

Vol. 218
No. 21



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday
18 December, 2009
27 Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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.]

©

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
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 slaughter 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 Amaravati 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)

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

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 18th December, 2009/27, Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

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

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

Statement-II

State-wise details of National Horticulture Board assisted cold storages

Sl.No.	Name of State	No.	Capacity (MT)	Subsidy released Rs in lakh
1	2	3	4	5
1	Punjab	114	353377.7	2753.966
2	Haryana	46	137094.5	1425.563

1	2	3	4	5
3	Tamil Nadu	48	130100.9	1463.671
4	Himachal Pradesh	6	21262	1617.227
5	Uttar Pradesh	946	4873073	29076.88
6	Uttaranchal	3	9818.6	51.961
7	Maharashtra	176	280913.7	2283.53
8	Rajasthan	54	202824.4	1448.63
9	Karnataka	66	322349.8	2500.865
10	Gujarat	245	445105.5	2885.369
11	Orissa	20	90026.55	812.415
12	Madhya Pradesh	74	246253	1508.45
13	Chhattisgarh	31	167994	1092.457
14	West Bengal	78	277859.1	2199.067
15	Andhra Pradesh	89	400691.3	3418.891
16	Assam	20	93160	1029.031
17	Bihar	108	429463.5	3180.8
18	Jharkhand	28	122228.3	995.011
19	Tripura	2	8000	100
20	Delhi	8	17956	338.73
21	Kerala	6	14993.53	127.085
22	Nagaland	1	5000	60
23	Goa	1	3633	36.33
24	Arunachal Pradesh	1	3983	53.1
25	J&K	1	114	1.14
TOTAL		2172	8657275	60460.16

Statement-III

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

State	No. of Cold Storages	Capacity(MT)
1	2	3
Maharashtra	37	1930
Karnataka	06	310

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	01	30
Gujarat	01	100
Punjab	01	40
West Bengal	01	30
TOTAL	47	2440

Statement-IV

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

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No.	Total Capacity in MTs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	02	210
2.	Andhra Pradesh	286	875956
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	5000
4.	Assam	24	88068
5.	Bihar	260	1439629
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	06	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	65	286206
8.	Delhi	94	126131
9.	Gujarat	377	1112254
10.	Goa	29	7705
11.	Haryana	243	392121
12.	Himachal Pradesh	18	19858
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	19	42869
14.	Jharkhand	45	170148
15.	Kerala	187	57130
16.	Karnataka	161	421676
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	01	15
18.	Maharashtra	460	564196
19.	Madhya Pradesh	192	796506
20.	Manipur	00	00
21.	Meghalaya	03	3200

1	2	3	4
22.	Mizoram	00	00
23.	Nagaland	02	6150
24.	Orissa	109	307647
25.	Pondicherry (UT)	03	85
26.	Punjab	420	1337517
27.	Rajasthan	107	314747
28.	Sikkim	00	00
29.	Tamil Nadu	139	236853
30.	Tripura	11	29450
31.	U.P.& Uttaranchal	1591	9060010
32.	West Bengal	531	5949259
	TOTAL	5386	23662812

Statement-V

*District-wise number and capacity of cold storages in
Andhra Pradesh (As on 31-12-2008)*

Sl.No.	District	No. of Cold Storages	Capacity (MT)
1	2	3	4
1	Anantapur	8	21043
2	Chittoor	12	23357
3	Cuddappah	1	136
4	East Godavari	17	26450
5	Guntur	72	301777
6	Hyderabad	32	60473
7	Khammam	11	57690
8	Krishna	20	67863
9	Kurnool	4	8297
10	Mahabubnagar	2	5794
11	Medak	2	9080
12	Nalgonda	1	2500
13	Nellore	10	24442
14	Nizamabad	4	13600

1	2	3	4
15	Prakasam	14	62707
16	Rangareddy	14	52218
17	Srikakulam	1	4000
18	Visakhapatnam	32	35793
19	Vizianagaram	7	33665
20	Warangal	12	54779
21	West Godavari	10	10292
GRAND TOTAL		286	875956

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)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't intervene.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें मेरा प्रश्न "बी" भाग के दूसरे भाग से संबंधित है। इसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि "...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 the North East States & SC/ST entrepreneur) is given.."

मैं जानता हूँ कि subsidy के आधार पर बड़े पैमाने पर, खास तौर पर उत्तर प्रदेश में फर्रुखाबाद, मेनपुरी, फिरोजाबाद, इटावा जिलों में बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर आलू पैदा होता है और बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर cold storage भी बनाए जाते हैं। यह subsidy देने के बाद और ज्यादा cold storage बनाए गए हैं, लेकिन cold storage बनने के बाद भी किसानों के सामने subsidy पाने की दिक्कत होती है। वे दिल्ली के चक्कर लगाते हैं और यहां जो आपकी संस्थाएं हैं, वे किसी न किसी बहाने से उनको वापस करती रहती हैं। और तमाम तरह की दूसरी तरह की बातें, जो किसान कहते हैं, मैं वे कहना नहीं चाहता हूँ, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह के subsidise आधार पर, जो subsidy पाने के लिए entitled हैं, ऐसे कितने claims फर्रुखाबाद, फिरोजाबाद, मेनपुरी और इटावा जिलों से आए? उनमें से कितनों को subsidy नहीं दी गई और यदि नहीं दी गई तो क्यों नहीं दी गई?

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.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : माननीय सभापति जी, यह देखने में आया है कि निजी क्षेत्र के गोदाम और शीत भंडार व्यापारियों के लिए होर्डिंग का एक बहुत बड़ा कारण बनते हैं। किसान को कोई लाभ नहीं होता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से इसलिए पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सबसेडाइज करने के बाद जो गोदाम और शीत भंडार निजी क्षेत्र में निर्मित होंगे, उससे किसानों को क्या लाभ होने वाला है? क्या इससे होर्डिंग की प्रवृत्ति को प्रोत्साहन नहीं मिलेगा? उसके द्वारा उपभोक्ता का खुला शोषण नहीं होगा, इसकी आपके पास क्या गारंटी है?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, we have set up a task force to study the country's needs of storage facility in great detail. According to the suggestion of the task force, we have taken a decision to construct various storage facilities both in the grain sector as well as in the vegetable and fruits sector. If you look at the loss, especially in vegetables and fruits sector, it is beyond a particular limit. Now what we are doing is, according to the norms given by the task force and by getting the assistance from the Central Government and various agricultural bodies, we have taken this decision. Our primary interest is to get the assistance of the farmers' organisations, cooperatives and the local bodies.

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.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि किन-किन पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए उन्होंने semester system पाठ्यक्रम चालू करने के लिए विचार किया है और क्या इसमें स्टूडेंट्स को employment guarantee मिलने का प्रावधान भी ध्यान में रखा गया है?

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.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री यह है कि दिल्ली में एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर्स और चीफ मिनिस्टर्स की कॉन्फरेंस हुई थी, जहां कुछ राज्यों ने इसके प्रति विरोध भी जताया था, साथ ही कुछ यूनिवर्सिटीज़ एवं Academic Councils ने भी इसके प्रति विरोध जताया था। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि किन-किन राज्यों एवं काउंसिल्स ने इस सैमिस्टर सिस्टम की सराहना की और किन-किन ने इसका विरोध किया?

कब तक आप इसे यूनिवर्सल लैवल पर लागू करेंगे? अभी तक आपने इसे कुछ Central Universities में ऑलरेडी चालू कर दिया है। विरोध के बावजूद भी आप कब तक इसे यूनिवर्सल लैवल पर लागू करेंगे?

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।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : नहीं, ऐसा नहीं हो सकता। इसमें बहुत सोच विचार किया गया है। सदन के पश्चात् अलग से एक-दो घंटे देकर मैं आपसे इस पर बात करूंगा।

श्री सभापति : नहीं-नहीं, आप बीच में न बोलें।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : मैं मंत्री जी को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसी इंडियन सिस्टम ने इतने बड़े-बड़े विद्वान पैदा किए हैं।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : वह स्वयं भी तो इसी सिस्टम में पढ़े हुए हैं।

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

श्री सभापति : यह अलग डिस्कशन है ...(व्यवधान)... यह अलग डिस्कशन है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : 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 in charge 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 ensure 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:-

Sl.No.	Rating Agency	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Upto Nov., 09)
1.	D&B	466	1356	1800	685	0
2.	CRISIL	149	379	775	2021	2540
3.	SMERA	1	318	715	1333	1401
4.	ONICRA	48	99	547	971	803
5.	FITCH	0	17	13	1	0
6.	ICRA	7	1	0	0	0
7.	CARE	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		671	2170	3850	5011	4744

(b) 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 दिन्शा जे. पटेल : माननीय सभापति जी, रेटिंग सिस्टम के बारे में माननीय सदस्य ने जो बताया, वह सही है। 7 अप्रैल, 2005 को क्रेडिट स्कीम की शुरुआत हुई और उस समय जो मंत्री थे, श्री पी. चिदम्बरम 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 आंकड़े के बारे में पूछा है। मेरे पास small और micro के लिए अलग-अलग आंकड़े नहीं हैं, मगर करीब 15000 से ज्यादा micro and small industries ने रेटिंग का काम करवाया है। उसके लिए जो अलग-अलग 7 कम्पनियां हैं, उनसे वे 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 करवा सकती है। रेटिंग करवाने से यह होता है कि उनको बैंक लोन में बहुत फायदा होता है और उनकी prestige देश और परदेस में बढ़ जाती है। इससे उनको माल बेचने में भी बहुत बड़ा फायदा होता है। इसलिए रेटिंग सिस्टम में

करीब 15000 इन्डस्ट्रीज ने रेटिंग करवायी हैं। यह उन्होंने अलग-अलग एजेंसीज के द्वारा करवाया है, क्योंकि यह forcefully नहीं है। इसमें NSIC का जो रोल यह है कि ये इन्डस्ट्रीज 25 प्रतिशत पैसे भर कर रेटिंग करवाती हैं और बाकी का जो 75 प्रतिशत का बिल है, वह NSIC को भेज देती हैं। तब NSIC उसकी स्टडी करके उसमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा 40,000 रुपये देती है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, मैं इसके अलग-अलग आंकड़े निकाल कर उनको भेज दूंगा।

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 दिव्या 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। इनमें 85 प्रतिशत industries ऐसी हैं जो micro and small scale industries हैं और उनमें से केवल 15 प्रतिशत ही रजिस्टर्ड हैं, बाकी रजिस्टर्ड नहीं हैं। बड़ी industries की बात अलग है। इसमें बैंकों से बढ़ी हुई ऋण सीमा को प्राप्त करने की बात है जिसमें उन्हें 23 प्रतिशत उत्तरदायित्व की प्राप्ति हुई है। इसके साथ ही इसमें ऋणों पर मार्जिन मनी में कमी, बैंकों से विभिन्न ऋण सुविधाओं पर बेहतर व सस्ती ब्याज दरें प्राप्त करना है। जैसा मैंने पहले ही कहा कि उनको ब्याज दरों में half per cent से 1 per cent या डेढ़ per cent की कमी मिल जाती है। उसकी भी स्टडी की गई है। उन्हें बिक्री में करीब 60 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी मिली है, निर्यात बिक्री में 25 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी मिली है और सप्लायर से ऋण की अवधि में 14 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इसकी स्टडी भी की गई है। सरकार यह भी स्टडी कर रही है कि छोटे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा कैसे मिले, देश में स्मॉल स्केल इन्डस्ट्रीज की ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी कैसे हो, ज्यादा से ज्यादा 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 शिवानन्द तिवारी : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि ये सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्योग रोजगार देने का बहुत बड़ा जरिया हैं। इस सेक्टर में बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों को रोजगार मिला 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 फैसिलिटी है, वह लगातार घट रही है। यही नहीं, चिन्ताजनक 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 रुख है, उसमें बदलाव लाने के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं ताकि उनको वित्तीय सहायता मिल सके और वे ज्यादा से ज्यादा तरक्की कर सकें?

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल : सभापति महोदय, वैसे तो यह प्रश्न इस प्रश्न के साथ जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है, लेकिन मैंने पहले ही बताया है कि स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज को बढ़ावा मिले, इसके लिए सरकार बहुत सी कोशिशें कर रही हैं,

मेरा डिपार्टमेंट भी बहुत सी कोशिशें कर रहा है। अभी तीन महीने पहले प्राइम मिनिस्टर का सभी इंडस्ट्रीज के प्रतिनिधियों, हमारे ऑफिसर्स और एक्सपर्ट्स के साथ करीब एक घंटे तक डिस्कशन हुआ था और प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने immediate एक task force, एक High Power Committee की घोषणा भी कर दी। High Power Committee बनने के बाद उन्होंने उसमें से सात लोगों की एक और कमिटी भी बना दी। माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात बताई है, बैंकों में होने वाले delay के बारे में, वहां scrutiny होने के बाद भी जो application जाती है, उस scrutiny हो चुकी application में भी बहुत delay होता है, इसकी जो High Power Committee कमिटी है, उसके लिए भी यह प्रश्न रखा गया है और उसमें इंडस्ट्रीज के प्रतिनिधि को भी रखा गया है, एक्सपर्ट्स को भी रखा गया है और उसकी रिपोर्ट तैयार होकर प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब के पास पहुंच गई है और अभी 15-20 दिनों में उस पर डिस्कशन होगा। आपने जिन दिक्कतों के बारे में बताया है, उन दिक्कतों को दूर करने की भी हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं, ताकि जल्दी से जल्दी उनको ऋण मिले। वैसे तो यह Finance Deptt. का काम है, संबंधित मंत्री के साथ भी डिस्कशन करके, कैसे हम उसको जल्दी से जल्दी निबटा सकें, इसकी भी हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

श्री विनय कटियार : सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे देश के अंदर छोटे उद्योग की एक पहचान थी, जो धीरे-धीरे मिटती चली जा रही है और चीन जैसे देश में, जहां एक समय में बेरोजगारी बहुत बढ़ती जा रही थी, छोटे उद्योग के माध्यम से आज भारत के अंदर चीन के उद्योग का बना हुआ सामान छाता चला जा रहा है। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि भारत के अंदर जिस प्रकार के पुराने उद्योग थे, उन परम्परागत उद्योगों को वे बढ़ावा देने का कोई काम करेंगे? बैंकों द्वारा जो छोटा भी ऋण दिया जाता है, उसमें भी कम से कम 20 या 25% वह बैंक के अंदर कमीशन के रूप में चला जाता है, क्या आप इस पर कोई अंकुश लगाएंगे?

श्री दिन्शा जे. पटेल : सर, वैसे तो यह सारा क्वेश्चन रेटिंग का क्वेश्चन है, फिर भी मैंने बताया कि मेरे आने के बाद स्माल स्केल और मीडियम स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं और यू.पी.ए. सरकार ने इस दिशा में बहुत कोशिश की है। एक High Power Committee के ज़रिए इन सारी प्रॉब्लम्स को निपटाने की हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं और मैंने अभी बताया कि within three months, उसको time bound कर दिया गया है, उसको time limit बता दी गई है कि तीन महीने के भीतर उसकी रिपोर्ट आ जानी चाहिए। उसमें सभी एक्सपर्ट्स को लगाया हुआ है, ऐसा नहीं है कि कोई किसी एक ही इंडस्ट्री का आदमी है या गवर्नमेंट का है, सभी एक्सपर्ट्स को उसमें लगाया गया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि हमारा देश चाइना से भी आगे बढ़े, भारत देश अपना नाम चाइना से भी आगे बढ़ाए और अव्वल नम्बर पर जैसे अपना पहले नाम था, अपना नाम उसी अव्वल नम्बर पर आए, ऐसी कोशिश भी हम कर रहे हैं और मैं मानता हूं कि हमारा देश आगे बढ़ेगा और जरूर वह अव्वल नम्बर पर आ जाएगा और छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज को ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, my question is directly linked to the reply which the Minister has made just now. He has told that the rating gives the small scale industries an advantage and also that helps them while getting credit/loans from institutions. He has also replied that till now a majority of the small scale sector is not yet registered and is not rated, around 85 per cent of the small scale sector. Without boosting this 85 per cent of the unrated and unregistered small scale sector, I think the UPA Government cannot properly translate its policy in promoting the small scale sector, if the

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-a-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.

श्री दिव्या जे. पटेल : सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने इकाइयों के बारे में जो बात कही है, अलग-अलग इकाइयों को यह सूचना दी जाती है। मैंने पहले ही बताया कि रेटिंग का जो मामला है, रेटिंग का मामला कंपलसरी नहीं है, कौन सी इंडस्ट्री ने, कौन सी इकाई ने रेटिंग करवानी है, नहीं करवानी है, यह उनके ऊपर निर्भर करता है। कोई भी छोटी इकाई अपनी रेटिंग करवा सकती है, 25 परसेंट पेमेंट करके वे अपनी रेटिंग करवा सकते हैं। रेटिंग करने के बाद बाकी का जो पैसा है, वह NSIC उनको भेज देती है, ज्यादा से ज्यादा 40,000 रुपए तक NSIC द्वारा दिया जाता है। NSIC के सदस्य उसके ऊपर विचार करके, उनका पेमेंट कर देते हैं। मैं मानता हूँ कि सदस्य की जो चिंता है, हमारा डिपार्टमेंट भी वही चिंता कर रहा है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा इकाइयों को इसमें जोड़ा जाए। अभी तक NSIC के साथ 26,000 इकाइयां रजिस्टर्ड हैं। ज्यादा से ज्यादा इकाइयां रजिस्टर होंगी, तो उनको भी मालूम हो सकेगा और portal द्वारा सारी की सारी डिटेल्स उनको पहुंचे, इसका भी इंतजाम किया गया है और छोटे-छोटे गांवों में भी इसका इंतजाम किया गया है कि वहां भी सूचनाएं पहुंचे और जितनी ज्यादा रेटिंग होगी, उतना ही उनका माल बिकेगा, उनकी prestige होगी, उनको बाहर के देशों में prestige मिलेगी, उनको बैंकों में prestige मिलेगी और बैंकों को ज्यादा सहूलियत हो जाएगी, क्योंकि उनको जो पैसा देना है, यदि रेटिंग वाली कंपनी होगी, तो बैंक वालों को ज्यादा खोजबीन नहीं करनी पड़ेगी, वे अपने आप ही उनको पैसा देंगे। ये सारी कोशिशें हम कर रहे हैं और मैं मानता हूँ कि हम जल्दी से जल्दी इस दिशा में और आगे बढ़ेंगे।

Tardy 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.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन : सर, यह सवाल महाराष्ट्र पर था और इन्होंने बहुत casual जवाब दिया है।
...(व्यवधान)...

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.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, रेलवे स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की वह उप-समिति जो इस बात की जांच कर रही थी कि रेलवे प्रोजेक्ट्स delay क्यों हो रहे हैं, उनमें विलम्ब क्यों हो रहा है, उसका मैं अध्यक्ष था और हमने एक जांच की थी। सच यह है कि दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना तक के प्रोजेक्ट्स अभी भी लंबित पड़े हुए हैं और लगभग 70-80 प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, जिनकी कीमत आज की तारीख में लगभग 60 हजार करोड़ रुपया है। अगर इन्हें पूरा करने के लिए पूरे फंड्स available कराए जाएं, तो भी इनके पूरा होने तक एक लाख करोड़ रुपया खर्च आएगा, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है। तो अब दो ही उपाय हैं — एक उपाय तो यह है कि समय-समय पर तमाम प्रोजेक्ट्स जो हम लोग सैंक्शन करते रहे, चाहे वे financially viable हों या न हों, या तो हम उनकी एक बार जांच करके यह तय कर लें कि कितने प्रोजेक्ट्स इनमें से viable हैं, लेने लायक हैं, उनको हम आगे बढ़ाएं और जो viable नहीं हैं, उनको drop कर दें ...*(व्यवधान)*... या दूसरा उपाय यह है कि रेल को जो लगभग 60 हजार करोड़ रुपया वित्तीय मदद मिलनी चाहिए, वह न मिले। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाह रहा हूँ कि आप इन दो उपायों में से कौन सा उपाय करना चाहेंगे, जिससे लंबित परियोजनाओं को निर्धारित समयावधि के अंदर पूरा किया जा सके?

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.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please register a complaint if it has not been answered. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री राम नारायण साहू : सर, हमें भी बोलने का मौका दीजिए।

श्री सभापति : आपकी भी बारी आएगी। ...(**व्यवधान**)... बैठ जाइए प्लीज़ ...(**व्यवधान**)... देखिए, टाइम 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 benefited, 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 Amedkar 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. The (b) part of my question is: further you have stated that some universities which you have mentioned have also been granted fund in the Eleventh Plan. Do you think that only in these 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.

श्री कांजीभाई पटेल : सर, दुनिया के मानचित्र पर तेजी से उभर रहे गुजरात में विश्व विद्यालय स्थापित करने का केन्द्र का जो निर्णय है, उसका हम स्वागत करते हैं, लेकिन अभी तक इसकी लोकेशन फाइनल नहीं हुई है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसकी लोकेशन कब तक फाइनल होगी और कब तक यह यूनिवर्सिटी स्टार्ट होगी।

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.

श्री कांजीभाई पटेल : सर, साबरकांठा डिस्ट्रिक्ट बिल्कुल गांधीनगर से सटा हुआ है और इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की दृष्टि से देखा जाए तो, वहां भी उतना ही इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर है, डेवलपमेंट है, जितना की गांधी नगर में है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसको वहां स्थापित करने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं हो सकती है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कब तक यह फाइनल होगा और कब तक शुरू होगा?

