Residential Bridge Courses.

Early Child Care and Education (ECCE) is a critical and essential input for freeing girls from sibling care responsibilities. SSA emphasizes the importance of strengthening convergence with the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Statement**

The total estimated State-wise number of out of School Children in the age group 6-14 years and out of school children in slum areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of the State</th>
<th>No. of out of school children</th>
<th>% Slum children out of school</th>
<th>Total Estimated Slum children out of school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andaman &amp; Nicobar</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>1,72,354</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>20,601</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>2,34,983</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bihar (2)</td>
<td>13,45,697</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>1,974</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>85,366</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dadar &amp; Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Daman &amp; Diu</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>1,24,022</td>
<td>15.21</td>
<td>25039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>1,62,355</td>
<td>6.73</td>
<td>44587</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>1,07,205</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>2,451</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Matric</td>
<td>Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>9,691</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>1,32,195</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>1,08,237</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>8909</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>15,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>3,28,692</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>4718</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>2,07,345</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>6458</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>12,222</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>12,655</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>7,485</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>8,693</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>4,35,560</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>1,267</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>10,18,326</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>52,876</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>8,434</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>27,69,111</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>56,225</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>7,06,713</td>
<td>9.06</td>
<td>45513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All India</td>
<td>8,150,617</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>136565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online CAT examination**

3320. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of students had harrowing time who appeared for online CAT examination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the agency which was entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the test; and
(d) the preventive precautionary measures taken to avoid such problems in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the Convener CAT 2009, a few thousand students faced inconvenience due to technical glitches occurred in online CAT examination. However, most of the students have already been rescheduled and all of them are being given the opportunity to take the test.

(c) Prometric and National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) were entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the test.

(d) IIMs have put in place a process to identify the causes for disruptions noticed and reported during the entire testing period and these are being addressed to ensure smooth testing for the currently held CAT and for the future tests.

Schools for rural areas under Public-Private-Partnership scheme

3321. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether it is a tact that 25,000 schools would be set up in rural areas under the Public-Private-Partnership scheme;

(b) if so, as schools in rural areas are often not financially viable, will funding be done as a social objective of Government and social responsibility of the private sector; and

(c) whether guidelines would be so framed that remote and hilly areas get preference as penetration of education there is non-existent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) This Ministry has decided to set up 6000 model schools at the rate of one school per block as benchmarks of excellence. 2500 schools out of these are envisaged to be set up in public-private partnership mode in blocks which are not educationally backward.

Setting up of national universities

3322. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether complete autonomy, exemption from audit by CAG and creation of special research endowment fund could be key features of 14 national universities of world-class standard proposed to be set up by Government;

(b) whether aiming to develop these universities as global centres of innovation, his Ministry has prepared a concept note on institutions proposed to be set up under Eleventh Five Year Plan;
whether Government would ensure that governance structure of universities shall be
tuned towards ensuring autonomy over all matters; and

if so, other main proposals being considered and by when they are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A concept note on the proposed Innovation
Universities aiming at world class standards had been circulated and comments have been received. The concept note is being finalized.

Development funding for universities

3323. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether UGC has decided to address the crucial issues of development funding for
universities by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether State Governments have agreed for development
funding to universities;

(c) whether the universities which are facing resource crunch and other hurdles in providing
access to the higher education would be guided by innovative ways to streamline the system; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government/UGC will provide help to universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the
University Grants Commission (UGC), UGC provides development grants to various eligible
institutions declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. The Eleventh Plan
envisages schemes to incentivize State Governments to increase public investments in higher
education by providing Central Government assistance to supplement State Government’s
investment. These include incentivizing State Governments for establishment of new universities,
support to universities and colleges that have not been declared fit to receive grant, additional
support to universities and colleges declared fit to receive grants and establishment of degree
colleges in 374 identified educationally backward districts.

Shortage of faculty in universities

3324. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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

(a) whether Government has set up any task force to come with a solution to deal with
acute shortage of quality faculty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to deal with faculty shortage in various Central and State universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A Task Force on faculty shortage and design of Performance Appraisal System has been constituted by the Government on 14th September, 2009 with the following terms of reference:

(i) to assess the existing faculty shortage in the country in regard to technical and professional education and University education.

(ii) to assess the requirement of quality faculty in regard to technical and professional education and University education in the remaining period of the Eleventh Plan and the Twelfth Plan considering the need to achieve the targeted Gross Enrolment Ratio by the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan.

(iii) to suggest remedial policies and other measures to meet the estimated shortfall in quality faculty.

(iv) to design and develop a robust, objective, transparent and multi-source Performance Appraisal System to provide a framework to enable performance evaluation of faculty throughout the country in regard to technical education, professional education and University education.

(c) To meet the shortage of teachers in Centrally funded higher and technical education institutes under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and to make teaching attractive the age of superannuation of teachers has been raised from 62 years to 65 years. The Government has also taken a decision to revise the pay scales of teachers in the universities and colleges in order to attract and retain talented youth in teaching profession. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay.

Recognition for primary teachers’ training institute

†3325. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to promote Hindi in West Bengal, a primary teachers’ training institute was established at Salkia, Howrah in the sixties with the financial help of Central Government and State Government;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has not been recognized by National Council for Teacher Education;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not providing the desired recognition to the said institute?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Salkia Primary Teachers’ Training Institute was established in 1968 by the Government of West Bengal, with support of the Central Government, for conducting a one year teacher training course in Hindi medium.

(c) to (e) The Salkia Primary Teachers’ Training Institute had applied to Eastern Regional Committee (ERC) of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for grant of recognition for a two years Primary Teachers Training course on 11th March, 1997, but the recognition was refused on account of non-availability of Principal and staff and lack of instructional facilities. Subsequently, the institution applied for validation of their qualification in 2006 which could not be considered by the NCTE as the institution did not submit the requisite fee and compensation as per the provisions laid down in the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2006. The institution again applied in October, 2008 for recognition of a two years Primary Teachers’ Training course, but the application was returned as it was not accompanied with the requisite fee. In October, 2009, the institution has made a fresh application for recognition.

Dropping out of children from schools

†3326. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no improvement is seen in the problem of children drop out from schools at the age of 6 to 13 years;

(b) if so, the number of children who had dropped out from schools in the academic year 2005 and 2009;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the tendency of dropping out from schools is more prevalent among the children belonging to Muslim community, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if so, the national average of children apart from the average of children belonging to Muslim community, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who had dropped out from schools in the said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) No, Sirs. Ministry of Human Resource Development collects the information on various educational indicators from the States/UTs annually through Selected Educational Statistics (SES). SES 2006-07 reveals decline in drop-out rate since 2001-02, including that of SCs/STs at primary and elementary level. At Primary level the drop-out has fallen by 13.6 percentage points from 2001 to 2006, compared to a decline of only 2.3 percentage points

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
between the year 1990 to 2000. At Elementary level the drop-out rate has declined from 54.60 in 2001-02 to 45.90 in 2006-07. Drop-out rate in respect of Minority Communities is not available separately. The drop-out rate of SC and ST children at elementary level is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary (I-V)</th>
<th>Elementary (I-VIII)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>39.00</td>
<td>45.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>25.60</td>
<td>35.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reform of education sector

3327. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state when and the manner in which Government is planning to reform the education sector in which its present License Raj policies reward the corrupt and punish ethical players and create shortages and poor quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Educational reforms are continuous process and constant efforts have been made from time to time in consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders for improvement in education sector. Educational reforms have also been discussed in the 56th meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 31st August, 2009 which unanimously endorsed the general need for reforms at all levels of education.

CABE approved the proposal for an autonomous overarching authority for higher education and research with its policy related functions being distinct from regulatory functions - some States felt that there should be scope for the involvement of States. CABE also approved the proposal of a self-selecting Collegium of eminent persons for greater objectivity and assistance to search committees in the selection of Chairperson and Members of the proposed National Commission and in the selection of Vice Chancellors and other eminent academic and research positions. CABE endorsed the need for a law to prevent, prohibit and punish malpractices in higher education - some States felt that the scope of the proposed law should be widened to include all sectors of education, and it was explained that the present proposal was in keeping with the legislative competence of Parliament. CABE approved mandatory assessment and accreditation in higher education - the proposed law should take into consideration the concerns expressed by some of the States with regard to the autonomy of the processes of accreditation.

Information sought under RTI Act from Chaudhary Charan Singh University

3328. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
(a) the number of notices for supply of information under the RTI Act, 2005 received by Chaudhary Charan Singh University during last year;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the number of notices to which information was sent within one month and the details of the notices to which complete information is yet to be supplied; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the responsibility fixed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Chaudhary Charan Singh University is a State University, established under an Act of State Legislature of Uttar Pradesh. The Central Government does not have any role in the academic and administrative matters of the University and does not maintain information about details of applications that may have been received by the University under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The University has its Public Information Officer and Appellate Authority under the said Act, and falls under the purview of State Information Commission of Uttar Pradesh.

Adult Education

3329. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of adults are uneducated in the country;

(b) if so, the details of uneducated adults, State-wise;

(c) whether any special programme has been launched to provide education to adult; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The State-wise number of non-literate is given in the Statement-1 (See below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Saakshar Bharat, a new variant of National Literacy Mission has been launched with specific objective of improving adult literacy. 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

Details of the illiterate persons in the country in the age group of 7+ in each State and UTs.

(as per census 2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
<th>No. of Total illiterate persons</th>
<th>% of illiterate persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>Bihar</td>
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</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>6105738</td>
<td>35.34</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>216138</td>
<td>17.99</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
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</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
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<td>13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Orissa</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>43.73</td>
</tr>
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</table>
(a) whether Government has any proposal for “chalta phirta” schools for SC/ST people;
(b) if so, the details thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh, State-wise; and
(c) the funds allocated by each State and the amount spent so far for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach for universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in Education and improving the quality of education for all children, including SC/ST children. The Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) component of SSA allows States/UTs to take up a variety of flexible interventions, including mobile schools, designed to cater to the need of specific groups of out of school children.

Andhra Pradesh has reported that they are running mobile schools. However, there are no exclusive mobiles schools for SC/ST children.

(c) During 2009-10, Project Approval Board of SSA had sanctioned funds for mobile schools to 8 States as per details given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the State</th>
<th>Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>9.00</td>
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</table>

Mobile schools for SCs/STs

3330. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the State</th>
<th>Amount sanctioned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>202355</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>21565574</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>A &amp; N Island</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>141777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>76387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Daman &amp; Diu</td>
<td>30026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Goa</td>
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<td>Haryana</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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</table>

Mushrooming of self-financing professional and other educational institutions

3331. SHRI A.VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is bringing any law to control the mushrooming of self-financing professional and other educational institutions;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that there is no regularity in the fees extracted by such colleges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Supreme Court Judgement, State Level Fee Committees have been constituted by the concerned States/UTs for prescribing fee to be charged by technical institutions. In accordance with the directions of the State Level Fee Committees, the fee is presently being charged by technical institutions situated in the respective State/UTs.

Proposals for setting up polytechnic colleges in Madhya Pradesh

†3332.MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals from nine districts of Madhya Pradesh not having polytechnic colleges are pending with the Central Government for setting up such colleges;

(b) if so, the details of the dates on which these proposals have been received by Government; and

(c) the reasons for pendency and by when these proposals will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No Sir. All the districts not having Government /

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
Government Aided polytechnic colleges have already been provided financial assistance by the Central Government to the State Government for setting up of polytechnics during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Toxic food being served under Mid-Day Meal scheme

†SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children are getting food with toxic contents due to carelessness in implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is rampant corruption in this scheme;

(c) if so, whether Government is planning any effective scheme including control and vigil for building India of the future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The overall responsibility to provide wholesome and nutritious food to children in schools under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Isolated and sporadic instances of food poisoning or uneatable material being found in the food do come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Some cases of misuse of foodgrains and funds provided for the MDMS have come to the notice of the Government through various sources, like newspaper reports, reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Monitoring Institutions etc.

(c) and (d) As and when any report regarding misuse of resources provided for the MDMS comes to the notice of the Central Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. In order to curb possibility of corruption in implementing the scheme elaborate monitoring mechanism has been prescribed for all levels. In the Scheme Guidelines, emphasis has been laid on transparency such as suo-moto display of information on weekly/monthly basis on (i) quantity of foodgrains received, date of receipt; (ii) quantity of foodgrains utilized; (iii) other ingredients purchased, utilized; (iv) number of children given mid day meal; (v) daily menu; and (vi) roster of Community Members involved in the programme, participation of Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabha, Members of Village Education Committee, Parent-Teacher Association and Local women’s/Mothers’ Self Help Group. Besides, in District Level Committee public representatives (MPs, MLAs) and elected members of Zila Parishad have also been included to monitor and supervise the implementation of the programme. Officers of State/UT Government are required to inspect on an average 25% of the schools every quarter and all schools at least once every year. In addition,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
States and Union Territories are required to develop a dedicated mechanism for Public Grievance Redressal, which should be widely publicized and made easily accessible.

Board for madaras

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not pursuing formation of Board for Muslim madarasas;

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

(c) what Government thinks in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIJATI 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.

150th Anniversary of Shri Rabindranath Tagore

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

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO proposes to celebrate 150th anniversary of Shri Rabindranath Tagore at an international scale next year;

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

(c) the contribution Government proposes to make for this event?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIJATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At the initiative of UNESCO, and with the encouragement of UNESCO Member States, the UNESCO General Conference has decided that the 150th anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore will be commemorated at UNESCO and within India. In consultation with Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development and UNESCO an appropriate event will be held at UNESCO to commemorate this great event which had also been commemorated earlier in 1961.

Task force for proposed NCHER and evolving national testing scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently set up a task force for the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) and to evolve a national testing scheme for college admissions; and
(b) if so, by when the recommendations of this task force are likely to come out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Government has constituted a Task Force to aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of the proposed National Commission on Higher Education and Research (NCHER) and to evolve a National Testing Scheme. Its report is awaited.

Conducting of CAT

3337. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYANA PANY:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that owing to large scale brain drain the country is devoid of qualitative talent;

(b) whether it is a fact that the organizers of CAT examination, which is conducted for the entrance in management education in the country, have failed in organizing it successfully;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the details thereof;

(e) whether any arrangement has been made to train rural candidates before they appear in this online exam; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In the present scenario of globalization and liberalization, the movement of engineers, technocrats and other talented persons across the national boundaries for study and employment is not only inevitable but in many cases could give positive benefits to the country.

(b) to (d) There were a few technical glitches in the conduct of CAT 2009. However, most of the candidates who got affected by the disruptions have been rescheduled and all candidates are being given the opportunity to take the test.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Professors and lecturers for new IITs

3338. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has focused on the difficulty in finding top level professors and lecturers in the newly created IITs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is the nodal agency for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The IITs are autonomous institutions and recruitment of faculty is done by them as per their respective Statutes / Memoranda and not by the Government. Each new IIT has been sanctioned 30 faculty posts every year for the first three years of its existence. The mentoring IITs are also sending their faculty to the new institutes. Meanwhile, various initiatives are being taken by the new IITs to attract quality faculty which include recruitment from abroad, providing good residential accommodations, medical facilities, initial research grants, financial support for participation in national / inter-national conferences, suitable schemes for sharing of consultancy charges, etc.

Proposals for opening new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Himachal Pradesh

3339. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
(c) the time by when these Kendriya Vidyalayas are likely to be functional;
(d) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for opening up of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in District Kangra and District Bilaspur; and
(e) if so, the action Government has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Planning Commission have supported in principle a proposal for opening of 200 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) during the 11th Plan at various locations including metro cities, areas having sufficient concentration of defence or para-military forces and areas with high concentration of Central Government personnel. The exact locations of the Vidyalayas are decided based on the local demand and the viability of the individual proposals.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from State Government of Himachal Pradesh for opening of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya at Gumarwin of District Bilaspur. There are some deficiencies in the proposal, with reference to the prescribed norms for new Kendriya Vidyalayas and these have been communicated to the State Government.

Interest subsidy on educational loans

3340. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated a scheme for providing interest subsidy to non-creamy layer students on educational loans;

(b) if so, how much subsidy on interest is being provided and how many non-creamy layer students have been benefited by the scheme this year;

(c) whether any special provision has been made for the students of North-Eastern and hilly States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme has been approved by Government to provide interest subsidy for the period of moratorium on the educational loans taken by students from economically weaker sections with parental income upper limit of Rs.4.5 lakh per annum, from scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks’ Association, for pursuing post-higher secondary recognised professional/technical courses in India. The scheme is available on the Ministry’s website (www.education, nic.in).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment and selection process in Sanskrit Vidyapeeth

3341. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointments in the teaching/non-teaching cadre in Sanskrit Vidyapeeth/Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas are made by the Management Committees of the concerned Vidyapeeth/Mahavidyalayas;

(b) if so, whether Government has received complaints regarding unfair selection process and rampant corruption in appointment; and

(c) whether Government is considering to change the appointment policy and entrust this job to Staff Selection Commission to ensure fair selection in Vidyapeeth/Mahavidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 3 Sanskrit Institutes (Deemed Universities) namely Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The appointments for various teaching/non-teaching posts in these Institutes are made as per Recruitment Rules with the approval of relevant Committees as per Memorandum of Association (MOA) of respective institutions. However, appointments in Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas (ASM) and Shodha Sansthans (SS), which are financially aided by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, are made by the Management Committees of the concerned ASMs/SSs.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.
Policy of Government regarding MSMEs

3342. DR. K. MALAIASY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in terms of thrust and priority among micro, small and medium enterprises segment;

(b) the all out efforts given in terms of allocations of funds and initiatives taken;

(c) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries are on the decline and in distress despite the paramount purpose they are serving; and

(d) the special efforts employed to assist, promote and propagate this segment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government through the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has been implementing a number of schemes with the objective of having a vibrant MSME sector through the promotion of growth and development of micro, small and medium enterprises including khadi, village and coir industries in cooperation with concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments and other stakeholders by providing support to existing enterprises and encouraging creation of new enterprises.

The major thrust among the MSME segments include providing assistance in the form of margin money subsidy to first generation entrepreneurs to set up new micro enterprises through bank credit under Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), facilitating, adequate availability of bank credit through Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme, promotion of MSMEs through cluster based approach and adequate skill development. Details of funds allocation and release by the Ministry during 2008-09 and funds allocated for 2009-10 under some specific and relevant schemes are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The estimated production, sale and employment of khadi and village industries during last three years are given below, which shows an increasing trend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Production (Value: Rs. crore)</th>
<th>Sales (Value: Rs. crore)</th>
<th>Employment (lakh persons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
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<td>17562.40</td>
<td>88.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>16677.71</td>
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<td>99.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>17338.87</td>
<td>22748.20</td>
<td>103.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to promote khadi, the Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has introduced three new schemes in the recent past namely, 'Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans' for providing assistance for construction of worksheds for better work environment and the 'Scheme for enhancing productivity & competitiveness of Khadi Industries and Artisans' to assist 200 khadi institutions to make khadi industry competitive with more market driven and profitable
production by replacement of obsolete and old machinery and equipment and ‘Strengthening of Infrastructure of existing Weak Khadi Institutions and Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure’ which envisages renovation of selected 30 khadi sales outlets and providing assistance for strengthening of infrastructure of existing 100 weak selected khadi institutions.

In addition, the Government through KVIC implements Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme for providing bank loans to khadi and polyvastra units at subsidized rates of interest, Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) to provide insurance to khadi artisans and weavers, Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of clusters in khadi, village industries and coir sectors, Product Development, Design Intervention & Packaging (PRODIP) for improved design and packaging of khadi garments, Research & Development and other support services, viz., marketing, export promotion, exhibitions at district, State, zonal & national level, design facility, brand building, etc.

Details of funds actual released against allocation in RE 2008-09 and allocation in BE 2009-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Promotional Services Institutions and Programmes</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>MSME Clusters Development Programmes and MSME Growth Poles</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Credit Support Programme</td>
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<td>MDA Programme</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Upgradation of Data Base</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
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<td>1343.69</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eleventh Plan target of PMRY

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(a) the number of people to whom Government has set target to provide employment during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana;

(b) the details of number of people who have benefited so far under this scheme, year-wise;

(c) whether the target is likely to be achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was in operation during 2007-2008 only of Eleventh Five Year Plan period. 2.80 lakh beneficiaries have been assisted against the target of 2.75 lakh during 2007-2008 under this scheme. A new more attractive Credit Linked subsidy programme called Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has been launched with effect from August, 2008 by merging the two schemes namely PMRY and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) that were in operation till 31.03.2008 for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises.

Credit rating to MSMEs

3344. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister’s office has constituted a task force to look into the problems faced by MSMEs;

(b) if so, whether the said task force has given any recommendations in respect of more MSMEs getting credit rating in a time bound programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) A Task Force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister to address the issues of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, including those relating to credit. The Task Force has held a series of meetings to deliberate on the issues/problems of the sector with all the stakeholders and is likely to submit its Report shortly.

Sale of traditional items by Khadi Bhavans

3345. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:
(a) whether only traditional items are procured and sold by Khadi Bhavans run by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, or modifications in designs, raw material, expertise, etc. are done from time to time;

(b) the percentage of utilization of machines during the production process by producing units dedicated to KVIC; and

(c) the details of measures adopted by KVIC for enhancement of productivity and competitiveness of khadi industry, artisans, weavers, etc.?

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) through its Departmental Bhawans/sales outlets. These outlets serve as important links between the rural artisans producing a variety of products and the consumers including those living in urban areas in a regular way by making available the exclusive KVI items (including traditional items) for all age groups of customers under one roof.

To improve quality and modify designs in KVI products, KVIC has taken a number of steps such as: creation of brands namely 'Khadi', 'Sarvodaya' and 'Desi Aahar' for products, making available quality raw materials for khadi production through its Central Sliver Plants, implementation of the Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) scheme for improved design and packaging of products, development of standard codes in Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI) for testing of khadi, tie-up arrangements with the National Institute of Design (MID), Ahmedabad, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for developing better designs, fashions, etc. KVIC has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Textiles Committee (TC) to make available their laboratory infrastructure for checking quality of Khadi products.

(b) Khadi activities are mainly undertaken by the spinners and weavers who usually work from their dwelling units using simple tools and technology without power and within the time available with them along with other livelihood/household activities. However, to provide good quality of the yarn sliver/rovings to the khadi institutions, appropriate machines are used in the sliver plants of KVIC. Equipments/machineries are also utilised by khadi institutions as common utility facilities to enhance production capacity. As far as VI sector is concerned, goods are produced with or without use of electricity by the units set up under erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the present Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

(c) In order to promote khadi, the Union Government through KVIC has introduced three new schemes recently namely, 'Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans' for providing assistance for construction of worksheds for better work environment and the 'Scheme for enhancing productivity
& competitiveness of Khadi Industries and Artisans’ to assist 200 khadi institutions to make khadi industry competitive with more market driven and profitable production by replacement of obsolete and old machinery and equipment and 'Strengthening of Infrastructure of existing Weak Khadi Institutions and Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure' which envisages renovation of selected 30 khadi sales outlets and providing assistance for strengthening of infrastructure of existing 100 weak selected khadi institutions.

In addition, the Government through KVIC implements Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme for providing bank loans to khadi and polyvastra units at subsidized rates of interest, Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) to provide insurance to khadi artisans and weavers, Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of clusters in khadi, village industries and coir sectors, Research & Development and other support services, viz., marketing, export promotion, exhibitions at district, State, zonal & national level, design facility, brand building, etc.

Promotion of MSMEs by public sector undertakings

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been given to public sector undertakings to promote small industries and items are also prescribed;

(b) whether any systematic network or offices have been started in different States to receive these orders; and

(c) the amount of orders received from large public sector undertakings of Chhattisgarh, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) To promote Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), the Government guidelines provides for extending various facilities / benefits like issue of tender sets free of cost, exemption from payment of earnest money, etc., by the Government agencies (including public sector undertakings) to MSEs registered with National Small Industries Corporation under its Single Point Registration Scheme. In addition, 358 items are reserved for exclusive purchase from MSEs by the Government agencies. Since orders are placed directly by public sector undertakings for procurement from MSEs, no network /offices exist for receiving these orders. Further, the amount of orders received, State-wise, by the MSEs from public sector undertakings is not maintained centrally.

Credit rating agencies

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government is aware that there are more than 16000 applications pending with credit rating agencies like CRISIL, CARE, FITCH and Dun and Bradstreet till September, 2009; and

(b) if so, the steps, Government is taking to clear this waitlist urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No Sir, under “Performance and Credit Rating Scheme” of the Ministry, there were only 1374 applications pending with different rating agencies, as on 30th September, 2009.

(b) The rating agencies are required to complete the exercise of evaluation and award of rating within one month from the date of receipt of all information from the applicant micro & small enterprises.

Further, the Government subsidy (75% of the rating fee, subject to maximum of Rs. 40,000/-) under the scheme is released to the Rating agency only after award of rating and submission of the rating report.

Setting up of a task force to promote MSMEs

3348. 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 set up a high level task force for micro, small and medium enterprises as they are demanding adequate financing and other incentives to tide over economic slowdown;

(b) whether to imbattle financial concerns, MSMEs representatives have met PM divulging details;

(c) if so, whether after meeting, PM has announced for setting up a task force to look into the problems and demands of the sector;

(d) if so, by when task force would give its report; and

(e) by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Task Force has held a series of meetings to deliberate on the issues/problems of the MSME sector with all the stakeholders and is likely to submit its Report shortly.

Collaboration of KVIC with big industrial houses

3349. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

156
(a) whether KVIC proposes to collaborate with the big industrial houses active in the organized retail market to strengthen the rural area economically and financially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the industrial houses selected so far for the purpose; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of these industrial houses?


(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Raising of price of sliver cotton by KVIC

3350. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the problems facing the Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) the reasons why Khadi and Village Industries Commission has raised the price of cotton sliver supplied to the khadi production centres from their sliver plants; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to allow subsidy for the cotton used by Khadi sector and 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) Some of the challenges in the Khadi and village industries are ensuring availability of quality raw materials, adequate credit and professional expertise in marketing. There are six Central Sliver Plants managed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the administrative control of this Ministry. KVIC has constituted an Advisory Committee for each Central Sliver Plant (CSP) for reviewing various issues like requirement of working capital, quality of sliver/roving, pricing of sliver/roving, sales promotion, etc. The main reason for increase in price of cotton slivers from these CSPs is the escalation in prices of raw material. The costing of sliver/roving is worked out on 'no profit no loss' basis after taking into account the cost of raw material, processing costs, consumption of power, salary and wages of the staff and workers etc. As the price of the sliver/roving is calculated on 'no profit no loss' basis at present, there is no plan for reducing the price of cotton sliver.

(c) No, Sir.