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

*State-wise details of agriculture and allied sector's GDP for
2007-08 at constant (1999-2000) prices*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Agriculture & Allied Sector's GDP (In Crores Rupees)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	58927
2	Arunachal Pradesh	669
3	Assam	12855
4	Bihar	22888
5	Jharkhand	6315
6	Goa	698
7	Gujarat	34625
8	Haryana	21034
9	Himachal Pradesh	5071
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6154
51	Karnataka	30363

1	2	3
12	Kerala	18206
13	Madhya Pradesh	24901
14	Chhattisgarh	9439
15	Maharashtra	55311
16	Manipur	1073
17	Meghalaya	1189
18	Mizoram	376
19	Nagaland	NA
20	Orissa	16552
21	Punjab	30237
22	Rajasthan	34954
23	Sikkim	295
24	Tamil Nadu	24849
25	Tripura	NA
26	Uttar Pradesh	70174
27	Uttarakhand	4365
28	West Bengal	51006
29	A & N Islands	NA
30	Chandigarh	54
31	Delhi	713
32	Puducherry	279
	ALL INDIA	557122

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

NA = Not Available

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;

(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

S.No.	Crops	Institutes
1	2	3
1.	Rice	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 (Uttarakhand), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, University of Calcutta Bose Institute, Calcutta
2.	Wheat	National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi
3.	Sorghum	Directorate of Sorghum Research, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi
4.	Maize	Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhanshala, Almora (Uttarakhand), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi, National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi.
5.	Chickpea	National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi. Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat
6.	Pigeonpea	National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)
7.	Soybean	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
8.	Cotton	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
9.	Brassica	National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi. Directorate of Rapeseed & Mustard Research, Bharatpur (Rajasthan)

1	2	3
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, Thiruvananthapuram (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

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 alongwith 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 Madarasas (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 Madarasas. 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

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of Micro-watershed identified	Area covered (in lakh hectares)	No. of districts covered	No. of micro-watersheds sanctioned during 2009-10	Area sanctioned (in lakh hectares)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	17450	87.23	12	947	4.73
2	Chhattisgarh	7200	36	15	320	1.52
3	Gujarat	10567	155.85	26	753	3.3
4	Himachal Pradesh	4388	27.25	12	236	2.04
5	Karnataka	16768	83.84	27	966	4.91
6	Madhya Pradesh	14419	131.31	30	835	6.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	Maharashtra *	30509	165.25	28	2893	9.96
8	Orissa	10757	102.52	10	537	2.95
9	Punjab	34	1.23	3	17	0.35
10	Rajasthan	26655	173	32	977	9.26
11	Tamil Nadu	5532	30.43	23	544	2.5
12	Uttaranchal *	409	19.32	13	82	1.7
N E States						
13	Arunachal Pradesh	3331	28.36	11	92	0.68
14	Assam	3700	3.21	26	245	2.21
15	Meghalaya	764	3.66	7	20	0.3
16	Nagaland	1293	9.24	11	170	1.06
17	Sikkim	166	1.63	2	22	0.15
18	Tripura	406	2.45	4	33	0.3
TOTAL :		1,54,510	1,042.46	292	9,689	53.93

* The proposals of Maharashtra & Uttaranchal have been appraised and approved by the Steering Committee. However, State Level Nodal Agency(s) (SLNAs) have yet to issue sanction letters for release of funds by the Department.

Statement-II

*District-wise details of total No. of Micro watersheds identified
and No. of watersheds being developed in Rajasthan*

Sl. No.	District	Total treatable watersheds/ clusters under IWMP	Treatable area under IWMP	No. of w/s Micro W/S/IC	Total area under IWMP
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ajmer	469	427507	36	23338
2	Alwar	327	511707	32	25981
3	Banswara	287	233457	30	14066
4	Baran	418	295378	38	17372
5	Barmer	4031	1877413	101	100142
6	Bharatpur	140	313394	25	15024
7	Bhilwara	536	457755	21	33258
8	Bikaner	2936	1467869	31	80000

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Bundi	339	217924	10	10242
10	Chittorgarh	686	388432	30	21558
11	Churu	1513	936269	33	46550
12	Dausa	141	193595	13	12006
13	Dholpur	160	157323	6	9452
14	Dungarpur	325	163232	12	9460
15	Hanumangarh	73	403276	14	18814
16	Jaipur	645	615641	34	33109
17	Jaisalmer	2404	1686870	79	80000
18	Jalore	1283	641401	29	33647
19	Jhalawar	548	336384	36	15659
20	Jhunjhunu	631	348415	27	20490
21	Jodhpur	2367	1568999	89	82000
22	Karouli	275	222704	8	11139
23	Kota	149	176980	5	10223
24	Nagour	1855	1137210	48	58082
25	Pali	736	657541	44	40500
26	Pratapgarh	figures included in Chittor	figures included in Chittor	7	5247
27	Rajsamand	285	168215	21	9993
28	S. Madhopur	390	291048	26	15251
29	Sikar	815	467504	34	25665
30	Sirohi	281	224133	18	10232
31	Tonk	392	409528	18	21028
32	Udaipur	1218	303175	22	16071
TOTAL		26655	17300279	977	925599

* 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 GUJRAL:

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.
- (iii) Re-introduction of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on steel items on 14.11.2008.
- (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 Sansthans, 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:-

Name of the Deemed University	Graduates/ Post Graduates	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan	Graduates	1878	1891	1811	1778
	Post Graduates	1187	1363	1190	1037
Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha	Graduates	145	158	143	196
	Post Graduates	106	87	85	119
Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha	Graduates	260	236	306	73
	Post Graduates	145	100	104	102

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 (Khurda 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 envisages 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, PRLs, Cooperatives, Para-Extension Workers, Agripreneurs, Input Suppliers, Corporate Sector etc. The Work Plans for involvement of Non-Governmental Sector are, however, framed 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 upto 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 & Cooperation. 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, The. 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 Awam 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 (NWDPA), 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 (IWMP) 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 tones 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, pumpsets, 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

3246. 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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), the Government announced the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 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:

Andhra Pradesh	-	390
Gujarat	-	1
Karnataka	-	143
Kerala	-	22
Maharashtra	-	627
Punjab	-	10
Tamil Nadu	-	1

(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.

Statement

State-wise Geographical Area, Cultivable Area and its percentage during 2006-07

(Area in Thousand Hectares)

State/Union Territory	Geographical Area	Cultivable Area	% of Cultivable Area
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	27507	15911	57.8
Arunachal Pradesh	8374	422	5.0
Assam	7844	3224	41.1
Bihar	9416	6638	70.5
Chhattisgarh	13519	5581	41.3
Goa	370	197	53.2
Gujarat	19602	12412	63.3
Haryana	4421	3782	85.5
Himachal Pradesh	5567	813	14.6
Jammu & Kashmir	22224	1048	4.7
Jharkhand	7972	4184	52.5
Karnataka	19179	12894	67.2
Kerala	3886	2329	59.9
Madhya Pradesh	30825	17312	56.2
Maharashtra	30771	21162	68.8
Manipur	2233	231	10.3
Meghalaya	2243	1057	47.1
Mizoram	2108	213	10.1
Nagaland	1658	657	39.6
Orissa	15571	7473	48.0
Punjab	5036	4270	84.8
Rajasthan	34224	25600	74.8
Sikkim	710	155	21.8

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	13006	8148	62.6
Tripura	1049	310	29.6
Uttarakhand	5348	1504	28.1
Uttar Pradesh	24093	19268	80.0
West Bengal	8875	5751	64.8
A & Nicobar Islands	825	47	5.7
Chandigarh	11	2	18.2
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	49	24	49.0
Daman & Diu	11	3	27.3
Delhi	148	54	36.5
Lakshadweep	3	3	100.0
Puducherry	48	31	64.6
All-India	328726	182708	55.6

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.
2. National Food Security Mission - Pulses launched in 2007-08 being implemented in 171 identified districts of 14 major 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 providing 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, Oilpalm 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

States	Loss in Area ('000 Hectare)							Loss in Production ('000 Tonnes)						
	Rice	Coarse Cereals	Pulses	Total Food-grains	Oilseeds	Sugar-cane	Cotton	Rice	Coarse Cereals	Pulses	Total Food-grains	Oilseeds	Sugar-cane	Cotton*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Andhra Pradesh	-755.5	-155.0	-18.0	-928.5	-538.0	-52.0	-129.0	-3001.0	-391.0	8.6	-3383.4	-486.2	-4138.0	-329.4
Assam	207.0	-4.0	-3.0	200.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	-334.0	-1.0	-2.0	-337.0	8.0	180.0	0.0
Bihar	-1063.5	38.2	1.12	-1014.1	0.0	-1.4		-2724.5	126.0	14.3	-2584.1	0.0	427.0	
Chhattisgarh	-263.1	-24.7	-0.6	-288.4	-11.5	-0.3		-106.1	-37.6	19.4	-124.3	-64.8	0.2	
Gujarat	-60.0	-236.6	-6.0	-302.6	-67.0	3.0	271.0	-271.0	-116.6	-11.4	-399.0	136.4	0.0	722.2
Haryana	-65.5	-48.0	-4.0	-117.5	-5.0	-15.0	72.0	261.4	-56.3	-14.8	190.3	-4.2	-938.0	157.0
Himachal Pradesh	-7.8	-30.9	-2.1	-40.8	-0.4	-0.2		-68.1	-133.5	-5.7	-207.4	-1.3	-37.8	
Jammu & Kashmir	-1.0	-12.4	-0.7	-14.1	0.3	0.0		-2.2	-66.4	0.4	-68.3	0.1	0.3	
Jharkhand	-762.6	-83.7	-75.1	-921.4	-13.0	-3.0		-1846.6	-108.6	-69.1	-2024.3	-10.8	-75.0	
Karnataka	-140.0	59.0	3.0	-78.0	-111.0	-17.0	-118.0	-809.0	65.3	-157.0	-900.7	-362.4	-1421.2	-263.8
Kerala	-0.3	-3.0	-1.8	-5.0	-0.7	0.0	-1.2	3.0	-2.2	-2.3	-1.4	0.4	-21.2	-1.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Madhya Pradesh	-369.3	-229.6	75.2	-523.7	-183.3	-7.2	21.2	-565.4	-617.4	39.7	-1143.1	-1350.6	-301.0	-180.7
Maharashtra	-69.0	359.0	172.0	462.0	-41.0	-34.0	361.0	-466.0	109.4	171.9	-184.7	-79.0	-3260.0	567.9
Orissa	105.4	-11.0	-13.7	80.8	-22.9	-3.4	-3.9	237.4	-26.3	-14.0	197.0	-12.1	80.4	4.0
Punjab	-20.0	8.7	-14.9	-26.2	2.0	4.0	3.0	465.7	30.6	-8.9	487.4	2.0	350.0	13.0
Rajasthan	16.3	99.9	-225.1	-108.9	28.4	-2.9	142.3	-10.3	-3651.7	-547.3	-4209.2	-332.1	-301.3	-85.2
Tamil Nadu	-33.4	-30.3	75.5	11.7	-119.9	3.5	-42.6	78.0	-35.1	38.8	81.7	-91.7	3.2	-78.2
Uttar Pradesh	-1862.0	-43.0	196.0	-1709.0	133.0	-84.0	-4.0	-5392.8	-572.5	143.6	-5821.7	1.2	-14860.7	-1.0
Uttarakhand	-12.0	-11.0	14.0	-9.0	7.0	-12.0		-23.0	-85.0	6.0	-102.0	3.0	-632.0	
West Bengal	-229.0	-5.5	49.7	-184.9	-5.6	2.4	-12.0	-558.5	-10.1	34.7	-533.9	-3.7	495.4	-24.0
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.9	0.0	0.0
All India	-5385.3	-363.8	231.5	-5517.6	-948.3	-217.5	567.9	-15133.0	-5580.2	-355.0	-21068.1	-2648.8	-24449.6	500.5

* Production ('000 Bales of 170 kgs each)

Note: The loss in area and production based on 1st Advance Estimates for 2009-10 and 4th Advance Estimates for 2008-09.

Target for agricultural credit

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:

Agency	Target	Disbursement (April - October 2009)	Achivement (%)
Commercial Banks	250,000	110,204.35	44.08
Cooperative Banks	45,000	32,924.89	73.17
Regional Rural Banks	30,000	20,065.37	66.89
TOTAL	325,000	163,194.61	50.21

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 ATMA's. 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 agri-preneurs.

Statement

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

Farmer oriented activities (2006-07)

Sl. No.	State	Expo-visit		Training		Demo		Kisan Melas		Total		FIGs.	
		Mobilized											
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1	A.P.	1483	334	15072	8414	2647	1057	22404	13896	41606	23701	274	
2	Bihar	240	120	5445	2930	380	130			6065	3180	143	
3	Chhattisgarh	292	53	3541	987	14500	5100	26985	11743	45318	17883	1294	
4	Goa	116	76	747	303	1667	458			2530	837	5	
5	Gujarat	279	137	1229	724	570	190	447	150	2525	1201	200	
6	Haryana	325	64	605	167	2278	547	6055	370	9263	1148	43	
7	H.P	580	260	3052	1558	1340	610	11300	8750	16272	11178	325	
8	Jharkhand	1931	619	6370	2140	1005	335	4236	2604	13542	5698	221	
9	Karnataka	63		215		979				1257		112	
10	M.P.	792	152	5912	1140	568	92	20441	4771	27713	6155	675	
10	Maharashtra	15343	1897	640	10	4632j	976	264422	98880	285037	101763	271	
12	Orissa	600	400	3300	4465	80,000	40,000	60,000	22500	143900	67365	1365	
13	Punjab	3530	741	14932	4808	7083	2217	25271	16926	50816	24692	180	
14	Rajasthan	2068	737	5212	2170	2356	757	26138	8972	35774	12636	418	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	Tamil Nadu	456	294	1869	1001	772	378	338	121	3435	1794	18
16	Uttaranchal	150	60	1652	682	606	236	3775	1782	6183	2760	36
17	U.P	2496	624	12947	3423	4090	355	44010	20032	63543	24434	492
18	W.B	100	40	170	210	188	61	22390	13620	22848	13931	54
19	Assam			504	216			380	120	884	336	
20	Arunachal Pradesh	205	85	1600	1250	550	350	0	0	2355	1685	0
21	Manipur	110	20	950	200	80	0	0	0	1140	220	200
22	Mizoram	55	33	3527	1210	560	231	9256	4977	13398	6451	71
23	Nagaland			1080	862	350	250	588	462	2018	1574	60
24	A&N	22								22		10
25	Sikkim	259	111	1138	487	294	126	1750	750	3441	1474	30
26	J&K	2449	428	7737	1250	666	511	8097	2172	18949	4361	0
GRAND TOTAL :		33944	7285	99446	40607	128161	54967	558283	233598	819834	336457	6497

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

Farmer oriented activities (2007-08)

Sl. No.	State	Expo-visit	Training	Demo.	Kisan Melas	Total	Figs. Farm						
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Mobilized	Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	A.P.	1635	552	43032	21413	3126	1659	22035	13554	69828	37178	412	207
2	Bihar	1034	516	26016	11151	316	108	41892	18056	69258	29831	736	200

3	Chhattisgarh	1428	596	1561	668	165	75	20016	3342	23170	4681		112
4	Goa	0	0	504	216	0	0	250	150	754	366	0	0
5	Gujarat	1566	1051	3408	1842	5951	1611	20171	21503	31096	26007	813	34
6	Haryana	651	265	2278	547	324	64	6055	370	9308	1246	43	80
7	H.P.	760	430	2295	1340	1400	700	11270	7130	15725	9600	297	52
8	Jharkhand	645	207	1428	412	1400	0	1155	385	4628	1004	130	9
9	Karnataka	760	430	2295	1340	8930	2670	11270	7130	23255	11570	61	0
10	M.P.	5800	1326	26654	5741	3781	294	57415	9821	93650	17182	150	575
11	Maharashtra	15932	6025	39162	16814	1863	268	17977	5897	74934	29004	1318	135
12	Orissa	13900	3200	254000	346300	10000	3507	94539	218	372439	353225		323
13	Punjab	4507	703	23682	3644	19871	2954	25261	3701	73321	11002	477	22
14	Rajasthan	6138	915	48438	23997	134411	52359	22357	6389	211344	83660	747	96
15	Tamil Nadu	1167	514	6057	2953	10439	4263	30264	29115	47927	36845	357	133
16	Uttaranchal	1524	276	10643	3946	1674	485	9657	4641	23498	9348	98	0
17	U.P	5808	1922	90993	11519	24623	2027	102217	36412	223641	51880	1598	572
18	W.B	0	0	18080	4520	79151	19788	11201	2434	108432	26742	112	142
19	Assam	65	414	504	216	0	0	0	0	569	260	0	12
20	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
21	Manipur	379	199	568	294	102	56	180	68	1229	617	130	0
22	Mizoram	47	7	206	160	374	150	3713	1655	4340	1972	153	0
23	Nagaland	248	155	3240	9680	750	1000	1383	1354	5621	12189	45	30
24	A&N	100	20	1120	240	0	60	1590	685	2810	1005	10	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	Sikkim	0	0	15	84	340	60	1590	685	1945	829	5	14
26	J&K	0	0	25	0	0	0	25	0	50	0	0	0
27	Kerala	1041	510	502	234	0	0	0	0	1543	744	0	0
28	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153	0
Total : 2007-08		65135	19863	606706	469271	308991	94158	513483	174695	1494315	757987	7845	2780

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

Farmer oriented activities (2008-09)

S.No.	State	Expo-visit		Training		Demo.		Kisan Melas		Total		Figs Mobilized	Farm Schools	Reported upto Month
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	A.P.	27405	11746	151919	65109	6493	2783	35525	15225	221342	94863	301	548	March
2	Bihar	11685	2634	112499	30796	4863	0	96696	31869	225743	65299	150	364	March
3	Chhattisgarh	494	83	1159	513	727	212	5018	2127	7398	2935	186	0	March
4	Goa	60	45	5000	1000	0	0	1590	530	6650	1575	0	63	Jan.
5	Gujarat	2195	0	3313	0	6633	0	6681	0	18822	0	473	11	Dec.
6	Haryana	3862	2263	6742	1035	5813	0	134250	25600	150667	28898	58	172	March
7	H.P	2486	1252	7161	4000	1700	1065	21199	9901	32546	16218	250	21	March
8	Jharkhand	2335	900	1580	670	4627	0	15740	8400	24282	9970	634	14	Jan.
9	Karnataka	5610	2360	11350	4850	1375	475	408445	16000	426780	23685	228	36	March
10	M.P.	17122	3974	62969	12784	22955	1190	415675	63431	518721	81379	14375	1199	March

11	Maharashtra	14428	1450	25940	11050	5369	2292	14330	6176	60067	20968	380	187	March
12	Orissa	3920	1642	203637	178514	31618	4386	223919	108602	463094	293144	1021	292	March
2	Punjab	38043	5278	36405	5827	38374	1060	65119	8211	177941	20376	83	58	March
14	Rajasthan	11487	3402	17573	8230	6280	2617	94680	27222	130020	41471	910	282	March
15	Tamil Nadu	24073	12404	5187	2440	5715	0	12648	7752	47623	22596	850	381	Feb
16	Uttaranchal	7013	2625	15009	6906	1859	613	120797	20195	144678	30339	203	95	March
17	U.P	32698	11632	111836	16027	108249	29005	233685	100796	486468	157460	2259	1077	March
18	W.B	15200	6800	46139	19760	7350	0	29725	13025	98414	39585	380	302	Jan.
19	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
21	Manipur	666	301	568	282	264	0	248	96	1746	679	0	0	March
22	Mizoram	1107	553	3740	1860	168	84	21	9	5036	2506	200	0	Feb
23	Nagaland	875	419	6587	4121	25371	0	45800	24158	78633	28698	404	28	March
24	A&N	9	0	396	264	1280	0	2022	881	3707	1145	0	11	March
25	Sikkim	352	258	1960	840	342	0	5631	49	8285	1147	24	14	March
26	J&K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27	Kerala	7103	2484	9616	4322	21870	0	75573	31122	114162	37928	236	110	March
28	Puducherry	0	0	760	240	10	0	1267	974	2037	1214	5	3	Sept.
29	Tripura	150	50	5330	870	811	0	430	220	6721	1140	5	0	Jan.
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.