Small and medium enterprises in Tamil Nadu

3351. S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of micro, small and medium enterprises in the State of Tamil Nadu;
whether Government has taken any steps for development of MSMEs in the State during the last three years; and

if so, the details and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As per the Quick Results of Fourth All India Census of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the reference year of 2006-07, the number of micro, small and medium enterprises both registered and unregistered existing in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.03.2007 (latest available) was estimated to be 25,95,127.

(b) and (c) To facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs, in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu, the Government 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 SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to SME 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, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, which has since come into force from 2nd October, 2006. The Government is also implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/ skill development, etc., for assisting the MSME sector in meeting the challenges. Some of the major schemes/programmes being implemented are Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

The number of enterprises in the sector and employment generated has increased from 787965 and 2018137 in 2001-02 to 2595127 and 6280872 in 2006-07 (latest available) respectively in the State of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, gross output in registered units has gone up from Rs.13,943 crore in 2001-02 to Rs.70546 crore in 2006-07.

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Development of Surat-Hazira rail line

3352. SHRI BHARAT SINGH PRABHATSINGH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

whether the review committee set up by Government of Gujarat has submitted its report for the development work of Surat-Hazira railway line;

if so, the outcome thereof; and

by when the work would be started on this line by the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.?
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No.
Sir.
(b) and (c) Do not arise.

South-Asian train service

3353. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Railway Ministry of Pakistan has technically approved an Indian proposal to launch South-Asian train service linking Bangladesh, India and Pakistan;
(b) if so, whether Pakistan Government has conveyed their approval for further evaluation;
(c) if so, whether all the Governments have given their approval;
(d) if so, whether her Ministry’s proposal of Dhaka- Delhi- Lahore train is viable in all respects;
(e) whether services could be extended to Karachi or Islamabad if need arises; and
(f) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (f)
At the third meeting of SAARC Inter-Governmental Group on Transport held on 24th July 2009 at Colombo, India circulated a Concept Paper on running of a demonstration container train from Bangladesh to Pakistan via India and Nepal. The possible corridor for running the demonstration train mentioned in the Paper was Chittagong Port/Dhaka (Bangladesh)-Katihar (India)- Birgunj (Nepal)- Lahore (Pakistan). The meeting noted the proposal and the Member States were to consider this proposal and offer their comments within three months.

This position was approved in the second meeting of SAARC Transport Ministers held on the next day i.e. 25th July 2009. All the Member States, including Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to evaluate the Concept Paper circulated by India. However, comments from the Member States have not been received. Any further decision on the proposal including extension to other points can be taken only after the Concept Paper is first discussed and agreed among the member countries.

Plan for mobilization of financial resources

3354. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has decided to put in use the surplus railway land to raise additional financial resources;
(b) if so, whether there is any policy firmed up to that end;
(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, without a policy how can her Ministry goes for such utilization;
(d) whether Railway Board consulted the concerned State Governments in that respect;
(e) whether State Governments came up with their requirements;
(f) whether Railways is factoring in the developmental needs of the concerned State Governments while doing so; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (g)
Yes, Sir. The Railways Act, 1989 was amended with a view to set in place a mechanism to undertake commercial development of that vacant railway land and air-space which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. Consequently, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was set up through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005. 133 sites measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA on various Zonal Railways for commercial development.

In addition, Railways plan to utilize its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail Coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage & Perishable Cargo Centres, and others through innovative financing models in order to earn more revenue for the railways, create additional railway infrastructure and also generate employment opportunities. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Survey of new rail line from Jogighopa to Guwahati

3355. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) the present status of survey of new railway line between Jogighopa and Guwahati via Barpeta, Hajoia and Sualohir;
(b) whether survey of the above new line would be completed in the current financial year; and
(c) if so, the amount fixed for the said survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No survey has been sanctioned for construction of a new railway line between Jogighopa and Guwahati via Barpeta, Hajoia and Sualohir.
(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Filling up of vacant group 'C' and 'D' posts

†3356. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that group 'C' and 'D' posts are lying vacant due to retirement of employees of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the steps being taken by Government to fill up these posts; and
(d) whether Government is contemplating to constitute separate Railway Recruitment Board by giving special priority to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As on 31.10.09, 54 Group ‘C’ and 57 Group ‘D’ posts are lying vacant in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.
(c) Filling of vacant posts is a continuous process and the policy of the railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.
(d) A new Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) has been set up at Siliguri to cater to the needs of Katihar and Alipurduar Divisions of Northeast Frontier Railway. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway forms part of Katihar Division.

Proposal to make Ajmer world class railway station
†3357. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government propose to make Ajmer Railway station a world class station in the Railway Budget 2009-10;
(b) if so, the target set for starting and completing the same; and
(c) the details regarding world standard norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ajmer Railway Station has been identified for development into World Class Station through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Preliminary activities have been taken up. No target date for completion has been fixed.
(c) It is planned to provide state-of-the-art station building with good architecture and having segregation of arrival/departure of passengers, modern amenities like food plazas, currency exchange counter, tourist info booth, retail outlets, internet cafe, ATM facilities, Hotels, car rentals, prepaid taxi booths wherever feasible, well illuminated circulating area, etc.

Unmanned railway level crossings
†3358. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:
(a) out of 16976 unmanned and 17244 manned railway crossings in the country, the total number of railway crossings that are proposed to be made man operated, zone-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(b) the details of railway crossings that are proposed to be upgraded under gauge conversion and doubling programme, zone-wise;

(c) the details of railway crossings that are proposed to be replaced with ROB/RUB, zone-wise; and

(d) whether Government would consider the proposal of building railway crossings on BOT basis after consultation with the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Details are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Railway</th>
<th>(a) No of Unmanned level crossing sanctioned for manning</th>
<th>(b) No. of level crossings sanctioned for upgradation during gauge conversion and doubling</th>
<th>(c) No. of Level crossings sanctioned to be replaced with ROB/RUB</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>05</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>514</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>1316</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(d) There is no policy to construct new level crossing gates on BOT basis. However, there already exists a policy of construction of ROB/RUB on BOT basis.

Irregularities in election of railway staff unions

3359. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government has received complaints about the irregularities that took place during the elections for railways employees unions;

(b) if so, the number and name of places thereof;

(c) the number of complaints resolved along with the number of guilty persons and action taken against them;

(d) whether the election for any union has been cancelled, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not disposing of the complaints and by when these complaints would be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e)

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Appointment of handicapped persons in railways

3360. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped persons appointed by Railways in the last five years;

(b) whether her Ministry has reserved posts for handicaps; and

(c) the number of vacant reserved posts and the action being taken to fill them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c)

As per the available information, a total of 371 handicapped persons have been recruited in Group 'C' and 540 in Group 'D' on the Railways from the year 2004 to 2008 (upto 31.10.2008). As regards Group 'A', 6 handicapped persons have been recruited since the year 2006. Reservation for persons with disabilities is being made as per the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. For filling up of the backlog vacancies of 2377 in Group 'C' and 1811 in Group 'D' (as on 31.10.2008) on the Railways, a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched. As regards Group 'A' services, indent for 10 posts has been placed with Union Public Service Commission for filling up the vacancies in Group 'A' services on the basis of Civil Services Examination 2009 and 2010.

Employment to empanelled candidates

3361. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
whether it is a fact that Railways has cancelled a panel of 570 candidates, who were empanelled by General Manager, Southern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the empanelled candidates were trained apprentices of Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c)
Southern Railway issued notification on 1.7.2009 calling for applications from amongst Course Completed Act Apprentices, for their engagement as substitutes in Group ‘D’ posts. Southern Railway has published the result on 10.11.09 and 530 candidates have been advised to join as substitutes in Group ‘D’.

Hijack of Delhi-Bhubneshwar Rajdhani train

3362. DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of train hijacking of Delhi-Bhubneshwar Rajdhani train, her Ministry’s security directorate has underlined the need for further strengthening its coordination mechanism with States to avert such incidents;

(b) if so, whether Railways has discussed the matter with the State Governments on providing security measures for protection of passengers particularly in the sensitive areas; and

(c) if so, the outcome of discussion held and further steps Government proposes to take to ensure passengers’ safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c)
Since maintenance of Law and Order is the sole responsibility of State Police, Railway has to depend upon them to prevent such incidents of train hijacking etc. Railway Protection Force (RPF) maintains close co-ordination with the State Police and the Government Railway Police (GRP).

A meeting in this connection was held between Senior officials of West Bengal Government and senior Railway officials on 29.10.2009. State authorities were requested to take all necessary steps for providing security to railway passengers in vulnerable and sensitive areas. It has been further requested for deployment of additional forces for area domination on either side of railway track, bridges & tunnels, Railway stations to tackle such incidents. In other States, periodical co-ordination meetings are also held by the Railways from time to time and State Police authorities are emphasized to take necessary action. Railway is providing all necessary assistance to the State Governments to provide security to Railways Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also held a meeting recently at New Delhi to discuss the measures to be taken to prevent militant attacks which was attended by Senior officials of Railway Board & RPF.
Persons allowed to travel free of cost

3363. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names of persons who have been allowed to travel in AC-1 free of charges, during last six months, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Senior railway officials in service/after retirement are permitted to travel in AC-1st class free of charge. Free travel in AC-1st class is also permitted to lifetime achievers in different fields, such as Sports, Art and Culture, Music, etc.

The list is not maintained State-wise and would be quite voluminous.

LTC entitlement to railway employees

3364. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LTC entitlement to railway employees, grade-pay-wise;

(b) whether LTC entitlement in Railways is not in conformity with the rest of Government of India guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for difference in LTC facilities for railway employees; and

(d) the steps Government will take to remove such differences and facilitate the railway employees to avail LTC facilities at par with other Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The railway employees are governed by Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 which entitle them to rail travel facilities on Privilege Passes/Privilege Ticket Orders. LTC is not applicable to railway employees. No change is under consideration.

Loss to Railways in passenger services

3365. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses per year sustained by Railways in their passenger services;

(b) the class of service and the geographical sectors which account for most of these losses; and

(c) the additional freight/tonne imposed on goods traffic due to these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During 2008-09, Railways incurred a loss of Rs.13,957.79 crore (provisional) on passenger and other coaching services.
(b) Second Class and Sleeper Class passenger services account for most of the losses. Geographical sector-wise data is not maintained by the Railways.

(c) No additional freight per tonne has been imposed on goods traffic on account of losses on passenger services.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail link

3366. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work related to gauge conversion between Bhiladi-Samdhari has been completed in all respect in this sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the gauge conversion would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdhari is in progress. The main line has been linked and Engine trial of complete section has been done on 11.11.2009.

The finishing works are in progress. The gauge conversion is likely to be completed by the end of January, 2010.

Trains between Kasganj-Mathura section

3367. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains running on Kasganj-Mathura section before and after conversion of gauge;

(b) whether train services have deteriorated after gauge conversion;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to augment train services on that section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Prior to Gauge conversion of Mathura-Kasganj section, 7 pairs of train services (3 pairs of mail/Express services and 4 pairs of passenger trains) were operating on the Meter Gauge section. At present i.e. after gauge conversion, 5 pairs of special train services (2 pairs of mail/Express services and 3 pairs of passenger trains) are operating on the said Broad gauge section. To cater to the needs of the section, one pair of passenger train has been announced in the Railway Budget, 2009-10, which is in addition to the one pair of Express train service viz. 5107/5108 Mathura-Chhapra Express announced in Railway Budget, 2008-2009.
Vacancies in Railways

3368. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies remain unfilled in the Railways, as on 1 December, 2009; and
(b) out of these vacancies, how many are in the safety related posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and
(b) The number of vacancies on the Zonal Railways as on 31.03.09 is 169813 of these, 89024
vacancies relate to safety category posts.

Pending railway projects of Pune division

3369. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and estimated cost and present state of the pending railway projects in
respect of Pune division; and
(b) by when each project is scheduled to be completed and in case of delay, the reasons
therefor and the steps being taken to expedite the completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and
(b) Division-wise information of the projects is not maintained. However, following railway projects in
Pune area are in progress:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Anticipated cost (Rs.in Crore)</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Baramati-Lonand (54 kms) New Line</td>
<td>138.48</td>
<td>On Lonand-Phalton (27 km), all major bridges completed and earthwork, minor bridges etc. taken up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Daund-Gulbarga (225 kms) Doubling with Pune-Guntakal electrification (641 km)</td>
<td>1438</td>
<td>Final Location Survey completed. Estimate and plan preparation taken up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vairum (261 kms) New Line</td>
<td>462.67</td>
<td>Earthwork, bridges have been taken up in Ahmednagar-Parli-Vairum-Narayandoh (15 km) section. Land acquisition has also been taken up in balance portion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects under New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport Projects. The targets for projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress achieved and many projects get completed in phases. Daund-Gulbarga has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for speedy execution.
Matching funds form States

3370. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many projects have been held up due to non-receipt of matching funds from States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in respect of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The funds to various cost sharing projects agreed with State Governments are being provided by the State Governments from time to time. The delay in release of funds affects the progress of project. No such ongoing project is held up on this account in Tamil Nadu.

Vacancies under North-East Frontier Railway

3371. SHRI BIREN德拉 PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies under North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) jurisdiction as on lst November, 2009, category-wise;

(b) whether Government is going to fill up these vacant posts of NF Railway in near future;

(c) if so, the details of programme contemplated in this regard; and

(d) whether official language of the State would be considered as medium of test/interview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of vacancies on Northeast Frontier Railway as on 31.03.09, is 82 for Group (A+B) and 8875 for Group (C+D).

(b) and (c) Filling of vacant posts is a continuous process and the policy of the railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

(d) As per revised instructions, the question papers for recruitment examination would be set in Hindi, Urdu, English and the local language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India falling within the jurisdiction of that Railway Recruitment Board (RRB). As regards interviews, for whichever posts it is prescribed, the medium is Hindi and English only.

Modernization of railway stations

3372. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans of her Ministry to modernize Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Jalandhar railway stations before Commonwealth Games;
(b) whether Government proposes to provide additional facilities at these stations; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to introduce fast trains during Commonwealth Games and if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Amritsar and Jallandhar City Railway Stations are "A-1" category stations and Ludhiana, Jallandhar Cantt and Chandigarh Railway Stations are "A" category stations. Minimum essential passenger amenities as per norms have already been provided at these stations. Work of modernization of Amritsar, Jallandhar City and Ludhiana stations has been completed recently, and work of modernization of Jallandhar Cantt and Chandigarh is planned for completion by March 2010.

Amritsar and Chandigarh stations have also been identified for development as World Class station.

(c) There is no proposal at present to introduce fast trains during the Commonwealth Games. However, Railways will make all efforts to clear the extra rush of passenger traffic during the Commonwealth Games keeping in view the operational feasibility, commercial justification and availability of resources.

Inconvenient additional berth in coaches

3373. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains in which inconvenient additional berth on the side in sleeper/III AC has been introduced; and

(b) by when these are proposed to be discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The policy of provision of additional (side middle) berths in Sleeper Class and AC 3 Tier coaches was reviewed by the Ministry of Railways. All such berths provided in the modified coaches have been removed.

Rules relating to demurrage charges

3374. SHRI RANJITSINH VUJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules relating to demurrage charges fixed for Central Railways in Sholapur division;

(b) whether the charges are different in case of goods like fertilizers, wheat, grains or other agricultural products in relation to consumption of rakes per day; and

(c) if not, whether Railways is planning to devise a flexible policy with respect to farmers or agricultural products for demurrage charges fixed by Railways in Central Railway division at Sholapur?
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Demurrage Charge is levied at prescribed rate for the detention of Railway’s wagon(s) beyond permissible free time for loading/unloading of wagon(s). The detailed guidelines are contained in Rates Circular No.74 of 2005, as amended from time to time. These guidelines are uniformly applicable over all Indian Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

**Status of new railway track between Dindigul to Sabarimala**

3375. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of proposal to lay new railway track between Dindigul to Sabarimala in Kerala which is a pilgrimage center via commercial town like Batlagundu, Theni, Cambam, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will initiate early steps to implement the 1st phase of the proposal within a time-frame; and

(d) the details of pending projects in Tamil Nadu and reasons for the delay of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) A survey for Dindigul-Sabarimala new line via Vattalkundu, Theni & Kambam was conducted during 1997-98. Survey report has been examined and it was decided not to take up this project.

(d) Details of pending projects in Tamil Nadu and reasons for delay of such projects are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Ongoing Project</th>
<th>Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 Km)</td>
<td>State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on 04 major bridges has been taken up wherever land is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 Km)</td>
<td>State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on major bridge across Palar river taken up. Tenders for earthwork, minor bridges and road bridges awarded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Villupuram-Katpadi (161 Km)  
   Katpadi-Vellore (10 Km) section completed. Vellore-Villupuram (151 Km) is targeted for 2009-10 which is nearing completion.

2. Manamadurai-Virudhunagar (66.5 Km)  
   Earthwork, bridgeworks, etc. taken up.

3. Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Podanur-Coimbatore (224.88 Km)  
   Work on Podanur-Coimbatore (6 Km) section has been completed and work on Pollachi-Palghat (58 Km) & Dindigul-Pollachi (141 Km) sections have also been taken up.

4. Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi & Tiruturaiyampalli-Agastiyampalli (224 Km)  
   Earthwork, bridges, in Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur section have been taken up. Final Location survey for Tiruvarur-Karaikudi section (149 Km) has been taken up.

5. Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90.41 Km)  
   Tenders for some bridges and Final Location Survey have been processed.

6. Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (200 Km) with extension of Nagapattinam-Velankanni-Tiruturaiyampalli via Tirukkuvalai (43 Km)  
   Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Tiruvarur-Nagore section has already been commissioned. Nagapattinam-Velankanni new line is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Work on Nagore-Karaikal and Nagapattinam-Tiruturaiyampalli new line sections have also been taken up.
7. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 Km) and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 Km) sections have been commissioned. Work on Quilon-Punalur (45 Km) section is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Work on balance portion also taken up.

8. Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 Km) Completed. Section is awaiting inspection of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Doubling

1. Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (4.1 Km) The work involves exchange of railway land at Royapuram with Chennai Port Trust and the same has been processed.

2. Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22.1 Km) The work involves exchange of railway land at Royapuram with Chennai Port Trust and the same has been processed.

3. Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 Km) Earthwork, bridge works and ballast collection have been taken up.

4. Villupuram-Dindigul with electrification (273 Km) This work has been transferred to RVNL for execution. Final location survey has been taken up.

5. Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (26.83 Km) This work has been transferred to RVNL for execution. Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers have been processed.

6. Attipattu-Korukkupettai 3rd line (18 Km) Korukkupet-Ennore (12 Km) section has already been commissioned. Work on Ennore-Attipattu (6Km) has also been taken up and this work is likely to be completed during 2009-10.

Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects. Due to limited availability of resources, the projects take long time for completion. The targets for projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress achieved and many of the projects get completed in phases.

Setting up of factories for manufacturing of high capacity freight bogies

3376. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Railways has floated a global tender for setting up new factories at Majerhat and Dalmianagar for manufacturing of high capacity freight bogies;

(b) if so, the number of freight bogies envisaged to be manufactured from those units;

(c) the total investment and land required for the proposed factories;

(d) whether vacant land of M/s Buru Standard can be utilized for (a) above; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) At this stage there is no such proposal.

(e) Do not arise.

Maintenance of Kalindi Express

3377. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of Kalindi Express is not up to the mark;

(b) whether Government is aware that there are large scale malpractices and irregularities by the railway staff and GRP in Kalindi Express and that they sell seats and berths to general ticket holders by ignoring the RAC and wait listed passengers;

(c) whether Government would conduct surprise raids so as to find out the truth; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The maintenance of Kalindi Express is carried out in accordance with extant norms and guidelines for maintenance of coaches as for other Mail/Express trains and no complaints on this matter have been received in the recent past.

(b) to (d) No specific complaints have been received regarding large scale malpractices and irregularities by railway staff and GRP in Kalindi Express in allotting seats/berths. However, some cases of staff indulging in irregularities with regard to allotment of seats/berths on trains do come to notice. Regular drives/checks are conducted and staff found indulging in such malpractices is taken up severely under relevant rules.

Ongoing works and projects in different zones

3378. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) the details of the ongoing works and projects in different zones of Railways as at present; and

(b) the plans for the remaining period of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Zone-wise details of ongoing railway projects is available in Railway Budget documents 2009-10.

(b) 250 km of new lines, 1300 km of gauge conversion and 700 km of doubling is targeted for completion during the current financial year.

Railway recruitment examination

3379. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to hold railway recruitment examination on a single day in the entire country to curb the malpractices in the railway recruitment;

(b) if so, the details of plan to conduct such examination on the same day throughout the country; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent existing corruption in railway recruitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) In order to make the recruitment process more transparent and fair, it has been decided to hold the examination for a particular category on the same date simultaneously by all the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs). A nodal RRB has been nominated for each category. The nodal Railway Recruitment Board will issue Centralized Employment Notice on behalf of all concerned RRBs alongwith other details. Individual RRB will also issue indicative Employment Notice(s). The candidates can submit the application to any RRB but will be able to appear in the examination only at one place.

(c) A well laid down system/procedure is already in existence for conducting recruitment to various posts in Indian Railways. Whenever any case of irregularity or complaint is received, the matter is duly investigated and based on the investigation, deterrent/preventive action is taken.

Expansion of computerized rail network

†3380. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has expanded the network of its computerized rail ticket counters in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details of such counters, State-wise and region-wise;

(c) whether certain railway stations are yet to be computerized in the country; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
(d) if so, the details thereof and the target set for their computerization in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Data is maintained railway-wise (and not State-wise). Similarly, facility is maintained station-wise and not counter-wise. The detailed number of stations is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No State-wise data is maintained. Northern Railway, North Central Railway & North Eastern Railway cover State of Uttar Pradesh along with other States. Number of stations planned for computerization on Northern Railway, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Details of computerized rail ticketing stations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Railway</th>
<th>Number of Computerized Rail Ticketing stations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Eastern Railway</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>East Central Railway</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>East Coast Railway</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Central Railway</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Northern Railway</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>North Western Railway</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>North Eastern Railway</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>North Central Railway</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>North East Frontier Railway</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Southern Railway</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>South Western Railway</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>South Eastern Railway</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>South East Central Railway</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>South Central Railway</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>West Central Railway</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Western Railway</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong> 5022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statement-II

Details of stations planned for computerized rail ticketing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Railway</th>
<th>Number of stations which are planned for computerized rail ticketing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Northern Railway</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>North Eastern Railway</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>North Central Railway</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>627</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delivery of Coal

3381. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is not permitting delivery of coal purchased by auction through short destination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railways is contemplating to permit the sender to change the name of consignee and also destination;

(d) if so, the time by when the system is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coal movement from Coal India sources is moved after submission of programmes for movement by Coal India Ltd. Since the loading is on the basis of seniority of programmes submitted by Coal India Ltd., short of destination delivery, diversions and rebooking of coal is not permitted for coal procured through auction.

However, consignor of coal can change the destination. This change of destination is permitted before the actual loading of coal take place.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Constitution of committee for internal security of Railways in Mumbai

†3382. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry had constituted a seven member committee for the internal security of railway places in Mumbai and whether the committee had submitted a 94 page report in October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of that report; and

(c) whether her Ministry has accepted the report, if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
A seven member committee was constituted to formulate an Integrated Security System to strengthen security surveillance over sensitive/vulnerable stations of the country including the railway stations of Mumbai. Report of the Committee has been accepted by the Ministry.

This system consists of the following four broad areas:

(i) Internet Protocol based CCTV System with intelligent video analytics.
(ii) Access control.
(iii) Personal and baggage screening system.
(iv) Explosive detection and disposal system.

Areas to be covered under the Integrated Security System will be:

- Entry/Exit points (i.e., point from where passengers enter/exit ticketing area)
- Circulating area (including parking area etc.)
- Concourse
- All platforms (including waiting room/cloak room)
- Parcel area
- Passenger Reservation System (PRS)
- Foot Over Bridge (FOB)
- Yard Pit Shed, Washing Line, Station Limit (Home Signal to Home Signal).
- Vehicle entry point (to record vehicle number plate etc.) only.

Pending and on-going rail projects in Kerala

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of pending and on-going projects of railways pertaining to Kerala particularly status of proposed rail coach factory in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Details of the ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala with target date for completion, wherever fixed, are given as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Project</th>
<th>Status &amp; Target date for completion wherever fixed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 km)</td>
<td>Local people are objecting to the alignment being fixed for this new line. Final location survey held up due to public protest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Angamali-Sabarimala (116km)  
   State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Hon’ble High Court of Kerala has directed Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment & Forests to examine the representations received from local people.

### Gauge conversion

1. Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Podanur-Coimbatore (224.88 Km)  
   Work on Podanur-Coimbatore (6 Km) section has been completed and work on Pollachi-Palghat (58 Km) & Dindigul-Pollachi (141 Km) sections have been taken up.

2. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Sengottai (357 Km)  
   Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Sengottai (131 Km) and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 Km) sections completed. Work on Quilon-Punalur (45 Km) section is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

### Doubling

1. Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (26.5 km)  
   State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Bridge works taken up.

2. Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (26.54 km)  
   Final location survey completed. Requisition for 30 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.

3. Chengannur-Chingavanam (26.5 km)  
   Requisition for 18.88 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.

4. Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.3 km)  
   Work is slow due to frequent stoppages of earthmoving vehicles by local people and State Authorities. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

5. Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76 km)  
   Contracts for all works have been finalised. Work is affected due to frequent interruption by local people. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
6. **Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 km)**  
   Work is slow due to frequent stoppage of earth moving vehicles by locals and failure of contracts. New contracts have been processed. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

7. **Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 Km)**  
   Requisition for 16 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.

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**Rail Coach Factory Kerala**

During the Railway Budget 2008-09, setting up of Rail Coach Factory in Kerala was announced, on land to be provided free of cost by the Government of Kerala. Necessary action to obtain requisite clearances of the Government has also been initiated.

Project execution can commence only after full and unencumbered availability of land and requisite approvals are in place.

**Medical facilities to railways pensioners in NCR**

3384. **SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA**: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of railway pensioners settled in Delhi and NCR have very unsatisfactory medical facilities;

(b) whether there are any local dispensaries in the area, if so, the places where they are located with working hours and whether they are with or without emergency facilities;

(c) whether there is any proposal to empanel multi-specialty private hospitals in the NCR, so as to provide better and adequate facilities to railway employees and particularly, pensioners;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when arrangement is likely to be in place; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED):**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Besides Northern Railway Central Hospital, there are twenty two Health Units and one Hospital in NCR. Medical emergency facilities are available as indicated in Statement-I (See below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The list of private hospitals already empanelled for treatment of Railway beneficiaries is given in the Statement-II (See below).