Profit margin of agricultural production

3256. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: 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

Crop	States	Value of Gross Prod (Rs. /hect)			Cost of Cultivation C2 (Rs./hect)			Net income (Rs./hect)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Paddy	Andhra Pradesh	34057.98	32107.77	34317.66	29056.11	29256.97	30491.62	5001.87	2850.80	3826.14
	Assam	11647.33	13618.45	11675.31	14364.28	15079.18	15159.23	-2716.95	-1460.73	-3483.92
	Bihar	13376.03	14603.54	15633.13	14640.07	15181.55	15226.50	-1264.04	-578.01	406.63
	Haryana	36742.64	35581.42	40788.58	32038.25	30543.61	31810.81	4704.39	5037.81	8977.77
	Kerala	25485.39	27624.54	32220.61	26644.62	27866.20	30023.47	-1159.13	-241.66	2197.14
	Madhya Pradesh	10398.98	11736.37	11968.98	11976.48	12685.78	12550.84	-1577.50	-949.41	-581.86
	Karnataka	31102.92	35230.09	36232.17	30556.70	28350.97	27872.09	547.22	6879.12	8360.08
	Orissa	17462.69	17095.56	17868.16	18198.62	18781.20	19319.98	-730.93	-1685.64	-1451.82
	Punjab	42414.24	37403.66	42138.57	31770.38	30007.47	30384.12	10643.86	7396.19	11754.45
	Tamil Nadu	27749.69	28479.96	33386.25	30103.76	32792.95	35477.49	-2354.07	-4312.99	-2091.24
	Uttar Pradesh	18477.89	20742.12	20829.67	19520.32	20557.42	20338.40	-1042.43	184.70	491.27
	West Bengal	22505.10	23384.81	25162.80	24403.45	25162.96	26723.20	-1698.35	-1778.15	-1560.40
	Chhattisgarh	16232.74	17533.99	19375.48	14350.98	15304.30	16619.37	1881.76	2229.89	2756.11
	Jharkhand	10139.24	8083.98	13960.77	13535.32	12833.08	15802.46	-3396.08	-4749.10	-1841.69

	Uttarakhand	19855.15	22556.55	26133.90	18552.77	21230.29	21896.16	1302.38	1326.26	4237.74
	Gujarat	*	23612.93	26688.28	*	18854.53	17535.05	*	4758.40	9153.23
	Himachal Pradesh	*	16834.64	17694.24	*	15463.57	18189.17	*	1371.07	1505.07
	Maharashtra	*	23992.82	21493.30	*	25464.48	27740.46	*	-1471.66	-6247.16
Wheat	Bihar	16441.16	16982.02	21306.57	15456.25	15010.70	15693.57	984.91	1971.32	5613.00
	Gujarat	24293.43	27708.74	29504.97	18216.88	18276.58	19900.05	6076.55	9432.16	9604.92
	Haryana	29652.98	32894.43	41332.88	24197.23	27317.75	28424.35	5455.75	5576.68	12908.53
	Himachal Pradesh	13880.88	17455.74	24261.63	13603.61	18363.25	20964.89	277.27	1092.49	3296.74
	Madhya Pradesh	16979.27	21271.43	26821.68	14696.06	16978.39	19372.74	2283.21	4293.04	7448.94
	Punjab	31026.23	33612.05	41211.53	24197.48	26699.59	29946.95	6628.75	6912.46	11264.58
	Rajasthan	29599.02	34612.30	40440.53	19609.52	22415.60	24660.23	9989.50	12196.70	15780.30
	Uttar Pradesh	21608.90	25324.75	33826.02	20812.56	22821.62	24688.79	796.34	2503.13	9137.23
	Chhattisgarh	9245.02	12234.89	17709.54	11443.44	12480.33	15057.37	-2198.42	-245.44	2652.17
	Jharkhand	9897.16	12110.09	12407.24	15007.35	14609.04	14999.39	-5110.19	-2498.95	-2592.15
	Uttarakhand	20824.43	21040.82	25853.53	20842.49	20107.67	24552.28	-18.06	933.15	1301.25
	West Bengal	*	17182.49	20797.36	*	21981.49	23241.56	*	-4799.00	-2444.20
Jowar	Andhra Pradesh	9826.89	11714.05	12611.59	11636.66	12971.99	13338.37	-1809.77	-1257.94	-726.78
	Madhya Pradesh	6867.39	6215.66	10799.16	7848.16	8159.33	10677.15	-988.77	-1943.67	122.01
	Karnataka	6027.67	6078.30	6569.72	6078.49	7135.56	7631.68	-50.82	-1057.26	-1061.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Maharashtra	11162.52	12652.13	15265.36	10306.06	14846.56	14850.68	856.46	-2194.43	414.70
	Rajasthan	8109.12	8672.93	7498.97	7287.81	8549.13	7368.96	821.31	123.80	130.01
	Tamil Nadu	9903.75	5855.90	8992.46	11157.44	8222.52	9833.95	-1253.69	-2366.62	-841.49
Bajra	Gujarat	13212.16	15500.06	17135.61	12305.52	14010.83	14148.83	906.64	1489.23	2986.98
	Haryana	7299.39	8183.39	11916.47	9325.70	11462.76	13218.74	-2026.31	-3279.37	-1302.27
	Karnataka	*	3733.91	5170.39	*	5657.86	6208.47	*	-1923.95	-1038.08
	Maharashtra	9743.17	11035.82	14112.29	10859.95	12966.62	14741.12	-1116.78	-1930.80	-628.83
	Rajasthan	8101.63	7077.09	9441.22	7166.10	6902.64	8178.10	935.53	174.45	1263.12
	Uttar Pradesh	10159.56	10014.64	16902.31	11004.42	11371.90	14296.26	-844.86	-1357.26	2606.05

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

State	Estimated number of rural households (‘00)	Estimated number of farmer households (‘00)	Estimated number of indebted farmer households (‘00)	Percentage of farmer households indebted
(1)	(2)	(1)	14)	(5)
Andhra Pradesh	142512	60339	49493	82.0
Arunachal Pradesh	15412	1227	72	5.9
Assam	41525	25040	4536	18.1
Bihar	116853	70804	23383	33.0
Chhattisgarh	36316	27598	11092	40.2
Gujarat	63015	37845	19644	51.9
Haryana	371474	1944S	10330	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	11928	9061	3030	33.4
Jammu & Kashmir	10418	9432	3003	31.8
Jharkhand	36930	28238	5893	20.9
Karnataka	69908	40413	24897	61.6
Kerala	49942	21946	14126	64.4
Madhya Pradesh	93898	63206	32110	50.8
Maharashtra	118177	65817	36098	54.8
Manipur	2685	2146	533	24.8
Meghalaya	3401	2543	103	4.1
Mizoram	942	780	184	23.6
Nagaland	973	805	294	36.5
Orissa	66199	42341	20250	47.8
Punjab	29847	18442	12069	65.4
Rajasthan	70172	53080	27828	52.4
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5

(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(5)
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	221499	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.2
West Bengal	121667	69226	34696	50.1
Group of UT's	2325	732	372	50.8
All India	1478988	893504	434242	48.6

Source: NSS Report No. 498

Deep sea fishing

3257. 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,

Dairying & Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture for making recommendation on various issues relating to the development of marine fisheries in India. The EC has representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Shipping, Fishery Survey of India, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Coast Guards and the Reserve Bank of India.

(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:

Name of Crop	Area: in lakh hectares	
	2009	2008
Wheat	217.02	216.02
Rabi Rice	3.36	2.11
Coarse Cereals	57.29	61.08
Total Pulses	111.90	109.39
Total Oilseeds	77.77	83.80

Some area of oilseeds is diverted to pluses 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 (RVKY) 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 RAJNITI 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 upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills. Later extended upto 31.3.2010. 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 while/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, Vishakhapatnam 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, Cuddappah, 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*

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

* Ending November, 2009

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

Sl. No.	Interventions	Unit	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 *
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Purchase of Breeder Seed of Pulses	Qtls.	0	417.59	40.09
2.	Production of Foundation and Certified seeds of Pulses.	Qtls.	0	10457	166892

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Distribution of Certified Seeds of Pulses	Qtls.	88333	298713	320693
4.	Liming/Gypsum	Ha	0	1020	0
5.	Micro-nutrients	Ha	1253	15502	2312
6.	Integrated Pests Management	Ha	25000	50467	40686
7.	Improved Farm Machineries including Water Saving Devices	Nos.	155	12685	8679
8.	Farmers' Trainings on FFS Pattern	Nos.	0	304	245

* Ending November, 2009

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented to help farmers are - Technology Mission on Cotton; Integrated Oilseeds, Oilpalm, Pulses and Maize Development; Technology Mission on Horticulture for North-East Region including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, HP and J & K; Micro Irrigation; National Bamboo Mission; National Horticulture Mission; Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; Macro Management of Agriculture; National Food Security Mission and National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility.

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:

Years	Subsidy (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	28,019.55
2007-08	43,319.16
2008-09	99,494.71

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

Years	Annual growth
2006-07	4.16 %
2007-08	6.21 %
2008-09	1.34 %

(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

A - Area (000¹ ha)

P - Production (000¹ MT)

State/UTs	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	9.1	9.6	9.8	9.8	10.8	9.8	10.8	9.8
Himachal Pradesh	88.6	540.4	91.8	268.4	94.5	592.6	94.72	510.16
Jammu & Kashmir	100.1	1151.7	119.4	1222.2	126.4	1268.5	133.1	1332.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nagaland	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.015	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05
Uttaranchal	28.8	112.3	30.6	123.3	32.2	130.5	32.67	132.32
TOTAL	226.64	1814.04	251.64	1623.72	263.94	2001.45	271.3	1985.1

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

S.No.	Name of States	2008-09			2009-10 (upto 10.12.2009)		
		New Static STLs (Nos)	New Mobile STLs (Nos)	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	New STLs (Nos)	New MSTLs (Nos)	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	3	120.00	-	-	-
2.	Karnataka	7	1	120.00	10	.	150.00
3.	Kerala	3	7	150.00	-	-	-
4.	Rajasthan	14	12	390.00	-	-	-
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3	3	90.00	-	-	-
7.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	3	45.00
8.	West Bengal	1	7	120.00	-	-	-
9	Orissa	6	5	165.00	-	-	-
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	3	75.00	-	-	-
11.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	2	30.00
12.	Mizoram	1	3	60.00	-	-	-
13.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	8	3	165.00
14.	Bihar	-	-	-	15	15	450.00
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	3	45.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	13	195.00
17.	Tripura	-	-	-	2	1	45.00
TOTAL		42	44	1290.00	35	40	1125.00

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 up-gradation 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*

Crop	Increase/Decrease in Area over the previous year (¹ 000 Hectares)			Increase/Decrease in Yield over the previous year (Kg. /Hectare)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	153.8	100.8	1437.3	28.3	71.1	-15.5
Wheat	1510.9	44.1	-161.6	89.1	94.3	88.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coarse Cereals	-356.7	-226.7	-864.2	9.5	249.1	-1.8
Pulses	800.4	441.3	-1262.7	14.4	12.4	30.4
Foodgrains	2108.4	359.5	-851.3	40.9	103.7	37.9
Groundnut	-1120.9	676.9	-72.5	-320.5	593.2	-279.4
Rapeseed & Mustard	-486.5	-964.5	364.0	-22.1	-94.0	188.6
Soyabean	621.2	553.0	635.8	-10.7	172.2	-194.9
Oilseeds	-1350.1	179.9	763.5	-88.0	198.6	-88.7
Sugarcane	949.1	-95.6	-659.7	2103.2	-145.1	-6556.5
Cotton	467.4	269.2	-7.4	58.7	46.7	-48.9

4th Advance Estimates released on 21.07.2009

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Board of Directors of a multi-state Cooperative Society is constituted and elected as per the provisions of Section 41 & 45 of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 2002. The procedure for election of Board of Directors of a multi-state Cooperative Society is given in the Rule 19 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2002 and Schedule attached to the Rules.

‡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 Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMUS) and Bhopal Gas Peedith 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 Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMUS) and Bhopal Gas Peedith 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

(HS) 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 ((DMA) have informed that they along with Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical (CIPI), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCMP). 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. SHRI LALIT 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. SHRI TAPAN 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:

Figures: land/acres

Land Area	Durgapur	Barauni	Haldia
Factory	539.42	405.89	167.67
Township & others	245.21	279.54	86.17
TOTAL	784.63	685.43	253.84

FCIL:

Land in Acres

Unit	Factory	Township	Miscellaneous: Like link road, ash ponds, railway line & siding, water pipelines, vacant, etc.
Sindri	922	2533	2720
Gorakhpur	300	693	-
Ramagundam	919	365	-
Talcher	569	283	52

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) and (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

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government has taken thereon?

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:

('Qty. in '000 tonnes')				
Product	Month	Requirement	Availability	Sale
NPK (Complexes)	October	7.50	4.21	2.68
	November	10.00	6.75	6.61
	December	5.00	4.17 *	0.06 *

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

3285. 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:

Year	*Total availability of edible oils from domestic and imported sources (Nov. to Oct.)	(Quantity in million tons)	
		**Import of edible oils	
		Quantity (April-March)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2007-08	14.26	4.90	10301.09
2008-09	16.78	6.72	15837.46

Source: *Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils & Fats and Solvent Extractions¹ 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 PENUMALLI 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 sativus (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.Ts. 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 :

(In tons)	
Month(s)	Allocation made per month
April, 2008-September, 2008	83215
October, 2008-February, 2009	93215
March, 2009 onwards	140574

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*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2006		2007		2008	
		Tested	Found adulterated	Tested	Found adulterated	Tested	Found adulterated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	3402	77	3024	94	3137	115
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8	Nil	25	Nil	31	01
3	Assam	270	05	283	15	290	16
4	Bihar	449	105	120	19	NA	NA
5	Goa	08	Nil	67	Nil	41	Nil
6	Gujarat	584	24	501	07	463	06
7	Haryana	229	54	224	30	365	54
8	Himachal Pradesh	39	09	48	11	61	18
9	Jammu & Kashmir	90	09	55	06	NA	NA
10	Karnataka	366	64	860	126	1228	64
11	Kerala	1699	44	1837	52	1988	47
12	Madhya Pradesh	195	12	NA	NA	NA	NA
13	Maharashtra	1853	79	NA	NA	NA	NA
14	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	07	Nil
15	Meghalaya	07	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
16	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
17	Nagaland	08	Nil	08	02	09	NA
18	Orissa	69	20	57	19	NA	NA
19	Punjab	277	19	211	07	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Rajasthan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
21	Sikkim	14	03	12	02	NA	NA
22	Tamil Nadu	849	64	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	Tripura	29	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
24	Uttar Pradesh	1528	144	NA	NA	93	08
25	West Bengal	159	22	118	12	NA	NA
26	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
27	Chandigarh	47	06	16	03	16	NA
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	02	01	01	Nil	07	NA
29	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
30	Delhi	415	35	349	25	NA	NA
31	Lakshadweep	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
32	Pondicherry	139	03	115	01	NA	NA
33	Chattisgarh	11	04	01	01	NA	NA
34	Jharkhand	86	07	236	55	NA	NA
35	Uttaranchal	07	02	04	01	NA	NA
TOTAL		12839	812	8172	488	7736	329

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 wholesalers 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 :

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2009	131875	6436	3351	46	15518.47

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;
- (ii) in other places - 2000 quintals.

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

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.15,64,14.96 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.11,15,326.99 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. 5,77,056.718 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)

Month	Name of the Edible Oil			
	Mustard Oil	Groundnut Oil	Sunflower Oil	RBD Palmoiein
May, 2009	4821	5773	4379	4314
June, 2009	4626	5742	4231	3933
July, 2009	4723	6069	4123	3606
August, 2009	5144	6383	4307	3959
September, 2009	4980	6244	4095	3724
October, 2009	5018	6330	4063	3541
November, 2009	5370	6831	4451	3654

Source: Solvent Extractor's Association of India.

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

F.O.B (US\$/Ton)

Month	Name of the Edible Oil	
	Crude Palm Oil	Soyabean Oil
May, 2009	766	816
June, 2009	690	810
July, 2009	595	727
August, 2009	682	784
September, 2009	644	738
October, 2009	641	787
November, 2009	672	831

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 KHUNTIA: 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:

	AAY	BPL	APL
Rice	300	565	830
(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:

	AAY	BPL	APL
Rice	1593.71	1328.71	1063.71
(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 drriage 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)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	Status as On
1	2	3	4	5	6
	National Commission	61989	54286	7703	30.11.2009
1	Andhra Pradesh	24506	21218	3288	30.09.2009
2	A & N Islands	42	38	4	31.01.2008
3	Arunachal Pradesh	52	44	8	31.07.2009
4	Assam	2277	1331	946	31.10.2009
5	Bihar	13257	9604	3653	30.09.2009
6	Chandigarh	10402	9503	899	31.10.2009
7	Chhattisgarh	5776	5171	605	31.10.2009
8	Daman & Diu and DNH	29	29	0	30.09.2008
9	Delhi	29943	28793	1150	31.10.2009
10	Goa	2101	1986	115	31.10.2009
11	Gujarat	31767	26450	5317	31.10.2009
12	Haryana	37082	24595	12487	31.10.2009
13	Himachal Pradesh	6430	5808	622	31.10.2009
14	Jammu & Kashmir	5754	5004	750	30.09.2009
15	Jharkhand	4097	3038	1059	31.07.2009
16	Karnataka	31031	29280	1751	31.10.2009
17	Kerala	22438	20249	2189	31.10.2009
18	Lakshadweep	16	15	1	31.10.2009
19	Madhya Pradesh	33609	30301	3308.	31.10.2009

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Maharashtra	48261	30579	17682	30.09.2009
21	Manipur	139	96	43	30.09.2008
22	Meghalaya	238	152	86	30.06.2009
23	Mizoram	162	149	13	30.11.2009
24	Nagaland	94	64	30	31.12.2006
25	Orissa	18861	11609	7252	30.09.2009
26	Puducherry	885	833	52	31.10.2009
27	Punjab	22766	17446	5320	30.09.2009
28	Rajasthan	42046	38793	3253	31.10.2009
29	Sikkim	35	31	4	30.09.2009
30	Tamil Nadu	20784	17894	2890	31.10.2009
31	Tripura	1172	1158	14	31.10.2009
32	Uttar Pradesh	56649	23263	33386	31.10.2009
33	Uttarakhand	3624	2919	705	31.10.2009
34	West Bengal	13273	12754	519	31.08.2009
TOTAL		489598	380197	109401	

Statement-II

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

(Update on 10.12.2009)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	Status as On
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	176228	171671	4557	30.09.2009
2	A & N Islands	330	301	29	31.03.2006
3	Arunachal Pradesh	300	262	38	31.07.2009
4	Assam	13084	11730	1354	30.06.2009
5	Bihar	75682	64784	10898	30.09.2009
6	Chandigarh	39353	38332	1021	31.10.2009
7	Chhattisgarh	29639	27065	2574	31.10.2009
8	Daman & Diu and DNH	129	103	26	30.09.2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Delhi	204398	189858	14540	30.09.2009
10	Goa	5840	5269	571	30.09.2009
11	Gujarat	145292	123005	22287	30.09.2009
12	Haryana	186215	167025	19190	31.10.2009
13	Himachal Pradesh	49922	47061	2861	31.10.2009
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20792	18855	1937	31.12.2007
15	Jharkhand	30455	28105	2350	31.07.2009
16	Karnataka	125022	120859	4163	31.10.2009
17	Kerala	162664	154457	8207	31.10.2009
18	Lakshadweep	58	55	3	31.10.2009
19	Madhya Pradesh	144909	132513	12396	31.10.2009
20	Maharashtra	221243	203279	17964	30.09.2009
21	Manipur	1037	1012	25	30.09.2008
22	Meghalaya	322	308	14	31.03.2007
23	Mizoram	2065	2011	54	31.12.2006
24	Nagaland	246	205	41	30.6.2006
25	Orissa	79481	74641	4840	30.09.2009
26	Puducherry	2641	2469	172	31.10.2009
27	Punjab	122924	117717	5207	30.09.2009
28	Rajasthan	237744	219215	18529	31.10.2009
29	Sikkim	249	231	18	30.09.2009
30	Tamil Nadu	91321	82795	8526	31.10.2009
31	Tripura	2015	1807	208	30.09.2008
32	Uttar Pradesh	484926	403323	81603	31.10.2009
33	Uttarakhand	30946	28907	2039	31.10.2009
34	West Bengal	73094	67842	5252	31.08.2009
TOTAL		2760566	2507072	253494	

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

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for sugar, rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize;
- (ii) Reduced import duties on refined & 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

3305. 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:

Year	Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)
1995-96	4960
1996-97	5166

(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

3306. 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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 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 XIth and 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 (HEBDs) 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, Anathapur, 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. PURANDESWARI): (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 Swarajgar 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. PURANDESWARI): 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

State	Turnout of Engineering Diploma Holders (2006)	Turnout of Engineering Degree Holders (2006)
Andhra Pradesh	12632	32814
Arunachal Pradesh	218	125
Assam	580	574
Bihar & Jharkhand	1909	1501
Chandigarh	351	895
Delhi	1914	2557
Goa, Daman & Diu	469	230
Gujarat	5738	8576
Haryana	3517	6546
Himachal Pradesh	343	426
Jammu & Kashmir	483	558
Karnataka	12075	38639
Kerala	5556	12912
Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	3926	11488
Maharashtra	25703	40885
Manipur	112	33
Meghalaya	78	36
Mizoram	136	0
Nagaland	51	0
Orissa	4516	7010
Punjab	4346	6059
Rajasthan	1171	7494
Tamil Nadu	28212	47916
Tripura	83	151
Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	9016	20417
West Bengal	3946	8784
TOTAL :	127131	256626

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

Sl. No.	Name of the college	No. of OBC seats converted into General Category seats
1	2	3
1.	Acharya Narendra Dev College	33
2.	Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College	83
3.	Delhi College of Arts & Commerce	26
4.	Dyal Singh College	46
5.	Indraprastha College for Women	60
6.	Institute of Home Economics	21
7.	Janki Devi Memorial College	61
8.	Lady Shri Ram College for Women	24
9.	Lakshmibai College	73
10.	Miranda House	5
11.	Motilal Nehru College (Day)	19

1	2	3
12.	P.G.D.A.V. College	136
13.	Rajdhani College	76
14.	Ram Lal Anand College	03
15.	Ram Lal Anand College (Evening)	30
16.	Satyawati College (Evening)	18
17.	Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (Day)	88
18.	Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (Evening)	31
19.	Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women	19
20.	Shivaji College	40
21.	Shyam Lal College (Evening)	02
22.	Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women	134
23.	Sri Aurobindo College	27
24.	Sri Venkateswara College	76
25.	Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences	13
26.	Motilal Nehru College (Evening)	69
27.	Keshav Mahavidyalaya	48
28.	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College	04
29.	Vivekananda College	28
30.	Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies	34
31.	Zakir Husain College	44
32.	Hans Raj College	20
33.	Maitreyi College	45
34.	Hindu College	04
35.	Central Health Education Bureau	05
36.	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for Physically Handicapped	07
37.	Kamla Nehru College	31
TOTAL :		1483