The empanelment of the hospitals is an ongoing process. The proposals for empanelment of private hospitals are in various stages of progress for which no definite time frame can be given at this stage.

(e) Does not arise.
## Statement-I

**List of hospitals and health units in Delhi and NCR**

### Hospitals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Working hours</th>
<th>Emergency facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi.</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Northern Railway Divisional Hospital, Delhi.</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health Units:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Working hours</th>
<th>Emergency facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Delhi Kishanganj</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Arya Nagar, Ghaziabad.</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Basant Lane, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Tilak Bridge, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Shakurbasti, Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tughlakabad, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Delhi Shahdara.</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Anand Vihar, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Delhi Sarai Rohilla</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Faridabad</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Sonepat.</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Panipat</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Meerut</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Rohtak</td>
<td>09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Doctors are available on call in emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Baroda House, New Delhi</td>
<td>09:30 hrs. to 18:00 hrs.</td>
<td>Emergency facility is not available after working hours of GM Office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20. Bhoor Sen Colony, Ghaziabad 09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs  Emergency facility available at Arya Nagar
21. S & T Workshop, Ghaziabad 09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs  Emergency facility available at Arya Nagar
22. Gurgaon 09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs  (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday) Emergency facility is not available after working hours. Of Lock up Dispensary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of Private Hospital</th>
<th>Specialty for which recognized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Indraprastha Apollo hospital, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Delhi Heart and Lung Institute, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Max Heart and Vascular Institute, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Metro Hospital and Heart Institute, Noida</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Fortis Hospital, Noida</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Kailash Hospital and Research Centre, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cardiac Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Dharamshila Hospital and Research Centre, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cancer Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cancer Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Metro Anand Hospital and Cancer Care Hospital, New Delhi</td>
<td>Cancer Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Lions Kidney and Urology Research Institute, New Delhi</td>
<td>Hemodialysis of End Stage Renal Disease patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Pushpanjali Hospital, Gurgaon</td>
<td>Emergency treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon</td>
<td>Cardiology, Cardio-vascular surgery, joint replacement and dialysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>North Point Hospital, New Delhi</td>
<td>End Stage Renal Disease by ESWL/MIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Ganesh Hospital, Ghaziabad</td>
<td>Emergency treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disturbance in train services in Assam

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the schedule of trains between Assam (Lumding, Silchar) and Tripura (Agartala) has been getting greatly disturbed almost regularly during the last few months;

(b) whether the standard of passenger amenities in these metre-gauge trains has gone down and is not at all maintained;

(c) whether the shortage of staff is the main reason for all this mismanagement; and

(d) the steps Government has taken or is going to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The punctuality of trains is getting affected due to on-going gauge conversion works which are permitted only during day light hours.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The efforts are on for early completion of the works and also Tripura State Government has been requested to permit Railways to undertake round the clock train operations to improve the running.

Rail link between Chennai Egmore and Chennai Central railway stations

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

(a) whether the proposed project linking Central and Egmore stations at Chennai is likely to be taken up for implementation;

(b) if so, the details and the time schedule thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The BG (Broad Gauge) link project between Chennai Egmore and Chennai Central has been sanctioned. However, Government of Tamil Nadu has not conveyed its clearance for the B.G. connectivity between Chennai Central and Egmore as it would clash with the alignment under the two major projects viz. Chennai Metro Rail project and the project of National Highways Authority of India (NHA) to construct Elevated Expressway connecting Chennai port and Maduravoyal. Further, the proposed rail link cannot be constructed without the flyover on EVR Periyar High Road for which Tamil Nadu Government has not given clearance.

Gauge conversion work of Morbi-Vankaner in Gujarat

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) when was the gauge conversion work of Morbi-Wankaner in Gujarat completed;

(b) the number of metre gauge trains that were available for the people of Morbi prior to gauge conversion; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the passengers from Morbi town are facing great difficulties due to non-availability of direct broad gauge train services from Morbi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The gauge conversion of Morbi-Wankaner section was completed on 25.07.2001.

(b) and (c) Prior to gauge conversion of Morbi and Wankaner, four pairs of Rail Bus services were running on the section. At present, six pairs of Diesel Multiple Unit services are running in the section, which is considered sufficient for the present level of traffic.

Gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana

3388. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana in North Gujarat completed;

(b) the number of metre gauge trains running between Patan-Ahmedabad prior to gauge conversion; and

(c) the situation at present regarding trains services between Patan-Mehsana and Patan-Ahmedabad in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The gauge conversion of Patan-Mehsana section was completed and commissioned on 14.02.2009.

(b) Prior to gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Patan metre gauge section, 6 pairs of trains were running on the section.

(c) At present, 5 pairs of trains are running on newly converted section of Mehsana-Patan and one pair is running between Patan-Ahmedabad.

Dedicated freight corridor

3389. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to create capacity and improve quality of freight service, dedicated freight corridor projects are under implementation by Railways;

(b) if so, the targets set and achievements made, so far; and

(c) in what manner the slippages are being addressed by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Dedicated Freight Corridor Project comprising the Eastern Corridor (Ludhiana-Dankuni) and the
Western Corridor (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Tughlakabad/ Dadri) have been sanctioned by the Government and is under implementation.

(b) Final Location Survey for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and for Ludhiana- Sonnagar Section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor has been completed. Notification for Land Acquisition under Section 20A of Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008 have been issued for about 2400 Kilometers for both the corridors. First construction contract for 105 Kilometers in Eastern Corridor and for 54 major and important bridges on Western Corridor has also been awarded.

Negotiation for funding with World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are in progress. The project is targeted to be completed by 2016-17, subject to availability of funds and timely availability of land.

(c) The Ministry of Railways is trying their best for early finalisation of the main loan agreements with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The land acquisition process is also being expedited for early implementation of the project. The project is of high priority and is being monitored intensively.

Problems due to dislocation of under construction steel plants

†3390. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the under construction domestic steel plants have resolved the problem of dislocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware of those steel plants that are causing severe pollution in the surrounding areas, where production has started;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to make the environment pollution free;

(e) whether domestic steel companies have played some important role in providing employment to unemployed youth of the surrounding villages; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (f)
The information is being collected from Ministry of Environment and Forest, the respective State Governments and major steel investors and will be laid on the table of the House.

Capacity expansion of steel plants

3391. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
whether due to delay in allotting captive iron-ore mine to steel companies, the capacity expansion of the steel plants has been affected;

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

(c) whether in the absence of adequate raw material, the steel plants are unable to produce steel as per target; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to ensure allotment of captive iron ore mines to steel companies to achieve the target of production of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The capacity expansion projects of steel units are not solely dependent upon the allocation of iron-ore mines.

(c) and (d) The present production of iron-ore in the country is sufficient for the present domestic steel capacity. The production of iron-ore in the country during 2008-09 was 227.64 million tonnes, while the domestic consumption of iron-ore was estimated to be only 87 million tonnes. During 2008-09, 105.86 million tonnes of iron ore was exported from the country. However, Ministry of Steel is in favour of promoting value addition within the country and conservation of iron ore for long term utilization by the domestic steel industry. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the Government has approved, ‘National Mineral Policy’ 2008 which inter-alia provides for preference to value adders in the allocation of mineral concession. Ministry of Mines is in the process of bringing a new legislation to replace the existing Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to give effect to the intent of the National Mineral Policy, 2008 and recommendations of the Hoda Committee as approved by the Government.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER
Correcting Answer to Question

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 2606 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 2009 regarding Annual Requirement of Coaches.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statements (2008-09 and 2009-10) on Quarterly Review under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table:
(i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget at the end of the Fourth Quarter of the financial year 2008-09, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget at the end of the First Quarter of the financial year 2009-10, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1462/15/09]

I. **White paper on Indian Railways and Vision, 2020 for Indian Railways**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) White Paper on Indian Railways. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1463/15/09]

(ii) Vision 2020 for Indian Railways. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1464/15/09]

I. **Report and Accounts (2008-09) of the Coir Board, Cochin and related papers**

II. **Report and Accounts (2008-09) of NIESBUD, NOIDA and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table:

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the Coir Industries Act, 1953:

(a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, 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. 1324/15/09]

II. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), NOIDA, 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. 1664/15/09]

Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Mineral and Fertilizer Corporation/Companies and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table:
A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) (a) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup, Assam, 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. 1438/15/09]

(ii) (a) Sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FCAGMILs), Jodhpur, 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. 1437/15/09]

(iii) (a) Thirty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Rastriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1433/15/09]

(iv) (a) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1434/15/09]

(v) (a) Fifty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1436/15/09]

(vi) (a) Thirty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1435/15/09]
(vii) (a) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahamputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1431/15/09]

(viii) (a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1432/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Railways

II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of KRCL, New Delhi and related papers

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I lay on the Table:


II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) Nineteenth Annual Report and Accounts of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of 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. 1439/15/09]

I. Reports and Accounts (2007-08 and 2008-09) of various Educational Institutes and related papers

II. Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report (2008-09) of JNU

III. Reports and Accounts (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) of various Educational Institutes/Universities/Councils/Union and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table:
I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of the Section 13A of the Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915:

(i) (a) Annual Report of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1422/15/09]

(ii) (a) Annual Report of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1415/15/09]

(iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission (PBSSM), Kolkata, 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. 1400/15/09]

(iv) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, 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. 1398/15/09]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report of the Jawaharlal Nehru University for the year 2008-09, within the stipulated period. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1461/15/09]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council and the Audited Account mentioned at (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1665/15/09]
(i) (a) Annual Report of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala (PEDSK) in respect of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kerala, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1420/15/09]

(ii) Annual Accounts of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 29 of the University of Hyderabad Act, 1974. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1403/15/09]

(iii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2006-07 and the Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of Section 32 of the Nagaland University Act, 1989.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1402/15/09]

(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology (NIFFT), Ranchi, 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. 1405/15/09]

(v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, 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. 1411/15/09]

(vi) (a) Annual Report of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1419/15/09]
(viii) (a) Eighty-fifth Annual Report (Part I and II) of the University of Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1421/15/09]


(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. 1416/15/09]


(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. 1417/15/09]

(xi) (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD&M), Kancheepuram, 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. 1401/15/09]

(xii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1418/15/09]


(b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of Institute of Technology Act, 1961.
(c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1407/15/09]

(xiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Assam Mahila Samata Society, Guwahati, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1413/15/09]

(xv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Uttar Pradesh Mahila Samakhya Society, Lucknow, 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. 1414/15/09]

(xvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar Mahila Samakhya Society, Patna, 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. 1404/15/09]

(xvii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1410/15/09]

(xviii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI), Hyderabad, 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. 1412/15/09]

A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(xix) (a) Annual Report of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad for the year 2006-07, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 of the Allahabad University Act, 2005. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1408/15/09]

(b) Annual Report of University of Allahabad for the year 2007-08, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 of the Allahabad University Act, 2005.
(c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1409/15/09]


(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1406/15/09]

I. Report on Action Taken on Recommendations of JPC on Stock Market Scam

II. Statement on the review under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table:

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirteenth Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (December, 2009). [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1461/15/09]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on the review of the Economy and Budget for the Mid year of the financial year 2009-10, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1461/15/09]

I. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of HVOC, New Delhi and related papers

II. Reports and Accounts (1986-87) BSAIDC Ltd., Patna and related papers

III. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of PPV and FR, New Delhi and related papers

IV. Report and Accounts (2003-04 to 2008-09) of SFAC, New Delhi and related papers

V. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of NIAM, Jaipur 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. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (I) of Section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(1) (a) Twenty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited (HVOC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(2) 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. 1337/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Twenty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 1986-87, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1666/15/09]

III. (a) Annual Report of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1339/15/09]

IV. (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi, for the year 2003-04, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1340/15/09]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi, for the year 2004-05, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1341/15/09]

(iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi, for the year 2005-06, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1342/15/09]
(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1343/15/09]

(v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1330/15/09]

(vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working, of the above society. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1331/15/09]

(vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor’s Report on the Accounts.
(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1332/15/09]

Report (2009-10) of CAG for the year ended March, 2008:
Union Government (Civil) No. 6 and No. 8 and related papers

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following documents:
(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2008: Union Government (Civil) No. 6 of 2009-10, Performance Audit of Land and Development Office; and

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I present the Sixty-third Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

SHRI AMAR SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): महोदय, मैं “टीका बनाने वाले सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के तीन उपक्रमों अर्थात् सेंट्रल रिसेअर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (सी.आर.आई.), कलकत्ता, पश्चिम इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया (पी.आई.आई.), कुनूर और
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE


REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture:

(i) First Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation);
(ii) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries); and

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel:

(i) First Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Coal;
(ii) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Mines; and

STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA (Orissa): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways:

(i) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Chapter-V of the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-fourth Report on Land Management;
(ii) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Thirtieth Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixteenth Report on Expansion of Railway Network New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification;

(iii) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-second Report on Performance of New Railway Zones;

(iv) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-third Report on Industrial Relations and Staff Welfare in Railways; and

(v) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-fourth Report on Suburban and Metro Railways.

STATMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:

(i) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee (2008-2009) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-seventh Report on Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;


STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Forty-first report on ‘Pricing Policy for Agricultural Produce’ of Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture


THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, matters to be raised with the permission of the Chair. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we are against corruption. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI AMAR SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): This is Zero Hour. ... (Interruptions)... Please take your seats. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: You remove them if they are corrupt. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Seelam, please take your seat. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Why are they giving to the ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): What is this? ... (Interruptions)... Take your seats. ... (Interruptions)... This is Zero Hour. ... (Interruptions)... Do not interrupt the Zero Hour. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please take your seats. ... (Interruptions)... Take your seats. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Mr. Seelam, please take your seat. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: The Supreme Court collegium has recommended him for promotion. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): What is this? ... (Interruptions)... Take your seat. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: We are against corruption. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You meet the Chairman. ... (Interruptions)...

Sit down. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Only one judge. ... (Interruptions)...

198
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. Nothing will go on record. That will not go on record. ...(Interruptions)... Whatever is said without my permission will not go on record. ...(Interruptions)... Take your seats. It is not going on record. Why are you shouting? ...(Interruptions)... Take your seats.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: *

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. That is not the subject here. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Rashtrapal, there is a procedure for everything. You go by that procedure. Take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... No; no. ..(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia. ...(Interruptions)... No, please. ...(Interruptions)... Please, don’t do it.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR
Selling of Gurudwara land in Lahore

Shri Praveen Rashtrapal: 

Shri Jesudasu Seelam: 

The Vice-Chairman (Prof. P.J. Kurien): I will call you. After this, I will call you. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... No; no. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia. ...(Interruptions)... No, please. ...(Interruptions)... Please, don’t do it.

Matters Raised with Permission of Chair
Selling of Gurudwara land in Lahore

Shri Praveen Rashtrapal: 

Shri Jesudasu Seelam: 

The Vice-Chairman (Prof. P.J. Kurien): I will call you. After this, I will call you. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... No; no. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia. ...(Interruptions)... No, please. ...(Interruptions)... Please, don’t do it.

Matters Raised with Permission of Chair
Selling of Gurudwara land in Lahore

Shri Praveen Rashtrapal: 

Shri Jesudasu Seelam: 

The Vice-Chairman (Prof. P.J. Kurien): I will call you. After this, I will call you. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... No; no. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia. ...(Interruptions)... No, please. ...(Interruptions)... Please, don’t do it.
हम पंजाब साहब को कैसे बिखने देंगे? जिस पलटवर पार आज भी गुरु नानक देव जी की पांचों उंगिलों के निशान पड़े हैं, उनकी हम कैसे बिखने देंगे?

लाहौर की धरती, जहां पर पांचवीं पातशाही और सभी गुरूओं की छो प्राप्त है, ऐसे ऐतिहासिक स्थान को जिस तरह से बेचा जा रहा है और वह भी विभिन्न कालों के विभिन्न कारणों के लिए, वह बहुत दुःसन्तुष्ट रहे हैं। लाहौर की धरती, जहां पर पांचवीं पातशाही और सभी गुरूओं की छो प्राप्त है, ऐसे ऐतिहासिक ऐतिहासिक कारणों के लिए अन्य पाकिस्तान में ऐसा होता है। यह तो समझ आता था कि यहाँ पांचवीं पातशाही मंदिर भूमि बोलते हैं, इसी के कारण पहले अभी का आता है और राजपूत अवध सी प्रेमी है, किन्तु माइनरिटी के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए अगर पाकिस्तान में ऐसा होता है और अगर हमारी भारत सरकार मूक दशर्क बन लैंगिक, तो यह बहुत दुःसन्तुष्ट रहे हैं।

मैं आपसे मांग करता हूँ और आपके माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि इस पर तुर्ना कार्यवाही हो। पाकिस्तान के आमब्रस्सोक्स को आपके दस्तर में बुलाकर पुछा जाए कि वह क्या यह ने रहा है और इस भूमि को सुरक्षित किया जाए। उनसे यह कमिट्टे में ती जाए और वहाँ पर रखे, हिंदुओं और सिंधियों की जो स्थिति है, उसके जो मंत्री उन्होंने यह पर जबरन दिया है वा जनवरण करके दूसरे लोगों के देने की कोशिश की है, वे सारे फेफड़े बनाकर जाए और उस जमीन को रिटरन किया जाए। यही मेरी मांग है।

SHRI VIKRAM VARMA (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मैं वचनों को इस इश्यू के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue.

SHRI ABUTAAR SINGH KARIMPUR (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes; all are associating. ...

SHRI P. S. AHUWALIA: सर, मिनिस्टर साहब यहाँ पर बैठते हैं, वह इस पर रिस्पोंड करें। ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay; thank you, Shri Manohar Joshi. ...

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, my esteemed friend, Mr. Ahluwalia, has raised a very important issue which has cropped up. I share his concern and the concern of this House. I will certainly take it up with the concerned authorities in Pakistan.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay; thank you, Shri Manohar Joshi. ...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have given a notice. ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No; I have called Mr, Manohar Joshi. Take your seat. ...
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, I am asking the Government to give a statement.

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No; take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... No; no; you take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... No; there is a procedure. Mr. Mysura Reddy, you are such a senior Member. Don’t violate the procedure. Don’t break the rule. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, I have given notice. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You know what is to be done. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I will read out whatever is permitted. Please, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: But, Sir, I have given notice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): This is not the time to raise it. ...(Interruptions)... Please, take your seat. Let me complete this. Please, sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Since you are not permitting me, I am walking out.

(At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber.)

Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute has been pending for a long time despite several attempts by the State Government to resolve the problem. It is connected with the psyche of the people of Maharashtra.

In 1956, States were formed on linguistic basis. ...(Interruptions)... However, the Commission did not recommend formation of composite Marathi-speaking linguistic State. Sir, 105 people had to sacrifice their lives for getting a State of Marathi-speaking people. Thereafter, particular portion formerly belonging to Maharashtra was given to the State of Karnataka. Contiguous areas like Belgaum, Karwar, Nipani, Bidar etc., are to be included in the Maharashtra State, which is not being done. In 1969, Shiv Sena launched an agitation for integration of these areas with Maharashtra, in which 65 Shiv Sainiks sacrificed their lives. The Resolution of the Government of Maharashtra clearly says that the first essential consideration is the preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of India. However, this is not happening in this case. The people of this area are subject to discrimination in Karnataka. Unfortunately, Sir, they are also deprived of their elementary right to education in Marathi, their mother tongue. In the border areas, the circulars are issued in Kannada language, which the Marathi people are unable to understand. Sir, not only this, the civic body, the Belgaum Municipal Corporation, was dismissed three years back. Since 1956, several deputations have waited upon the Prime Ministers and Home Minister with these grievances but nothing has happened. I remember that I had also visited the Prime Minister several times on this issue. The Maharashtra Legislature has unanimously passed several Resolutions for settling this issue but the
Central Government has not paid any attention to this important issue. The High Powered Committee headed by the Maharashtra Chief Minister ...(Time-Bell rings)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Your three minutes’ time is over. It may not go on record.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, Mr. Joshi; it won’t go on record. Your three minutes are over.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You know the rules. It won’t go on record after three minutes. That is the point.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: *

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. ...

...I shall call you, if your name is in the list. Sit down. ...

...You cannot question the Chair. If your name is in the list, I shall call you. ...

...Mr. Raut, please sit down. It is the prerogative of the Chairman to decide what subject should be admitted and what should not be admitted. That cannot be questioned. Take your seat. Now, Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. ...

Inadequate assistance to Rajasthan to fight drought situation

श्री ललित किशोर चतुरवेदी (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं आपके सामने राजस्थान की एक ज्यादातर समस्या से संबंधित यह विषय रख रहा हूं. 2009 और 2010 में राजस्थान में 46 प्रतिशत बर्फ कम हुई है. ऐसी स्थिति बनी है कि 12 हजार 690 करोड़ रुपए की हमने सहायता मांगी है. हमने 1034 करोड़ रुपए National Calamity Contingency Fund में दिए हैं. माननीय महोदय, मेरा समय लिया जा रहा है... 

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Don’t disturb. Take your seat. There is a rule. ...

...I shall call you, if your name is in the list. Sit down. ...

...You cannot question the Chair. If your name is in the list, I shall call you. ...

...Mr. Raut, please sit down. It is the prerogative of the Chairman to decide what subject should be admitted and what should not be admitted. That cannot be questioned. Take your seat. Now, Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. ...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, please. I have given the ruling. Take your seat. ...

...If you have any complaint, you can meet the Chairman. ...

* Not recorded.
SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, you are in the Chair. ...(Interruptions)... You are the deciding authority. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I cannot violate the rule ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, you are sitting in the Chair. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You should associate. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Let me talk. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... I cannot violate the rule. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Raut, you are my good friend, but I cannot violate the rule for you and for that matter for anybody. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, it is my humble request to ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): If you associate, that will go on record. ...(Interruptions)... Nothing more than that. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): *

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्र. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आप बैठें। ...(व्यवहार)… I have called Chaturvedi. Yours is also not going on record, then why are you speaking? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Raut, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: I am walking out.

(At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber)

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ...(व्यवहार)… मैं निवेदन कर रहा हूँ कि जब 12 हजार 690 करोड़ रुपए की सहायता ...(व्यवहार)… हमने मांगी है ...(व्यवहार)...

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am also walking out. ...(Interruptions)...

(At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber)

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: हमने 1034 करोड़ रुपए ...(व्यवहार)… उनको दिए हैं। ...(व्यवहार)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Why do you walk out? ...(Interruptions)...

* Not recorded.
श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, ...(व्यवहार)... हमने मांगी ...(व्यवहार)... 797 दी गई। ...(व्यवहार)... THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You have made your point. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: रोजगार में 800 करोड़ के विनियम 150 करोड़ रुपए दी गई। पेयजल में 595 के विनियम 30 करोड़ दी गई। अनुवह राशि 432 के विनियम 39 करोड़ दी गई। विकिल्सा क्षेत्र में तो कुछ भी नहीं दिया गया। ...(व्यवहार)... उर्मि क्षेत्र में कुछ भी नहीं दिया गया। महोदय, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि राजस्थान में हंगाम लगा, पेयजल, पेयजल और विकिल्सा, ये चीजें कहीं अलग हैं। यहां मजबूर अग्रसर है। जब वहां पत्ता फैल दिया गया तब उस समय विकिल्सा क्षेत्र के लिए कुछ भी नहीं देता, यह विचित्र रूप से राजस्थान के साथ ऐसा व्यवहार किया जा रहा है जैसे हम याद करेंगे और हम राजस्थान के क्षेत्र के माननीय मंत्री जी महोदय के लिए। मैं निखटित करना चाहता हूं कि यह आपके मायने का उपयोग करें। इन सारे प्रदेशों के लिए जो धनराशि हमने मांगी है, यह विचित्र रूप से हमें दिखाई देता है कि हम अकाल का मुकाबला कर सकते, दूसरी बात यह है कि हम पहुंचों के लिए हमारे साथ और तीसरी बात यह है कि हम विकिल्सा की व्यवस्था कर सकते। इसलिए मैं आपके मायने से कहता हूं कि हमें भी इससे सहयोग करने का इच्छा है। यह समझता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी महोदय की यह व्यवस्था हमारी मांग है, उसका पूरा कार्य करने के लिए और हम अकाल का मुकाबला करने में कामयाब हो सके।

श्री प्रकाश जावेदेकर (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, इस विषय के साथ मैं आपको इसके लिए मासिक सरकार में मांग करता हूं।

श्री भूषण कल वाल्मीकि (जार्जस्थान): महोदय, इस विषय के साथ मैं भी आपको इसके लिए मांग करता हूं।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड): महोदय, इस विषय के साथ मैं सरकार को इसके लिए मांग करता हूं।

**Shooting of workers from Bihar in Manipur**

श्री प्राकाश जावेदेकर (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, अपने मायने से सरकार का व्यवहार इस और ले जाना चाहिए है कि विहार के जो migrant workers हैं, उनके पर attack का सिलसिला देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में जारी है। कल की एक घटना है कि मणिपुर के Chingmeirong Kabul नामक एक गांव में जब मजबूर राष्ट्र में अपने घर में ले जाते थे उन पर unidentified militants ने हमला किया। वहां गांजेड़ राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा बोर्ड नामक दो व्यक्तियों की हत्या कर दी गई।

महोदय, मणिपुर में पिछले वर्षों से लेकर अब तक बिहार के 27 migrants workers की हत्या हो चुकी है। यह बिहार के workers का दुःख है कि वे जहां भी जाते हैं, वहां अपमान सहने के साथ-साथ उन्हें अपनी जान और मायने को भी खोना पड़ता है। दुःख की बात है कि बिहार से उनके पतलुन का सिलसिला आज भी जारी है, यही सबसे बड़ा कारण है। बूढ़े बिहार में मजदूरों को रोजगार नहीं मिलता है तो वे रोज-रोजी की तलाश में अलग-अलग राज्यों में जाते हैं और इसी जाने के मायने में से हमने उनके बचाव को बताया है।

लेकिन ऐसा लगता देखा जा रहा है कि अलग-अलग राज्यों में उनके साथ दुर्घटनाओं भी हो रही है और उनकी जान का दुःख भी नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए, मैं बहांगा कि केवल सरकार उन राज्यों से, जहां पर इस तरह की
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Anwarji, three minutes are over. Mike is off.

What is the point in speaking?

Suicide by weavers in the country

The Vice-Chairman (Prof. P. J. Kurien): Anwarji, your time is over. Mike is off.

What is the point in speaking?
राजनीतिक मंगल (वृंदावन) (यहां)

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसमाधान महाराज, मैं सदन का यादगार उत्तर प्रदेश के उन 30,000 किसानों की तरफ आराधनाकर्ता बाहार हूं, जो विहार से लगे दुर्गी उत्तर प्रदेश के राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र के 70 गांवों के किसान हैं। वहाँ के किसान धारा की खेलते हैं और समस्त बन्धुओं ने जब छोटे से जमीन के दुकानों के लिए सिंगुर में आदोलन किया था, जो हमारे परिवर्तन वार्षिक सामाजिकीय की परवाह न करके, मैं राष्ट्रीय सिंगुर में उनके साथ बैठा था। मैं वृंदा करता जी को और अपने वामपंथी साथीयों को आमंत्रित करता हूं कि वे वन्द्रीय न हूं और देखें कि किस तरह Rail Freight Corridor के नाम पर धारा की 10,000 हेक्टेयर जमीन को समस्त बन्धुओं से रही है। वे बहुत बढ़ा बढ़ा भारत देते हैं, मां, माडी और मानुष.... सरकार पश्चिमी बंगाल में मां, माडी और मानुष नहीं हैं, मां, माडी और मानुष बन्धुओं में भी है। यह धारा के किसानों की बात है। सबसे आवश्यक इसे बात करता हूं कि कांग्रेस के प्रमुख महाराज, जो उत्तर प्रदेश के सदन के सदस्य नहीं हैं, बे आदोलन कर रहे हैं। यहाँ उनकी सरकार है, उनकी अपनी सरकार है, उनकी रेल मंजी हैं, वह आवश्यक है, वह विवशिकाओं की सरकार है (यथार्थ)...

श्री रवि संकर प्रसाद (बिहार): आप ही ने इसका समर्थन दिया (यथार्थ)...

श्री अमर सिंह: मैं कह रहा हूं कि समर्थन दिया। आपके * जिन्होंने आदवाणी जी को प्रधान मंजी बनाने के लिए वह महापुरुष बताया था, वह Irony है। आपके * जो आदवाणी जी को प्रधान मंजी बना रहे थे, अब वे UPA के Advisor हो गए हैं, जिनकी वजह से वह महापुरुष बताया था (यथार्थ)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURJEN): No, no, don’t divert the subject, please. (...Interruptions)... You cannot divert the subject. You have to stick to the subject. (...Interruptions)... Don’t provoke. (...Interruptions)...
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes. Those names are expunged.

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, आप मुझे मेरा पूरा समय दे दीजिए। यह कहना चाहता हूं कि चन्दौली के मुकाबले जो जमीन सिगियूर की थी, वह 10 परसेंट भी नहीं थी, वाह तो आंदोलन हो गया, लेकिन जब मनमोहन सिंह जी पुनर्याप्त और अधिग्रहण का कानून लाने लगे, तो ममता बनजीर् साहबा ने कोलाहल मचा दिया, लेकिन वहां तो Rail Freight Corridor के नाम पर चन्दौली में जमीन जी जा रही है और कांग्रेस सरकार आंदोलन कर रही है। आप आदेश दीजिए, आपकी मंजी है। आप आदेश किया, अगर अधिग्रहण होगा, तो वहां खून में लाखों होंगी। किसान अपने धान की जमीन नहीं देगा। आयर सिगियूर के किसानों की जमीन, उनकी मां और माटी है तथा वहां का मानुष, भूमि है, तो उत्तर प्रदेश के धान के किसानों की मिहिटी उसकी मां है, वहां का मानुष भी मानुष है। यह ममता बनजीर् के नेतृत्व में होने वाले इस अधिग्रहण के क़स्बे को सफल नहीं होने देगा और इसके लिए जो भी करना पड़ेगा, वह करेगा। मैं बांधता हूं कि जैसे वह सिगियूर गया था, वैसे वृंदा कार्य जी हमारे साथ चन्दौली आए और ममता बनजीर् के इस कार्यक्रम को असफल रूप से करेगा।

श्री. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अपने इस विषय के साथ सम्मिलित हूं।

श्रीमती जया बण्ड (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अपने इस विषय के साथ सम्मिलित हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay. We shall now take up the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

GOVERNMENT BILLS
The Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to present to the House the Rubber (Amendment) Bill of 2009. The natural rubber plays an important role in the industrial and economic development of the country. Rubber plantations provide the principal raw material required for manufacture of around 35,000 items of rubber products ranging from toy balloons to tyres of giant earth moving equipments. Rubber cultivation is basically environment friendly, helps in the ecological restoration of the country-side, functions as source of the much needed firewood and precious timber, easing the pressure on natural forests for wood and timber and provides vegetable oil, oil cakes and honey as by-products.
The Indian rubber plantation industry provides direct employment to over four lakh persons and offers large opportunities of employment in allied activities.

Rubber is grown in about 6.62 lakh hectares. There are more than one million small and marginal farmers with an average size of holding of half hectare engaged in rubber cultivation. The small holding sector accounts for 90 per cent of rubber planted area.

Bulk of the plantation is raised in the remote areas of the country thereby contributing substantially to rural development and restoration of ecology. India today ranks number one in rubber productivity and number four in production of natural rubber in the world. This has been made
possible due to the adoption of various clones which the Rubber Research Institute of India has been able to produce, including the one Clone RRII 105, which was introduced in 80s and known as 'wonder clone.' In order to meet the future demand, 60,000 hectares of area are to be covered under new planting in the North-Eastern Region during the 11th Plan and the 12th Plan Period. For this purpose, the Government has approved setting up of three new regional offices of the Rubber Board in the North-East Region and creation of as many as 52 new posts.

Development and control of rubber is regulated under the Rubber Act, 1947. This Act, which was enacted in 1947, is being amended in the light of the 159th Report of the Law Commission of India on "Repeal and Amendment of Laws." Over the years, the industry has undergone immense changes. The Rubber Act, 1947, was last amended in 1994. In view of the developments, suitable amendments in the provisions of the Rubber Act, 1947, are needed.

Sir, in the proposed amendment, the definition of small growers is being changed from the existing limit of 50 acres (20 hectares) to 10 hectares. This will enable the Board to utilise the available funds fruitfully for improvement of small holdings and facilitate greater participation of small growers holding less than ten hectares in the activities of the Board.

It is also proposed to establish a Rubber Development Fund in place of the existing two funds to facilitate quick and smooth flow of money. This will help in improving the overall functioning of Rubber Board.

An enabling provision is being made to charge and exempt cess from the exporters. This is being done in the light of the Audit objection for not charging the cess from the exports of natural rubber from 1st April 1961 to 31st August 2003.

In order to make the amendments grower-friendly, certain provisions like registration of estates, licensing for planting and replanting, and reports to be submitted by the licensees are proposed to be omitted. This will ease the burden on the growers.

Rubber Board is also being empowered to implement the standards for quality, marking, labelling, and packing for the produced or processed in, imported into or exported from, India. This will give better recognition to the domestically produced rubber in the international market. The domestic consumers will also be able to get good quality rubber from foreign market through quality checks.

Sir, currently, the cess is collected from the manufacturers @ Rs.1.50 per kg. The procedure involves filing of return, assessment of cess by the Board, and demand and collection of cess from the assessee. This involves delay, unnecessary expenditure and loss of revenue. In order to avoid all these, the amendment is proposed to provide for self-assessment and remittance of cess by the assessee. The cess being a specific duty, the assessee will not have any difficulty in determining himself the cess due and remitting the same. This will simplify the procedure.
As there is rampant violation also of the Act, the penalty provisions have been made more stringent. However, there is a provision to compound offences punishable under this Act. It is also proposed to include three representatives of the Central Government in the Rubber Board in order to provide technical advice and guidance to the Board/growers.

Sir, I will respond to the amendments which have been proposed here once Members of Parliament raise them. But I would only say, Sir, that this amendment is aimed at giving more benefits to the small growers, clearly defining small holdings, and doing away with obsolete procedures which are burdensome and also make things difficult for the small growers.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, with these words, I commend the Bill to the House.

The question was proposed.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, by and large, I am not opposing the amendments. Already 60th anniversary of this Act is over. It is a pre-Constitutional enactment of 1947 and, therefore, it is quite natural that some amendments have become necessary. But, my first objection is: Why was this Bill not referred to the Standing Committee? ... (Interruptions)... According to the procedure followed, the Bill has to first go to the Standing Committee and there will be sufficient opportunity to discuss the various provisions of the Bill. But, that has not been done and I find that there was absolutely no excuse or good reason for not referring it to the Standing Committee. Of course, nothing moves without rubber because every vehicle has to move on rubber. Rubber is, no doubt, elastic, but, the law must be specific. Therefore, I will point out two or three important points.

First is, as I already said, the matter should have been referred to the Standing Committee. Secondly, Section 3 is most important. In Section 3, the proposal is, three members to be nominated by the Central Government of whom two shall be from the Department of Commerce and one from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. They have not specified officers from which cadre will be nominated. As it stands anybody can be nominated, irrespective of his cadre or class. It must be very specific. Three members or officers to be nominated should be of a specified cadre or rank. Otherwise, anybody and anyone from the Department can be nominated.

I would like to point out another important thing. I have got a copy of 1947 Act. Section 3 provided that Chairman is going to be appointed by the Central Government. That is all right. Sub-section (3) of Section 4 provided that two members to represent the State of Tamil Nadu one of whom shall be a person representing rubber producing interests; eight members to represent the State of Kerala six of whom shall be persons representing rubber producing interests, three of such six persons representing the small growers; ten members to be nominated by the Central Government, of whom two shall represent the manufacturers and four labour; three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States. Then, there are two ex-officio Members. In total, there are 29 Members.
Now, I come particularly to clause (b) of Section 4(3) of that Act. It provided for two members representing the State of Tamil Nadu. It was originally the State of Madras. This expression ‘Tamil Nadu’ was inserted by the Madras State (Alteration of Name) Amendment Order, 1970, ...(Interruptions)... Now, the most important thing is that the States Reorganisation Act came into effect from 1.11.1956. The rubber growing area in the State of Madras namely South Canara became part of Karnataka. The South Canara District is the major rubber growing area. From 1.11.1956 onwards, it is in Karnataka. But, as far as Karnataka is concerned, thousands of acres of rubber is being grown. I come from that area. They are Shimoga, Chikamangalur, South Canara and Hassan districts. And, particularly wherever there are coffee estates, the rubber trees are grown as trees for giving shade.

Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Minister is, similar to clause (b), clause (bb) or clause (ba) may be inserted, and two members representing the State of Karnataka, one of whom shall be a person representing rubber producing area. Then only there will be some justification. It is by a parliamentary legislation, the rubber growing area which was in Madras State has become part of the State of Karnataka. This is totally ignored. Therefore, in order to do justice to the State of Karnataka and the growers and manufacturers of rubber in the State of Karnataka, similar representation to the State of Karnataka has to be given. This might not have been because of oversight or whatever may be the reason the same has been omitted.

My second point is about clause (5). In the principal Act, section 9, 9(a) and 9(b), the following section shall be substituted.

There shall be a fund to be called a Rubber Development Fund and there shall be credited all sums forming the Fund of the Board immediately before the commencement of the Rubber Amendment Act. The proceeds of cess paid to the Board by the Central Government under sub section (7) of section 12. Any sums of money that may be paid to the Board by way of grants or loans by the Central Government, internal and extra budgetary services, all the monies received and collected under section 26(a) and any other sum that may be levied and collected under this section. As far as the rubber fund is concerned, this is all right.

But coming to the expenditure, the Bill provides that the Rubber Development Fund shall be applied to meet the expenses of the Board, to meet the cost of the measures referred to in section 9 to meet the expenditure incurred in the performance of its functions under this Act or the rules, to meet the expenditure for rehabilitation and for making such grants to rubber growers estates or for meeting the cost of such other assistance to Rubber States as the Board may think necessary for its development. My submission is, whenever such huge funds are placed at the hands of the Board, there must be specific criteria or reasons or conditions stating how the money should be spent. Unfortunately, in our country, what has happened is that many persons aspire to become Minister and when a Minister’s seat is not available, then at least, give him the chairmanship of the Board.
know recently of one instance where a Chairman of the Board refused to oblige some powerful politician to give vehicles of the Board for his use. This is one of the areas where these Boards misuse. The vehicles of the Board are given to politicians or powerful persons. In this case, he refused to give the vehicle, and therefore, he was removed from the office of Chairman of the Board itself. Therefore, my submission is, funds which are placed at the hands of the Board, must be regulated by specifically laying down what are the purposes for which it should be used. They are totally vague, in section 9 of the Act which is sought to be introduced by this amendment. The other objectionable provision is section 12, second proviso.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I hope my good friend, Mr. Anand Sharma, is noting because a judicial judgment is coming about. Rama Jois has been a former Chief Justice also. Therefore, he is reading about all the clause by clause implications and interpreting.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This is not a court of law. This is legislature. We legislate.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: The other objectionable provision is section 12, second proviso. Provided further, the Central Government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify zero paisa per kg. as the rate of duty of excise on natural rubber produced in India and procured for export by the exporter of natural rubber for the period commencing from 1st April 1961 to 31st August 2003. For forty two years, the Central Government is given the power to make the cess zero. What is the rational basis? You can’t take date from a hat.

Section 12 provides that if the cess is not paid, there is a penal provision also. ...(Interruptions)... And in this behalf, I only invite your attention to the Financial Memorandum. In clause 7,...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, have less talks. A lot of noise is coming.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Kalita. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Kalita, I can’t hear here. ...(Interruptions)... All of you are speaking together. What is this? ...(Interruptions)... All the noise is coming here. A little more decorum I am expecting from every Member. Even those who speak, speak at a low voice.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, there is a difference between 'hearing' and 'listening'. 'Hearing' means one makes a sound, you hear, but 'listen' what I said must be understood.
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Therefore, I request. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): That is my problem; I am not able to listen. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: "The Central Government can notify zero cess on rubber from 1 April, 1961 to 31st August 2003. This would result in exemption of cess amounting to Rs.16,68,59,000. The figure is given 'Rs.16 crores and odd cess'! Power is given to the Central Government to exempt it. For whose benefit? What is the rational basis for doing so? There is nothing except the Central Government may issue an order for this period; the cess will be zero; the Exchequer will lose Rs.16 crores. Why? And there is article 14. Suppose a person beyond 63 years says, "Why are you not exempting me" Legitimately, he can be right. So, under article 14, you can classify and say, give some benefit and deny that to some other provided there is a rational nexus between the exemption that is sought to be given. What is the rational nexus? That is not found in the Financial Memorandum at all. Therefore, my submission is, this provision for giving exemption is wholly arbitrary and, therefore, needs to be deleted. Ultimately, my submissions are two. In section 3, there is every justification for giving representation to the State of Karnataka as the rubber growing area of Tamil Nadu has become a part of the State of Karnataka from 1.11.56. More than 53 years are over. Thousand of acres of rubber is being grown in the State of Karnataka.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Singh, you go here and there, stand and start talking. I warn you, don’t do like this.

श्री. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेमचन्द्रा (राजस्थान): Lobbying हो रही है... (व्यवस्थान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No coming and standing in the passage.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Therefore, I appeal to the hon, Minister to do justice to the State of Karnataka by providing representation in the same manner which is given to Tamil Nadu and, similarly, the exemption provision making zero should be deleted.


SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Vice-chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill.

At the outset, I oppose the Centre’s decision to amend the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009 because the Bill has not been sent to the Standing Committee for discussion. We hope that the amendment would affect the rubber farmers and plantation workers around the country, along with the exporters, because the time allotted is not sufficient for a thorough discussion on the matter.

India is one among the top ten rubber producing countries. Kerala State is a leading rubber plantation State in India. Kerala State is a leading rubber plantation State amongst other States.
Kerala accounts for 92 per cent of the rubber production in the country, of which small and marginal farmers are responsible for producing around 85 per cent of rubber.

Rubber is cultivated in 6.451 lakh hectares in Kerala and about 4.64 lakhs of people are working in rubber farms. The total volume of trade in the year 2008 in this sector is around Rs.62,000 crores. Rubber brought to the country about Rs.1,069 crores through foreign trade. If we go to the history, this plant was brought to the country by the British and spread in Kerala, providing thousands of people their daily bread and more than that.

The amendment to the 62-year old Rubber Act, according to the Centre, is to remove the obsolete provisions restricting the sector’s growth and check illegal transactions. The Bill aims at creating a Rubber Development Fund and giving fresh impetus to the functioning of the Rubber Board, The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill says that it aims at creating a Rubber Development Fund to meet expenses on rehabilitation of small growers. It also wants to delete the provisions relating to registration of rubber estates and licence for planting or replanting of rubber, which are redundant at present.

The Centre also claims that through this Bill, a self-assessment procedure would be introduced to replace the existing assessment and collection of cess which is time consuming and complex. The Bill also provides for enhancement of penalty for violation of the Act and introduction of a new provision for compounding of offences to check illegal transaction and evasion of the rubber cess. According to the Centre, this is to ensure quality standards of natural rubber exported and imported, as well as, consumed in the domestic market.

The Bill empowers the Central Government to levy zero paisa per kilogram of excise duty on natural rubber produced and procured for export between April 1, 1961 and August 31, 2003. This would result in exemption of cess amounting to Rs. 16,68,59,000 on the rubber produced and procured for export. Here, I have a serious doubt about this. It has been stated in clause 7 of the Bill as follows:

(b) the following provisos shall be inserted, namely:

"Provided that the Central Government may, if considered necessary in the public interest, by order for reasons to be recorded in writing, exempt or reduce the duty of excise on rubber exported on such terms and conditions as it deems fit;

Provided further that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify zero paisa per kilogram as the rate of duty of excise on natural rubber produced in India and procured for export by the exporters of natural rubber for the period from the 1st April, 1961 to the 31st August, 2003."

Sir, at this point, I have an important issue to mention. By deciding to sign the Indo-ASEAN Treaty for free trade, the Centre has surprised the rubber farmers and plantation workers. The decision will adversely affect the rubber growers and plantation workers. From the newspaper reports we learn that the Centre is planning to eliminate the import duty on rubber. The Centre is
putting the lives of lakhs of farmers, plantation workers, small industrialists and industrial workers in this sector to risk by taking such a decision.

The provisions that the Government is making to support the small rubber farmers, through this Bill, will yield no result if the Centre decides to move ahead with the ASEAN Treaty. If the Centre is serious in protecting the interests of the farmers, they must backtrack from this move. I think all Members from Kerala, including senior Ministers, are in agreement with this demand. The Government should ideally increase the import duty on rubber and allied products.

For example, the duty on tyre import is only 20 per cent. There are demands that the Government should increase it to, at least, 40 per cent in order to save the tyre industry and rubber plantations from the ill-effects of tyre imports.

Research and development of rubber used in industrial factories should also be expanded. In Western countries such researches have been expanding very quickly. In Europe, people bring natural latex to prepare raincoats, produce rubber sheet and seals for engine’s flexibility, doctor’s equipment, sport wears, gift and toys.

Rubber is only natural raw material available for making furniture, foam for bed and sofa. Diversification of the products will prove beneficial for farmers. Methods to increase the production of rubber should also be developed to meet the growing demand in the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please conclude.

SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Sir, I will take one minute. The Government says that the definition of ‘small grower’ is to be amended whereby a ‘small grower’ would be an owner whose estate does not exceed ten hectare in area against the existing limit of fifty acres, that is, 25 hectare in area. This is a very good move. A lot of farmers would be benefite d by this. The amendment will also provide for representation of the Central Government in the Rubber Board. This, I doubt,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): That is enough. You can lay it on the Table.

SHRI P.R. RAJAN: ...will have an impact on the independent and democratic character of the Rubber Board. Already, there are two...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You are reading your speech and taking more time. I cannot allow that. Reading itself is against the rule. Then you are taking more time.

SHRI P.R. RAJAN: There are three members in the Board. This will destroy the democratic character of the Board. I hope the Government will reconsider it. We have already moved an amendment in this regard. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.
The House then adjourned for lunch at three minutes past one of the clock. The House re-assembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (Contd.)

Report of NC RLM (Volumes I and II)


SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, what about the Action Taken Report of the Government? When will it be laid?

The Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (Contd.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, we will continue with the discussion on the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Sir, if you permit me, I want to raise two points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Is it on a point of order?

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: We have just got Part II of the Parliamentary Bulletin, which says that the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill will be passed without discussion. I have no objection to anybody getting more salary because I myself am getting a lot of salary. But why should it be passed without discussion?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You cannot raise it now. You raise it when that subject is taken up. ... (Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, the hon. Member has chosen to raise that point. Let me make one thing very clear. The Amendment Bill does not relate to any increase in the salary or perks. There is only one discrepancy because there is a disparity between the air journeys which an hon. Member as a Member of Parliament gets and the air journeys he would get if he were to get into the Government; he may not have those. So, there was some mistake somewhere. It is only to rectify that.

So far as the other thing is concerned, I am sure the hon. Member is aware of this, that any decision which is taken by the Business Advisory Committee is not discussed in that way. It was the Business Advisory Committee which said since the letter relates only to that one simple point — it is not the enhancement of any salary or perks— it need not be discussed. That is all that was said. I thought it better to clarify that point.
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you very much.

We now take up the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Shri Syed Azeez Pasha.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to support the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009. At the same time, I want to seek certain clarifications and make a few suggestions.

My first point is in regard to the P.P. Prabhu Committee which has recommended an increase in the number of Board members for public representatives and a reduction in the number of officials. What we see today, Sir, is that there are ten lakh rubber growers, small farmers, and they have only three representatives. On the other hand, there are only 283 big farmers but they also have three representatives. Three for 283 and three for ten lakh rubber growers! This is very unfair. I request that small growers should get, at least, five representatives on the Board. This is my first suggestion.

Secondly, in regard to social security provided to rubber growers in the country, if you look at the Annual Report of the Rubber Board, it shows that there has been a fall in the rubber production due to viral fever, chickengunea and malaria. This has resulted in the shortage of tappers. So, my suggestion is that the Board should create a separate health insurance scheme for labourers and their families, as also a crop insurance scheme for the farmers.

Thirdly, it is good that the Government has decided to restrict the import of artificial rubber and allied products. It is really ruining the rubber producers in the country. I welcome the proposal of the Commerce Ministry to encourage exports. But, now, statistics give really a different picture. In the first quarter of this year, exports were only to the tune of 900 tonnes, but imports were to the tune of 75000 tonnes. There is really a mismatch between the imports and the exports, even though you have an over-ambitious target of exporting 50,000 tonnes. I don’t know whether you have any action plan for this. Anyhow, I congratulate the hon. Minister for not including rubber in the negative list of the recently concluded ASEAN meeting.

Then, the subsidy given to replanting is only Rs.19,000. I feel, not only the cost of production of replanting has gone up, but the other costs have also gone up. I strongly urge upon the hon. Minister to increase the per hectare replanting cost from Rs.19,000 to a minimum of Rs.40,000 to meet the increased cost of production because the present amount is very meagre.

Then, you have done away with registration and licensing. It is good that you want to simplify the procedure. But you have to regulate it in the absence of registration and licensing. You may be having your own mechanism; I don’t know. Finally, for simplifying the procedure, you have introduced self-assessment. But, I feel, while giving the remittance, there may be illegal transactions and, then, there will be an attempt to evade the excise duty. How are you going to tackle this evasion of duty and illegal transactions? These are some of my observations.

With these words, I support the Bill once again.
SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, keeping in view the rubber industry has undergone immense changes in the recent years, these amendments have been brought in the Rubber Act, 1947. The amendment proposes eight main changes in the principal Act. Out of which, Sir, two ought to be very much welcomed. While all the other things are to be welcomed, I support this Bill. I have got one query. Before that, I would like to appreciate the Minister for taking efforts in bringing in amendments to the Bills which have been kept lying for many years without being looked into. I appreciate the Government, especially this Ministry for having looked into a Bill which has been kept in for more than 60 years, though so many drastic changes have taken place in the industry.

First of all, in the amendment, while it retains the requirement of the licences for buying or selling rubber, it delincences for planting and replanting. It is to be welcomed. The second most thing is, it redefines small grower, as an owner whose estate is up to 10 hectares, compared to previous 50 hectares, i.e., approximately 25 acres. Ten hectares amount to 25 acres. It combines the different funds under the Rubber Board into one single Rubber Development Fund. It empowers the Rubber Board to implement standards for quality, marking, labelling and packing. It permits the Central Government to issue policy directives to the Rubber Board. It also allows the Rubber Board to compound any offences on payment up to the value of goods concerned. It increases the penalty for making false statement to Rs.5,000 from Rs.1,000. And it adds three members to the Rubber Board, two from the Department of Commerce and one from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. My query is, Sir, — many of the other Members have also mentioned that — an amendment which permits the Central Government to set the excise rate to zero on rubber manufactured for export for the period exclusively from April, 1961 to August, 2003. The excise collected during this period may be refunded. The Financial Memorandum estimates the total cost to the exchequer arising from this proposal at Rs.16.69 crores. Sir, any cost to the exchequer is a thing to be done. I don’t want to immediately suggest the Minister to delete it because we do not know the exact reason for which you have fixed the period. We need a clarification for that. I am saying this because in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there is no provision; nothing has been stated or it has not been provided the rationale for changing the excise rate for a previous period. So, again, I would like to reiterate this thing. Just all of a sudden, it costs the exchequer Rs.16.69 crores; kindly delete this or kindly don’t do this. I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard. There must be some reason for having you done this. And that clarification will enlighten me and the House, in general. With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, hon. Members, I would like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister. Since nobody from the panel of Chairman is here, if the House agrees, I would request Shri Rama Jois to occupy the Chair for five minutes, till I finish my speech.

217
SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Why not... (Interruptions)... SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Yes, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): So, everybody agrees to it.

(The Vice-Chairman, SHRI M. RAMA JOIS in the Chair)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Kerala): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me this time to speak. Now, I don’t want to take more time of the House. I have only two-three points to make, to which I would like the hon. Minister to respond. The first point is this. You see, first of all, I would like to say that the Rubber Board has done a wonderful work. It deserves kudos and laurels from all of us. I think, of all the Government Boards, that is, perhaps, the one which has produced the result more than our expectation.

Today, with regard to productivity, we are number one in the world. So, it should be a model for other boards as well. If there is effort and commitment from the Government and growers, then certainly we can achieve the results in other commodities also.

Having said that, with regard to this Bill, I support it. There was some feeling that I do not support it. Not at all, I am supporting the Bill and our party is also supporting it. No problem with that. ... (Interruptions)...