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 Shastri 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)

Sl.No.	Year	Government Institutes	Non-Government Institutes
1.	2006-07	Nil	751.42
2.	2007-08	20.016	1019.31
3.	2008-09	74.016	1027.57

(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 (RSkS), New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (SLBSRSV), 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 SLBSRSV, 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:-

Sl. No.	District	Engineering	Polytechnic
		Colleges	College
1	2	3	4
1	Bastar	1	1
2	Bijapur	1	-
3	Durg	1	1

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
4	Korba	1	1
5	Raigarh	1	1
6	Rajnandgaon	1	1
7	Raipur	1	1
8	Ambikapur	-	1
9	Bilaspur	-	1
10	Dhamtari	-	1
11	Janjgir-Champa	-	1
12	Kabirdham	-	1
13	Mahasamund	-	1

(b) 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 and 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

3319. 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

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of out of school children	% Slum children out of school	Total Estimated Slum children out of school
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.00	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,72,354	1.18	502
3	Arunachal Pradesh	20,601	0.00	0
4	Assam	2,34,983	0.00	0
5	Bihar (2)	13,45,697	0.00	0
6	Chandigarh	1,974	0.00	0
7	Chhattisgarh	85,366	0.00	0
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	444	0.00	0
9	Daman & Diu	23	0.00	0
10	Delhi	1,24,022	15.21	25039
11	Goa	0	0.00	0
12	Gujarat	1,62,355	6.73	44587
13	Haryana	1,07,205	0.00	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	2,451	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5
15	Jammu & Kashmir	9,691	0.00	0
16	Jharkhand	1,32,195	0.00	0
17	Karnataka	1,08,237	2.31	8909
18	Kerala	15,776	0.00	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	3,28,692	0.98	4718
21	Maharashtra	2,07,345	0.53	6458
22	Manipur	12,222	0.00	0
23	Meghalaya	12,655	0.00	0
24	Mizoram	7,485	0.00	0
25	Nagaland	8,693	0.00	0
26	Orissa	4,35,560	0.00	0
27	Pondicherry	993	0.00	0
28	Punjab	1,267	0.00	0
29	Rajasthan	10,18,326	0.00	0
30	Sikkim	647	0.00	0
31	Tamil Nadu	52,876	0.00	0
32	Tripura	8,434	0.00	0
33	Uttar Pradesh	27,69,111	2.78	838
34	Uttarakhand	56,225	0.00	0
35	West Bengal	7,06,713	9.06	45513
	ALL INDIA	8,150,617	3.74	136565

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 fact 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;

(c) whether Government would ensure that governance structure of universities shall be tuned towards ensuring autonomy over all matters; and

(d) 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 teacher 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:

Year	Primary (I-V)			Elementary (I-VIII)		
	Overall	SC	ST	Overall	SC	ST
2001-02	39.00	45.20	52.30	54.60	60.70	69.50
2006-07	25.60	35.91	33.09	45.90	53.05	62.54

Reform of education sector

3327. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state by 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-I (*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)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Total illiterate persons	% of illiterate persons
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	26103827	39.53
2	Arunachal Pradesh	407312	45.66
3	Assam	8142099	36.75
4	Bihar	35082869	53.00
5	Chhattishgarh	6105738	35.34
6	Goa	216138	17.99
7	Gujarat	13310863	30.86
8	Haryana	5715350	32.09
9	Himachal Pradesh	1243142	23.52
10	Jammu & Kashmir	3850611	44.48
11	Jharkhand	10211801	46.44
12	Karnataka	15233500	33.36
13	Kerala	2562540	9.14
14	Madhya Pradesh	17973246	36.26
15	Maharashtra	19241558	23.12
16	Manipur	547669	29.47
17	Meghalaya	692968	37.44
18	Mizoram	83394	11.20
19	Nagaland	568035	33.41
20	Orissa	11608795	36.92
21	Punjab	6430200	30.35
22	Rajasthan	18154176	39.59
23	Sikkim	144321	31.19
24	Tamil Nadu	14645974	26.55
25	Tirpura	740658	26.81
26	Uttar Pradesh	58854009	43.73

1	2	3	4
27	Uttaranchal	2023535	28.38
28	West Bengal	21565574	31.36
29	A & N Island	58236	18.70
30	Chandigarh	141777	18.06
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	76387	42.37
32	Daman & Diu	30026	21.82
33	Delhi	2166894	18.33
34	Lakshadweep	6876	13.34
35	Pondicherry	160819	18.76

Mobile schools for SCs/STs

3330. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (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:-

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	75.24
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9.00

1	2	3
3	Delhi	15.00
4	Goa	7.70
5	Haryana	215.92
6	Karnataka	43.35
7	Mizoram	32.70
8	Uttarakhand	5.25
TOTAL :		404.16

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

‡3333. 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 madarasas

3334 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 (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The proposal in regard to establishing a Central Madrasa Board, through an Act of Parliament, for standardizing the education in modern subjects of Science, Maths, etc. which are non-theological, was proposed in a report of a National Conference organized by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). Since it is not a proposal initiated by the Government, any decision in this regard shall be taken only in the event of there being consensus among all stakeholders.

150th Anniversary of Shri Rabindranath Tagore

3335. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: 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 (SHRIMATI 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

3336. 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. MALAISAMY: 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.

Year	Production (Value: Rs. crore)	Sales (Value: Rs. crore)	Employment (lakh persons)
2006-07	14028.71	17562.40	88.92
2007-08	16677.71	21543.48	99.27
2008-09	17338.87	22748.20	103.91

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*

Sl.No.	Name of the scheme.	Annual Plan 2008-09 (RE)	Actual Release 2008-09	Annual Plan 2009-10 (BE)
1.	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	823.00	823.00	823.00
2	Quality of Technology Support Institutions and Programmes	213.15	174.79	268.00
3.	Promotional Services Institutions and Programmes	42.53	35.19	57.00
4	MSME Clusters Development Programmes and MSME Growth Poles	35.00	18.08	39.00
5	Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)	16.95	16.95	17.00
6	Credit Support Programme	179.01	178.67	144.00
7	MDA Programme	6.55	2.42	11.00
8.	Upgradation of Data Base	27.50	30.52	20.00
TOTAL :		1343.69	1279.62	1379.00

Eleventh Plan target of PMRY

‡3343. DR. RAM PRAKASH:

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL:

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

‡ 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 Bhavans/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 (NID), 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 alongwith 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

3346. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

3347. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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 Dunand 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 imbatle 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:

- (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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(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;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for development of MSMEs in the State during the last three years; and

(c) 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.

Development of Surat-Hazira rail line

3352. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the review committee set up by Government of Gujarat has submitted its report for the development work of Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) 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, 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 :

Sl.No.	Railway	(a) No of Unmanned level crossing sanctioned for manning	(b) No. of level crossings sanctioned for upgradation during gauge conversion and doubling	(c) No. of Level crossings sanctioned to be replaced with ROB/RUB
1	Central	03	24	66
2	Eastern	10	45	35
3	East Central	07	06	62
4	East Coast	46	01	38
5	North Western	46	0	39
6	Northern	58	0	192
7	North Central	01	0	68
8	North Eastern	35	0	51
9	North East Frontier	87	0	36
10	Southern	40	0	331
11	South Central	15	132	137
12	South Eastern	37	0	16
13	South East Central	15	03	22
14	South Western	90	18	116
15	Western	16	05	49
16	West Central	08	0	58
TOTAL		514	234	1316

(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.

(a) 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-Bhubaneshwar 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-Samdari 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-Samdari 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:

Sl.No.	Project	Anticipated cost (Rs.in Crore)	Status
1	Baramati-Lonand (54 kms) New Line	138.48	On Lonand-Phalton (27 km), all major bridges completed and earthwork, minor bridges etc. taken up.
2	Daund-Gulbarga (225 kms) Doubling with Pune-Guntakal electrification (641 km)	1438	Final Location Survey completed. Estimate and plan preparation taken up.
3	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli- Vajnath (261 kms) New Line	462.67	Earthwork, bridges have been taken up in Ahmednagar-Naray andoh (15 km) section. Land acquisition has also been taken up in balance portion.

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 BIRENDRA 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 1st 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 Jalandhar City Railway Stations are "A-1" category stations and Ludhiana, Jalandhar 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, Jalandhar City and Ludhiana stations has been completed recently, and work of modernization of Jalandhar 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 VIJAYSINH 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:-

Sl.No. Ongoing Project		Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3
New line		
1.	Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 Km)	State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on 04 major bridges has been taken up wherever land is available.
2.	Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 Km)	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.

1	2	3
3.	Attipattu-Puttur (88.30 Km)	Work entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) for execution. Final location survey completed.
4.	Erode-Palani (91.05 Km)	Final location survey taken up.
5.	Chennai-Cuddalore <i>via</i> Mahabalipuram (179.28 Km)	Final location survey taken up.
6.	Karur-Salem (85 Km)	Earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
7.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam (260 Km)	Tamil Nadu Forest Department has not granted permission to carry survey through Reserve Forest Area. Central Empowered Committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court has also not recommended this project as it will cause damage to Elephant Wild Life Sanctuary. State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been requested for their views on dropping of this project.
Gauge conversion		
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 & Tiruturaipundi-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-Tiruturaipundi <i>via</i> Tirukuvalai (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-Tiruturaipundi new line sections have also been taken up.

1	2	3
7.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 Km)	Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Sengottai (131 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 upto 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

Sl.No.	Railway	Number of Computerized Rail Ticketing stations
1	Eastern Railway	427
2	East Central Railway	403
3	East Coast Railway	127
4	Central Railway	455
5	Northern Railway	633
6	North Western Railway	317
7	North Eastern Railway	270
8	North Central Railway	172
9	North East Frontier Railway	155
10	Southern Railway	500
11	South Western Railway	282
12	South Eastern Railway	168
13	South East Central Railway	190
14	South Central Railway	425
15	West Central Railway	264
16	Western Railway	234
TOTAL :		5022

Statement-II

Details of stations planned for computerized rail ticketing

Sl.No.	Railway	Number of stations which are planned for computerized rail ticketing
1.	Northern Railway	237
2.	North Eastern Railway	180
3.	North Central Railway	210
TOTAL		627

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.

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

3383. 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:-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status & Target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3
New line		
1.	Tirunavaya-Guruvayur(35 km)	Local people are objecting to the alignment being fixed for this new line. Final location survey held up due to public protest.

1	2	3
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 & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (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 (24 km)	State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Bridge works taken up.
2.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (26.54km)	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.

1	2	3
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.

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			
Sl.No	Location	Working hours	Emergency facilities
1.	Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi.	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.	Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs
2.	Northern Railway Divisional Hospital, Delhi.	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.	Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs
Health Units:			
1.	Delhi Kishanganj	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.	Emergency facilities available for 24 hrs
2.	Arya Nagar, Ghaziabad.	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.	Emergency facilities (Havilable for 24 hrs
3.	Basant Lane, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
4.	Tilak Bridge, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
5.	Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
6.	Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
7.	Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
8.	Shakurbasti, Delhi.	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
9.	Tughlakabad, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
10.	Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
11.	Delhi Shahdara.	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
12.	Anand Vihar, New Delhi	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
13.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
14.	Faridabad	09:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
15.	Sonepat.	09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
16.	Panipat	09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
17.	Meerut	09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
18.	Rohtak.	09:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs	Doctors are available on call in emergency
19.	Baroda House, New Delhi	09:30 hrs. to 18:00 hrs	Emergency facility is not available after working hours of GM Office.

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

Statement-II

Name of private hospital already empanelled for treatment of railway beneficiaries.

S.No.	Name of Private Hospital	Specialty for which recognized
1.	Indraprastha Apollo hospital, New Delhi	Cardiac Care
2.	Delhi Heart and Lung Institute, New Delhi	Cardiac Care
3.	Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, New Delhi	Cardiac Care
4.	Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi	Cardiac Care
5.	Max Heart and Vascular Institute, New Delhi	Cardiac Care
6.	Metro Hospital and Heart Institute, Noida	Cardiac Care
7.	Fortis Hospital, Noida	Cardiac Care
8.	Kailash Hospital and Research Centre, New Delhi	Cardiac Care
9.	Dharamshila Hospital and Research Centre, New Delhi	Cancer Care
10.	Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, New Delhi	Cancer Care
11.	Metro Anand Hospital and Cancer Care Hospital, New Delhi	Cancer Care
12.	Lions Kidney and Urology Research Institute, New Delhi	Heamodialysis of End Stage Renal Disease patients
13.	Pushpanjali Hospital, Gurgaon	Emergency treatment
14.	Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon	Cardiology, Cardio-vascular surgery, joint replacement and dialysis
15.	North Point Hospital, New Delhi	End Stage Renal Disease by ESWL/MIS
16.	Ganesh Hospital, Ghaziabad	Emergency treatment

Disturbance in train services in Assam

3385. 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

3386. 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 (NHAI) 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

3387. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when was the gauge conversion work of Morbi-Vankaner 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- Mehasana section was completed and commissioned on 14.02.2009.

(b) Prior to gauge conversion of Ahmedabad- Mehasana- 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 Mehasana-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.

(a) 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 (FAGMILs), 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 Brahmaputra 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. Notificatons 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:

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification No. G.S.R. 848 (E), dated the 27th November, 2009, publishing the Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1441/15/09]
- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways Notification No. G.S.R. 127 (E), dated the 26th February, 2009, publishing the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, together with delay statement. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1440/15/09]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) 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]

- (ii) (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]
- (iii) 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]
- (iv) (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]
- (v) (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]
- (vi) (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]
- (vii) (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]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Lakshadweep, for the year 2005-06, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (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]
- (x) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Lakshadweep, for the year 2006-07, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (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]
- (xiii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2008-09.
- (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 Samakhyia 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 Samakhyia 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]
- (xx) (a) Annual Report of the Mizoram University for the year 2008-09, under Section 30 of the Mizoram University Act, 2000.
- (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 (1) 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
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2008: Union Government (Civil) No.8 of 2009-10, Performance Audit of National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

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**

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं "टीका बनाने वाले सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के तीन उपक्रमों अर्थात् सेंट्रल रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (सी.आर.आई.), कसौली, पाश्चर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया (पी.आई.आई.), कुन्नूर और

बीसीजी वैक्सीन लेबोरेटरी (बी.सी.जी.वी.एल.), चेन्नै से संबंधित प्रमुख मुद्दों" के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के अड़तीसवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Punjab): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Seventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee (2009-10) on Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2007-08).

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
- (iii) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-first Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee (2007-08) on Pricing Policy of Agricultural Produce.

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
- (iii) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Steel.

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.

**STATEMENTS 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 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;
- (ii) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee (2008-2009) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs; and
- (iii) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Fortieth Report of the Committee (2008-2009) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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 MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-first Report on Pricing Policy for Agricultural Produce of the 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)*... Please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... 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)*...

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)*...

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, Sir, ...

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

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब 1947 को देश का विभाजन हुआ, उसके बाद से सारी दुनिया में, जहां-जहां पर भी चांद की चांदनी और सूरज की रोशनी जाती है, सिख गुरुद्वारे में अपनी अरदास के वक्त कहता है कि जिन-जिन गुरुद्वारों की सेवा-संभाल से उनको बिछोड़ा गया है, वंचित किया है, उसकी सेवा-संभाल का अधिकार बख्शना। विनम्रता पूर्वक हर सिख की यह अरदास गुरु साहब के सामने होती है। इसके पीछे भावना यही है कि गुरु साहब से जुड़े हुए जितने भी धार्मिक स्थान हैं, चाहे वे पाकिस्तान में हों या दुनिया के किसी भी कोने में हों, उनकी सेवा-संभाल सिख कर सके और यही वह गुरु साहब से मांगता रहता है।

महोदय, 1947 में जब देश का बंटवारा हुआ, तब हिन्दुस्तान की Evacuee Property Board और पाकिस्तान की Evacuee Property Board के बीच में एक समझौता हुआ, एक Agreement हुआ। उस Agreement के तहत वहां की माइनॉरिटी कम्युनिटी के religious places और places of historical importance की सेवा-संभाल और देख-रेख करने का काम उनका होता है। लेकिन पाकिस्तान में एक दुर्भाग्यजनक घटना घटी है। कल CNN और IBN में जो दस्तावेज़ दिखाए गए, उसमें दिखाया गया कि लाहौर में गुरुद्वारे की अरबों रुपये की, लगभग 150 एकड़ जमीन Defence House Authority के नाम पर कौड़ियों के भाव अलॉट कर दी गई है।

महोदय, पहले भी हमारे अधिकार छीन-छीन कर वहां पर गुरुद्वारे बेच दिए गए और वहां से लोगों को evacuate कर दिया गया, जबरन निकाल कर बाहर फेंक दिया गया। उनको यह कहा गया कि हम तुमको बाहर जमीन देते हैं, वहां पर तुम गुरुद्वारे बनाओ। लेकिन जहां हमारे गुरु साहब के चरण पड़े, जिस जमीन से उनके चरणों का स्पर्श हुआ, हम उस जमीन की रक्षा करना चाहते हैं। ऐसे तो कल वे पंजा साहब को भी बेच देंगे, लेकिन

*Not recorded.

हम पंजा साहब को कैसे बिकने देंगे? जिस पत्थर पर आज भी गुरु नानक देव जी की पांचों उंगलियों के निशान पड़े हैं, उनको हम कैसे बिकने देंगे?

लाहौर की धरती, जहां पर पांचवीं पातशाही और सभी गुरुओं की छौं प्राप्त है, ऐसे ऐतिहासिक स्थान को जिस तरह से बेचा जा रहा है और वह भी डिफेंस की हाउसिंग कालोनी बनाने के लिए, यह बहुत दुर्भाग्यजनक है। हालांकि वहां के जो Minority Affairs Minister हैं, उन्होंने इक्वायरी डैप्यूट की है, लेकिन बोर्ड का चेयरमैन कहता है कि मैं ऑटोनॉमस बॉडी हूं और मैं कुछ भी कर सकता हूं, मुझे सरकार से कुछ लेना-देना नहीं है। यह तो समझ आता था कि वहां प्रधान मंत्री कोई भाषा बोलते हैं, ISI कोई और भाषा बोलती है, आर्मी का जनरल कुछ बोलता है और राष्ट्रपति कुछ और बोलता है, किन्तु माइनॉरिटी के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए अगर पाकिस्तान में ऐसा होता रहेगा और अगर हमारी भारत सरकार मूक दर्शक बन कर बैठी रहेगी, तो यह बहुत दुर्भाग्यजनक बात होगी।

मैं आपसे मांग करता हूं और आपके माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि इस पर तुरन्त कार्यवाही हो। पाकिस्तान के Ambassador को आपके दफ्तर में बुला कर पूछा जाए कि यह क्या हो रहा है और इस भूमि को सुरक्षित किया जाए। उनसे यह कमिटमेंट ली जाए और वहां पर सिखों, हिन्दुओं और सिंधियों की जो प्रॉपर्टी है, उसके जो भी ऑर्डर उन्होंने वहां पर जबरन दिए हैं या ऑक्शन करके दूसरे लोगों को देने की कोशिश की है, वे सारे फैसले कैंसल किए जाएं और उस जमीन को रिस्टोर किया जाए। यही मेरी मांग है।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मैं स्वयं को इस इश्यू के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूं।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes; all are associating. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, मिनिस्टर साहब यहां पर बैठते हैं, वह इस पर रिस्पांड करें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No; no; the Minister is reacting. Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; take your seat.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No; I have called Mr. Manohar Joshi. Take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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 linguist 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. ...(Interruptions)... That will not go on record. Only Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi.

Inadequate assistance to Rajasthan to fight drought situation

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं आपके सामने राजस्थान की एक ज्वलंत समस्या से संबंधित यह विषय रख रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... 2009 और 2010 में राजस्थान में 46 प्रतिशत वर्षा कम हुई है। ऐसी स्थिति बनी है कि 12 हजार 690 करोड़ रुपए की हमने सहायता मांगी है ...(व्यवधान)... हमने 1034 करोड़ रुपए National Calamity Contingency Fund में दिए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय महोदय, मेरा समय लिया जा रहा है ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Don't disturb. Take your seat. There is a rule. ...(Interruptions)... I shall call you, if your name is in the list. Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... You cannot question the Chair. If your name is in the list, I shall call you. ...(Interruptions)... 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. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, please. I have given the ruling. Take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... If you have any complaint, you can meet the Chairman. ...(Interruptions)...