Sir, I have two-three concerns. I shall be very brief. Firstly, there is a clause for inspection. Inspection can be held according to the previous amendment with regard to exporters, traders and processors. All these are under obligation to be inspected. When you inspect traders and dealers, there is a problem. That is, more than 80 per cent of the rubber produced is from small growers. The bulk of small growers do not have facility for proper processing. So, the rubber they produce is actually RSS-fibre. Quality-wise, it is lower. Dealers will buy that rubber. When the Rubber Board inspects dealers, naturally they would prosecute the dealer if the quality is lower. When they prosecute the dealer, the dealers would refuse to buy the lower quality rubber. But, unfortunately, 30 per cent of the rubber produced is the lower quality. Therefore, I have a suggestion. I know, the Rubber Board is very considerate towards growers; I have no complaint about that. Since it is mentioned in the Bill, I would like the Minister to respond to that so that the small dealers are not subjected to this kind of inspection and the small growers do not suffer.

My second point is with regard to the minimum floor price. As per the existing Act, Government may fix the minimum floor price whenever the price becomes totally unremunerative for the farmer. But, there is an amendment now. Government may fix ‘if it deems necessary.’ I do not know what is the need for that. In my view, it dilutes the clause. That is my view; you may clarify and correct me. ‘If it deems necessary’, I think, is in clause 13. I am not asking you to bring an official amendment now. But, give an assurance that whenever the price goes below a level, which is not profitable, not even remunerative to the growers, the Government would intervene and declare the minimum floor price. I want an assurance on that only.
I would come to my third concern. 88 per cent of the rubber is produced by small growers. Their number is nearly 10 lakh. The large growers are only 283. The large growers have got three representatives in the Rubber Board. Small growers, who number about 10 lakhs, also have three representatives! If you compute the quantity of the rubber produced, 88 per cent produced is from the small growers. I am not asking for a proportionate number, but I am asking representation for the quantity of rubber produced. The quantity produced by the small growers is nine times more than that produced by large growers. Therefore, when large growers are given three members in the Board, the small growers should have been given 27, which I am not asking.

But give us nine instead of twenty seven. Now there are three for small growers and three for large growers. I am requesting you to retain the three for the large growers and for the small growers you increase this number to nine. For this also, I am not asking for an amendment now, but give us an assurance that you will consider this request.

I have no objection to increasing the number of officers from one to three because officers especially from the Government of India should be there for better coordination between the Rubber Board and the Government. So, it is better to have more officials on the Board, I am not opposed to that. But I want the number of representatives of the small growers be increased.

Lastly, my submission is that many people in this part of the country do not know how rubber is planted. It is very expensive to plant rubber and for seven years you do not get anything. It is not a crop like other crops like paddy, wheat or any other thing. In case of rubber, for seven years you do not get anything. The 90 per cent of the farmers, who are about ten lakh in number, own one acre or one hectare of land. How do they live during this period of seven years? For fertilizer and some other things, there is a paltry sum of subsidy, which is quite inadequate. I am saying it from my personal experience. I know it because I myself have one acre of rubber plantation. I am also a small grower. Therefore, I want the Government to appoint a Committee to study it and also the question of providing increased during these seven years when they do not get yield. I have only these four requests to make to the hon. Minister. ... (Interruptions)... Till the yield comes, it is already seven years. I will be grateful to the Minister if he can react to these four queries of mine. Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this time. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The hon. Minister will reply. ... (Interruptions)... Private Member’s Business starts at 2.30. ... (Interruptions)... At 2.30 he will stop and ... (Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Sir, let the sense of the House be taken even if it is over by a few minutes.
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): If the House agrees, I can do it. Okay, at 2.30 I will ask.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the Members who have participated in the debate and raised some important questions and also sought clarifications. As I have mentioned right in the beginning, in my opening statement, the objective of this Bill is to ensure that the various difficulties which are faced by the small growers are addressed, the small growers are given more support and the cumbersome procedures of the requirements of registration and licence for planting and replanting is done away with this, which in our view is obsolete, and also create a consolidated Rubber Development Fund which will ensure easy flow of money as per the guidelines to the small growers. Now Mr. Rama Jois did talk about the nomination of the Central Government that who will be the people who will be nominated and particularly with reference to Karnataka and also about the criteria for the grant, which is made by the Rubber Board to the rubber States.

The criteria are very clearly defined and the competent authority can sanction any grant only if it is within the defined parameters for the development, for Human Resource Development and for the kind of support which the rubber estates would need, which the hon. Members have mentioned. It is true that the plantation of rubber—which was restricted to one small part of the country during the British rule and later on in the adjacent areas in Kerala primarily and also in Tamil Nadu, parts of rubber growing area of the old Madras State, as Mr. Rama Jois has said—now form part of Karnataka State. Rubber cultivation has also been extended to other parts of the country, including in Orissa and North-Eastern States. Whether in substantial measure or in small measure, ten States are today growing rubber and the Government, therefore, has decided to open more offices and also recruit more staff to ensure that those parts of the country where rubber cultivation has been taken up also get due attention and the growers there get some adequate support. Sir, as far as the representation part is concerned, this has been raised by many Members and Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you too while participating in the discussion have raised this issue of small growers’ representation. The Government has been mindful (a) of the difficulties of the small growers and (b) the need to have a fair representation which has to be raised by the Members, besides you also, Mr. Pasha had raised the same thing of the small growers and also Mr. Siva. The small growers are almost one million in number whereas the large growers are 283. It has not been correct to equate the two though it may not be possible for me at this stage to give the exact number but I can give you a firm assurance, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, and through you to the House that we will increase the representation of the small growers in the Rubber Board. The second important issue which has been raised is regarding the cess. We have clearly described it in the Bill also that this is an enabling provision to address the audit objections, the audit paragraphs. Mr. Rama Jois had raised why the cess was not collected. From the 1st of April, 1961, the point of collection of cess was shifted to the
manufacturers when the number of growers rose to tens of thousands. Therefore, collection was not possible and from such a large number of farmers, primarily small growers, and it was shifted then to the manufactures which was again not collected. The rubber exported did not undergo any manufacturing activity. This was the reason why cess was not collected after 2003 this issue has been addressed and notification exempting cess on exported rubber has been reduced to Zero from 1.9.2003. The issue therefore was what to do of the cess which could not be collected from 1961 to 2003 and a conscious view has been taken considering what the CAG have said. Secondly, this amendment of this Act also empowers the Government to wave or to levy cess. This in our view is correct since we cannot go back to collection...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Just one minute. If the House agrees, I will allow the Minister to finish his reply and then, we will take up the Private Members Bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the other issue which has been raised is about the provision of inspection of the premises of dealer, processor, manufacturer and exporter under new Section 17(2). This provision is not a new one. There already exists a provision for inspection in the present Act under Section 21 — for any other purpose of this Act. Therefore, the purpose of Section 17(2) is to make it specific so as to ensure that the quality of natural rubber fully meets with the requirements of the domestic and international standards. This is not something new which is being done.

Sir, I will also address the question of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement which has also been raised by some hon. Members and also about the quantum of exports. Mr. Siva has raised why the quantity of exports is not adequate enough. It is true that we are first in the productivity of natural rubber in the world. We are at number 4 when it comes to production of natural rubber and we are the third largest consumer in the world. There is a huge demand within the country which has clearly reflected in the fact that the price of natural rubber has undergone or seen an increase of 105 per cent in eight months. So, there is a demand. We have a growing industry in this country which is using natural rubber. The projections make it clear that in the coming years there will be more consumption. But rubber import is not free; it is restricted only to the actual users. When we look at the production and consumption, the production in the country was 8,25,345 tonnes, whereas, the consumption is more than the production. So, there is, actually, a small shortfall between production and consumption within the country and that has to be met through import. But, at the same time, it is in the restricted category. There is no free import of rubber. In the Indo-ASEAN Agreement, our negotiators had a clear direction. The Agreement that India signed has a huge Negative List, primarily
to protect the interests of the small farmers and the plantation sector. I would like to inform Mr. Pasha and also other hon. Members who have raised it that natural rubber is in the Exclusion List of India-ASEAN Agreement. So, there is no reason for any apprehension or fear.

When we look at the nomination of the Central Government, three nominees are proposed. The present functioning of the Rubber Board has been acknowledged and appreciated by you and other hon. Members that it has been working for the betterment of the rubber plantation sector, for the small growers engaged in pioneering research which has placed India as one of the major producers of rubber in the world. The new clones helped in ensuring that we are first in productivity. The composition of the Board has 10 nominees of the Government of India. This question was asked on various occasions. In the other House also it was raised as to why 10 nominees of the Government of India. Who are these ten nominees? Sir, four represent labour, 2 represent the manufacturers and 4 would be the other categories and that is where I feel that there is some room when we look at the demand for increasing the representation of the small growers or looking at other States which are totally unrepresented and we cannot now roll it back when the original Act itself has given representation to two States. Therefore, this provision is helpful. We have eight nominees from the State of Kerala which includes only two nominees from the Government of Kerala and six nominees are growers. Yes, I have already responded to this that why the small and the large number, 283 and one million, have been given the same representation. I have already given an assurance that it will be corrected. There are three Members of Parliament elected by the two Houses, ex-officio, again, there are only two Members, that is, the Rubber Production Commissioner and the Executive Director. So, effectively, there is only one nominee you can say, who is from the Central Government. The official representative of the Government of India is the Chairman of the Rubber Board. That is why, it was felt by the Ministry of Agriculture and this Ministry that there should be more nominees and those three officials will, therefore, be included. I feel, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, that I have answered all the queries, addressed the apprehensions of the hon. Members and I do understand the concern of the Members coming from these States, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. We will ensure that after these amendments, the Rubber Board functions in a manner "to meet the objectives which have been clearly defined. This Bill is, actually, meant to help the small growers and help the rubber plantation in the country. With these words, I would like to commend the Bill to be passed by this House.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, I have a specific query regarding representation of the State of Karnataka.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I believe that he has said that.
SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I have given a firm assurance to give more representation to small growers. Secondly, since now it is in ten States, we will see that those States which have always remained unrepresented on the Rubber Board, should also get representation. We will work out a formula whether it is on rotational basis, because there are ten States. I am not in a position to say about one State. The Government of India has equal responsibility about the remaining seven States also. Thank you.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: I want to know about the exemption. Does it give rise to demand for refund? That is what I want to know. If not collected, and exempted, it is all right. What if it has been collected?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It has not been collected at all.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay, The question is:
"That the Bill further to amend the Rubber Act, 1947, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): In clause 3, there is one amendment (no. 1) by Shri A. Vijayaraghavan. Are you moving?

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I would like to say a few words. The intention of my amendment is mainly to ensure representation of the poor farmers in the Board.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): That he has already assured.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: The Minister has taken up that matter very seriously.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You can thank the Minister for this.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Of course, I am thankful to him. Similarly, in Kerala, we are producing nearly 90 per cent of total natural rubber but only two representatives are there in the Board. I would also like to say that when you nominate farmers on the Rubber Board, naturally, some consultation will always help. I think that should also be considered by the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): So, you are withdrawing your amendment.
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, I hope that that will be considered by the Minister. So, I am withdrawing my amendment.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KUR1EN): So, amendment is withdrawn.

Clauses 3-18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I move: That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, we shall take up Private Members’ Bills; Bills for introduction. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): What about the other Bills, Sir? ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Private Members’ Bills are only for introduction. That may be over in 10-15 minutes. Immediately after the introduction, we shall take up other bills. Today, we shall take up all other pending Government business.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, we heard that there will be no sitting on Monday? So, do we have to take up all that business today?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I cannot say that. Please, sit down. The hon. Chairman will decide that. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, the other House has adjourned sine die. Why can’t we finish the work today? These are days of austerity; why should so many people be made to go and come back again? Let work be finished today or tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): That will be decided.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: When, Sir? ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please, take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

Now, Dr. Subbarami Reddy.

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BILLS - INTRODUCED

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009

(To amend Article 51-A)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Compulsory Registration of Marriage Bill, 2009

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of all marriages irrespective of caste, religion and creed in the country and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.
The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009

(To Amend Article 124 and 217)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Naxalite Affected Areas (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for framing of a national policy providing for special grants and development of areas affected by Naxalites in the country, particularly, in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Naxalism and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Quality and Accountability in Education Bill, 2009

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to formalise the commitment to high quality education; adopt grade specific performance oriented education system; provide for grading of schools by independent agency on the basis of their academic performance; award schools for achieving high academic standards; establish a system of accountability in education and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Prevention of Hunger and Malnutrition and Right to Food Bill, 2009

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to prevent and eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the country and provide the citizens the right to food and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009

(Insertion of New Article 15A, 17A and 17B)

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (Insertion of New Article 2A).

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2009

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2009

(To amend Section 77)

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bid further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta, not present. Shri Shreegopal Vyas.

The Ban on Cow Slaughter Bill, 2009

श्री श्रीराजेश्वर बाबू (छटीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि गाय और इसकी सन्तानों के वध का प्रतिष्ठापन करने और तत्संबंधित विषयों के लिए विधेयक को पुर व्यापक करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री श्रीराजेश्वर बाबू: महोदय, मैं विधेयक का पुरव्यापक करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now we take up the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009.
The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009

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

Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to move:

That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and further to amend the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1969, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4th December, 2009 to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and to make consequential amendments in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. All shares of the Bank of Saurashtra vest in the State Bank of India.

In view of the recent developments in the international banking scenario and for the better functioning, the State Bank of India had, with the sanction of the Central Government and in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, entered into negotiations for acquiring the business including the assets and liabilities of the State Bank of Saurashtra. Accordingly, the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra Order, 2008, was published in the Gazette of India on 13th August, 2008. After the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra by the State Bank of India, the State Bank of Saurashtra ceased to exist and, therefore, it is necessary to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and to make consequential amendments in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

The question was proposed.

The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4th December, 2009 to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and to make consequential amendments in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. All shares of the Bank of Saurashtra vest in the State Bank of India.

In view of the recent developments in the international banking scenario and for the better functioning, the State Bank of India had, with the sanction of the Central Government and in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, entered into negotiations for acquiring the business including the assets and liabilities of the State Bank of Saurashtra. Accordingly, the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra Order, 2008, was published in the Gazette of India on 13th August, 2008. After the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra by the State Bank of India, the State Bank of Saurashtra ceased to exist and, therefore, it is necessary to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and to make consequential amendments in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

The question was proposed.
दिया गया। इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में 20 जून को यह समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ था कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में विवाद की प्रक्षिप्त को सरकारी तौर पर मंजूरी दे दी गई है। यह समाचार भी ऐसीजीआई के वेबसाइट और एप्लीकेशन और पी.टी. अद्यावधि में प्रकाशित हुआ। इन बैंकों का विवाद करने में सरकार दी कोना सी मजबूत है और किस दबाव के अन्तर्गत ऐसा किया जा रहा है, जिसके फायदा निजी बैंकों को हो रहा है? यद्यपि सरकार ने बैंकों के मुनाफे और आता के अलावा बैंकों के कर्मचारियों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए भी इसके गम्भीर परिणामों का अवलोकन किया है?

महोदय, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सीरापूर, सीरापूर के कच्चे क्षेत्र में एक लॉक बैंक थी। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इसकी 460 ब्रांचें थीं जो तत्पश्चात बंद हुईं। यह तत्पश्चात बंद हुईं बैंकों में से एक थी। जिसमें बैंक का कोई घप्पा या बैंक की कोई नज़रबाजी गयी नहीं थी, ऐसी कोई बात नहीं थी। यह बहुत बड़ी बैंक थी। करीब 4 लाख लोग उसमें खार्डिंग थे और सवारियता रखने वाले लोगों के क्षेत्र में उपरोक्त निर्माण की सवारियता बढ़ा कर लोकप्रिय रहीं।

महोदय, मैं धार्मिक हूँ कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सीरापूर को भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में विलय कर दिया गया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उसके असल पर काफी दर से विवाद प्राप्त हुआ। वर्षों से ग्रामीण अंतर के लोगों के मनो में जिसकी पहचान अपना बैंक, मेरा बैंक, ग्रामीण बैंक, गरीबों का बैंक इत्यादि उन्हें थी, लेकिन अब वह पहचान स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया की पहचान बन गई। कोचीन जगत एवं सामुहिक बैंक के साथ उसके जोड़े जाने के कारण लोगों के मन की आलोका पर कुशलतापूर्वक हुआ। इसके कारण सीरापूर के लोगों का ऐसा केवल मेरा लोकप्रिय बना है, ऐसा मेरा मानना है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि विलय के बाद स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सीरापूर के प्राक्तन के साथ भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के द्वारा में-भावपूर्व देखा अपनाया जा रहा है। स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सीरापूर के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों के साथ भी में-भावपूर्व देखा अपनाया जा रहा है और उनके लोगों के साथ लॉक बैंकों के कर्मचारियों ताना भेद-भाव किया जा रहा है।

इसलिए मैं धार्मिक हूँ कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के जो अधिकारी हैं, जो सर्विसजन लेनदेन इत्यादि हैं, वह उनमें उनकी भी देखती है, ताकि उनमें भी लोग आंदोलन पर माननी दिया जा रहा है।

एक निवेदन में बिलेट रूप से किसानों, बैंकरों, निजी बैंकों, बैंकों के संबंध में कहना चाहिए। इन सबों को राजस्व की विनियम एवं बांकों जो सूचनाएं मिल रही थीं, वैसे ही सूचनाएं आगे भी जारी रखें। भारतीय स्टेट बैंक को यह भी करना होगा कि प्रति लोग की नीति के लिए भी एक बैंक बंद न किया जाए। ग्रामीण बैंक के नाटे सीरापूर में इस बैंक का जो परिवर्तन भले हुए, वह परिवर्तन अब चाहूंगे, ऐसा मेरा निवेदन है।

आज Global Environment के कारण ही आप यह सब कर रहे हैं। विश्व स्तर पर Big Bank के equivalent होने का एक बिग बैंक होना चाहिए, आपका रंग ऐसा है। इस संबंध में मेरा मानना यह है कि अभी पूरी दुनिया के सभी बैंकों के मुकाबले में हमारा स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया 64वें नम्बर पर आता है। अगर आप ये सब बैंक इसमें जोड़ भी देंगे, तो मैं धार्मिक हूँ कि 64वें नम्बर से घट कर बह 50वें या 55वें नम्बर पर पहुंच जाएगा, लेकिन
3.00 P.M.

This is one of the key tasks to be undertaken in the current scenario since all subsidiary banks are showing continuous business growth, earning profits and carrying regional developmental responsibilities. Sir, the merger of Saurashtra Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging

SHRI PENNUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the merger of banks in India was recommended by the Narasimham Committee in 1993. The recommendations were broadly based on the experience of the United States of America. The present deep financial crisis in the United States of America and Europe put a big question mark on the desirability of such policies. The myth of 'big is better' has exploded with the failure of giant-sized financial institutions like Lehmann Brothers, AIG, Merrill Lynch, etc. The bigger is the institution, the higher is the risk of failure and huge could be its impact on the economy. Nations of the world have reportedly spent over US$ 3 trillion to salvage the financial sector so far, which is three times bigger than India’s GDP. Whether India would have similar financial sector policies is the question today. There is a need to evolve our own banking policies which suit our nation's needs and interests. For our country, financial enclosure and expanding banking services to vast rural areas has to be the priority. Policy of subsidiary banks' merger needs a review in the current scenario since all subsidiary banks are showing continuous business growth, earning profits and carrying regional developmental responsibilities. Sir, the merger of Saurashtra Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging the State Bank with the State Bank of India is the first of its kind. There are proposals of merging
Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Hyderabad. Sir, we are opposed to any kind of merger in the banking sector. We urge upon the Government to take the experience of the recent past and see that these merger policies are reviewed. With these words, I conclude and thank you.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I rise to support the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 placed here in this House. I support this Bill because this merger, as it has been said here by some of the Members, is for the betterment of the people, for the betterment of the workers and also in the interest of the country as a whole. As we all know, today Indian economy is surviving because our economy is mostly controlled by the Government. In other countries, the economy collapsed because many banks were private banks which could not sustain. So, the economy collapsed. Now, in this era, not only in the banking sector, but in many other areas also, private sector and public sector companies are merging. Consolidation and strengthening of the financial sector is also a priority in our country.

Merging of various banks is an ongoing process. In our country, from 1961 to this date, around 79 banks have been merged. After 1969 also, when the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, nationalised important private banks, 33 banks had been merged till 1998. In 1998, the Second Narasimhan Committee Report suggested merger of banks and consolidation of financial sector. Even the IBA Working Group supported the consolidation of the financial sector by merging various banks. When we look back, we find that the grameen bank was the brainchild of the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, so that the loan can flow to the rural poor in the rural areas. It was created at that time. The number of such grameen banks, which were working in various parts of the country, was 196. These banks have been merged; and their number has come down to 82. These 82 banks, as I have been informed, are working very well in the rural areas without affecting the interests of the workers, without affecting the interests of the poor labourers in the rural areas and the people who are involved with these banks. There is no problem. All these banks are working very well in the rural areas. If there is privatisation, that is a different issue. But when it comes to this merger of bank with the State Bank of India, I think whether it is a farmer or a loan seeker or a worker or general public, all should be happy. When it is being merged with the State Bank of India, which is a very reliable and secure bank, every interest group will be equally benefited. There is no danger of losing anything. While merging banks, the Government of India should also see that the interests of the people are protected. When a grameen bank or the Saurashtra Bank is being merged, are its employees and officers affected? I don’t think so. Because the employees and officers of the State
Bank of India are getting more benefits than its subsidiaries. It is the case with not just the State Bank of India but with other banks also. When a subsidiary bank merges with the State Bank of India, I believe the Government and the Minister would assure us in the House that the workers’ interest will be protected; their salary and all other benefits which they are getting they will continue to get; and if it is more than what they were getting in the subsidiary bank, then also they should get it. In some cases, there may be some problem. But these problems should be looked after by the Government. Sometimes three or four grameen banks are merged into one. I have seen this happening in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. As per the rules, a bank employee could be transferred to an area which is in the radius of 100 km. When three grameen banks merge together and if the area where their employees are transferred is beyond the radius of 100 km, then it causes difficulty to the employees. So, whether it is the merger of the Saurashtra Bank or the merger of grameen banks, this difficulty should also be taken into consideration.

Sir, while speaking on this issue, I want to raise an issue which is related with the employees and officers of the grameen banks and other banks also. Now our bank employees and officers are getting pension. We are thankful to the Government for this. As on today around 50 per cent of bank officers and employees were not getting pension. Now the IBA and the Government have agreed and all employees and officers of the nationalised banks have been given the assurance that they would get pension from 2009. Accordingly, the agreement has been signed with all of them. Now the question is that the employees and officers of the grameen banks are also doing the same work in the rural areas, but they are not getting pension.

Of course, there is a direction by the hon. Supreme Court to give salary, pension, all allowances and benefit to the employees of Grameen Banks. But, till today, they have got the salary but not other benefits and pension. When the Government has taken a decision to give pension facilities to all bank employees including the nationalised bank employees, giving pension to employees of Grameen Banks should also be taken into consideration. There are about 76000 employees working in Grameen Banks. They should also be given this facility.

Secondly, Sir, you will be surprised to know that employees of Grameen Banks are getting provident fund deduction only up to Rs.6500 which is limited and because of which they are getting less benefit. I do not understand why. All the nationalised bank employees and officers are getting the benefit up to Rs.10000. Even contract labour or manual labour or any worker as per the statute can get a deduction up to Rs.10000. Why are the employees and officers of Grameen Banks kept at the level of Rs.6500? Seventy six thousand persons are suffering for that. I request the Government, through you, to consider that and see that the ceiling is waived and the employees of Grameen Banks should also get the benefit.
Sir, I again come back to the State Bank of India. The State Bank of India is really a very big organisation. I think, they earned a profit of Rs.10000 crore last year and are doing very well. But, there is also discontentment among the officers and employees of the State Bank. When the agreement is signed, everybody is getting pension, and 17-point salary revision is a very good thing. I congratulate the IBA and the employees’ organisations to have agreed to the agreement. But, the only thing is, there is also discontentment among the 2.50 lakh officers and employees of the State Bank. The officers and employees of the State Bank are getting pension from 200 years. Now, the employees and officers of other banks will get pension as a result of this agreement. But, there will be a deduction from their salary enhancement for the pension fund. Sir, they are already getting pension since 200 years. In 1993, when there was a pension scheme introduced for the nationalised banks, some additional benefits were given to the officers and employees of the State Bank. They have appealed to the Government. I also request the Government, through you, to consider that because the State Bank is playing a very important role in our economy.

Sir, with these words, I do believe that merger of Saurashtra Bank with the State Bank of India will be in the interest of the workers, officers and rural poor, and they will have a secure contact with the State Bank of India which was earlier with Saurashtra Bank. Since nobody is affected, rather workers, officers and rural poor will be benefited by the merger, I support the Bill. I think, the Government has taken the right decision by merging the Saurashtra Bank with the State Bank of India. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I have been listening very attentively to what my friend spoke just now. Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia is also my trade union colleague. Sir, I stand to oppose this particular Bill although I know that this Bill is a consequential Bill. The basic job of merger is done by an earlier legislation. The Bank of Saurashtra was merged with the State Bank of India. We oppose this merger seriously. So far as benefits to employees are concerned, a colourful picture is sought to be painted. I think, that is not a fact. The Bank of Saurashtra Employees and Officers Association is agitating over these issues. A serious anomaly is there between the service conditions of the Bank of Saurashtra and the State Bank of India.

The employees of the State Bank of India are getting altogether a pension scheme like a third retirement benefit. It is denied to those employees who will be absorbed from the State Bank of Saurashtra to the State Bank of India after the merger. This is a fact of life. So, I think, when we speak, we must know fully what all the developments are. But this is not the issue. The employees are not the only factor in the banking system. It involves the whole national economy, and the whole
bank workforce today of all shades, of all colours, right from this side to that side of trade unions in
the bank. They are jointly and unitedly opposing seriously this move of merger operation, and the
matter that is being argued upon that in today’s financial world, merger is for economic
consolidation, and consolidation is always welcome.

This is not the fact in case of country’s banking sector. This is not the fact in the matter of
expanding the banking network in a country where a major section of people are not linked by banks.
They do not have access to banks. This is a reality, and in such a situation, the whole aspect of
consolidation which is aimed at reducing the duplication, this merger exercise will inevitably reduce
the number of bank branches network of different banks throughout the country which is seeking to
reach the remotest rural areas of the country. Their number will go down and in the name of merger
and consolidation, the nationalised banks widening branch network will get shrinked which is against
the interest of rural people, rural employees. So, merger and consolidation concept, yes. Consolidation
sometimes strengthens. But if we put it in Indian national economic situation, that concept does not work. We cannot have a formula thing. We just cannot put a square peg in a round
hole. The present merger concept of the banking system in our country is fraught with that deficiency
which cannot be for the good of the Indian economy at all. So, in that context, the general opinion
that is being built up is that this kind of merger is not in the interest of the country’s economy, and
so, the Bank of Saurashtra’s merger with the State Bank of India is just a beginning.

Other banks are still there. They are still opposing that merger exercise. So, while speaking on
this occasion, we will request you to seriously consider the merger which is on a very active agenda
of the Government of India at present, merger of the different nationalised banks into 4 or 5 one, to
please reconsider that. That is not in the interest of the people, that is not in the interest of the
banking business in our country, that is not in the interest of the national economy, which needs
badly the widening access to the banking system, widening access to the credit system, and this
whole concept of merger go against that concept of the banking system, So, in that spirit, I oppose
the very concept of merger and hence, I oppose this Bill that has been brought to facilitate the
merger of the State Bank of Saurashtra to the State Bank of India, and I also see in the same tune the
entire banking sector network employees, and I again repeat, there is a total unity of all shades of
trade unions who are jointly, unitedly opposing this move, and if this Government go forward in the
same line, there will be further opposition, and I tell you, I put this Government on advance notice
that if this continues, we will be inviting a serious turmoil in the financial system of the country. With
this, I again reiterate my opposition to the Bill and conclude.
Sir, four hon. Members of the House participated in the discussion, and they gave suggestions, made observations and also expressed their concerns. Sir, I would like to start with the hon. Members, Shri Penumalli Madhu and Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen. They doubted the merger policy and opposed the Bill also. I would like to tell them that the Indian banking sector is no longer a stranger to the phenomenon of merger and acquisition across the banks.

Since 1961, till date, there have been as many as 79 banks' amalgamations in the Indian banking system, of which 46 amalgamations took place before nationalisation of the banks, and in 1969, while the remaining 33 occurred in the post-nationalisation era, out of these 33, in 24 cases, private banks merged with public banks; in seven cases, private banks merged with private banks, and in two cases, public banks merged with public banks. I agree with Mr. Khuntia who referred to the Narasimham Committee and, also, the Indian Banking Association’s Reports. They have given their Reports in support of the merger of the amalgamations.

Sir, as far as policy of the Government of India is concerned, I would like to tell them, the current policy of the Government of India on consolidation leaves the initiative for consolidation to come from the management of the banks themselves. With Government playing a supportive role as the common shareholder, no direction on consolidation is being issued by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India. The Boards of the Banks, thus, have to take a decision, in this regard, based on the synergy levels of merging or consolidating agency.

Sir, I would like to tell the Members also that the merger has some advantages also. The customers get better banking services with larger geographical coverage of branches and ATM network. Improved systems and procedures will lead to considerable economies of the scale by way of substantially reducing administrative core heads. Technological advantage will accrue to the smaller banks; that is optimal utilisation of human resources by deployment of administrative functionaries into operations, business activities.

Sir, certain concerns were also expressed by some hon. Members, Vijaykumari, Khuntiaji and Tapan Kumar Senji, about service conditions of the merged bank employees. Here, I would like to inform them that broadly, the employees, the shareholders and the customers constitute shareholders of the banks. While examining any merger proposal, Government will keep in view the interest of all the stakeholders, including the employees of the merging banks. Suitable clauses have been incorporated in the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra Order, 2008 so that the pay and
allowances or the compensation to the employees of merging entity are not altered to their disadvantage.

Sir, further, the retirement benefits of the employees are protected. The provident fund or the gratuity fund or the pension fund or any other fund of the transferor bank and any other bodies created, established or constituted, as the case may be, for the officers or the other employees shall continue with the transferee bank, and income tax or the tax exemption granted to provident fund or the gratuity fund or the pension fund or any other fund, if any, shall continue to be applied to the transferee bank. Therefore, there should no apprehension about the service conditions of the Saurashtra Bank employees. All their interests will be protected.

Sir, some other questions were also raised. One question was raised by Shri Vijaykumar Rupani that the Government should have come to the Parliament before the merger and it had come to the Parliament after the merger. Here I would like to inform the hon. Member that section 35 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 provides the legal framework for acquisition of banking institutions, including a public sector bank, by the State Bank of India. Though the provisions of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 do not expressly so require, the scheme of acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra by State Bank of India was laid before both the Houses of Parliament post merger. Therefore, there is no legal infirmity in this matter.

Shri Vijaykumar Rupani and Shri Tapan Kumar Sen raised an issue whether the branches will be closed. They have some apprehensions. All branches of the Saurashtra Bank will function. No branches will be closed. On the contrary, as you know, Sir, at the time of independence there were only 5,277 branches. In 1969, before the nationalisation of banks, there were only 8,262 branches. Now, there are over 82,000 branches of the various banks in the country. Our Government believes in the financial inclusion and we will try to connect all the people in the rural areas with banks. We have an expansion policy. More and more banks will be opened in the rural areas as per the policy of financial inclusion.

Sir, I think, I have covered most of the points. I assure the hon. Members that I have noted their suggestions and I have tried to clarify their apprehensions. In the end, I would, therefore, commend that the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009 be passed by this august House. Thank you.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, want to seek one or two clarifications after the hon. Minister has responded. My first clarification is this. Just now he told us that it was not only the State Bank of Saurashtra merger but also the whole perception of merger that has been taken as a policy decision
by the Government. He told us that 82,000 branches were there. Can he assure this House that after
the whole merger exercise, which is policy decision of this Government, of the nationalised banks,
whatever is their programme, as per the Narasimhan Committee’s Report, which is undertaken, that
the number of branches existing as on date, that is, 82,000 branches, will not go down anywhere in
the country? Will he give this assurance to the Parliament?

My second clarification is that he was talking about protecting the interests of the employees.
Will you kindly assure this House that the State Bank of Saurashtra employees will be governed by
the same, identical, pension scheme as the State Bank of India employees are presently getting?
Protection means whatever they are getting in the State Bank of Saurashtra that may be protected,
...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes, you made it clear. ...(Interruptions)... You made it clear. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: When they go to the State Bank of India system, they can’t be
disturbed. I want an assurance on that. Can you ensure that?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I have clarified that suitable clauses have been incorporated
in the acquisition of the State Bank of Saurashtra Order, 2008 so that the pay and allowances or the
compensation to the employees of the merging entity are not altered to their disadvantage.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: That does not mean that their interests are protected.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Minister cannot ensure it, I do not mind. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): He has already said that it will not be altered to
the disadvantage of the employees. It is a good assurance.
SHRT TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Anybody having understanding of the employee’s service conditions cannot. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): In the case of overlapping, what will he do?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): The question is:

That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950 and further to amend the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I move:

That the Bill to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

महोदय, इस संशोधन विवेक के माध्यम से हम दो उदेश्य प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। पहला, employee शब्द की परिभाषा को व्यक्ति व्यक्ति विभागों को इस एंक्ट के प्रावधानों का लाभ प्राप्त हो सके, यह व्यवस्था की जा रही है। दूसरा उदेश्य यह है कि इस प्रावधान का लाभ विभागों को उस दिन से प्राप्त हो सके, जब से उनको पहले लिस्ट हुई gratuity का लाभ जो discontinue हुआ, 3 अप्रैल, 1997 से यह दिल्ली नहीं से सरकार ने 3 अप्रैल 1997 को एक notification जारी करके educational institutions को Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 में cover किया था। सुधीर कोटर् ारा Ahmedabad Private Primary Teachers’ Association vs. Administrative Officer and others के केस में दिनांक 13 जनवरी, 2004 को निर्णय दिया गया कि Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 में ‘employee’ की परिभाषा में educational संस्थाओं के शिक्षकों शामिल नहीं है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के अधिशासक महोदय ने मान्य निर्णय देते वक यह बात कही कि हमारे इस जजमेंट को misunderstand न किया जाए स्वतंत्रता के विधेयक का profession है, वह बड़ा नोबल profession है इसलिए हम इस निर्णय को Legislature के रूप में लेना चाहते हैं कि वह बड़े तो उनको कार करने के लिए करव आता सकती है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के इस निर्णय को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने निर्णय दिया कि हम Payment of Gratuity Act को amend करके आयाम को भी employee वर्तमाै। की परिभाषा में कार करने। महोदय, यह सरा सदन इस बात को जानता है कि इस एंक्ट में factories, mines, oilfields, plantation, ports, railway companies, shops or other establishments, जिसमें यह या दस से अधिक वर्कर्स काम करते हैं, ऐसे वर्कर्स को साहब तीन तलक रूपें तक प्रेरणु के भुगतान का प्राप्त नहीं है।
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इस संबंध में, मैं इस सदन के समकक्ष कहना चाहूंगा कि यह अधिनियम, 8 जनवरी, 1982 से सभी लोकसभा बौंदिज में नोटिफिकेशन के माध्यम से लागू किया गया था। लोकसभा बौंदिज में काम करने वाले विधायकों को इसका लाभ मिलने लगा, तो सरकार ने महसूस किया कि इसका प्राइवेट स्कूल में काम करने वाले कमर्चारी वर्ग को भी लाभ मिलना चाहिए। इसके लिए 3 अप्रैल, 1997 को नोटिफिकेशन लेकर सरकार आई और उसके जवाब में ऐसी संस्थाओं में जहाँ 10 या 10 से अधिक व्यक्ति काम करते हैं, उनमें वह लाभ प्राप्त किया। परन्तु माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 13 जनवरी, 2004 के निर्णय में यह आदेश दिया था कि पेंट और ठेकेदारों एक, 172 के सेक्शन 2 (४) में वह गई एमपलाई शब्द को परिभाषा से उसके चिन्ह में दूसरे कार नहीं होते और माननीय सहस्त्र यातर के अनुसार यह भी कहा कि पेंट अंक में हबेकी एक्ट में एमपलाई की परिभाषा में उस तरह की वाइडर शेयरेज इस्तेमाल नहीं की गई है, जैसे कि एमपलाई जोनहेड प्रोफेट फ़ाइनिंग्स इंडियन प्राइवेट एक्ट, 1952 में एमपलाई शब्द को परिभाषित किया गया है।

सर, माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट की दिशाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने इस परिभाषा को विस्तृत बनाने का फैसला लिया और इसके लिए जून 2007 में लोक सभा में हम एक विवाद लेकर आई और वह विवाद रहेंगे कमेटी को फैसला हुआ। उपसमाधान जी, मैं इस बारे में ज्यादा समय सदन का नहीं लेना चाहूंगा। इस विवाद के बारे में रहेंगे कमेटी ने चार सुझाव दिए और रहेंगे कमेटी ने कहा कि सरकार ने इसमें जो एमपलाई शब्द की परिभाषा दी है, जो विवाद सरकार ने लोक सभा में प्रस्तुत किया था, अपने पर दिखाई दिया हुआ का ज्ञान हमें प्राप्त विवाद इस प्रकार कम करने वाले गैर शामिल उल्लेख करते। लेकिन हम उसको इसलिए नहीं मान सके क्योंकि यदि हम शामिल इस एक्ट के अंदर उल्लेख करते, तो दूसरे जो समस्त प्रक्रियाएं ने, उन सबको भी एक्ट में उल्लेख करना चाहिए। इसलिए यह सोचा गया कि विवाद मंजूरी से भी रह तो गई और दूसरे विवाद-गैर-विवाद के बाद यह तय किया गया कि यदि हम इंपीएक्ट एक्ट के समकक्ष एमपलाई शब्द की परिभाषा को व्यापक बना देते हैं, तो वह दूसरी बाद को नवर करेगा, तो एक प्राकृतिक से हमारे, जो रहेंगे कमेटी की रिकमिंडेजन थी, उसको कितना कितनी तरीकी से, समाधित किया।

सर, दूसरा सुझाव आया था, वह था कि इसका नोटिफिकेशन, क्योंकि हमारे संशोधन विवेक, 2007 में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, उसमें यह व्यवस्था नहीं थी कि यह 13 अगस्त, 1997 से प्रभावी होगा, जिस निर्देशन से देशी रंग-कंटीन्यु की गई की, सरकार ने यह फैसला लिया कि यह सुझाव को समाध्य जाना चाहिए और इसलिए वह फैसला लिया गया और उससे इसको इनकारपोरेट कर दिया गया।

सर, दूसरा सुझाव कांटेक्ट वर्कस के विषय में था। रहेंगे कमेटी चाहती थी कि इसका स्पष्ट प्रवाह हो और माननीय सदन के समस्या इस बात को कहना चाहता था कि जैसा मैं नैने नज़र में देखा कि हमारे इस एक्ट के तहत इस तरह की व्यवस्था पहले से ही उपस्थत हो और उसमें सांस-तौर पर कहा गया है, अलग-अलग नेता के विषय में भी कहा गया कि इसे वेब केंडो रोर, कांटेक्ट पर हों, टेम्परेशी, हो, रूपलर वर्कस हों, इसमें सिर्फ एक बात है कि उनसे पांच साल तक काम किया हो, तभी उनको इसका लाभ प्राप्त हो, विशेष इसके अंतर्गत सूचित है, इसलिए इस बारे में जो सुझाव रहेंगे कमेटी का था, वह पहले से ही समाधित था।
महोदय, इस तीसरे सुझाव का भी समान किया गया, लेकिन एक सुझाव स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने दिया, वह threshold limit को घटाकर दस से कम करने का था। में एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि इस संदर्भ में हमारे जितने भी ऐक्ट्स हैं, उन ऐक्ट्स में या तो दस या दस से अधिक की बात है या बीस से अधिक की बात है। दूसरे ऐक्ट्स के परिप्रेक्ष्य में इस विषय पर प्राचीन या वस्त्र अर्थव्यवस्था में हमारे संशोधन करने वाले कंसैट्ज़ी का था, उस पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता थी। हमें लगा कि इसमें काफी समय लग जाएगा, इसलिए निर्णय लिया गया कि हम इसके दस से ऊपर ही रखें। माननीय स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की संस्थापना थी, उसके संदर्भ में यह विचार सोचा गया। क्योंकि गवर्नमेंट उस समय तक unorganized sector के workers के लिए Social Security Act लाने का विचार बना हुआ था, उस दिशा में मूल कर चुकी थी, इसलिए सोचा गया कि हम इसके दस और दस से नीचे के संबंध हैं, Social Security Act व्यवस्था करने का काम करेगा, उसके विषय में Social Security Act के अंतर्गत सोचा जा सकता है, इसलिए इस संदर्भ में माननीय स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की संस्थापना थी, उसको विषय नहीं पर छोड़ दिया गया है। में माननीय सदन से यह भी अनुरोध करा चाहूंगा कि इस समय जो संशोधन हम राजनीतिक एक्ट में लेकर आए हैं, उसका एक सीमित उद्देश्य है, मगर उस सीमित उद्देश्य के माध्यम से भी लाखों शिक्षकों को लाम पहुंचाने का काम किया जा रहा है। इससे उसको लाम मिलेगा, इसलिए में माननीय सदन से यह अनुरोध करा चाहूंगा कि हमारे इस संशोधन विषयक को एक मत से स्वीकार करने की कृपया करें।

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Messages from Lok Sabha.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

(iii) The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(iv) The Civil Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(v) The Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2009
(vi) The Commercial Division of High Courts Bill, 2009
(vii) The Legal Metrology Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

(I) "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 Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2009".

(II) "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 Civil Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2009".
"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 Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2009”.

"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 Commercial Division of High Courts Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2009”.

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2009, agreed without any amendment to the Legal Metrology Bill, 2009, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 2009”.

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Bills – The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2009; The Civil Defence (Amendment) Bill, 2009; The Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2009 and The Commercial Division of High Courts Bill, 2009 — on the Table.
भी बतते हैं, लेकिन हम भारतीय मजबूत संघ से निकटतार हैं। अभी चार-चार सेंट्रल ट्रेड युनियन तत्व किए गए। यहाँ पर शिक्षकों को सुविधा देने के लिए इस विवेचक के माध्यम से उन्हें कर्मचारियों के दायरे में लाया गया है। इसमें यह sense रहता है कि शिक्षक को benefit मिलेगा।

महोदय, अभी तुरंत बैंकिंग का विवेचक हमने पारित किया। जहाँ तक बीएमएस का merger of banks के बारे में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक है, वह इससे विफरोक सहमत नहीं हैं। कर्मचारियों की हालत दर्दनक है। Western Bank और IDBI का merger हुआ। महाराष्ट्र में Western Bank की शाखा छोटे-छोटे स्थानों पर होती है, सतारा में होती हैं, छोटे-छोटे जिला के न्दरीय में होती हैं। यहाँ पर जो सफाई कर्मचारी हैं, जब एक बार merger हो जाता है, IDBI किस प्रकार का बैंक है, यह आप जानते हैं, इसकी दिल्ली शाखा में, मुम्बई शाखा में सतारा के सफाई कर्मचारी का तबादला कर दिया जाता है। महोदय, यह दुनिया को पता है कि ये सफाई कर्मचारी एक प्रकार से part time करते हैं। आपना मुख्यालय पर्यंत के लिए उनका कोई दूरसंचार-टीसरा काम भी होता है। बैंकों का merger कर दिया जाता है और सफाई कर्मचारी को कमर्चारी कहा जाता है कि तुम्हारी दिल्ली ट्राफर्फर हो गया। क्या दिल्ली में वह अपनी जिम्मेदारी जी पाएगा? जहाँ तक सेंट्रल ट्रेड युनियन का सतारा है, हम बैंकों के merger का ध्यान पूर्वक किया देना की वाद करते हैं। इस विवेचक पर यह कहने के लिए भाव होता हूं कि जब-जब कंपनियाँ सक्षम रहती हैं, जब उनका सप्तथ बढ़ता था, एक समय तो उनके पास 420 का बहुत था, तो हर जी के समय बहुत बढ़ता था, लेकिन दूसरे प्रकार के यह जाननीति दल हैं, उनमें हमारे वामसंघी मित्रों और समाजवादी मित्रों के बीच हमारे प्रति कोई धारणा बदलती हो गई कि हमारी सरकार को न आप देना। मैं दर्द से कहता हूं …(व्यक्तित्व)... कि भाजपा को दूर रखने के लिए कभी-कभी वे ऐसी जाननीति करते हैं। यहां तक तो ...(व्यक्तित्व)... यहां तक कि कभी-कभी ऐसा कह देते हैं कि भाजपा को दूर रखने के लिए वे मिलाते हैं, कभी-कभी जब इस प्रकार का राजनीतिक बंदालय होता है। अब दीर्घ-दीर्घ परिवर्तन हो गया और दीर्घ-दीर्घ आधिक नीति पर एक विवाद आया और इस कारण में परिवर्तन होगा। जब जब कंपनियाँ पाठी की सरकार रही है, वे लोग भ्रम के नाम पर भ्रम पैदा करते हैं। अभी इस विवेचक में शिक्षकों को कैसे फायदा मिलेगा, इसके बारे में वे नहीं सोचते हैं। आज शिक्षा का यात्रीकरण किया जा सकता है।

शिक्षा के नाम पर व्यवसाय चलाया जाता है। इस प्रकार के विवेचनात्मक हैं। मेरे स्टेट में, मैं उड़ीसा से आता हूं, वेदान्त नाम का एक विविधविवाद है। यह विविधविवाद एक प्राइवेट विविधविवाद है, जहाँ पर कर्मचारियों के साथ योग नहीं किया जाता है। शिक्षकों को कर्मचारियों की परियोजना में लाकर कैसे योजना दिया जाएगा? एक विविधविवाद Ka बहुत एक जीवन सांसारिक है। यहां तो मैं जब इसे SEZ बताता हूं? अक्सर फिर स्पष्ट शिक्षकों कितने एकड़ में है, जैसे कि तुम्हें कितने में है, कैनाडा से विभिन्न स्वीकर्तित कितने एकड़ में है, कैनाडा कर्मचारियों के लिए अच्छा है, तो भारत, पूरी और कोणक के sea coast में आ रहा है। अभी माननीय पूर्वीराज चहल जी ने मुझे उद्देश्य में कहा कि sea sand के साथ nuclear particle है। वह आपना या नहीं आएगा, वह तो दूसरा विवाद है।

महोदय, इस प्रकार की व्यापसाधक माननीयता के लिए आप जो घरेलू विविधविवाद आया है, उनमें शिक्षकों की हालत बहुत खराब है। उनके साथ ही साथ अन्य कर्मचारी की हालत भी यहाँ पर बहुत ही खराब है।

अभी आप रेडिंग कमेटी की बात कह रहे थे। 2007 में आप इस विवेचक को लाए और उसके बाद यह रेडिंग कमेटी के पास भेजा गया। संयोजन से मैं 2004 से उस रेडिंग कमेटी का सदस्य हूं। मैं ब्रीस्गों सुमन सराज जी एवं वे आहुतबलिया जी को यह लिख है देना था कि मुझे Standing Committee on Labour में
काम करने का मौका दिया जाए, क्योंकि मैं वहाँ जाकर सीखना है। 2007 में उस स्टांडिंग कमेटी के माध्यम से हम लोगों ने बताया कि इसमें इस प्रकार का परिवर्तन होना चाहिए। शायद सरकार के विवाद में यह बात आई और इस मितव्य को प्राप्त किया गया, लेकिन फरवरी, 2009 को इसे फिर सारांश गाया। अब आज लोग सभा भंग हो गई, लेकिन फिर फोर्माल यह बिल यहाँ पर लाया गया है। हालांकि आप स्टांडिंग कमेटी को इसना मानते हैं, लेकिन उस दिन जब Workmen's Compensation Act पर संशोधन हो रहा है, उस समय मैं गुहार लगाई, साथ ही मेरे SITU के साथी श्री तपन जी, जो हमारे इस सदन के सदस्य, उन्होंने भी गुहार लगाई कि Maintenance of Register का जो बिल है, वह विवादित विषयक है, आप इसकी सीलिंग को बढ़ा रहे हैं और उसे 17 से 40 कर रहे हैं। INTUC समेत की पांचों सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स इसका विरोध कर रही थी। हालांकि अब इस पर INTUC देश का व्या रख रहा, यह नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन स्टांडिंग कमेटी ने इसे सीट्रल टिडेट कर दिया है।

रामचन्द्र मंडल ने हमारे राज्य में इसका जानना लाया। उस दिन का भी हमारा ध्यान, उसे उस उचित कर रहा हूँ, इसलिए इस धीरेसे सुनिए।

स्टांडिंग कमेटी ने उस बिल को सीट्रल टिडेट कर दिया और कहा कि इसे मत लाइए।लेकिन आपकी जिस तरह की है।एक दिन हमारे सामाजिक पार्टी के साथी श्री कृष्णनाथ विद्यार्थी जी बहुत घड़ीया दंग से बोल रहे थे कि क्रांति जब आती है तो उसका सहयोग और उसकी तंग भी आती है। जिस दिन हम Workmen's Compensation Act पर बोल रहे थे, उस दिन हमें गुहार लगाई कि आप इसे मत लाइए, उसके बाद ही दिन की कार्यवाही में आपने उसे लगा दिया। आप हर रोज इस तरह का व्या करते हैं। आप राजनीती में व्या हैं, लेकिन मैं जानता हूँ कि हमारे RJD के बहुत सारे सदस्य मित्र HMS में हैं, BJD के भी बहुत सारे सदस्य मित्र HMS में हैं। पांच सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स में में INTUC के अन्य तुषार्क के भी बहुत से लोग हैं। तुषार्क क्रांति का भी एक पाॉलिटिकल राज्य है। समाजवादी पार्टी के बहुत से लोग HMS Movement में हैं। पांचों सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स इसका विरोध करते हैं। हालांकि INTUC अपना राज्य बदल सकता है, क्योंकि राजस्थान की सीट पाने के लिए वे बहुत कर सकते हैं, यह मुझे नहीं मानता, लेकिन फिर भी अन्य चार सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स इसका विरोध करते हैं।

राजस्थान में जो गरीब है, आप इस तरह ध्यान देंगे तो रजिस्टर मेंटेन कर दें जो बिल है, वह मीराबें ही मीराबें हमें उस दिन आपसी सीलिंग का करते हैं, लेकिन उसके बाद भी आप उसे लगा दिया था। अगर आपने उस बिल को पारित करना है तो सभी सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स के नुमाइंदों को आप माना नींवे हैं। वे चार सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स के धीरेसे सुनिए। यह वापस तो हो सकता है, लेकिन यह जो माननीयता है, वह बहुत गलत है।

जब मैं श्री मलिकान्दुर्जु छतरी का नाम आता है, तो हमें यह लगता है कि वह बिल आए, लेकिन वह से लाना विविध निष्कर्ष हैं। सर, आप स्टांडिंग कमेटी का व्यक्ति है, हम इस बिल का तो समबन्ध करते हैं और यह पारित भी हो जाएगा। आज के बिल के संबंध में आप स्टांडिंग कमेटी का हवाला देते हैं, लेकिन जो बिल 2005 में आया था Maintenance of Register का बिल, उससे certain establishments को वे exempt करने। पहले तो उन्होंने कहा कि 500 लोगों तक रजिस्टर स्टेट किया जाएगा, जहाँ वे काम करते हैं। 2005 में आया 500 लोगों की सीमा लगाई थी, उस समय आपने कितनी हिम्मत थी लेकिन आप उसको घटा-घटा कर 40 पर ले आए हैं।

श्री रामचन्द्र खुंटिया (उड़ीसा) : जब वह बिल आएगा, उसके बारे में आप तब बात करना...(यथार्थ)
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: I am talking on the Bill. I am talking only related things.

उसमुक गरीब रहे करने कोई 

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: I am talking on the Bill. I am talking only related things.

सर, यह विल 2005 में आया था, फिर वह स्टोकिंग कमेटी ऑफ लेबर को गया। वहां पर पहले 500 लोगों की बात थी, लेकिन हमने उसको टॉटल रिजेक्ट कर दिया और उसके बाद आप उसे घटा कर 40 तक ले आए। इसके लिए भी अगर आप बैंडल प्लेट बांबून्स के साथ बात नहीं करते, तो यह बिल पारित होने की कोई संभावना नहीं है।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पन्य: इस देश में अब कम्यूनिटी का ज्ञाना आ गया है। अब कम लोगों से काम चलेगा, तो register maintain करने की कोई बात नहीं होगी। इसलिए मैं आपसे प्रश्न करता हूं कि यह बिल के बारे में आप गौर से सोचिये।

इसमें जो retrospective वाली बात है, हम उसको भी समझने देंगे।... (यूंवा)...