* 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 (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... 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, ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं निवेदन कर रहा हूँ कि जब 12 हजार 690 करोड़ रुपए की सहायता ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने मांगी है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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 ...**(व्यवधान)**... उनको दिए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Why do you walk out? ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Not recorded.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : महोदय, ...(व्यवधान)... हमने मांगी ...(व्यवधान)... 797 दी गई। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You have made your point.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : रोजगार में 800 करोड़ के बनिस्पत 150 करोड़ रुपए दी गई। पेयजल में 595 के विरुद्ध 30 करोड़ दी गई। अनुग्रह राशि 432 के विरुद्ध 39 करोड़ दी गई। चिकित्सा क्षेत्र में तो कुछ भी नहीं दिया गया। ...(व्यवधान)... ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कुछ भी नहीं दिया गया। महोदय, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में हॉस्पिटल, पशुपालन, पेयजल और चिकित्सा, ये तीनों बड़ी समस्याएँ हैं। वहाँ भयंकर अकाल है। जब वहाँ फ्लू फैल रहा है उस समय चिकित्सा क्षेत्र के लिए कुछ भी नहीं देना, यह निश्चित रूप से राजस्थान के साथ ऐसा व्यवहार किया जा रहा है जैसे हम याचक हैं और हम मांग रहे हैं। मेरे क्षेत्र के माननीय मंत्री महोदय बैठे हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वे अपने प्रभाव का उपयोग करें। इन सारे प्रयोजनों के लिए जो धनराशि हमने मांगी है, वह निश्चित रूप से हमें दी जाए ताकि पहली बात यह कि हम अकाल का मुकाबला कर सकें, दूसरी बात यह कि हम पशुओं की रक्षा कर सकें और तीसरी बात यह कि हम चिकित्सा की व्यवस्था कर सकें। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय भी इसमें सहयोग करेंगे। ये सरकार पर दबाव डालेंगे ताकि राजस्थान की जो मांग है, उसको पूरा किया जा सके और हम अकाल का मुकाबला करने में कामयाब हो सकें।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, इस विषय के साथ मैं अपने आपको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि (राजस्थान) : महोदय, इस विषय के साथ मैं भी अपने आपको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड) : महोदय, इस विषय के साथ मैं स्वयं को एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

Shooting of workers from Bihar in Manipur

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर ले जाना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार के जो migrant workers हैं, उन पर attack का सिलसिला देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में जारी है। कल की एक घटना है कि मणिपुर के Chingmeirong Kabul नामक एक गाँव में जब मजदूर रात में अपने घर में सोये हुए थे तो उन पर unidentified militants ने हमला किया। वहाँ गजेन्द्र राम और सुभाष यादव नामक दो व्यक्तियों की हत्या कर दी गई।

महोदय, मणिपुर में पिछले फरवरी से लेकर अब तक बिहार के 27 migrants workers की हत्या हो चुकी है। यह बिहार के workers का दुर्भाग्य है कि वे जहाँ भी जाते हैं, वहाँ अपमान सहने के साथ-साथ उन्हें अपनी जान और माल को भी खोना पड़ता है। दुःख की बात यह है कि बिहार से उनके पलायन का सिलसिला आज भी जारी है, यही सबसे बड़ा कारण है। चूंकि बिहार में मजदूरों को रोजगार नहीं मिलता है तो वे रोजी-रोटी की तलाश में अलग-अलग राज्यों में जाते हैं और ईमानदारी से मेहनत-मशक्कत करके अपने बाल-बच्चों का पेट भरना चाहते हैं।

लेकिन ऐसा लगातार देखा जा रहा है कि अलग-अलग राज्यों में उनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार भी हो रहा है और उनकी जान की रक्षा भी नहीं हो रही है। इसलिए, मैं चाहूँगा कि केन्द्र सरकार उन राज्यों से, जहाँ पर इस तरह की

घटनाएं लगातार घट रही हैं, जैसे मैंने आपको मणिपुर का बताया कि वहां पर अब तक 27 बिहार के वर्कर्स की जानें जा चुकी हैं, इसी तरह और राज्यों में भी इस तरह की घटनाएं घटी हैं। तो यह जो सिलसिला चल रहा है, इसको रोकने की जरूरत है और इसके लिए भारत सरकार को उन राज्यों को निर्देश देना चाहिए, क्योंकि वे वहां पर मेहनत करने के लिए गए हैं, रोजी-रोटी कमाने के लिए गए हैं और राज्य सरकार की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि वह उनको सुरक्षा प्रदान करे।

श्रीमती विप्रव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : सर, मैं इनको एसोसिएट करती हूं।

Suicide by weavers in the country

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : महोदय, बैंकों का कर्ज चुकता नहीं कर पाने के कारण दिल्ली और उत्तर प्रदेश सहित कई राज्यों में बुनकर खुदखुशी कर रहे हैं। दिल्ली के सुन्दर नगर की वीवर्स कॉलोनी के मकान संख्या E-57 में रहने वाले 30 साल के श्री राकेश कुमार ने पिछले हफ्ते फांसी लगाकर अपनी जान दे दी। वह बीमार था, इलाज कराने के लिए पैसा नहीं था। इसी तरह से पिछले माह उत्तर प्रदेश के मिर्जामुराद इलाके के डीह गांव में सुरेश राजभर नाम के एक बुनकर ने पहले अपनी पत्नी की हत्या की, उसके बाद अपने छः साल के बेटे की उसने गला दबाकर हत्या की और अंत में खुद को मार डाला।

महोदय, वाराणसी का प्रशासन और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार बुनकरों की हालत में सुधार के बजाए उनके साथ उल्टा व्यवहार कर रही है — वहां जब बुनकर सड़क पर उतरते हैं तो उन पर गोली चलवाती है और पिछले महीने 22 साल का मोईन और 19 साल का खलीकुजमा पुलिस फायरिंग में मरा है तथा इनके परिवार वालों को आज तक एक पैसा भी मुआवजे का नहीं मिला। उस पुलिस फायरिंग में 8 बुनकर घायल भी हुए हैं।

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि UPA-II की सरकार से बुनकरों की कर्ज माफी और बैंकों से उनके मिलने वाले कर्ज की ब्याज दर को घटाने की मैंने मांग की थी, मैंने कहा था कि 4% की ब्याज दर पर उनको बैंकों से ऋण मिलना चाहिए। UPA-II के 100 दिन के कार्य के एजेंडा में यह था, लेकिन आज तक उस पर अमल नहीं किया गया।

महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश में और दूसरे राज्यों में रेशमी धागे की कीमत, जो 1400 रुपए प्रति किलो थी, वह पिछले एक महीने में बढ़कर 2200 रुपए प्रति किलो हो गई है, जिसकी वजह से जो साड़ी बनाते हैं, उनकी बनाई हुई साड़ियां नहीं बिक रही हैं और बुनकर खुदखुशी कर रहे हैं, उनकी औरतें और बच्चे कुपोषण के शिकार होकर मर रहे हैं और आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, मैं सरकार से मांग करना चाहता हूं कि बुनकरों का बिजली का बकाया सहित बैंकों का कर्ज माफ किया जाए और उनके लिए कच्चा माल उचित दर पर मुहैया कराया जाए।

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि UPA-I की सरकार ने किसानों का 60,000 करोड़ रुपया माफ किया, पक्ष-विपक्ष के हम सब लोगों ने उसका स्वागत किया, लेकिन इन बुनकरों ने क्या गुनाह किया है? ये भूमिहीन लोग हैं, ये बेजुबान लोग हैं, इनका क्या दोष है, इनको किस गलती की सजा दी जा रही है? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Anwarji, three minutes are over. Mike is off. What is the point in speaking?

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please sit down. Next is Shri Amar Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't record it ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : *

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, मैं इनको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं भी इनको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी इनको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री किशोर कुमार मोहन्ती (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं भी इनको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

Land Acquisition by Railways in Uttar Pradesh

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान उत्तर प्रदेश के उन 30,000 किसानों की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, जो बिहार से लगे हुए पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के चन्दौली क्षेत्र के 70 गांवों के किसान हैं। यहां के किसान धान की खेती करते हैं और ममता बनर्जी ने जब छोटे से जमीन के टुकड़े के लिए सिंगूर में आंदोलन किया था, जो हमारे परंपरागत वामपंथी साथियों की परवाह न करके, मैं स्वयं सिंगूर में उनके साथ बैठा था। मैं वृंदा कारत जी को और अपने वामपंथी साथियों को आमंत्रित करता हूँ कि वे चन्दौली में आएँ और देखें कि किस तरह Rail Freight Corridor के नाम पर धान की 10,000 हैक्टेयर जमीन को ममता बनर्जी ले रही हैं। वे बहुत बड़े-बड़े भाषण देती हैं, मां, माटी और मानुष.... सिर्फ पश्चिमी बंगाल में मां, माटी और मानुष नहीं हैं, मां, माटी और मानुष चन्दौली में भी हैं। यह धान के किसानों की बात है। सबसे आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि कांग्रेस के प्रभारी महासचिव, जो उत्तर प्रदेश के सदन के सदस्य नहीं हैं, वे आंदोलन कर रहे हैं। यहां उनकी सरकार है, उनकी अपनी सरकार है, उनकी रेल मंत्री हैं, यह आश्चर्य है, यह विसंगतियों की सरकार है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार) : आप ही ने इसको समर्थन दिया ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह : मैं कह रहा हूँ कि समर्थन दिया। आपके * जिन्होंने आडवाणी जी को प्रधान मंत्री बनाने के लिए वह महायुद्ध चलाया था, यह irony है। आपके * जो आडवाणी जी को प्रधान मंत्री बना रहे थे, अब वे UPA के Advisor हो गए हैं, जिनकी वजह से वह महायुद्ध चला था ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): 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)*...

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : अमर सिंह जी, ये आपको divert कर रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please, Mr. Amar Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह : मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि ममता बनर्जी पूरे देश की रेल मंत्री हैं, अगर उन्हें जमीन चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Amar Singh, one second.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, the names of those people who are not Members of this House, who cannot defend themselves, should not go on record.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Yes. Those names are expunged.

श्री अमर सिंह : सर, आप मुझे मेरा पूरा समय दे दीजिए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि चन्दौली के मुकाबले जो जमीन सिंगूर की थी, वह 10 परसेंट भी नहीं थी, वहां तो आंदोलन हो गया, लेकिन जब मनमोहन सिंह जी पुनर्वास और अधिग्रहण का कानून लाने लगे तो ममता बनर्जी साहिबा ने कोलाहल मचा दिया, लेकिन वहां तो Rail Freight Corridor के नाम पर चन्दौली में जमीन ली जा रही है और कांग्रेस सरकार आंदोलन कर रही है। आप आदेश दीजिए, आपकी मंत्री हैं, आप आदेश दीजिए कि इसका अधिग्रहण मत करो, अगर अधिग्रहण होगा, तो वहां खून की होली होगी। किसान अपने धान की जमीन नहीं देगा। अगर सिंगूर के किसानों की जमीन, उनकी मां और माटी है तथा वहां का মানুষ, মানুষ है, तो उत्तर प्रदेश के धान के किसानों की मिट्टी उसकी मां है, वहां का মানুষ भी মানুষ है। वह ममता बनर्जी के नेतृत्व में होने वाले इस अधिग्रहण के कब्जे को सफल नहीं होने देगा और इसके लिए जो भी करना पड़ेगा, वह करेगा। मैं चाहूंगा कि जैसे मैं सिंगूर गया था, वैसे वृंदा कारत जी हमारे साथ चन्दौली आएँ और ममता बनर्जी के इस कार्यक्रम को विफल करें।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

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 RRIL 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 taken place 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. I

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 paise 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. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, it is a very important point. In clause 7 of the Bill *vide* second proviso to sub-section 2 of section 12, it is stated: "The Central Government may provide, by notification, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Kalita. ...*(Interruptions)*... 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.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : Lobbying हो रही है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay. Thank you, Mr Jois. Now, Shri P.R. Rajan.

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 benefited 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.

2.00 P.M.

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)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the National Commission for Religious Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) (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 wants to say something. Kindly sit down.

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, chickengunna 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 delincentences 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.

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. KURIEN): 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 VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, not present. Shri Amir Alam Khan, not present. Shri M. Rama Jois.

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 Bill 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 श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि गाय और इसकी सन्तति के वध का प्रतिषेध करने और तत्संसक्त विषयों के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित 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, 1959, 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.

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी (गुजरात) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे इस अवसर पर बोलने का मौका दिया। मैं सौराष्ट्र का ही रहने वाला हूँ। आज बैंक के 50 साल के बाद बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र खत्म हो गई और स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया में merge हो गई 50 साल यानी स्वर्ण जयंती में आपकी ओर से सौराष्ट्र को यह तोहफा मिला है, इसके लिए हमें खेद है। स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र अधिनियम 1950 का निरसन करने के लिए भारतीय स्टेट बैंक अधिनियम 1959 का संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक पर सौराष्ट्र की जनता की ओर से यह बात मैं सदन में रख रहा हूँ। पहले तो आपने इसे merge कर दिया और इसके बाद आप यह बिल दोनों सभा में ला रहे हैं, यह ठीक नहीं है। अगर merger करने से पहले सभा की अनुमति ली गई होती, तो अच्छा रहता, लेकिन अब merger हो गया है और उसके बाद हम बहस कर रहे हैं। इसलिए इसमें बड़ा संदेह होता है। वास्तव में merger का कोई विरोध नहीं है, लेकिन जिस तरीके से आप merger कर रहे हैं, उससे आपकी नीयत पर शंका हो रही है कि आने वाले दिनों में आप और भी बैंकों का merger करेंगे और आप धीरे-धीरे सभी बैंकों को खत्म करके स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया को एक बड़ी बैंक बनाने जा रहे हैं। मैं आपका ध्यान इस ओर केन्द्रित करता हूँ कि 21 नवम्बर को "दैनिक जागरण" में "एसबीआई में बैंकों के विलय पर ब्रेक" शीर्षक से समाचार प्रकाशित किया गया था और भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में अन्य 5 बैंकों, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ हैदराबाद, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ बीकानेर एंड जयपुर, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ मैसूर, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ त्रावणकोर के विलय करने पर सरकार ने ब्रेक लगा दी, ऐसी न्यूज आ गई। आपने स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र का विलय कर दिया। इसमें स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के चेयरमैन ओ.पी. भट्ट का भी हवाला

दिया गया। इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में 20 जून को यह समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ था कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंदौर के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में विलय की प्रक्रिया को सरकारी तौर पर मंजूरी दे दी गई है। यह समाचार भी एसबीआई के चेयरमैन ओ.पी. भट्ट के हवाले से प्रकाशित हुआ। इन बैंकों का विलय करने में सरकार की कौन सी मजबूरी है और किस दबाव के अन्तर्गत ऐसा किया जा रहा है, जिसका फायदा निजी बैंकों को हो रहा है? क्या सरकार ने बैंकों के मुनाफे और घाटे के अलावा बैंकों के कर्मचारियों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए भी इसके गम्भीर परिणामों का अवलोकन किया है?

महोदय, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र, सौराष्ट्र के कच्छ क्षेत्र में एक लीड बैंक थी। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इसकी 460 ब्रांचेज चल रही थीं और इस बैंक में 15,804 करोड़ की पूंजी थी। यानी वित्तीय संस्था में यह एक ऐसी बैंक थी, जिसमें बैंक का कोई घपला या बैंक की कोई मजबूरी यानी बैंक नहीं चल रही थी, ऐसी कोई बात नहीं थी। यह बहुत बड़ी बैंक थी। करीब 4 लाख से ज्यादा लोग उसमें खातेदार थे और सर्वाधिक शाखाएं किसानों के ऋण अदायगी, सरकारी राजस्व के विनिमय, पेंशनभोगियों से जुड़ी थीं और स्वरोजगार हेतु दी जा रही वित्तीय सहायता में उसकी भूमिका सर्वाधिक प्रमुख और लोकप्रिय रही है।

महोदय, मैं मानता हूँ कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र को भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में विलय कर दिया गया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उसके अस्तित्व पर काफी हद तक विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ा है। वर्षों से ग्रामीण अंचल के लोगों के मनो में जिसकी पहचान अपना बैंक, मेरा बैंक, ग्रामीण बैंक, गरीबों का बैंक इत्यादि रूपों में थी, लेकिन अब वह पहचान स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया की पहचान बन गई है। कॉर्पोरेट जगत एवं साहूकारों के बैंक के साथ उसके जोड़े जाने के कारण लोगों के मन की आत्मीयता पर कुठाराघात हुआ है। इसके कारण सौराष्ट्र के लोगों का इस बैंक के साथ अटैचमेंट खत्म हो गया है, ऐसा मेरा मानना है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि विलय के बाद स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र के ग्राहकों के साथ भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के द्वारा भेद-भावपूर्ण रवैया अपनाया जा रहा है। स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों के साथ भी भेद-भावपूर्ण रवैया अपनया जा रहा है और उनके साथ सैकेंड कैटेगरी के कर्मचारियों जैसा भेद-भाव किया जा रहा है। इसलिए मेरी यह मांग है कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के जो अधिकारी हैं, जैसे डिवीजनल मैनेजर इत्यादि हैं, यह जिम्मेवारी उनको दी जाए, ताकि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र के लोगों, अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों को ऐसा लगे कि हम स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया में गए, तो हमारे साथ भेद-भावपूर्ण व्यवहार नहीं हुआ। वहां पर इस प्रकार का माहौल पैदा करना पड़ेगा, ताकि उन्हें भी लगे कि वहां पर हमें समान दर्जा दिया जा रहा है।

एक निवेदन मैं विशेष रूप से किसानों, बेरोजगारों, पेंशन-भोगियों, विधवाओं के संबंध में कहना चाहूंगा। इन सबको सरकारी वित्त विनिमय एवं बाकी जो सुविधाएं मिल रही थीं, वैसी ही सुविधाएं आगे भी जारी रहें। भारतीय स्टेट बैंक को यह भी करना होगा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में एक भी बैंक बंद न किया जाए। ग्रामीण बैंक के नाते सौराष्ट्र में इस बैंक का जो परिचय पहले था, वह परिचय अब चालू रहे, ऐसा मेरा निवेदन है।

आज Global Environment के कारण ही आप यह सब कर रहे हैं। विश्व स्तर पर Big Bank के equivalent हमारे देश का भी एक बिग बैंक होना चाहिए, आपका रवैया 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 मानता हूँ कि 64वें नम्बर से घट कर वह 50वें या 55वें नम्बर पर पहुंच जाएगा, लेकिन

3.00 P.M.

इससे भी कोई फायदा होने वाला नहीं है। हम जिस International Competition में जा रहे हैं, इससे हमारे स्थान में कोई खास फर्क पड़ने वाला नहीं है।

पिछले वर्ष अमरीका में आई मंदी के कारण जो कुछ हुआ, उसमें वहां के कई बिग बैंक जैसे Lehman Brothers, AIG, Merrill Lynch, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Bear Stearns इत्यादि बंद हो गए हैं। वहां पर ये सब बैंक घाटे में चले गए और demolish हो गए, जिसके कारण वहां पर बहुत सारी समस्याएं बढ़ गईं। आज अगर हम State Bank of India को बड़ा बैंक बना रहे हैं, आने वाले समय में अगर हमारे देश में भी ऐसा कुछ हुआ और बैंक घाटे में चला गया तो उसे हमारी इकोनॉमी झेल नहीं पाएगी, सहन नहीं कर पाएगी। इसलिए स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया को बड़ा बैंक बनाने की हमारी जो चेष्टा है, मैं मानता हूँ कि इसके संबंध में अभी हमें बहुत कुछ सोचना पड़ेगा।

पिछले वर्ष विश्व में आई मंदी को देखते हुए आज जो हम बड़े बैंक की कल्पना कर रहे हैं, मुझे लगता है कि हमें इससे सावधान भी रहना चाहिए। ऐसा न हो कि इससे हमारी इकोनॉमी भी खतरे में पड़ जाए। मुझे खास तौर पर एक संदेह यह भी है कि जहां एक-एक बैंक करके सबको मर्ज किया जा रहा है, जैसे मैंने बताया कि स्टेट बैंक ऑफ मैसूर, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ त्रावणकोर, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इन्दौर, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ आन्ध्रा, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ पंजाब इत्यादि के बाद अब धीरे-धीरे आप नेशनलाइज़ बैंकों की श्रृंखला में अन्य बैंकों को भी मर्ज कर रहे हैं, मुझे इस संबंध में भी संदेह है। इसके बारे में भी आपको स्पष्ट बताना चाहिए। बैंक कर्मचारियों में भी इस बात को लेकर बहुत भय है।

यह केवल एक स्टेट बैंक ऑफ सौराष्ट्र का मामला नहीं है, इससे बाकी के सब बैंकों में भी संदेह उत्पन्न हो गया है। सरकार को इसे भी क्लीयर करना चाहिए। मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि इस बैंक के साथ हमारे यहां पर जो क्षेत्रीय अटैचमेंट है, उस भावना को भी ध्यान में रखा जाएगा और आने वाले दिनों में स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया इस बात का भी ध्यान रखेगा तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI PENUMALLI 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 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 shrunk 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.

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

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, Vijaykumarji, 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 be 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)*... They will not be put to disadvantage. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: That does not mean that their interests are protected. ...*(Interruptions)*... From the State Bank of Saurashtra you have gone to the State Bank of India. ...*(Interruptions)*... The erstwhile employees of the State Bank of India will continue to have better service conditions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Sen, that is cleared. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, dichotomy will be created. That is not protection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): What else do you want? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: If the Minister cannot ensure it, I do not mind. ...*(Interruptions)*... But please do not misguide the House. ...*(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.

SHRI 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 विधेयक के माध्यम से हम दो उद्देश्य प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। पहला, employee शब्द की परिभाषा को व्यापक बनाकर शिक्षकों को इस ऐक्ट के प्रावधानों का लाभ प्राप्त हो सके, यह व्यवस्था की जा रही है। दूसरा उद्देश्य यह है कि इस प्रावधान का लाभ शिक्षकों को उस दिन से प्राप्त हो सके, जब से उनको पहले मिलती हुई gratuity का लाभ जो discontinue हुआ है, 3 अप्रैल, 1997 से वह मिल सके - ये दो उद्देश्य हैं। सर सरकार ने 3 अप्रैल 1997 को एक notification जारी करके educational institutions को Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 में cover किया था। सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा 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 टीचर्स शामिल नहीं हैं। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के अधिष्ठाता महोदय ने अपना निर्णय देते वक्त यह बात कही कि हमारे इस जजमेंट को misunderstand न किया जाए क्योंकि जो टीचर्स का profession है, वह बड़ा नोबल profession है इसलिए हम इस निर्णय को Legislature के ऊपर छोड़ते हैं कि वह चाहे तो उनको कवर करने के लिए कदम उठा सकती है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के इस निर्णय को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने निर्णय लिया कि हम Payment of Gratuity Act को amend करके अध्यापकों को भी employee वर्ड की परिभाषा में कवर करें। महोदय, यह सारा सदन इस बात को जानता है कि इस ऐक्ट में factories, mines, oilfields, plantation, ports, railway companies, shops or other establishments, जिसमें दस या दस से अधिक वर्कर्स काम करते हैं, ऐसे वर्कर्स को साढ़े तीन लाख रुपए तक ग्रेच्युटी के भुगतान का प्रावधान है।

ग्रेजुटी उन सभी वर्कर्स को दी जाती है, चाहे वह स्किल्ड, सेमी-स्किल्ड, अन-स्किल्ड, मैनुअल, सुपरवाइजरी, टेक्नीकल और क्लेरिकल वर्क आदि करते हों। यह ऐक्ट उन सभी वर्कर्स पर लागू होता है, जो केजुअल हों, कांट्रैक्ट पर हों, टेम्परेरी या रेगुलर वर्कर्स हों। यह लाभ वर्कर्स को पांच साल की कंटीन्युअस सेवा करने के बाद प्राप्त होता है। परन्तु ऐसी स्थिति में जब किसी की मौत हो जाए या डिसेबल्ड हो जाए, उसके कारण उसका जॉब छूटता है, तो इस पांच साल की अवधि में शिथिलता दी जाती है। इस संबंध में, मैं इस सदन के समक्ष कहना चाहूंगा कि यह अधिनियम, 8 जनवरी, 1982 से सभी लोकल बॉडीज़ में नोटिफिकेशन के माध्यम से लागू किया गया था। लोकल बॉडीज़ में काम करने वाले शिक्षकों को इसका लाभ मिलने लगा, तो सरकार ने महसूस किया कि इसका प्राइवेट स्कूल में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी वर्ग को भी लाभ मिलना चाहिए। इसके लिए 3 अप्रैल, 1997 को नोटिफिकेशन लेकर सरकार आई और उसके जरिए से ऐसी संस्थाओं में जहां 10 या 10 से अधिक व्यक्ति काम करते हों, उनको यह लाभ दिया गया। परन्तु माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 13 जनवरी, 2004 के निर्णय में यह आर्डर दिया कि पेमेंट ऑफ ग्रेजुअटी ऐक्ट, 1972 के सेक्शन 2 (ई) में दी गई एम्पलाई शब्द की परिभाषा से उनके विचार में टीचर्स कवर नहीं होते और माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने अपने निर्णय में यह भी कहा कि पेमेंट ऑफ ग्रेजुअटी ऐक्ट में एम्पलाई की परिभाषा में उस तरह की वाइड लेंग्वेज इस्तेमाल नहीं की गई है, जैसी कि एम्पलाईज़ प्रोविडेंट फण्ड एंड मिसलिनियस प्रॉविजन्स ऐक्ट, 1952 में एम्पलाई शब्द को परिभाषित किया गया है।

सर, माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट की टिप्पणियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने इस परिभाषा को विस्तृत बनाने का फैसला लिया और इसके लिए वर्ष 2007 में लोक सभा में हम एक बिल लेकर आए और वह बिल स्टैंडिंग कमेटी को रेफर हुआ। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं इस बारे में ज्यादा समय सदन का नहीं लेना चाहूंगा। इस बिल के बारे में स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने चार सुझाव दिए और स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने कहा कि सरकार ने इसमें जो एम्पलाई शब्द की परिभाषा दी है, जो बिल सरकार ने लोक सभा में प्रस्तुत किया था, उस पर टिप्पणी करते हुए कहा कि आप इसमें एजुकेशनल इंस्टीट्यूशन में काम करने वाले टीचर्स का स्पष्ट उल्लेख करें। लेकिन हम उसको इसलिए नहीं मान सके क्योंकि यदि हम टीचर्स शब्द का ऐक्ट के अंदर उल्लेख करते, तो दूसरे जो समकक्ष प्रोफेशन हैं, उन सबका भी ऐक्ट में उल्लेख करना पड़ता। इसलिए यह सोचा गया कि विधि मंत्रालय से भी राय ली गई और बहुत विचार-विमर्श के बाद यह तय किया गया कि यदि हम ईपीएफ ऐक्ट के समकक्ष एम्पलाई शब्द की परिभाषा को व्यापक बना देते हैं, तो वह टीचर्स को कवर करेगा, तो एक प्रकार से हमने, जो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की रिकमंडेशन थी, उसको किसी न किसी तरीके से, सम्मानित किया है।

सर, दूसरा सुझाव आया था, वह यह था कि इसका नोटिफिकेशन, क्योंकि हमारे संशोधन विधेयक, 2007 में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, उसमें यह व्यवस्था नहीं थी कि यह 13 अप्रैल, 1997 से प्रभावी होगा, जिस दिन से ग्रेजुटी डिस-कंटीन्यु की गई थी, सरकार ने यह फैसला लिया कि इस सुझाव को सम्मान दिया जाना चाहिए और इसलिए यह फैसला लिया गया और उसमें इसको इनकारपोरेट कर लिया गया।

सर, तीसरा सुझाव कांट्रैक्ट वर्कर्स के विषय में था। स्टैंडिंग कमेटी चाहती थी कि इसका स्पष्ट प्रावधान हो और मैं माननीय सदन के सम्मुख इस बात को कहना चाहूंगा कि जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा कि हमारे इस ऐक्ट के तहत इस तरह की व्यवस्था पहले से ही उपलब्ध हो और उसमें साफ-तौर पर कहा गया है, अलग-अलग नेचर के विषय में भी कहा गया कि चाहे वे केजुअल हों, कांट्रैक्ट पर हों, टेम्परेरी हों, रेगुलर वर्कर्स हों, इसमें सिर्फ एक बात है कि उन्होंने पांच साल तक काम किया हो, तभी उनको इसका लाभ प्राप्त होगा। कांट्रैक्ट वर्कर्स शब्द पहले से ही ऐक्ट के अंतर्गत सम्मिलित है, इसलिए इस बारे में जो सुझाव स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का था, वह पहले से ही समाहित था।

महोदय, इस तीसरे सुझाव का भी सम्मान किया गया, लेकिन एक सुझाव स्टैण्डिंग कमेटी ने दिया, वह threshold limit को घटाकर दस से कम करने का था। मैं 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 संशोधन पर जो सुझाव माननीय स्टैण्डिंग कमेटी का था, उस पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता थी। हमें लगा कि इसमें काफी समय लग जाएगा, इसलिए निर्णय लिया गया कि हम इसको दस से ऊपर ही रखें। माननीय स्टैण्डिंग कमेटी की संस्तुति 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 चुकी थी, उस दिशा में मूव कर चुकी थी, इसलिए सोचा गया कि उनको, जो हमारे दस और दस से नीचे के संस्थान हैं, Social Security Act व्यवस्था करने का काम करेगा, उनके विषय में Social Security Act के अंतर्गत सोचा जा सकता है, इसलिए इस संदर्भ में माननीय स्टैण्डिंग कमेटी की संस्तुति थी, उसको वहीं पर छोड़ दिया गया है। मैं माननीय सदन से यह भी अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि इस समय जो संशोधन हम वर्तमान ऐक्ट में लेकर आए हैं, उसका एक सीमित उद्देश्य है, मगर उस सीमित उद्देश्य के माध्यम से भी लाखों शिक्षकों को लाभ पहुंचाने का काम किया जा रहा है। इससे उनको लाभ मिलेगा, इसलिए मैं माननीय सदन से यह अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि हमारे इस संशोधन विधेयक को एक मत से स्वीकार करने की कृपा 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".

(III)

"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".

(IV)

"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".

(V)

"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.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Now, Shri Rudra Narayan Pany to speak on the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009—(Contd.)

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, धन्यवाद। इस देश के लोकतंत्र में केंद्रीय श्रम संगठन, सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन की बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। महोदय, 1980 के दशक में, जब श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने दुबारा सत्ता संभाली, उस समय विपक्ष बिखरा हुआ था। तब सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन ने नेशनल कैम्पेन कमेटी के नाम से एक कमेटी में अभियान चलाया और एक प्रकार से देश की आर्थिक दुर्दशा के बारे में अपनी आवाज को उठाकर आर्थिक नीति के प्रति एक दिशा-निर्देश दिया था। महोदय, यह जो "पेमेंट ऑफ ग्रेज्युटी ऐक्ट, 1972" का विधेयक है, इसमें संशोधन है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने प्राक्कथन में यह अवश्य कहा है और सदन से यह अनुरोध किया है कि इसको पारित कर दिया जाए। अब लोक सभा समाप्त हो गई है और यहां सदस्यों से जल्दी-जल्दी, बिना बहस के पास कराने की मानसिकता सरासर गलत है। महोदय, यह अपर हाउस है। यहां पर गंभीरता और गुणवत्ता के साथ चर्चा होनी चाहिए। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि इसमें शिक्षकों को लाभ होगा, किंतु विधेयक में "कर्मचारी" शब्द, "एम्प्लोइज" इस प्रकार की परिभाषा में रख दिया गया है कि जैसे सीधे शिक्षक का नाम लेने के लिए माननीय मंत्री महोदय तैयार नहीं हैं, सरकार तैयार नहीं हैं।

मेरे वामपंथी मित्रों का राजनीतिक विकास सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन के आधार पर हुआ है। जहां तक भारतीय जनता पार्टी का सवाल है, भारतीय जनता पार्टी का यह स्वयं-सिद्धांत है कि ट्रेड यूनियन मूवमेंट के प्रति हमारी एक श्रद्धा है। देश के श्रमिकों के कल्याण के बारे में हम सचेत हैं। राजनीतिक पार्टी और सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन से हम दूरी

भी बरतते हैं, लेकिन हम भारतीय मजदूर संघ से निकटतर हैं। अभी चार-चार सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन तय किए गए। यहां पर शिक्षकों को सुविधा देने के लिए इस विधेयक के माध्यम से उन्हें कर्मचारी के दायरे में लाया गया है। इसमें यह sense रहता है कि शिक्षक को benefit मिलेगा।

महोदय, अभी तुरंत बैंकिंग का विधेयक हमने पारित किया। जहां तक बीएमएस का merger of banks के बारे में दृष्टिकोण है, वह इससे बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं है। कर्मचारियों की हालत दर्दनाक है। Western Bank और IDBI का merger हुआ। महाराष्ट्र में Western Bank की शाखा छोटे-छोटे स्थानों पर होती है, सतारा में होती है, छोटे-छोटे जिला केन्द्र में होती है। वहां 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। अपना गुजारा पाने के लिए उनका कोई दूसरा-तीसरा काम भी होता है। बैंकों का merger कर दिया जाता है और सफाई कर्मचारी को कहा जाता है कि तुम्हारा दिल्ली ट्रांसफर हो गया। क्या दिल्ली में वह अपनी जिन्दगी जी पाएगा? जहां तक सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन का सवाल है, हम बैंकों के merger का ध्यान पूर्वक चिन्ता करने की बात कहते हैं। इस विधेयक पर मैं यह कहने के लिए बाध्य होता हूँ कि जब-जब कांग्रेस सरकार आती है, जब उनका स्पष्ट बहुमत था, एक समय तो उनके पास 420 का बहुमत था, नेहरू जी के समय बहुत बहुमत था, लेकिन दूसरे प्रकार के जो राजनीति दल हैं, उनमें हमारे वामपंथी मित्रों और समाजवादी मित्रों के दिमाग में हमारे प्रति कोई धारणा बद्धमूल हो गई है कि हमारी सरकार को न आने देना। मैं दर्द से कहता हूँ...(व्यवधान)... कि भाजपा को दूर रखने के लिए कभी-कभी वे ऐसी राजनीति करते हैं। यहां तक तो...(व्यवधान)... यहां तक कि कभी-कभी ऐसा कह देते हैं कि भाजपा को दूर रखने के लिए वे मिल जाते हैं, कभी-कभी जब इस प्रकार का राजनीतिक वातावरण होता है। अब धीरे-धीरे परिवर्तन होगा और धीरे-धीरे आर्थिक नीति पर एक विचार आएगा और फिर शासन में परिवर्तन होगा। जब-जब कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार आती है, ये लोग श्रम के नाम पर भ्रम पैदा करते हैं। अभी इस विधेयक में शिक्षकों को कैसे फायदा मिलेगा, इसके बारे में वे नहीं सोचते हैं। आज शिक्षा का व्यापारीकरण किया जा रहा है। शिक्षा के नाम पर व्यवसाय चलाया जाता है। इस प्रकार के विश्वविद्यालय हैं। मेरे स्टेट में, मैं उड़ीसा से आता हूँ, वेदान्त नाम का एक विश्वविद्यालय है। वह विश्वविद्यालय एक प्राइवेट विश्वविद्यालय है, जहां पर कर्मचारियों के साथ न्याय नहीं किया जाता है। शिक्षकों को कर्मचारियों की परिभाषा में लाकर कैसे न्याय दिया जाएगा? एक विश्वविद्यालय 10 हजार एकड़ जमीन मांगता है। क्या वह वहां SEZ बन देगा? ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी कितने एकड़ में है, मैसाचुसेट्स यूनिवर्सिटी कितने एकड़ में है, केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय कितने एकड़ में है? अब वेदान्त, पुरी और कोणार्क के sea coast में आ रहा है। अभी माननीय पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण जी ने मुझे उत्तर में कहा कि sea sand के साथ nuclear particle है। वह आएगा या नहीं आएगा, वह तो दूसरा विवाद है।

महोदय, इस प्रकार की व्यावसायिक मानसिकता ले करके आज जो घरेलू विश्वविद्यालय आ गए हैं, उनमें शिक्षकों की हालत बहुत खराब है। उनके साथ ही साथ अन्य कर्मचारियों की हालत भी वहां पर बहुत ही खराब है।

अभी आप स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की बात कह रहे थे। 2007 में आप इस विधेयक को लाए और उसके बाद यह स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के पास भेजा गया। संयोग से मैं 2004 से उस स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का सदस्य हूँ। मैंने श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज जी एवं श्री अहलुवालिया जी को यह लिख कर दिया था कि मुझे Standing Committee on Labour में

काम करने का मौका दिया जाए, क्योंकि मैं वहां जाकर सीखता हूं। 2007 में उस स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के माध्यम से हम लोगों ने बताया कि इसमें इस प्रकार का परिवर्तन होना चाहिए। शायद सरकार के दिमाग में यह बात आई और इस निवेदन को ग्रहण किया गया, लेकिन फरवरी, 2009 को इसे फिर लाया गया। अब आज लोक सभा भंग हो गई, लेकिन फिर दोबारा यह बिल यहां पर लाया गया है। हालांकि आप स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज़ को इतना मानते हैं, लेकिन उस दिन जब Workmen's Compensation Act पर संशोधन हो रहा है, उस समय मैंने गुहार लगाई, साथ ही मेरे SITU के साथी श्री तपन दा, जो हमारे इस सदन के सदस्य, उन्होंने भी गुहार लगाई कि Maintenance of Register का जो बिल है, वह विवादित विधेयक है, आप जिसकी सीलिंग को बढ़ा रहे हैं और उसे 19 से 40 कर रहे हैं। INTUC समेत की पांचों सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स इसका विरोध कर रही थीं। हालांकि अब इस पर INTUC देश का क्या रुख रहेगा, यह मैं नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने इसे टोटली रिजेक्ट कर दिया है...(व्यवधान)... मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूं कि आपका जो Anti-labour face है, उसे मैं उजागर कर रहा हूं, इसलिए इसे धीरे से सुनिए।

स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने उस बिल को टोटली रिजेक्ट कर दिया और कहा कि इसे मत लाइए। लेकिन आपकी जिद इस तरह की है। एक दिन हमारे समाजवादी पार्टी के साथी श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी जी बहुत घटिया ढंग से बोल रहे थे कि कांग्रेस जब आती है तो उसके साथ उसका घमंड और उसकी जिद भी आती है। जिस दिन हम Workmen's Compensation Act पर बोल रहे थे, उस दिन हमने गुहार लगाई कि आप इसे मत लाइए, उसके अगले ही दिन की कार्यावधि में आपने उसे लगा दिया। आप हर रोज़ इस तरह की बात करते हैं। आज राजनैतिक विभाजन है, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूं 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 से INTUC के अन्दर तृणमूल के भी बहुत से लोग हैं। तृणमूल कांग्रेस का भी एक पॉलिटिकल स्टैंड है। समाजवादी पार्टी के बहुत से लोग HMS Movement में भी हैं। पांचों सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स इसका विरोध करती हैं। हालांकि INTUC अपना स्टैंड बदल सकता है, क्योंकि राज्य सभा की सीट पाने के लिए वे क्या-क्या कर सकते हैं, यह मुझे नहीं मालूम, लेकिन फिर भी अन्य चार सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स इसका विरोध करते हैं।

राज्य सभा में जो गणित है, अगर हम इस तरफ ध्यान देंगे तो रजिस्टर मेंटेन करने वाला जो बिल है, वह गिरेगा ही गिरेगा। हमने उस दिन आपसे रिक्वेस्ट की थी, लेकिन उसके बाद भी आपने उसे लगा दिया था। अगर आपने उस बिल को पारित करना है तो सभी सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स के नुमाइंदों को आप माननीय मंत्री जी के चैम्बर में लाइए, उनके साथ बैठक कीजिए और तब उसे सुलझा लीजिए। वह पारित तो हो सकता है, लेकिन यह जो मानसिकता है, यह बहुत गलत है।

जब भी श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे का नाम आता है, तो हमें यह लगता है कि वह बिल आएगा, लेकिन क्या उसे लाना डिफिकल्ट है। सर, आप स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का हवाला देते हैं, हम इस बिल का तो समर्थन करते ही हैं और यह पारित भी हो जाएगा। आज के बिल के संबंध में आप स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का हवाला देते हैं, लेकिन जो बिल 2005 में आया था Maintenance of Register का बिल, उसमें certain establishments को वे exempt करेंगे। पहले तो उन्होंने कहा कि 500 लोगों तक रजिस्टर मेंटेन नहीं किया जाएगा, जहां वे काम करते हैं। 2005 में आप 500 लोगों की सीमा लाए थे, उस समय आपमें कितनी हिम्मत थी, UPA supported by Left Parties. लेकिन अब आप उसको घटा-घटा कर 40 पर ले आए हैं...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रामचन्द्र खूंटिया (उड़ीसा) : जब वह बिल आएगा, उसके बारे में आप तब बात करना...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: I am talking on the Bill. I am talking only related things.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : उनको बोलने दीजिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : श्री रामचन्द्र खूंटिआ जी, आपको सुनने का धीरज भी रखना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : खूंटिआ जी, आप भी लेबर लीडर हैं और वह भी लेबर लीडर हैं, इसलिए उन्हें बोलने दीजिए। कभी-कभी ऐसा मौका मिलता है ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : उनको बोलने दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)... पाणि जी, आप बोलिए। You may speak.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, वह बिल 2005 में आया था, फिर वह स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ऑन लेबर को गया। वहां पर पहले 500 लोगों की बात थी, लेकिन हमने उसको टोटली रिजेक्ट कर दिया और उसके बाद आप उसे घटा कर 40 तक ले आए। इसके लिए भी अगर आप सेंट्रल ट्रेड यूनियन्स के साथ बात नहीं करते, तो यह बिल पारित होने की कोई संभावना नहीं है।

सर, इस देश में अब कंप्यूटर का जमाना आ गया है। अब कम लोगों से काम चलेगा, तो register maintain करने की कोई बात नहीं होगी। इसलिए मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उस बिल के बारे में आप गौर से सोचिए।

इसमें जो retrospective वाली बात है, हम उसको भी समर्थन देते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, पश्चिमी बंगाल में हड़ताल चल रही है। वहां पर लोग gratuity की डिमांड कर रहे हैं। जो लोग असंगठित क्षेत्र में, unorganized sector में हैं, मंत्री जी ने यहां पर उसका जिफ्र करते हुए कहा कि वह 2007 में एक विधेयक लाए थे, जो पारित हुआ। मैंने उस दिन भी पूछा था कि आपके पास funding की क्या व्यवस्था है? आप NABARD के तर्ज पर National Social Security Fund बनाएं और उससे schemes चलाएं, लेकिन आपने जो असंगठित क्षेत्र के लिए बनाया है, उसमें फंडिंग की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। आप contract labour के साथ क्या न्याय कर रहे हैं? आज का जो जमाना है, उसमें श्रम और बुद्धि दोनों को समन्वित करके देश का निर्माण हो सकता है। आप "भारत निर्माण" की बात करते हैं। चीन के साथ हमें competition करने की भी बात चलती है। इसके लिए work culture बढ़ाना चाहिए। ऐसे भी गरीब आदमी होते हैं, जो यह कहते हैं कि हम ज्यादा चिंता नहीं करेंगे और अपने श्रम के आधार पर काम करके शान से जिंदगी जीएंगे। आप इसमें श्रम और बुद्धि की तुलना करते हैं। असंगठित क्षेत्र में बहुत सारे लोग श्रमजीवी होते हैं। उनके लिए आपने NREGA की व्यवस्था की। NREGA में मैंने उस दिन पूछा था कि किसका हाथ कट जाएगा, किसका पैर टूट जाएगा या उसको कुछ हो जाएगा, तो उसकी social security के लिए आप क्या प्रबंध कर रहे हैं?