नर्दा विशेष बंगाल में हजारों कल लोग हैं। वहां पर लोग gratuity की तिमाही कर रहे हैं। जो लोग असंगठित क्षेत्र में, unorganized sector में हैं, मंजी जो यहां पर उसका ऐसा करते हुए कहा कि वह 2007 में एक विशेषक्त लाए थे, जो पारित हुआ। मैंने उस दिन भी पूछा था कि आपके भाग funding की बैंड व्यवस्था है? आप NABARD के तर्क पर National Social Security Fund बनाएं और उससे schemes बनाएं, लेकिन आपने जो असंगठित क्षेत्र के लिए कहा है, उसमें फाइंडिंग की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। आप contract labour के साथ व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं? आप का जो ज्ञाना है, उसमें भ्रम और बुद्धि दोनों को समन्वित करने का मिन्नत हो सकता है। आप “भारत निर्माण” की कार्य करते हैं। औद्योगिक साथ ही competition करने की भी बात चर्चा करती है। इसके लिए work culture बदलना चाहिए। ऐसे भी गरीबाधी के लिए मंजी बोलते हैं, जो वह करते हैं कि हम ज्यादा बिंदु नहीं देंगे और अपने भ्रम के आधार पर काम करके निवारण करते हैं। आप इसमें भ्रम और बुद्धि की तुलना करते हैं। असंगठित क्षेत्र में बढ़ता सारे लोग भ्रमने वालें हैं। उनके लिए आपने NREGA की व्यवस्था की। NREGA में मैंने उस दिन पूछा था कि किसका हाथ चल जाएगा, किसका पैर दुर्गाधार या उसको कूद हो जाएगा, तो उसकी social security के लिए आप क्या प्रबंध कर रहे हैं?

सर, हमारे देश में खेतिहर मजदूर हैं, सीमात्मक किसान हैं और नाम मात्र के बी किसान हैं। हमारे क्यूटॉफ में एक व्यवस्था है, जिसे भागावादी कहते हैं। उसमें लोग दो-तीन एक्ट की जानी शेयर में लेते हैं और जितना उत्पादन उसमें होता है उसका आया-आया करते हैं। वह भागावादी व्यवस्था कहलाती है। इस प्रकार के जो लोग हैं, इन सबको मिलते हैं। लें ये 39-40 कोड करने हैं। इनमें आंगनवाड़ी workers हैं, आशा के कमिसर हैं और अंजा का भी है। ये सारे जो 39-40 कोड लोग हैं, उनके लिए जिन funding की व्यवस्था के लिए आप social security की बात कर देंगे। अब किसानों को पेशन देने का एक progressive idea चाहूँ जा गया है। आप अपनी
सरकार का नाम Progressive रखे हुए हैं। अब आप किसानों को पेश करेंगे। यह देना भी चाहिए। इसका क्रिया
क्यों आगमन करते हैं? मैंने इस पर यह गुफार लगाई थीं। यहां माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, हिंदी चेयरमैन साहब
tथा सब को बताया था कि उड़ीसा में भी किसानों द्वारा आवाज दी जाती है, इसलिए मुझे तीन मिनट तो 
बोलने दीजिए लेकिन मैं प्रारंभ करूं कि वह कहा क्रिया से रहा है। ऐसा विवरण में हो रहा था, पंजाब में हो रहा था 
और आंध्र में तेलंगाना में भी हो रहा था। लोगों के मन में एक प्रकार की प्रवणता जागृत हो जाती है कि हम मजबूर हैं,
हम लाहर हैं, हम व्यय करते हैं? हम आत्महत्या करते हैं| पिछला सत्र अगर में समाप्त हुआ था और आज तक उड़ीसा में लगातार लगभग 50 लोग आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। आज सबह भी एक खबर आई है कि हमारे यहां जो
बलगीर जिला वहां पर एक अनाहार मृत्यु हुई है। उस परिवार के पांच में जीतन नहीं कर सकता। उसने 
इसी के बचते, गरीबों के बचते, पेट की जलन के बचते, ऐसा कर दिया। इसलिए यह एक सम्पूर्ण समाज है।

महोदय, आप जिस प्रकार से महंगाई बढ़ती है, इसकी धात में रखना चाहिए। न्यूनतम वेतन जो NREGA का 
कहिए या आगमनवाड़ी worker का कहिए, जो न्यूनतम वेतन, gratuity और ex-gratia, जब एक आपकी कम्पनी 
में सरकता है तो अगर वह permanent nature का है तो ex-gratia 5 लाख आप कर देते हैं। Gratuity में भी आप 
celling करते हैं। अब ये सैनिक आपकी किसी क्रिया के आधार पर बिजनेस करने तो वह ceiling अब लगभग 10 
लाख तक आएगी। पहले वह कमी तीन लाख की थी। Industrial worker के बारे में सरकार बिकूल silent है।

...(समय की बंदी).... अगर उसकी gratuity को याद से calculate करके जाएगा तो यदि वह ceiling से ऊपर हो जाएगी तो उसकी 
ग्रेटियता नहीं मिलेगी। महोदय, न्यूनतम वेतन क्या है? Gratuity is a defer ways. आपकी जो 
काम करता है, परिवार करता है, उसकी तनखबार, उसका वेतन आप उसकी इस समाज देते नहीं हैं, इसलिए 
जब वह retire हो तो तब उसे रिटर्न भी होगा। इसलिए, gratuity पर आपूर्ति होकर रहता है। (समय की बंदी)

जो contract labourers हैं, जो private industries में काम करते हैं, सर, मैं गांव में BSSL नाम का एक 
factory है जिसमें हर दो-तीन दिनों में के नियमों-शर्तों की मूल में होती है। यह काम करते लेकिन आज है और 
पर जाता है। कब यह “नहीं” में जो न्यूनतम वेतन है, उस पर debate पर रद्दी हो रही थी। यह पास में श्रमिक का वह है।
अगर आप आप social scientist को बताए क्या न्यूनतम वेतन की कर्ता कहिए, में न्यूनतम मजबूरी नहीं कहता हूँ।
अगर आप भाषा का परिवर्तन करते हैं, अपने 'workmen' को 'employees' बना दिया, तो फिर अपने मजबूरी 
को करेंगे, लेकिन इसे तत्कालीन समय के अनुसार शब्द और हमारी भाषा का भी परिवर्तन होना चाहिए।
अगर आप न्यूनतम वेतन के बारे में सोचेंगे तो इस महंगाई के जमाने में न्यूनतम वेतन 263 रूपये होने चाहिए।
यह सरकार अगर progressive सरकार है तो यह आप हर एक कमांडर को, हर एक श्रमिक को, जो काम करता 
है, उसे 263 रूपये न्यूनतम वेतन देंगे?

उपर्युक्त (भू. पी. जे. कुरियन): पाँची, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

भी रुद्रनारायण पाणि: महोदय, यह सरकार श्रम के नाम पर कुल मिला कर श्रम पेया करती है। हालांकि 
यह जो विवेचक है, हम सब यह तय किया है कि इसको पार्टिया करना है। धन्यवाद।

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I 
support The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009. It has given a new scope by giving 
the definition, manual or otherwise, it is a broad one. It can cover anybody because earlier definition was
giving somewhat a focussed one. Now, it has changed from that. Earlier it was to do with skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, manual, supervisory, technical or clerical work. I want to know whether the terms of such employment are expressed or implied and whether or not such a person is employed in a managerial or administrative capacity. In that way, a broad definition is brought in by bringing one word and deleting so many words. It is good, Sir, to bring the teachers also under the Gratuity Act, and more so, the aided teachers are also covered according to the financial memorandum which is given in this enactment. Sir, it will gradually pick up by bringing all other persons who are classified as employees. Now the total concept of the employee is gradually changing. It was enacted in 1972, and subsequently in 1984, there were two other amendments and in 1990s there were two other amendments. Finally, I hope it has ended with the sixth amendment. Therefore, in every decade the gradual shifting is now towards the employee rather than the employer. The employee who damages articles or any assets of this company can also be punished by deducting that amount from gratuity. But, at the same time, many citations have come from the Supreme Court and the High Court that even Jagannath Temples’ employees can be covered on the basis of this enactment. Sir, now Information Technology is one of the appreciated area of employment. It has covered a huge number of the employees from the middle class and upper middle class. They feel that when you compare with an ordinary employee who is drawing Rs, 10,000, they are getting Rs. 25,000. It is a good job they are doing by joining. But after one year or even before that, they will be ousted. There is no protection for them. Suppose anybody dies in-between; there is no coverage for them. One of the amendments in the Gratuity Act, Section 4(a) was brought in by which life insurance has to be covered for the employee.

Sir, I would like to suggest one thing. When the Government is having a broad idea of brining such type of Bills for unorganised workers or employees or intellectual workers who are not covered by any other social security, at least, there has to be a compulsory insurance scheme for such people.

Similarly, people from India, particularly from Southern India, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, are going abroad for employment of various classifications. These types of definitions are also covered. People are going there for manual and other types of work. But, they do not have any security at all. After getting Visa, the Government is allowing them to go abroad for doing these types of jobs. Even though they go abroad, primarily, they are the citizens of India. So, I request that the way they have social security here, a similar law should also cover them when they go abroad. Sir, when they go to foreign countries, particularly in Gulf countries and in countries like Malaysia, Singapore, etc., they go there to do manual work. When they work, for example, on 35th storey or 65th storey,
sometimes, they got injured and even die. Now-a-days, many coffins are coming from foreign
countries everyday to our area, because they are not covered by any insurance or any social security
scheme. They are borrowing huge money from local pawnbrokers by mortgaging their properties to
go abroad. They go there with an idea to earn some money for their family. But, after going abroad,
sometimes, only the body comes back and their entire family will be ruined. So, the Labour
Department should come forward to cover every citizen of India, irrespective of where he works. He
should be covered with life insurance. At the same time, there should be a condition that if an
employer engages a person for employment, the employer should pay the premium. Section 4(a) is
giving guidelines for us. The same spirit has to be extended to any type of work, whether they are in
the IT industry or any other industry. They should be covered fully. Therefore, I feel, it is high time to
think about 'other employees' also. The 'other employees' has got a broad definition.

Then, Sir, legislation that we make here has a very weak enforcement or implementation.
Now, no labour officer is allowed or labour inspector is permitted in any of the companies. They take
it very casually, because we are not very serious about implementation or enforcement of legislation
that we make here. More so, laws are not enforceable in the SEZs. None of the inspector or director
of a particular department is ready to enforce law in SEZs. Sir, certain areas is classified as SEZs
even in the heart of the city! The point is, the law is enforced in the nearby areas, but, when it comes
to SEZ, it cannot be enforced there. Therefore, it is high time to think about empowering
enforcement authorities. The officers should have the full power in every district to enforce law.
Otherwise, there is no point in passing legislation like this and allow it to die its natural death or just
be there on the statute book without any enforcement. I agree, here and there, some courts are
enforcing such laws. For example, the situation in Gujarat, I think, has lead to this amendment.
Therefore, there should be clarity when we make any law. The Legislature should have the feeling
that the Executive is accountable to it. It has to be ensured that law enacted by it is properly enforced
by the Executive. If the Executive feels that it does not have the force, then, it has to ask for more
force and the Executive should always be dynamic in enforcing laws. Simply amending Acts one-
after-the-other, without having a comprehensive idea of its implementation, how can we protect the
employees in different situations? Therefore, to my mind, a gradual weakening of every authority is
taking place. So, I request the hon. Minister that instead of making this kind of piecemeal legislation,
he should think of brining a comprehensive Bill. The hon. Minister may think about it. The
Government should come forward, after detailed deliberations with the stakeholders, with a better
enactment covering Provident Fund, Gratuity or any other scheme.
It has to come within a social frame and it has to cover all categories of employees. Mr. Pany was talking about the workers engaged under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It can be any scheme. Every person who is employed should be covered, for life and also for social security. That type of a general law should be brought in. It should cover all. As far as service conditions are concerned, now it is six months or one year or continuous service of five years. The situation should not be such that none of the employer keeps a particular person for more than six months. Even the employees are not ready to work in the same place; they want to migrate very quickly. Therefore, they should be covered by single type of documentation, by which whenever he or she goes for another employment, the coverage should continue till his life. This type of enactment has to be brought in. More or less, I am just requesting that there should be social security for the citizens who are classified as employees, who are working on the basis of wages or monthly salary or any other type of salary. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to think about it. Already, a ceiling limit for gratuity is there in this enactment. The maximum ceiling is given as Rs.3,50,000/-. In IT industry and others, if you see, you will find that it is more than Rs.3,50,000/- lakhs. Therefore, it should be increased to at least Rs.10,00,000/- so that the employees should be benefited by that. I request that there should be a comprehensive enactment. It is very, very urgent to protect the interests of the people who are living here, employed here and also those who are going to foreign countries. Thank you.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Through you, Sir, I support the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009. The teaching community and their associations have been fighting for their retirement benefits for decades. Now, they have got some concession because there is some change in law. Definitely, it will also help those who are in teaching profession. So, on behalf of the teaching community and teachers’ association also, I thank the Minister and the Government. While thanking the Minister, I would like the Minister to see that the Payment of Gratuity Act requires some more amendments. I request the Minister to respond. The section 2(a)(ii) of the Payment of Gratuity Act says, where an employee, not being an employee employed in a seasonal establishment, is not in continuous service within the meaning of clause (1) for any period of one year or six months, he shall be deemed to be in continuous service under the employer...” Payment of gratuity as per section 4, sub-section 2 with regard to the seasonal employees is provided below. “Provided further that in the case of an employee who is employed in a seasonal establishment and who is not employed throughout the year the employer shall pay gratuity at the rate of seven days’ wage for each season.” Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august body and to the Minister that a lot of seasonal establishments are there. Sugar industry is called a seasonal industry. Today,
we are having more than 500 sugar factories in India, especially, in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttrakhand.

Today, Sir, for your kind information, 90 per cent of the sugar factory employees are seasonal workers. In our part of the country, in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the mills run ten months a year. It is not a seasonal industry. Even if they work for only six months, they produce one year’s sugar. Their production is one year’s sugar. They feed the country and when they exports, they also give you foreign exchange. So, that worker should not be treated as a seasonal worker. He should be treated as a regular worker. Industry is a regular industry. So, the Minister must look into that amendment. It is very important. Today, 90 per cent of the sugar factory employees, more than two lakh people, are seasonal employees. This Act should be amended in favour of the sugar workers. Secondly, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that the Act says that workmen who have completed five years of continuous service are paid gratuity. Today, whether it is the public sector or the private sector, Central sector or and State sector, the regular jobs are given on contracts. And the contractors do not pay gratuity. They make fun of this class. When a workman completes five years of continuous service, no contractor allows the worker to complete one year’s service. They terminate him, stop him and recruit him again after three days or one week. They are making fun of this class; they do not implement the rules. Today, lakhs and lakhs of contract workers are not eligible under this Act. So, what is use of this “five years” condition?

My request to the Minister is, the principal employer must be made responsible for even the contract workers to pay. The Bonus Act says, if a person works for 30 days in a factory, he is eligible for bonus. For gratuity, he has to work five years. For a contract worker, nobody allows five years. Though they work there, though their names are there on the lists, and even though they are employed in regular jobs, neither the contractor nor the principal employer bothers about them. There are a lot of such cases going on in the lower courts. I would request the Minister to look into this very important point and respond to this in his reply.

My third point, as hon. Member, Dr. Natchiappan, has also mentioned, is about the ceiling. With the implementation of the recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission, the maximum amount of gratuity has been enhanced from Rs.3,50,000 to Rs.10 lakhs. That being so, there is no case for retaining the ceiling of Rs.3,50,000 under the Payment of the Gratuity Act. The Bonus Act says one thing and implements something; the Gratuity Act says one thing and implements something; the Sixth Pay Commission says something. It looks funny. I would appeal to the Government to remove this ceiling with immediate effect. If the hon. Minister does that, the whole House would appreciate it; we would doubly support this amendment. As per sub-section 10, Section 10, Clause 1 of the
Income Tax Act, any death-cum-retirement gratuity received by an employee of the Central Government, State Government or local authority is wholly exempted from tax.

However, in the case of payment of gratuity, gratuity paid to a workman beyond Rs.3,50,000 is taxed in the hands of workman because of the ceiling in the Payment of Gratuity Act. You pay in one hand and take it from another hand. So, this is the violation of natural justice. I request the hon. Minister to render justice. Thank you.

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise here to support the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009 brought to this House by the Labour Ministry. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government because it is a very progressive and pro-labour Government. Whenever the issue of working class comes in, the Government is always very sympathetic and they have always considered the interest of working class. This bill is also a part of it, according to me. While supporting this Amendment Bill, I only like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one or two things which have already been told by hon. Members spoken before me. I really congratulate the Government to have amended this law to bring the teachers’ community under the purview of this legislation. The number of teachers in the country is not small; they were left out of the operation of this Act. Now, justice is given to them. As has been said in the Objects and Reasons, in the Civil Appeal No.6369 the Supreme Court of India recommended certain things to the Government of India and accordingly the Government of India has taken note of it and brought this legislation. Now by widening the definition of ‘employee’, teachers are brought under the purview of this Act and they are going to get the benefit of it, no doubt. We are thankful to the Government for that. As has been said earlier, there are certain other sections of the society and the working class, who are not covered by the definition and, therefore, I also request the hon. Minister to consider this suggestion of the hon. Members that those who are left out from the present definition of this Amendment Bill should be considered again, and he should assure the House that the Government will take sympathetic attitude for these sections of the society. Regarding contract labour our hon. Member Shri Rangarajanji has very rightly pointed out. If you go to the statistics, hon. Minister also will agree with me. I think, today, in order to get away from the operation of different legislations which are enacted in favour of labour in the country, employers have always been in a mood to evade these laws by adopting one measure or the other and that is why this concept of contract labour is there. Though there is a law which provides the abolition of contract system itself, but it has not succeeded. Sir, today the number of contract labours, I think, would be much more than regular employees in all the establishments.
Perhaps, more than 50 per cent of the workers in the country today are contract workers according to us. For them, the Government will have to take a very different view and do something for them. Sugar mills, which run for eight to months in a year, their workers are treated as seasonal labourers. This is not the case of sugar mills only; in a company like Telco in Pune, they have found out a different solution to this problem. They have formed separate units within the same company. And, these units engage contract workers. So, that they evade all the laws. None of the laws is applicable to these unit workers. Therefore, it is a challenge for the Government that how to protect the interests of these unit workers. That point has also got to be considered by the Government. I will request the hon. Minister to look into that also.

Last suggestion, which has also been made by other hon. Members, is regarding the ceiling that is put on gratuity. I will also request the hon. Minister to consider this suggestion and extend this ceiling up to Rs.10 lakh so that justice can be done to the working class.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, allows the payment of gratuity to employees in any establishment factory, mine, port, plantation, company, shop, etc. Employees are paid gratuity if they have put in five years of continuous service at the time of termination. The Act, as it stands, does not include teachers in the definition of 'employee'. And, this was realised after a Supreme Court order in 2004 stated that teachers in private educational institutions did not come under the definition of the 'employee'. Sir, I appreciate the Government once again that like Sappers and Miners, whatever hurdle lies in the progressive path of this Government, or this nation, immediately, the Government brings in a legislation to remove that hurdle to have a smooth passage. In that respect, the amendment is made in this Bill which is very much welcomed by one and all. It states, "employee means any person (other than an apprentice) who is employed for wages, whether the terms of such employment are express or implied in any kind of work, manual or otherwise, in or in connection with the work of a factory, mine, oilfield, plantation, port, railway company, shop or other establishment to which this Act applies, but does not include any such person who holds...". And, it goes on. Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Hon. Minister that after the Supreme Court order stated that teachers do not come under the definition of 'employee', this amendment has been made. Even in this, it is not explicit. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the term "teacher" is not explicit even in this amendment. Sir, the State Governments are responsible for administering operations of this Bill. Employers are liable for the payment of gratuity. In the case of teachers who are employed by the Central Government, gratuity may come from the Consolidated Fund. My query is that the Bill does not provide an estimate of the funding allocation required from the Consolidated Fund of India.
Sir, I have just two points. There is nothing more to elaborate. This Bill is to be welcomed by one and all. Sir, the Standing Committee has suggested that it should have retrospective effect from 1997, which has been accepted by the Ministry. That also has to be appreciated.

Sir, there is one important suggestion, which my colleagues have given, and, which I would also like to reiterate - our veteran trade union leader, Shri T.K. Rangarajan has put it in the best way and; the suggestion is that the contract workers should be brought within the purview of this Act. According to the Minister or as per the Act itself, even the contract labourers are benefited by this, if they work for five years, whether continuously or not. I do not know. They all said that it is practically true that no employer or contractor employs labour for more than six months. They are terminated, and, therefore, five years continuous service cannot be expected from a contract labour.

Therefore, I request the Minister to ensure that the Government should make an overall assessment of the contract labour system, review the systemic flaws and carry out reforms through legislation. With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Thank you, Mr. Vyas. Now, Mr. Minister.

... (Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to mention two things. I will take only one minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay. But please stick to your words.
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Have a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs, about which a request has already come, in line with the Sixth Pay Commission’s recommendations, and, make it effective from the same date from which the Sixth Pay Commission has come into effect. Please take note of it. Secondly, Sir, taxing the superannuation fund is atrocious. It is already being taxed, and, it is being planned to be taxed much more comprehensively under the Direct Tax Code through EET route. Please stop this because giving it by one hand and taking it through another hand is not fair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURJEN): Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P. K. SEN: In 2004, the Government planned to be taxed more comprehensively under the Direct Tax Code through EET route. It is already being taxed, and, it is being planned to be taxed much more comprehensively under the Direct Tax Code through EET route.

Please stop this because giving it by one hand and taking it through another hand is not fair.

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planned to be taxed much more comprehensively under the Direct Tax Code through EET route.
Please stop this because giving it by one hand and taking it through another hand is not fair.
पीछे की देख से, जिस दिन से पहले मिल रहा था और जिस दिन से माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के बाद उनको मिलना हिस्सकती हूँ गया, ऐसा एक तहत उनको तब से दिया जाना चाहिए। सरकार ने यह तरह कि क्योंकि शिक्षकों को यह लाम पहले देने की मंशा थी, मिल रहा था, उनका कोई दोष नहीं है, माननीय स्टॉफिंग कमेटी ने बहुत तरी सूचा दिया है जब: यह संभांगन नियेवेदन दिल्ली डेट से प्रभावी होना चाहिए और शिक्षकों को निश्चय डेट से तेजस्वी ऐसे के प्रवेशानुसार का लाम मिलना चाहिए। माननीय सदस्यों ने यहाँ पर बहुत यायाम बातें कहीं हैं, और महत्वपूर्ण सूचा दिया है। क्यू तित्वात तो संय-संय का एक के संबंध में है और दूसरे सूचाव नमरे कुछ घम कानूनों के संबंध में हैं। इस क्षेत्र का छ जो आज की समस्यामतिक स्थितियाँ हैं, उनके विषय में कहीं गई है। हम इन सबका बहुत सम्मान करते हैं।

सड़नसरण पाँची जी का बहुत बड़ा contribution है। मुझे इस बात की खुशियाँ है कि वे भाभुआ के अन्तर, आपने दल के अन्तर अभिकर्मियों के लिए एक सोच बनाने में catalyst का काम कर रहे हैं, उद्देश्य का काम कर रहे हैं। इसके लिए ये मामले थे कि जब जूड़ा जी और दूसरे नेताओं का संसरण उनको भिताना रहेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि आप बिना वार्ता के बिल पास करना देते हैं। सरकार कभी बहससे माफी नहीं चाहती है। लोक सभा में अन्य परिवेशक सबी हो। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण नवीनता है, लगभग 60 लाख से ज्ञाता शिक्षकों, को जो केंद्र सरकार के और आपके इंटरीटीपुरस के हैं, वह हम उन सबको जोड़े, तो शिक्षकों का एक बड़ा संगठन है। वह एक बड़ी संख्या को लाम पहुँचा रहा है। वह बहस का इंतजार करते, तो शायद आज यह दिन, जिस दिन के स्वागत के लिए बहार लाखों शिक्षक प्रश्नाव कर रहे हैं और आपको धन्यवाद देने के लिए आतुर हैं, वह बाहर नहीं आ पाता। इसलिए यह बिगाड़कर लोक सभा में बिना बहस के पारित हुआ। सरकार की माफी के होते हुए भी इसे पारित करना पड़ा। उन परिवेशिता पर यहाँ दिखाया नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन इसमें ज्ञाता जबना ज्ञाता हूं कि अभिकर्मियों के संबंध में, उनके implementation के संबंध में, उनके प्रयासों के संबंध में सदन जब भी विचार करना बाहर, हम उसका स्वागत करेंगे, क्योंकि उससे हमारे हाथ मजबूत होते हैं, अभिकर्मन के हाथ मजबूत रहते हैं, जो हमारे घम कानून हैं, उनके हाथ मजबूत होते हैं। वैसे हम तो चाहेंगे कि माननीय सदस्यों इसके implementation में हमारी मदद करें। सर, यह Council of States है और हमारे अधिकांश कानून ऐसे हैं, जिनमें 'appropriate authority' शब्द का उल्लेख है। सरकार के संबंध में 'appropriate authority' के बाद सरकार है और राज्य सरकार आपने दावे में है। राज्य सरकार ही अधिकांश घम कानूनों को implement करने का माध्यम है। पैदा आपका संसरण मिल जाए, इस सदन का संसरण मिल जाए, वहाँ के सदस्यों का संसरण मिल जाए, तो में समझता हूँ कि हमारे घम कानूनों के विषय में हम कभी-कभी नीति खुजलाते हुए कहते हैं या हमारे नीति कहते हैं, शिकायत करते हैं, वह शिकायत क्यू कम हो सकेगी और उससे हमारे अभिकर्मियों का काफी खुशी होगी।

सर, यहाँ कहा गया कि परिमाण में 'शिक्षक' शब्द का उल्लेख कहीं नहीं हुआ, हमारे कई सदस्यों ने इस बात को उठाया। मैं पहले भी इस बात को स्पष्ट कर चुका हूँ कि हम यदि 'शिक्षक' शब्द का उल्लेख करते हैं, तो हमसे कह यह पूछा जाता कि दूसरे professions का उल्लेख कहीं नहीं किया गया है, जबकि कई professions हैं। गोविंदसार आदिक जी ने कहा कि बहुत से एडिया पूट भी सकते हैं। ऐसा होता कि legislation की भावना तो यह थी कि ऐस professions का नाम दिखा हुआ है, अलग-अलग वित्तीय किया है, तो यह profession कहीं नहीं वित्तीय
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: इसके लिए मैं नहीं कह सकता कि यह क्या है। अच्छा, मैं इस मुद्दे को नियंत्रित करने के लिए दो बातें कहना चाहता हूं।

1. इस मुद्दे को समझने के लिए एक स्पष्ट विवरण देते हुए, मैं इस मुद्दे को नियंत्रित करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

2. यदि मैं भी कोई संदिग्धता है, तो मैं उसे अच्छी तरह से नियंत्रित करने के लिए काम करूंगा।