सर, हमारे देश में खेतिहर मजदूर हैं, सीमांत किसान हैं और नाम मात्र के भी किसान हैं। हमारे उड़ीसा में एक व्यवस्था है, जिसे भागचाषी कहते हैं। उसमें लोग दो-तीन एकड़ की जमीन शेयर में लेते हैं और जितना उत्पादन उसमें होता है उसका आधा-आधा करते हैं। यह भागचाषी व्यवस्था कहलाती है। इस प्रकार के जो लोग हैं, इन सबको मिलाते हैं, तो ये 39-40 करोड़ होते हैं। इनमें आंगनवाड़ी workers हैं, आशा के कर्मी हैं और आज कल के para teachers भी हैं। ये सारे जो 39-40 करोड़ लोग हैं, उनके लिए बिना funding की व्यवस्था किए आप social security की बात कर देते हैं। अब किसानों को पेंशन देने का एक progressive idea चालू हो गया है। आप अपनी

सरकार का नाम Progressive रखे हुए हैं। अब आप किसानों को पेंशन देंगे। वह देना भी चाहिए। लेकिन किसान क्यों आत्महत्या करते हैं? मैंने उस पर यहां गुहार लगाई थी। यहां माननीय चेयरमैन साहब, डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब तथा सब को बताया था कि उड़ीसा में भी किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्या चालू हो गई है, इसलिए मुझे तीन मिनट तो बोलने दीजिए ताकि मैं प्रार्थना करूं कि वह किस प्रकार से हो रहा है। ऐसा विदर्भ में हो रहा था, पंजाब में हो रहा था और आन्ध्र में तेलंगाना में भी हो रहा था। लोगों के मन में एक प्रकार की प्रवणता जागृत हो जाती है कि हम मजबूर हैं, हम लाचार हैं, हम क्या करेंगे? हम आत्महत्या करेंगे। पिछला सत्र अगस्त में समाप्त हुआ था और आज तक उड़ीसा में लगातार लगभग 50 लोग आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। आज सुबह भी एक खबर आई है कि हमारे यहां जो बलांगीर जिला है वहां पर एक अनाहार मृत्यु हुई है। उस परिवार के पांचवें व्यक्ति ने जीवन नष्ट कर लिया। उसने इसी के चलते, गरीबी के चलते, पेट की जलन के चलते, ऐसा कर दिया। इसलिए यह एक गम्भीर मामला है।

महोदय, आज जिस प्रकार से महंगाई बढ़ती है, इसको ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। न्यूनतम वेतन जो NREGA का कहिए या आंगनवाड़ी worker का कहिए, जो न्यूनतम वेतन, gratuity और ex-gratia, जब एक आदमी कम्पनी में मरता है तो अगर वह permanent nature का है तो ex-gratia 5 लाख आप कर देते हैं। Gratuity में भी आप ceiling लगाते हैं। अब छठे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के आधार पर विचार करेंगे तो यह ceiling अब लगभग 10 लाख तक जाएगी। पहले यह साढ़े तीन लाख की थी। Industrial worker के बारे में सरकार बिल्कुल silent है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... अगर उनकी gratuity को ठीक से calculate किया जाएगा और यदि वह ceiling से ऊपर हो जाएगी तो उसको gratuity नहीं मिलेगी। किन्तु, महोदय, gratuity क्या है? Gratuity is a defer ways. आदमी जो काम करता है, परिश्रम करता है, उसकी तनखाह, उसका वेतन आदि आप उसको इस समय देते नहीं हैं, इसलिए जब वह retire होगा तब retire benefit के रूप में उसे मिलेगा। तब वह अपने बेटे-बेटे की शादी करेगा। इस प्रकार वह gratuity पर आधारित होकर रहता है। **(समय की घंटी)**

जो contract labourers हैं, जो private industries में काम करते हैं। सर, मेरे गांव में BSSL नाम की एक factory है जिसमें हर दो-तीन दिनों में एक निर्माण-श्रमिक की मृत्यु होती है। वह काम करते वक्त गिर जाता है और मर जाता है। कल यहां "नरेगा" में जो न्यूनतम वेतन है, उस पर debate हो रही थी। यह पैसा श्रमिक का हक है। अगर आज आप social scientist को बिठा कर न्यूनतम वेतन की चिन्ता करेगा, मैं न्यूनतम मजदूरी नहीं कहता हूं। अगर आप भाषा का परिवर्तन करते हैं, आपने 'workmen' को 'employees' बना दिया, तो फिर आप इसे मजदूरी क्यों कहेंगे, आप फिर इसे वेतन कहिए। समय के अनुसार शब्द और हमारी भावना का भी परिवर्तन होना चाहिए। आज अगर आप न्यूनतम वेतन के बारे में सोचेंगे तो इस महंगाई के जमाने में न्यूनतम वेतन 263 रुपये होने चाहिए। यह सरकार अगर progressive सरकार है तो क्या आप हर एक कामगार को, हर एक श्रमिक को, जो काम करता है, उसे 263 रुपए न्यूनतम वेतन देंगे?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : पाणि जी, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : महोदय, यह सरकार श्रम के नाम पर कुल मिला कर भ्रम पैदा करती है। हालांकि यह जो विधेयक है, हम सबने यह तय किया है कि इसको पारित करना है। धन्यवाद।

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (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 bringing 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 bringing 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.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया है, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ और मैं दो मिनट का समय लेना चाहता हूँ। मैं जहाँ तक मंत्री जी को समझ पाया उन्होंने कहा कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शिक्षकों के प्रति आदर का भाव रखते हुए ऐक्ट में संशोधन करने के लिए कहा था और स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने भी यह कहा था कि आप इसका प्रावधान करिए। हम उनको बाकी एम्प्लाइज के समान रख रहे हैं, यह बड़ा अच्छा संदेश नहीं जाएगा, क्योंकि शिक्षकों के लिए भारत में बहुत सम्मान है। वह ज्ञान देने वाले हैं और यदि आप उनके लिए स्पेशल नहीं करेंगे, तो हजारों ऐसे शिक्षक हैं, मैं भी अनेक शिक्षण संस्थाओं से जुड़ा हुआ हूँ, उन तक यह संदेश नहीं जाएगा। यदि आप यह उनके लिए बना रहे हैं तो मेरा एक छोटा-सा सुझाव है। आपने शिक्षक शब्द को इसमें नहीं रखा है, परन्तु क्या आप यह विचार कर सकते हैं? मैं आपके अंग्रेजी के दो वाक्य पढ़ रहा हूँ, "The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 provides for payment of gratuity to employees engaged in factories, mines, oil-fields, plantations etc." आप क्या वहाँ पर एजुकेशनल "इंस्टीट्यूशन्स" ऐसा शब्द जोड़ सकते हैं, तो आप इस पर विचार करिए। हजारों-लाखों शिक्षक इधर-उधर काम कर रहे हैं, जब तक आप निश्चित तौर पर उनकी ओर संकेत नहीं करेंगे, तो शायद आपका जो उद्देश्य है, वह ठीक प्रकार से समझा नहीं जाएगा। मैं इतना ही निवेदन आपसे कर रहा हूँ। धन्यवाद।

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. KURIEN): Now, Mr. Minister.

श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरीश रावत) : सर, मैं बहुत आभारी हूँ सम्मानित सदन का और सभी सम्मानित सात सदस्यों का जिन्होंने इस संशोधन विधेयक पर अपनी राय प्रकट की। सर, मैं सभी सातों सम्मानित सदस्यों, श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि जी, डा. ई.एम. सुदर्शन नाच्चीयप्पन जी, टी.के. रंगराजन जी, गोविंद राव आदिक जी, तिरुची शिवा जी, श्रीगोपाल व्यास जी एवं तपन कुमार सेन जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने एक स्वर से इस संशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन किया है। यदि मैं सदन की भावना का आकलन कर सकता हूँ, तो मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि यह सदन समवेत स्वर में, एक आवाज में इस संशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन कर रहा है।

यह भावना, शिक्षकों के प्रति हमारा सम्मान है, उस सम्मान का द्योतक है, इसीलिए जब सरकार ने महसूस किया कि शिक्षकों को - क्योंकि एक नोटिफिकेशन के बाद जब लोकल बॉडीज के शिक्षकों को ग्रेच्युटी ऐक्ट का फायदा मिलने लगा, तो दूसरे शिक्षकों को भी इसका लाभ मिले, इसके लिए सरकार एक नोटिफिकेशन लेकर आई। 2004 में सम्मानित सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक निर्णय दिया। सम्मानित सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केवल टेक्नीकल नेचर की बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि जो दूसरे ऐक्ट्स हैं, वहां "एम्प्लोइज" शब्द है, उन्होंने विशेष तौर पर ई.पी.एफ. ऐक्ट का उद्धरण देते हुए कहा कि "एम्प्लोइज" शब्द की जितनी व्यापक परिभाषा उसमें है, इस प्रोविजन में, ग्रेच्युटी ऐक्ट के अंदर उतनी व्यापक परिभाषा नहीं है, इसलिए इसमें शिक्षक सम्मिलित नहीं हो पाएंगे। मगर उन्होंने साथ-साथ यह भी कहा, जैसा कि माननीय सदन के सदस्यों ने कहा कि यह एक नोबल प्रोफेशन है, इसलिए हम इसको लेजिस्लेचर के ऊपर छोड़ते हैं कि लेजिस्लेचर इसका प्रावधान करे। सरकार ने, जैसा कि माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय आया है, जितने स्टेक होल्डर्स हैं, सभी लोगों से बातचीत की, हमने श्रमिक संगठनों से बातचीत की थी, हम सर्वप्रथम श्रमिक संगठनों से ही बात करते हैं, हमने एम्प्लोयर्स से भी बातचीत की थी, हमने उनको भी अपनी राय में सम्मिलित किया था। हमने राज्यों से बात की थी और विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से भी बात की थी। उसके बाद हम एक संशोधन विधेयक के साथ संसद में आये। उस संशोधन विधेयक में हमने केवल परिभाषा को संशोधित करने की बात कही, एम्प्लोइज शब्द को व्यापक बनाने की बात कही। जब मामला स्टैण्डिंग कमेटी को रेफर हुआ, मैं स्टैण्डिंग कमेटी के माननीय सदस्यों का बहुत आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने उसमें चार महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव दिए। इनमें से तीन सुझावों को - एक सुझाव को तो हमने स्पष्टतः पूरी तरह से माना और दो ऐसे सुझाव थे, जो किसी न किसी रूप में हमारे ऐक्ट में संशोधन के बाद कवर हो रहे थे। हमने उन तीन सुझावों का सम्मान किया और एक सुझाव को न मानने की स्थिति को मैंने पहले ही इस संशोधन विधेयक को सदन के सम्मुख विचारार्थ प्रस्तुत किया। उस समय व्यक्त कर दिया। सरकार ने यह फैसला लिया, जबकि यह आशंका व्यक्त की जा रही थी कि यदि उसको

पीछे की डेट से, जिस दिन से पहले मिल रहा था और जिस दिन से माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के बाद उनको मिलना डिसकंटीन्यू हो गया, इस ऐक्ट के तहत उनको तब से दिया जाना चाहिए। सरकार ने यह तय किया कि क्योंकि शिक्षकों को यह लाभ पहले देने की मंशा थी, मिल रहा था, उनका कोई दोष नहीं है, माननीय स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने बहुत सही सुझाव दिया है अतः यह संशोधन विधेयक पिछली डेट से प्रभावी होना चाहिए और शिक्षकों को पिछली डेट से ग्रेज्युटी ऐक्ट के प्रोविजन्स का लाभ मिलना चाहिए। माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां पर बहुत व्यापक बातें कही हैं, और महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव दिए हैं। कुछ सुझाव तो सीधे-सीधे इस ऐक्ट के संदर्भ में हैं और दूसरे सुझाव हमारे कुछ श्रम कानूनों के संदर्भ में हैं। इस क्षेत्र की जो आज की समसामयिक स्थितियां हैं, उनके विषय में कही गई हैं। हम इन सबका बहुत सम्मान करते हैं।

रुद्रनारायण पाणि जी का बहुत बड़ा contribution है। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि वे भाजपा के अन्दर, अपने दल के अन्दर श्रमिकों के लिए एक सोच बनाने में catalyst का काम कर रहे हैं, उत्प्रेरक का काम कर रहे हैं। इसके लिए वे बधाई के पात्र हैं। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि वेंकैया जी और दूसरे नेताओं का संरक्षण उनको मिलता रहेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि आप बिना हाउस के बिल पास करवा देते हैं। सरकार कभी बहस से भागना नहीं चाहती है। लोक सभा में अलग परिस्थिति थी। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक है, लगभग 60 लाख से ज्यादा शिक्षकों, जो केन्द्र सरकार के और प्राइवेट इंस्टीट्यूशंस के हैं, यदि हम उन सबको जोड़ें, तो शिक्षकों की एक बहुत बड़ी संख्या है। यह एक बड़ी संख्या को लाभ पहुंचा रहा है। यदि हम बहस का इंतजार करते, तो शायद आज यह दिन, जिस दिन के स्वागत के लिए बाहर लाखों शिक्षक प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं और आपको धन्यवाद देने के लिए आतुर हैं, वह क्षण नहीं आ पाता। इसलिए यह विधेयक लोक सभा में बिना बहस के पारित हुआ। सरकार की भावना के होते हुए भी इसे पारित करना पड़ा। मैं उन परिस्थितियों पर यहां टिप्पणी नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि श्रमिक कानूनों के सन्दर्भ में, उनके implementation के सन्दर्भ में, उनके प्रभावों के सन्दर्भ में सदन जब भी विचार करना चाहेगा, हम उसका स्वागत करेंगे, क्योंकि उससे हमारे हाथ मजबूत होते हैं, श्रम मंत्रालय के हाथ मजबूत होते हैं, जो हमारे श्रम कानून हैं, उनके हाथ मजबूत होते हैं। बल्कि हम तो चाहेंगे कि माननीय सदस्य 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 संदर्भ में 'appropriate authority' केन्द्र सरकार है और राज्य सरकार अपने दायरे में है। राज्य सरकार ही अधिकांश श्रम कानूनों को implement करने का माध्यम है। यदि आपका संरक्षण मिल जाए, इस सदन का संरक्षण मिल जाए, यहां के सदस्यों का संरक्षण मिल जाए, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे श्रम कानूनों के विषय में हम कभी-कभी सिर खुजलाते हुए कहते हैं या हमारे नेतागण कहते हैं, शिकायत करते हैं, वह शिकायत कुछ कम हो सकेगी और उससे हमारे श्रमिकों को काफी खुशी होगी।

सर, यहां कहा गया कि परिभाषा में 'शिक्षक' शब्द का उल्लेख क्यों 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, तो हमसे कल यह पूछा जाता कि दूसरे professions का उल्लेख क्यों नहीं किया गया है, जबकि कई और professions हैं। गोविंदराव आदिक जी ने कहा कि बहुत से एरिया छूट भी सकते हैं। ऐसा होता कि legislation की भावना तो यह थी कि सब professions का नाम लिखा हुआ है, अलग-अलग चिन्हित किया है, तो यह profession क्यों नहीं चिन्हित

किया गया। जिस तरीके से इसमें amendment लाया गया है, उससे शिक्षक भी cover हो रहे हैं। वर्तमान संशोधन इसकी व्यापकता और प्रभावशीलता को और बढ़ाने का काम कर रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि माननीय सदस्यों के मन में कोई संदेह, संदेह है नहीं, मगर एक बात कही गई कि 'शिक्षक' शब्द जोड़ देते, तो अच्छा होता। शिक्षक और शिक्षण संस्थाएं हमारे लिए मन्दिर के समान हैं और शिक्षक मन्दिर के पुजारी हैं, लेकिन जहां पर कानून की बात आती है, तो कानून अपने दायरे के अन्दर चलता है। इसलिए हमने न्याय मंत्रालय के परामर्श से इस पर व्यापक विचार-विमर्श के बाद इसको तय किया है और स्टैंडिंग कमेटी में भी इस पर बहुत विस्तार से बहस हुई है। सब लोग इस राय से सहमत थे कि परिभाषा में जो परिवर्तन लाया गया है, उसके बाद कोई संदेह नहीं रहेगा कि शिक्षकों को इसका लाभ न मिल सके। इसलिए मैं माननीय सदस्यों से प्रार्थना करना चाहूंगा कि वे अपने मन से इस मंशा को हटा दें।

यहां श्री पाणि साहब ने ट्रेड यूनियनों से परामर्श की बात कही और विशेष तौर पर उन्होंने मॅटेनॅस ऑफ रजिस्टर, हमारा इसके बाद का विधेयक है, उसके विषय में बात कही। मैं उनसे बहुत अदब के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ और यह उनकी जानकारी में भी है कि इसमें कई राउंड्स में बात-चीत हुई है। इसके लिए कमेटीज़ और सब-कमेटीज़ भी बनी हैं। आज जो संशोधन हम लाए हैं, उसके लिए चाहे हमें लेबर कमीशन ने कुछ रैफर किया, चाहे एक्सपर्ट कमेटी ने कुछ रैफर किया, लेकिन हमने उनमें से किसी की राय को भी नहीं माना, इस विषय में हमने केवल ट्रेड यूनियन की राय को ही माना है। जब वह बिल सदन में डिस्कशन के लिए आएगा, उस समय इस पर बात-चीत करेंगे, लेकिन हम इतना अवश्य कहना चाहते हैं कि उसमें हम जो कुछ भी लाए हैं, वह ट्रेड यूनियन की सहमति से ही लाए हैं। 19 से 40 की जो संख्या बताई गई है, कमोबेश वह भी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Please check the records in the Labour Ministry. You are new to the Labour Ministry. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please check the records. In the Labour Ministry, this is not the factual statement. ...**(Interruptions)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please, let him reply. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: There was no consensus.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Let him reply. Let him complete the reply.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I may be new to the Labour Ministry, लेकिन आप जानते हैं कि इन चीजों के विषय में जब कोई बात कही जाती है, तो बिना किसी जानकारी के नहीं कही जाती है। इसके संबंध में रिकॉर्ड्स बिल्कुल साफ हैं। इस समय मैं उसका उल्लेख नहीं करना चाहता हूँ, आप सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य हैं, लेकिन आप सब लोगों की राय के बाद ही ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपने कहा कि वह जो संख्या बता देंगे, वही मान ली जाएगी, तो जो संख्या हमें बताई गई, हमने उसी संख्या का उल्लेख किया है। फिर भी इस संबंध में आपका एक स्टैंड हो सकता है, लेकिन मैं उस विषय में कुछ नहीं कहूंगा।

यह एक बहुत अच्छा विधेयक है, जिसके विषय में सबकी राय एक है, इसलिए मैं उस बात को यहां नहीं लाना चाहता हूँ। चूंकि श्री रुद्रनारायण जी ने उसका उल्लेख किया था, इसलिए मैंने केवल उसका जिक्र मात्र कर दिया है।

सर, यहां एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात कही गई है। असंगठित क्षेत्र के कर्मचारियों एवं श्रमिकों की सोशल सेक्योरिटी के विषय में यहां जो ऐक्ट बनाया गया और आज ऐक्ट के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, उसमें इस बात का प्रोवीजन नहीं है कि इसके लिए फंडिंग कहां से होगी।

सर, मैं माननीय सदन के सदस्यों के संज्ञान में इस बात को लाना चाहता हूं कि ऐक्ट के प्रोवीजन्स में हमने इस बात की व्यवस्था की है कि नैशनल सोशल सेक्योरिटी बोर्ड, केन्द्र सरकार के स्तर पर और स्टेट सोशल सेक्योरिटी बोर्ड्स, राज्य सरकार के स्तर पर जो-जो सोशल सेक्योरिटी स्कीम्स तय करेंगे, उसके लिए फंडिंग की व्यवस्था केन्द्र के मामले में केन्द्र सरकार और राज्यों के मामले में राज्य सरकारें करेंगी। उस ऐक्ट में इसको मेंडेटरी बनाया गया है। एक प्रकार से हमने फंड के प्रोवीजन को कानूनी स्वरूप देने की कोशिश की है। इसीलिए जब स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने हमें Gratuity Act में threshold limit घटाने के विषय में कहा, तो एक तरफ हमने यह देखा कि हमारे दूसरे Acts के साथ इसका समन्वय बना रहे, तो दूसरी तरफ हमने इस बात पर भी विचार किया कि ऑलरेडी हम अनऑर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर के श्रमिकों के लिए एक कानून ले कर आ रहे हैं, तो उस कानून के तहत उनको और व्यापक रूप से कवर किया जा सकेगा एवं उसके लिए कॉम्प्रिहेंसिव स्कीम्स बनाई जा सकेंगी। इसलिए इस ऐक्ट के अन्दर ही हमने उसका प्रोवीजन भी करके रखा है।

माननीय अधिष्ठाता महोदय, आप सहमत होंगे कि हम फंड पहले रखें और स्कीम बाद में बनाएं, उससे कोई बात बनती नहीं है। चूंकि असंगठित मजदूरों का क्षेत्र एक बहुत व्यापक क्षेत्र है, इसलिए उस क्षेत्र के अन्दर स्टेट्स के लिए पहले हम स्कीम्स आइडेंटिफाई कर रहे हैं, फिर देख रहे हैं कि कहां-कहां पर, किन-किन लोगों के लिए, किस तरह से इसे बनाया जाए, किस प्रकार से approach किया जाए, किस तरीके से उनका पंजीकरण करवाया जाए, ताकि जो भी स्कीम बनाई जाए, वे effective हो सकें। यह दायित्व हमने सेंट्रल सोशल सेक्योरिटी बोर्ड और स्टेट सोशल सेक्योरिटी बोर्ड को दिया है। इस सोशल सेक्योरिटी बोर्ड के चेयरमैन खुद हमारे सम्मानित मंत्री महोदय हैं, साथ ही उसमें हमने अन्य बहुत प्रतिष्ठित लोगों को भी रखा है। इसमें एक सब-कमेटी भी बनाई है और उस सब-कमेटी ने अपनी दो बैठकों के जरिए उन एरियाज को आइडेंटिफाई करना भी शुरू कर दिया है, जिन एरियाज के लिए हमको सोशल सेक्योरिटी स्कीम बनाने की आवश्यकता है।

मैं डा. नाच्चीयप्पन साहब का बहुत आभारी हूं। उन्होंने एक प्रकार से इस Act के विभिन्न provisions के विषय में मेरे काम को हल्का करने का काम किया है। उन्होंने बहुत विद्वतापूर्ण तरीके से सब बातों का, जो थोड़ी-बहुत शंकाएं कहीं से उठा सकती थी, उनका जवाब दिया है।

सर, उन्होंने एक बड़ी महत्वपूर्ण बात कही कि Life Insurance coverage के लिए कि इसके Section 4A में provision है। यह provision तो 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 तो कुछ है ही नहीं। अगर इसमें uncertainty होती तो हम कहते कि risk cover करना है। इसमें तो एक fix amount मिलना है, चाहे वह superannuation के मामले में हो या death के मामले में हो, resignation के मामले में हो या permanent disablement के मामले में हो। इसलिए इसमें किसी तरीके की uncertainty involved नहीं है और यह हमारे लिए घाटे का सौदा हो जाएगा। लेकिन, फिर भी मैं डा. साहब के संज्ञान में और माननीय सदन के संज्ञान में इस बात को लाना चाहता हूं कि हमारा मंत्रालय इस विषय में तरीके निकाल रहा है कि Section 4A के

जो provisions हैं, उनका लाभ हम किस तरीके से श्रमिकों को पहुंचा सकें। इसके मार्ग में जो व्यावहारिक कठिनाई है, उसका उल्लेख मैंने आपके सामने किया है और मैं समझता हूं कि आप इस कठिनाई से सहमत होंगे।

महोदय, जब माननीय शिवा साहब बोल रहे थे तब उस समय मुझसे आपने कहा कि जरा सा इनकी बात सुनिए। हमारे खूंटिआ साहब हैं, वह श्रमिकों के बीच में कम करते हैं। वह भी मुझसे यही बात कहने के लिए आए थे कि 3.5 लाख की maximum ceiling है, इसको बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। इसमें हम क्या कर रहे हैं, वह यही पूछने के लिए आए थे। माननीय सदन के संज्ञान में यह तथ्य है कि जब 6th Central Pay Commission की report आई, तब उसको इस सरकार ने न केवल माना बल्कि एक इतिहास कायम किया। पहले यह होता था कि जब Pay Commission अपनी report देती थी तब गवर्नमेंट उसमें से कुछ काट-छांट करती थी। यह पहली बार हुआ कि उसमें कुछ जोड़ा गया। केन्द्र सरकार के कर्मचारियों को कुछ अतिरिक्त लाभ देने का प्रयास किया गया। सर, 6th Central Pay Commission ने इस ceiling को 3.5 लाख से बढ़ाकर 10 लाख करने का फैसला लिया। जब यह फैसला लिया और केन्द्र सरकार ने 6th Central Pay Commission की इस संस्तुति को माना तब हमारे श्रम मंत्रालय ने, सबसे बातचीत शुरू की है। हमारे श्रम मंत्रालय के मामले में एक मान्य प्रक्रिया है कि हम सभी श्रमिक संगठनों से बातचीत करते हैं। हम राज्य सरकारों से बात करते हैं, employers से बातचीत करते हैं तथा अपने विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से बातचीत करते हैं। इस तरह की बातचीत की process चल रही है बल्कि मैं तो यह कहूंगा कि वह अब करीब-करीब conclude हो चुकी है। मैं अपने वरिष्ठ मंत्री जी की तरफ से भी कहना चाहता हूं। वह भी इस विषय में बहुत चिन्तित हैं। वह बहुत प्रयास कर रहे हैं। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि जिस comprehensive Bill की बात आप सब ने कही, आदिक साहब ने कही, रंगराजन साहब ने भी कही, नाच्चीयप्पन साहब ने तो उस move को initiate ही किया और खूंटिआ साहब ने यहां आकर मेरे कान में यह कह करके मुझे प्रेरित करने की कोशिश की कि मैं कुछ कहूं। मैं समझता हूं कि इस सत्र के बाद जब दूसरी बार सदन मिलेगा। तब उस समय हम सदन का आशीर्वाद लेने के लिए इस सदन में आयेंगे। हम जानते हैं कि लाखों-करोड़ों श्रमिक इस बात का इंतजार कर रहे हैं। मैं आपकी इस बात से भी सहमत हूं कि इस समय कुछ लोगों के मामले में हालत यह हो रही है कि जो फायदा उनको मिल रहा है, वह Income Tax के माध्यम से दूसरी तरफ से निकल जा रहा है। कर्मचारी एक तरफ गिन रहा है वहीं दूसरी तरफ देने वाले को भी उसको देने के लिए गिनना पड़ रहा है। मैं समझता हूं कि इस स्थिति से हम बच सकेंगे तथा इसके लिए कुछ कदम उठाए जाएंगे। सर, मैं आपके संकेत को समझ रहा हूं, लेकिन हमारे सम्माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां पर कई महत्वपूर्ण बातें कही हैं। विशेष तौर पर seasonal industries और sugar industry के reference में बातें कही गयीं।

दूसरी बात यहां पर contract labour के बारे में कही गयी। ये दोनों चीजें बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। आज जो contract worker है, वह हम सब की चिन्ता का क्षेत्र है और हम सब लोग उसके प्रति संवेदनशील हैं। इसके संबंध में हमारा Act है। राज्य सरकारों के भी प्रयास हैं। सरकार के भी प्रयास हैं कि हमारे विभिन्न श्रमिक कानून हैं, उनके provisions का लाभ उन्हें मिल सके और उनको एक बेहतर जिन्दगी मिल सके। जिस तरीके के काम उनके दूसरे साथी कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वे स्थायी हैं, मगर उन दोनों को मिलने वाले emoluments और wages में भारी अन्तर है, उसको कम किया जा सके। आज बहुत सारे सवाल हैं। यह एक व्यापक विषय है और मैं समझता हूं कि अगर किसी समय फिर अवसर आएगा तो इस विषय पर हम विस्तार से विचार करेंगे। जो बातें आपने इस समय उठायी हैं, हम उनका जवाब देने का प्रयास करेंगे या उन सुझावों पर अमल करने का प्रयास करेंगे। आपने सेक्शन 282 के विषय में

और विशेष तौर पर seasonal workers के विषय में बातें कही हैं। जब हम इस सदन में दूसरी बार इस Gratuity Act के विषय में एक comprehensive Bill लेकर आएंगे तो उस समय इन सवालों को address करने की कोशिश करेंगे। उस समय हम आपकी शंकाओं का निराकरण करने की कोशिश करेंगे, क्योंकि मुझे Chair के संकेत का भी सम्मान करना है।

मान्यवर, मैं आपका फिर से बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि सभी सदस्यों ने करीब एकमत से इसको पारित किया। यहां पर एक बात यह कही गई कि आपने इसमें 5 साल का provision क्यों रखा हुआ है? आप इसे पांच साल काम करने वालों पर ही क्यों लागू कर रहे हैं? इस अवधि को और कम करके लाइए। मैं जानता हूँ कि जो हमारे trade unions के साथी हैं, वे जानते हैं कि ग्रेच्युटी एक प्रकार का terminal benefit है। यदि हम इसको और कम करके लाते हैं तो यह एक प्रकार से part of wage जैसा ही हो जाएगा। फिर यह terminal benefit नहीं रहेगा और एक प्रकार से यह social security measure नहीं रह जाएगा। इस संदर्भ में हमारी सीमा को और इस Act की social security cover के रूप में काम करने की जो बुनियादी मंशा है, उसको भी यह सदन समझता है।

मैं माननीय अधिष्ठाता महोदय को और इस सदन के सभी सम्मानित सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे इतना अवसर दिया। मैं उनको भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि जिन्होंने इस बहस में भाग लिया और इस पर व्यापक चर्चा हुई। इसके साथ ही मैं उनका भी आभारी हूँ जिन लोगों ने हमको उत्साहित करने का काम किया कि जो श्रम मंत्रालय है, वह श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए भविष्य में भी इस तरीके के उपयों को लेकर आने का काम करे।

मैं आपके सामने बहुत ही विनम्रता और अदब से एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि सन् 2004 में social security measures लाने की यह प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ हुई और यह प्रयास आज भी जारी है। इस संबंध में मैं इस सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस साहब को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने बहुत सारी बातें initiate कीं। बहुत सारे प्रयास उन्होंने initiate किये, वे आज मूर्त रूप ले रहे हैं। मैं यह कहूँ कि यह decade, जो 2004 में प्रारम्भ हुआ और आज भी चल रहा है, एक प्रकार से यह श्रमिकों की भलाई के लिए, उनके कल्याण के कानून बनाने के उपाय करने की योजनाएं बनाने के decade के रूप में जाना जाए। उसके लिए हमारा यह प्रयास आगे भी निरन्तर जारी रहेगा।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय सदन से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस विधेयक को पारित करने की कृपा 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

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : महोदय, इंटरनेट पर बढ़ रही नग्नता (पोर्नोग्राफी) एक अत्यंत गम्भीर मसला है। यह अश्लीलता भारतीय जीवन मूल्यों एवं संस्कृति के नितान्त विरुद्ध है। स्थिति यह है कि राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी जी को भी उपहास का विषय बनाने से परहेज नहीं किया गया था। सभ्य समाज इंटरनेट के माध्यम से घर-घर तक पहुंच रही अश्लील सामग्री से व्यथित एवं चिन्तित है। इस पोर्नोग्राफी का न केवल बच्चों पर कुप्रभाव पड़ रहा है, अपितु समस्त समाज में बुराई फैल रही है।

भारत के कई तटवर्ती राज्यों एवं महानगरों में सेक्स पर्यटन के अभिप्राय से विदेशी निरन्तर आ रहे हैं। इतना पानी सिर से गुजर गया है कि अब इंटरपोल अपने 188 सदस्य देशों के सहयोग से ऐसी वेबसाइट ब्लॉक करने तथा उन्हें तैयार करने वालों का पता लगाने की योजना बनाने की सोच रही बताई जाती है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि भारत सरकार इस विषय में सकारात्मक पग उठाए और एक अलग शाखा स्थापित करे ऐसे पोर्नोग्राफी साइटों की सूची तैयार कर इंटरपोल को सूचित करे और उन्हें ब्लॉक 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**

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, उड़ीसा के पुरी स्थित महाप्रभु श्री जगन्नाथ मंदिर की प्रसिद्धि सर्वविदित है। प्रभु जगन्नाथ न केवल उड़ीसा की जनता के अराध्य हैं, बल्कि सारी दुनिया के लोग उनके दर्शन हेतु पुरी जाते हैं। पुरी जितना प्रसिद्ध है, कोणार्क भी उतना ही विश्वविख्यात है। पुरी-कोणार्क "मैरिन ड्राईव" का भी अत्यंत महत्व है। उड़ीसा जैसे गरीब राज्य को इस दृष्टि से आने वाले पर्यटकों से भी अनेक लाभ होते हैं। इस वेला भूमि का प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य अपने आप निराला है। दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि वेदांत एल्युमिनियम कंपनी नामक एक व्यवसायिक संगठन ने इसी स्थान पर एक निजी विश्वविद्यालय स्थापना हेतु राज्य सरकार के साथ हाल में "मेमोरेंडम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग" किया है, जिसके कारण लोगों में घोर असंतोष पैदा हुआ है। समझौता पत्र के अनुसार यह विश्वविद्यालय प्रायः 6,270 एकड़ जमीन का दावा कर रहा है। उसमें ऐसे प्रावधान हैं, जिसके कारण समग्र पुरी शहर के साथ-साथ आसपास के 117 गांवों के प्रभावित होने की आशंका है। और तो और विश्वविद्यालय को जो जमीन दी जानी है, उसमें ऐसे मिनरल पार्टिकल हैं, जिसमें परमाणु ऊर्जा का सृजन हो सकता है। 26.11.09 को पूछे गए अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 752 का उत्तर देते हुए मानव विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि एटॉमिक मिनरल्स डिरेक्टोरेट फॉर एक्सप्लोरेशन एण्ड रिसर्च ने चिन्तित किया है कि वहां पर 1.82 मिलियन टन मोनाजाइट क्षारयुक्त थोरियम है। परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन में थोरियम की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है, यह सर्वविदित है। महोदय, वह थोरियम अगर वहां से निकाल लिया जाएगा तो इसका बहुत गंभीर परिणाम पूरे शहर तथा आसपास के 117 राजस्व ग्राम पर तो पड़ेगा ही पड़ेगा, उसके साथ-साथ महाप्रभु जगन्नाथ जी का भव्य मंदिर भी ध्वस्त हो जाएगा। थोरियम एक गुण है, जिससे समुद्र का जलपत्तन स्थिर रहता है। अगर वहां से थोरियम को निकाल लिया जाता है तो सागर का जलपत्तन बहुत ऊपर आ जाएगा, जिससे कि समूचे सागर किनारे में महाप्रलय आ जाएगी। अतः मेरी केंद्र सरकार से यह विनम्र प्रार्थना है कि इस गंभीर तथा संवेदनशील विषय के प्रति तत्काल ध्यान दिया जाए एवं वेदांत कंपनी को अलग स्थान पर विश्वविद्यालय खोलने के लिए कहा जाए। वह कंपनी कालाहांडी में एल्युमिनियम का काम कर रही है और झारसगुड़ा में एल्युमिनियम बनाने का कारखाना खोल रही है तो क्या वहां पर विश्वविद्यालय बनाना ठीक रहेगा? श्री जगन्नाथ महाप्रभु के मंदिर के प्रति कोई खतरा पैदा न हो, कृपया इसके प्रति ध्यान दिया जाए।

**Demand to invite Naga rebels on negotiating table for
resolving Indo-Naga political conflict**

SHRI KHEKIHO 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 fulfilment 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 सभ्रवाल (पंजाब) : महोदय, यह अत्यंत प्रसन्नता 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 टैक्स नहीं दे रहा है। यह सेक्टर है बड़े फार्म हाउस के मालिकों का। ये लोग अपने फार्म हाउसों का प्रयोग शादी-विवाह तथा अन्य समारोह इत्यादि के लिए करते हैं। महोदय, इनका अवैध कार्यकलापों के लिए प्रयोग

(*modus opearandi*) इस प्रकार है। फार्म हाउस के मालिक पहले अपना फार्म हाउस शादी-विवाह और दूसरे समारोह के लिए किराए पर देते हैं और फिर इस किराए से जो आय होती है, उसे कृषि आय में दिखा कर वे टैक्स की चोरी कर रहे हैं। इससे सरकार को करोड़ों रुपए के राजस्व का नुकसान हो रहा है। महोदय, फार्म हाउस के मालिकों की इस साजिश में सरकार को कितनी आय का नुकसान हो चुका है, इसका अनुमान लगाना मुश्किल है।

मैं 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 ब्यौरा 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

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 Admn., 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

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान देश में जातिवार जनगणना की जरूरत तथा इसके राष्ट्रीय महत्व की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सन् 1931 के बाद देश में जातिवार जनगणना नहीं हुई है। इस बीच विभिन्न जातियों की जनसंख्या, इसके सामाजिक, आर्थिक और शैक्षिक स्तरों आदि में व्यापक बदलाव आए हैं, लेकिन इससे संबंधित विश्वसनीय एवं ठोस आंकड़ों के अभाव में हम एक वास्तविक निष्कर्ष तक नहीं पहुंच सकते हैं। साथ ही सरकार द्वारा चलाए जाने वाली विभिन्न योजनाओं एवं कार्यक्रमों का लाभ वांछितों तक नहीं पहुंच रहा है।

महोदय, कुछ समय पहले उच्चतम न्यायालय ने भी इसकी जरूरत पर बल देते हुए सरकार को विश्वसनीय एवं ठोस आंकड़े एकत्रित करने के लिए कहा था, ताकि वास्तविक विकास के लक्ष्य को पूरा किया जा सके। ग्यारहवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के सशक्तिकरण के लिए गठित कार्य समूह की रिपोर्ट में भी अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के आंकड़े संबंधी जरूरतों पर बल दिया गया है।

सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय पर गठित चौदहवीं लोकसभा की स्थायी समिति ने भी अपनी पन्द्रहवीं रिपोर्ट (2005-06) में यह माना है कि सरकार के पास पिछड़े वर्गों की कुल जनसंख्या तथा गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग की जनसंख्या से संबंधित कोई आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। नतीजन, मंत्रालय अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग के लिए चलाई जाने 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।

Demand to take effective steps for development of National Highways in Bihar

डा. सी.पी. ठाकुर (बिहार) : महोदय, केन्द्रीय उपेक्षा के कारण बिहार के राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग जर्जर स्थिति में हैं और राजमार्ग के विस्तार पर भी केन्द्र की उदासीनता के कारण काम नहीं हो रहा है। राज्य में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग की कुल लम्बाई 3437.00 कि.मी. है, जिसमें से अभी भी लगभग 1200 कि.मी. सड़क सिंगल लेन अथवा इंटरमीडिएट लेन में है जिसे कम-से-कम डबल लेन में बदलना आवश्यक है।

बिहार सरकार द्वारा राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के उन्नयन पर अब तक 554.00 करोड़ रुपए व्यय किए जा चुके हैं। केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा उक्त राशि की प्रतिपूर्ति की जाए। इस संबंध में केन्द्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय के पास लम्बित पड़ी 33 योजनाओं को शीघ्र स्वीकृति दी जानी चाहिए। बिहार स्थित महात्मा गांधी सेतु के सुपर स्ट्रक्चर को पी.पी.पी. के तहत पुनर्स्थापित किए जाने हेतु एवं एन.एच. 82 तथा एन.एच. 83 को फोर लेनिंग हेतु केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा अनापत्ति प्रमाण नहीं दिया गया है। भागलपुर बाईपास का निर्माण-कार्य केन्द्र सरकार की अपेक्षित सहमति प्राप्त नहीं होने के कारण बाधित है। राजमार्गों को चार लेन में परिवर्तित करने संबंधी कार्य में भी एन.एच.ए.आई. की उदासीनता के कारण संतोषजनक प्रगति नहीं हो पाई है। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा नेपाल से जुड़े एवं एन.एच.ए.आई. के नियंत्रणाधीन एन.एच. 28ए एवं एन.एच. 57ए भी जीर्ण-शीर्ण अवस्था में है। एन.एच. 31 पर अवस्थित कुरसैला पुल की स्थिति भी काफी खराब बनी हुई है।

उपरोक्त बिन्दुओं के संबंध में आपके माध्यम से माननीय सभा का ध्यान आकृष्ट कराते हुए कहना है कि केन्द्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय द्वारा राज्य के राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के उन्नयन की दिशा में समुचित कार्रवाई की जाए ताकि राज्य का समुचित विकास संभव हो सके।

Demand to strictly observe the V.I.P. Security norms during the air journeys

श्री राम नारायण साहु (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदन का ध्यान हवाई यात्रा के समय वी.आई.पी. सुरक्षा की अनदेखी की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। मात्र 10 माह में दो बार महामहिम राष्ट्रपति महोदय का हेलीकॉप्टर दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होते-होते बाल-बाल बचा। एक बार मुम्बई एयरपोर्ट पर राष्ट्रपति महोदय का विमान यात्री विमान से टकराने से बचा तो दोबारा भुवनेश्वर हवाई अड्डे पर हेलीकॉप्टर हैंगर की छत से टकरा कर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया। कल सुबह ही माननीय प्रधान मंत्री के विमान से एयरपोर्ट की ट्रॉली टकरा गई, जिससे प्रधान मंत्री की यात्रा विलम्बित हुई और दूसरा विमान बदलना पड़ा। यह दुर्भाग्य है कि हवाई यात्राओं में हादसों की श्रृंखला बनती जा रही है और सरकार मौन दृष्टि बन कर देख रही है। कुछ दिन पूर्व ही आन्ध्र प्रदेश के अत्यंत जन प्रिय नेता एवं मुख्य मंत्री श्री राजशेखर रेड्डी सहित 5 लोगों की मृत्यु हेलीकॉप्टर हादसे में ही हुई थी। यदि इन सभी हादसों को देखें, तो कहीं भी तकनीकी खराबी दिखाई नहीं देती, बल्कि मानवीय भूल या सुरक्षा मानकों की अनदेखी झलकती है। हवाई यात्रा के दौरान वी.आई.पी. सुरक्षा के प्रति गैर-जिम्मेदाराना कार्यशैली एक गंभीर मामला है।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह मामलों की जांच कराने के साथ ही सुरक्षा मानकों को कड़ाई से लागू कराए। किन्हीं परिस्थितियों में सुरक्षा मानकों की अनदेखी, जैसे वी.आई.पी. के दबाववश हेलीकॉप्टर ओवर लोड न करें। यदि मौसम खराब हो या विजिबिलिटी कम हो, तो वी.आई.पी. की जान जोखिम में डालकर हेलीकॉप्टर को उतारने का दबाव न बनाया जाए तथा एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल के निर्देशों का कड़ाई से पालन किया जाए, क्योंकि वी.आई.पी. सुरक्षा के बारे में किसी प्रकार की कोताही नहीं होनी चाहिए, वह भी राष्ट्रपति या प्रधान मंत्री जैसे वी.आई.पी.जी. की। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह इन प्रकरणों को गंभीरता से लेते हुए सुरक्षा मानकों को पूर्ण रूप से लागू करें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): 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.