यहां श्री राहिल रावत ने ट्रेड यूनियनों से संबंधित कई बातें की और विवेचना तौर पर उन्होंने आयोजित किया।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: लोगों की राय के लिए मैं नहीं कह सकता कि यह क्या है।

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: जब कोई बात कही जाती है, तो वह तथ्यों के आधार पर कही जाती है। इस सम्मत है कि उसके संबंध में विवाद नहीं होता है, जब कोई बात कही जाती है।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: अच्छा, यहां श्री राहिल रावत ने ट्रेड यूनियनों से संबंधित कई बातें की और विवेचना तौर पर उन्होंने आयोजित किया।
सर, यहाँ एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात थी। असंगतित व्यक्ति के कर्मचारियों एवं श्रमिकों की सोशल सेक्योिरटी के विषय में यहाँ जो एक बात बनाया गया और अभी ऐंट के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, उसमें इस बात का प्रोत्साहन नहीं है कि इसके लिए फिंगिंग कहां से होगी। 

सर, मैं माननीय सदन के सदस्यों के संज्ञान में इस बात को लाना चाहता हूं कि ऐंट के प्रदीपक्ष में हमने इस बात की व्यवस्था की है कि वैराग्य सोशल सेक्योिरटी बोर्ड, केन्द्र सरकार के स्तर पर और सेट गोविजन सेक्योिरटी बोर्ड, राज्य सरकार के स्तर पर जो-जो सोशल सेक्योिरटी स्कीम्स पर करेंगे, उसके लिए फिंगिंग की व्यवस्था केन्द्र के मामले में केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य के मामले में राज्य सरकार के पर स्थापित है। यह ऐंट में उसको मंशेती बनाया गया है। एक प्रकार के हमने ऐंट के प्रोत्साहन का कानूनी स्वरूप देने की कार्यवाही की है। इससे एक जब स्टेटिंग कमेंट ने हमे Gratuity Act में threshold limits घटाने के विषय में कहा, तो एक तरफ हमने यह देखा कि हमारे दूसरे Acts के साथ इसका समस्यावश्च बना है, तो दूसरी तरफ हमने इस बात पर भी विचार किया कि ऑलरेडी हम अनार्नाइज्ड सेक्टर के श्रमिकों के लिए एक कानून लेंगे तो आ रहे हैं, तो उस कानून का तत्त्व उनको और व्यापक रूप से कार किया जा सकेगा एवं उसके लिए कामहीसिव स्कीम्स बनाई जा सकेगी। इससे हमें ऐंट के अन्तर ही हमने उसका प्रोत्साहन भी करके रखा है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष, आप सहमत होगेंगे कि हम ऐंट पहले रखें और स्कीम्बाद में बनाएं, उससे कोई बात नहीं है। यदि असंगतित कंट्रूवेर्स का व्यक्ति एक बहुत व्यापक क्षेत्र है, इसलिए उस क्षेत्र के अन्तर स्टेट्स के लिए पहले हम स्कीम्स आइडेन्टिफाई कर रहे हैं, फिर देख रहे हैं कि कहां-कहां, जिन-जिन लोगों के लिए, किस्त से से इसे लाना जाए, किस प्रकार से approach किया जाए, किस तरीके से उनका पंजीकरण करवाया जाए, ताकि जो भी सरकार बनाए जाए, वे effective हो सकें। यह द्वितिय हमने संदेह सोशल सेक्योिरटी बोर्ड और सेट गोविजन सेक्योिरटी को दिया है। इस सोशल सेक्योिरटी बोर्ड के चेयरमैन बुध हमें समान्त मंदी महोध ले, सब ही हमने अच्छे बहुत प्रतिभित लोगों को भी रखा है। इसमें एक सब-कमेंट भी बनाई है और उस सब-कमेंट ने अपनी अधिकारी का जिंदगी उस एरिया को आइडेन्टिफाई करना भी चुना कर दिया है, जिन एरिया के लिए हमको सोशल सेक्योिरटी स्कीम बनाने की आवश्यकता है।

में डा. नाथोपायण साहब का बुलाव आमने हैं। हमने एक प्रकार से इस Act के मिशन provisions के विषय में उनके काम को हलका करने का काम किया है। हमने बहुत बिगड़तापुर्ण तरीके से सब तात्का का, जो धौड़ी-धौड़ी बनाएं कहां से उछल सकती है, उनका जवाब दिया है।

सर, हमने एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात कही कि Life Insurance coverage के लिए कि इसके Section 4A में provision है। यह provision है, लेकिन हमने यह देखा कि हम notification करें उससे पहले जरा Insurance companies से बातचीत कर लें। हमने LIC के लोगों से बातचीत की। LIC के लोगों का कहना है कि इसमें uncertainty है, कि कैसे होता है नहीं अगर हमें uncertainty होती है हम कहते कि risk cover करना है। इसमे तो हमें एक fix amount मिलता है, बाहर LIC superannuation के मामले में हो या death के मामले में हो, resignation के मामले में हो या permanent disablement के मामले में हो। इससे हम वह uncertainty involved नहीं है और यह हमारे लिए घाटे का सीधा हो जाएगा। लेकिन, फिर में डा. साहब के संज्ञान में और माननीय सदन के संज्ञान में हम इस बात को लाना चाहता हूं कि हमारा मन्त्रालय इस विषय में तत्काल रखा है कि Section 4A के
सुिनए।
मȅ काम को अपिे के सामने किया है और में समझता हूँ कि आप इस काम को सहमत होगे।

महोदय, जब माननीय शिवाय साहब बोले रहे थे तब उस समय मुझे आपने कहा कि जब सा इसकी बात सुनिए। हमारे सृजनात्मक साहब हैं, वह श्रमिकों के बीच में काम करते हैं। वह भी मुझसे यहाँ काम करने के लिए आये थे कि 3.5 लाख की maximum ceiling है, इसको बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। इससे हम क्या कर रहे हैं, वह यही पूछने के लिए आये थे। माननीय सदन के संबंध में यह तथ्य है कि जब 6th Central Pay Commission की report आई, तब उसको इस सरकार ने ने केवल माना बल्कि एक इलाहाबाद कायम किया। पहले यह होता था कि जब Pay Commission अपनी report देती थी तब यकायेंट उसमें से कुछ काट-छाट करती थी। वह पहली बार हुआ कि उसमें कुछ जोड़ा गया। केन्द्र सरकार के कर्मचारियों को कुछ अतिरिक्त लाभ देने का प्रावधान किया। सर, 6th Central Pay Commission ने 3.5 लाख से बढ़कर लाख करने का प्रावधान किया। जब यह फैसला लिया और केन्द्र सरकार ने 6th Central Pay Commission की इस संस्था की माना तब हमारे श्रम मंत्रालय ने, सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बुध की हो। हमारे श्रम मंत्रालय के मामले में एक मात्रा, यह तथ्य है कि हम सभी श्रमिक संगठनों से वातावरण करते हैं। हम राज्य सरकारों से वातावरण करते हैं, employers से बातचीत करते हैं तब अपने विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से बातचीत करते हैं। इस तरह की वातावरण की process चल रही है बल्कि मौं तो यह कहुंगा कि वह बाधी करीब conclude हो चुकी है। मैं आपने परिषद् मंत्री जी की तरफ से भी कहना चाहता हूँ। वह भी इस विषय में पहुंच सके। वह प्रायः कार कर रहे हैं। मैं उपमीवद कर्ता हूँ कि जब comprehensive Bill की वात आप सब ने कहीं, अधिकारिक सामान्य ने कहीं, रंगरंग सामान्य ने भी कहीं, नागरिक रंग सामान्य ने तो उस move को initiate ही किया और सृजनात्मक साहब ने यहाँ आकर मेरे कान में यह कह करके मुझे प्रेरित करने की कोशिश की कि में कुछ कहूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सच्चे के बाद दूसरी दरद बदले गए। तब उस समय हम सदन का आशीर्वाद लेने के लिए इस सदन में आयें। मैं समझता हूँ कि वह लोग के-लोगों श्रमिक इस बात का दंग जारी रखें हैं।

मैं आपकी इस बात से भी सहमत हूँ कि इस समय कुछ लोगों के मामले में हालत यह हो रही है कि जो फायदा उनका मिल रहा है, वह Income Tax के माध्यम से दूसरी तरफ से निकल जा रहा है। कर्मचारी एक तरफ निकल रहा है वह/दूसरी तरफ देने वाले को मैं उनके देने के लिए भिंतना खड़ा रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सिद्धि से हम बच सकेंगे तथा इसके लिए कुछ कम कर्म उठाएं जाएं। सर, मैं आपके सकें को समय रहा हूँ, लेकिन हमारे समानीय सदनों ने यहाँ पर कई महत्वपूर्ण बातें कहीं हैं। बिशेष तौर पर seasonal industries और sugar industry के reference में बात कहीं गयी।

दूसरी बात यहाँ पर contract labour के बारे में कही गयी। ये दोनों चीजें बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। आज जो contract worker है, वह हम सब की चिंता का क्षेत्र है और हम सब लोग उसके प्रति संवेदनशील हैं। इसके संबंध में हमारा Act है। राज्य सरकार के भी प्राप्त हैं। सरकार के भी प्राप्त हैं कि हमारे विभिन्न श्रमिक का हैं, उनके provisions का लाभ उनके लीके हो और उनको एक बेहतर विनोबा मिल सके। जिस तरीके के काम उनके दूसरे साथी कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वे साथी हैं। मगर उन दोनों को मिलने वाले emoluments और wages में अधिक अन्तर है, उनको कम किया जा सके। आज भूल सारे स्वाभाव है। यह एक व्यापक विषय है और में समझता हूँ कि अगर किसी समय फिर आबाद आएगा तो इस विषय पर हम वितरण से विचार करेंगे। जो बात आपने इस समय उठायी हैं, हम उनका जवाब देने का प्रावधान करेंगे या उन दुबारा पर अन्य करने का प्रावधान करेंगे। आपने सेवक 282 के विषय में
और विशेष तौर पर seasonal workers के विषय में बातें कहीं हैं। जब हम इस सदन में दूसरी बार इस Gratuity Act के विषय में एक comprehensive Bill लेकर आए तो उस समय इन सवालों को address करने की कोशिश करेंगे। उस समय हम आपके शक्तियों का निराकरण करने की कोशिश करेंगे, व्यक्तिके शुभ Chair के संकेतन का भी समान समान करना है।

मान्यता, मैं आपके फिर से बहुत-महत्वपूर्ण ज्ञानदान करना चाहता हूं कि सभी सदस्यों ने करीब एकदम से इसका पारंपरिक किया। यहां पर एक बात यह कहीं गई कि आपने इसमें 5 साल का provision बायों रखा हुआ है? आप इसे पांच साल काम करने वालों पर ही क्यों लागू कर रहे हैं? इस अवधि को और कम करके लाईए। मैं जानता हूं कि जो हमारे trade unions के साथ हैं, वे जानते हैं कि वेतनीटी का terminal benefit है। यदि हम इसको और कम करके लाईए हैं तो यह एक फैसला से part of wage जैसा ही हो जाएगा। इस तरह terminal benefit नहीं रहेगा और एक प्रकार से यह social security measure नहीं रह जाएगा। इस संबंध में हमारी सीमा को और इस Act की social security cover के रूप में काम करने की जो मुनियादी मंशा है, उसको भी यह सदन समझना है।

मैं माननीय अधिशक्तियाँ महत्वपूर्ण की और इस सदन के सभी समाधान सत्ताओं को ध्यानदान देता हूं कि आपने मुझे इसका आवाज दिया। मैं उनको भी ध्यानदान देता हूं कि जिन्होंने इस बहस में भाग लिया और इस पर सन्नाटक बचाया हुआ। इसे सही हैं, मैं उनकी भी आन्दोलनों हैं जिन लोगों ने हमको उल्लासित करने का काम किया कि जो श्रम मंदिर है, वह श्रमिकों के कार्यक्रम के लिए भविष्य में भी इस तरह के उपयोग को लेकर आने का काम करे।

मैं आपके साथ बहुत ही विनम्रता और अनेक से एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि सन 2004 में social security measures लानेके लिए इस प्रकार अटल्प हुई और यह प्रादेशिक आज भी जारी है। इस संख्या में मैं इस सदन के समाधान सत्ताओं की और फीस्टिविस सहाय को ध्यानदान देने चाहीं कि उन्होंने बहुत सत्ता बातों और प्रयास उन्होंने initiate किये, वे आज यूरोप रूं लेते हैं। मैं यह कहूँ कि यह decade, जो 2004 में प्रारम्भ हुआ और आज भी चल रहा है, एक प्रकार से यह श्रमिकों की मदद के लिए, उनके कार्यक्रम के कानून बनाने के प्रयास करने की योजनाएं बनाने के decade के रूप में जाना जाए। उसके फलस्वरूप हमारा यह प्रयास आगे भी निर्माण जारी रहेगा।

इसी शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय सदन से प्रारंभित करता हूं कि इस विषयक को पारंपरिक करने की कृपया करें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay. Thank you, Mr. Rawat. A very detailed reply! I hope, the sense of the house is to complete this Bill, and also the Special Mentions.

Now, the question is:

That the Bill to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI. P. J. KURIEN): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.
Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): We shall now take up Special Mentions. I think everybody will lay it on the Table.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, there is a problem for us. All of us have to leave by 5.15 p.m. for whatever reasons. They may be laid on the Table or if somebody wants to mention it, he can do so. But this is our problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): We will finish it.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to take effective measures to block websites displaying pornography on internet

राम गिरी (हिरयाणा): महोदय, इंटरनेट पर काफी समय तक रही नग्नता (पोनोग्राफी) एक अत्यंत गंभीर मसला है। यह अस्वीकार्य भारतीय जीवन मूल्यों एवं संस्कृति के नितांत विपरीत है। स्थिति यह है कि राष्ट्रपति महात्मा गांधी जी को भी उपहार का विषय बनाने से पहरेज नहीं किया गया था। सभी समाज इंटरनेट के माध्यम से पर-पर तक पूर्व रही अस्वीकार्य समझ में व्यक्ति एवं विविधता है। इस पोनोग्राफी का न केवल बच्चों पर कुदरत पड़ रहा है, अपितु समस्त समाज में बुराई के फैल रही है।

भारत के कई तटवतीर्थों एवं महानगरों में सेक्स पर्यटन के अभिप्राय से विविध साक्षरता आ रही हैं। इतना पानी से गुजर गया है कि अब इंटरनेट अपने 188 सस्त्रों देशों के सहयोग से ऐसी वेबसाइट बनाकर लेटा उन्होंने तैयार करने वालों का पता लगाने की कोई बात नहीं कही गई जाती है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि भारत सरकार इस विषय में सकारात्मक पद्धति उठाए और इसके अतिरिक्त दुनिया बड़ी सरकार ने इस प्रकार के पोनोग्राफी साइटों की सूची तैयार कर इंटरनेट को सूचीपत्र कर उन्हें बंद करवाए।

Demand for completion of ongoing projects under National Child Labour Project in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa

MISS. SUSHILA TIRIYA (Orissa): Mayurbhanj district in Orissa is the biggest district in the State. There are 58 tribes residing along with other general and OBC background people. Whenever Central Government has implemented any scheme, the district has got an opportunity to implement it.

This time the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is going on under the DPEP. At the same time, "National Child Labour Project" under the Ministry of Labour is also going on since 1996. Suddenly in 2009, the allocation of funds for this project had been stopped without any prior notice or any correspondence to the DPEP/SSA.

There is a rule for opening and running of the NCLP Schools that child labour can be recruited from remote area where there is no primary school. If there is already a school, it should be at the distance of one kilometre at the minimum. National Child Labour Project can also be shifted to
another place after three years. At the same time, this kind of remote area can be covered from time to time with new schools.

In 2009, another 15 schools have been proposed to be opened. But the ongoing 25 projects are likely to be closed because of the lack of money. The salary of teachers are only Rs.1,400/- and Rs.1,500/-. Money worth crores is being spent to educate the children of the rural inhabitants. Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry of Labour to look after the requirement of the area where there is a huge number of migrant labour force going from the district outside and inside the State.

Concern over alleged threat to security of Jagannath temple due to on going projects in Puri, Orissa

SHRI KHEKHO ZHIMOMI (Nagaland): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Labour to look after the requirement of the area where there is a huge number of migrant labour force going from the district outside and inside the State.

Demand to invite Naga rebels on negotiating table for resolving Indo-Naga political conflict

SHRI KHEKHO ZHIMOMI (Nagaland): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government on Indo-Naga political issue.
In 1997, on 31st July, ceasefire agreement was signed between the Government of India and NSCN (IM), and later with NSCN (K). Following the ceasefire agreement, dialogue with the Government of India was initiated for settlement of the Indo-Naga political issue. But, even after more than 60 rounds of talks, the issue still remains unresolved, since doubts have arisen in the minds of both the parties about the sincerity of each other in arriving at an amicable and mutually acceptable solution.

Bitter experiences from 9-point Hydari agreement and 16-point agreement where the various clauses are yet to be implemented. Therefore, unless an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence is created by fulfillment of the assurances and commitments made in the previous agreements, any new agreement or arrangement is unthinkable.

In a landmark political event, the 11th Nagaland Legislative Assembly, unanimously passed a resolution to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indo-Naga political issue comprising members irrespective of political party which shall carry the voice of the House to all concerned. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of India, particularly the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister for their renewed sincerity towards finding a permanent solution to the decades old "Indo-Naga" political problem. The representatives of NSCN (IM), NSCN (K) and NNC (F) in a joint meeting shared the view of what could be the permanent honourable settlement best for the Nagas which itself is very healthy political development amongst the various factions.

However, the invitations for dialogue at the Home Minister level has not been welcomed by the Naga leaders, which may bring a deadlock in the negotiations and more than 12 years of ceasefire and 60 rounds of talk may result in futility.

It is, therefore, in the interest of both the parties that the invitation should be sent from PMO as it was in the past for political dialogue to expedite the political process and bring an early solution through a negotiated settlement which may be honourable and acceptable to the Naga people.

Problems due to computerization of CGHS dispensaries

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, for the last one year or so, the work of computerization of CGHS cards is in process. I do not doubt the intention of the Government. It is a scheme with good objectives. However, it appears that the monitoring of the implementation of the computerization is not appropriate. Sir, the cards have been made twice in a number of cases. However, still there are a number of mistakes in the plastic cards. Who is bearing the cost of these wrong plastic cards and why are there so many mistakes? Whether any action has been taken against the vendors for making wrong cards?

Secondly, the computerization has led to a lot of delay in examination of patients at many places, particularly, in Noida, which has only one dispensary, and in other areas where patients suffer in long queues for hours together. Further the computers and printers installed at the CGHS
dispensary are outdated, particularly, the printers sound so high that even the patients sitting with the doctors just for two minutes cannot bear with it. I do not know how the doctors using those printers for six hours are managing with the situation.

I, therefore, request the Government that proper monitoring of the computerization of CGHS dispensaries may be done so that the patients do not suffer due to long delays. It should also be ensured that the existing hardware supplied to dispensaries for fast disposal of paper work is replaced and bottlenecks may be identified to supply the correct plastic cards. Thank you.

Demand to maintain 50 per cent quota for people of Goa in National Institute of Technology

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, a NIT Institution is going to be established in Goa for which Goans are thankful to the Prime Minister. However, Goa should not be made to share its 50 per cent quota of NIT admissions with Union Territories of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Lakshadweep Islands, and alternate arrangements should be made to fix the quota for these three Union Territories.

As per the present announcement of Government of India, Goa will not get 50 per cent quota concerning admissions in the proposed NIT Institution, and a part of this 50 per cent, which may be around 15 per cent, will go to the three Union Territories.

I would like to suggest in this matter that the Ministry of Human Resource Development should either accommodate the three Union Territories in the All India admission quota of 50 per cent, or the Union Territory of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli should be accommodated in the State of Gujarat, and Lakshadweep, in the State of Kerala.

The proposed NIT requires 250 to 300 acres of land which the Government of Goa, undoubtedly, will acquire at the earliest.

People of Goa are more happy and feel relieved that ultimately, NIT is going to come to Goa because several students from Goa were virtually harassed by NIT authorities, in the last few years, while giving them admissions reserved for non-NIT States.

I would also like to urge the Government to reduce the quantum of land requirement as availability of land in Goa is very limited.

Demand to take measures to bring income of farm house owners under ambit of income tax

श्री धर्म पाल सभावाल (पंजाब) : महोदय, यह अर्थात प्रस्ताव की बात है कि आयकर विभाग को सभी सेक्टरों से राजस्व प्राप्त हो रहा है, लेकिन एक सेक्टर ऐसा है, जो सरकार को आयकर नियमों के अंतर्गत देखा नहीं दे रहा है। यह सेक्टर है वहई फाम्ह हाउस के मालिकों का। वे लोग अपने फाम्ह हाउस का प्रयोग शादी-विवाह तथा अन्य समारोह इत्यादि के लिए करते हैं। महोदय, इनका अवैध कार्यकलाप के लिए प्रयोग
(modus operandi) इस प्रकार है। फार्म हाउस के मालिक पहले अपना फार्म हाउस शादी-विवाह और दूसरे
समारोह के लिए किया रख देते हैं और फिर इस किया रख देते हैं जो आय होती है, उससे क्रांति आय में दिखा कर ये टैक्स
की चोरी कर रहे हैं। इससे सरकार को करोड़ों रुपए के राजस्व का नुकसान हो रहा है। महादेश, फार्म हाउस के
मालिकों की इस साजिश में सरकार को फेंकती आय का नुकसान हो चुका है, इसका अनुमान लगाना मुश्किल है।

मे आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ, ताकि सरकार इन फार्म हाउस के
मालिकों पर आयकर विभाग के तहत उचित कार्रवाई करे और सरकार इनसे पूरी आय का ब्यापार लेकर टैक्स प्राप्त
कर सके। धन्यवाद।

Demand for proper implementation of employment guarantee scheme
in Amravati and Chikaldhara districts of Maharashtra

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the Employment Guarantee Schemes are
non-existent around Hathru in Amravati district of Maharashtra. At Domi in Chikaldhara district four
farm ponds were dug two years ago, but the workers are still to be paid the full amount.

Since the completion of the disastrous farm ponds project two years ago, there has been no
work at Domi. Thirty-five families have already left the place. People get cheated even when they
work outside and payments are sometimes held back, forcing them to stay on.

The entire area is a picture of neglect. No electricity in any of these villages located in the
Melghat Tiger Reserve.

The road to Hathru is also rough. Schools suffer, with teachers coming for two days a week at
Domi. The poor quality of EGS work can be seen in some places in Melghat. An earthen dam
constructed in 2004 collapsed the same year. So did a well at Bihali in which half the mud has slid
back inside. Twelve people worked for a fortnight and they have not been paid even a year after. In a
remote village at Kokmar, the Forest Department has been giving work for two years but now the
terms of payment have been changed making people unhappy.

Work began this month near Chaurakund where 200 people dig contour trenches at a Forest
Department site. They fear that the work may be stopped in a few days as is usual. Work is never
initiated when people demand it.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take measures to implement the Employment
Guarantee Schemes in the Amravati and Chikaldhara districts of Maharashtra effectively.

Demand to introduce modern techniques for road safety norms
to reduce accidents in the country

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, road accidents alone claimed more than three lakh
lives in the country in 2007 putting India ahead of China. This is an alarming situation as we have
been labelled as the country with maximum road deaths. China used to be ahead of us earlier but not

262
any longer. The Government should ensure that safety norms are followed by all stakeholders, road builders, maintenance agencies, vehicle manufacturers and road users. It must be ensured that speed governors are installed in all commercial vehicles. Devices like airbags, anti-braking system, improved suspensions which will improve the safety of the vehicles, must be made mandatory in all the models of cars, which are only in top end vehicles now. These have been part of standard fitment in all cars in most countries; whereas, they are optional here. Safety standards are very stringent in Western Europe, the USA and Japan. In addition to the car manufacturers’ own vehicle testing, in the USA, independent organisations such as the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety conducts safety tests. Crash safety tests are conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., European New Car Assessment Prog. and Japan NCAP. To assess the effect of the impact on the car’s occupants, during a crash test dummies are fitted with sensors and instruments to record a considerable load of data regarding speed of impact, the bending force exerted by the impact on the dummy, effect of deceleration forces and the safety performance of air bags. This is a key measure to improve the safety record of cars. Keeping note of the increase in road accident deaths, the Government should make mandatory the provision of airbags and ABS along with crash testing at the manufacturers’ end in all the models of cars and frame more stringent norms. Thank you.

Demand to conduct caste-wise census during General Census of 2011

महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान देश में जातिवार जनगणना की जरूरत तथा इसके राज्यीय महत्व की ओर दिनांत्र बाहुसाफ हूँ। सन 1931 के बाद देश में जातिवार जनगणना नहीं हुई है। इस बीच मानक, सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजकीय विवरणों में यापक बदलाव आए हैं। लेकिन इससे संबंधित विस्तारणीय और तोसी आंकड़ों के अभाव में हम एक वास्तविक निष्कर्ष तक नहीं पहुँच सकते हैं। साथ ही सरकार द्वारा चलाए जाने वाली विभिन्न योजनाओं एवं कार्यक्रमों का साम वाचिल तक नहीं पहुँच रहा है।

महोदय, कुछ समय पहले उच्चतम न्यायालय ने भी इसकी जरूरत पर बल देते हुए सरकार को विस्तारणीय और तोसी आंकड़े एकजीत करने के लिए कहा था, ताकि वास्तविक विकास के लक्ष्य को पूरा किया जा सके। ग्यारहवीं पंचायती राजनीति के दौरान अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के साधारण-करण के लिए गठित कार्य समूह की रिपोर्ट में भी अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के अंकड़े संबंधित जरूरतों पर बल दिया गया है। सामाजिक न्याय एवं विकास अन्तर्गत मंडल पर गठित चौथवीं लोकसभा की राज्यीय समिति ने भी अपनी नववीं रिपोर्ट (2005-06) में यह माना है कि सरकार के पास पिछड़े वर्गों की कुल जनसंख्या तथा गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग की जनसंख्या के संबंधित कोई अंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। नतीजतन, मंडल के अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के लिए संबंधित जानने वाली विभिन्न कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के लक्ष्य को पूरा नहीं कर सकता।

अतः मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि सामान्य जनगणना - 2011 के साथ जातिवार जनगणना भी कराई जाए।

263
Demand to take effective steps for development of National Highways in Bihar

Dr. S.K. Shukla (Vice-Chairman): The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

The House then adjourned at five minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 21st December, 2009.