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RAJYA SABHA  
OFFICIAL REPORT  
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RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 5th March, 2010/14th Phalgun, 1931 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION**

**Acquisition of urea producing units by KRIBHCO**

\*121. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) had acquired the urea producing fertilizer units at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh from a private company, through a Joint Venture;

(b) if so, the year and the cost of acquisition;

(c) the net profit earned (after payment of tax) after acquisition by the Joint Venture Company, year-wise;

(d) the share of the profit accrued to KRIBHCO during these years; and

(e) whether the acquisition price has already been recovered?

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

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir. The urea-ammonia plant of M/s. Oswal Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (OCFL) at Shahjahanpur was acquired by M/s. KRIBHCO Shyam Fertilizer Limited (KSFL), a Joint Venture Company, between KRIBHCO and Shyam Basic Infrastructure Ltd. in which KRIBHCO holds majority share.

(b) KSFL took over the Shahjahanpur Plant of OCFL *w.e.f.* 18th January, 2006. The fixed assets of the said plant were acquired at a consideration of Rs. 1900 crore which was financed with a debt equity ratio of 2:1.

(c) The net profit earned (after payment of tax) after acquisition by the JV company year-wise is given as under:—

(Rs. crore)

Description	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Net Profit (after payment of tax)	3.41	3.76	0.57	-(39.87)

(d) and (e) It was envisaged at the time of acquisition that profits to KRIBHCO/dividends will accrue only after the first few years of operations. Accordingly, neither any profit has accrued to KRIBHCO during these years nor recovery of acquisition price has taken place.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my point is that it has been stated that the Oswal Chemical and Fertilizers Limited was taken over by KRIBHCO for a consideration of its assets valuation at Rs. 1,900 crores. My point is that when the Government sells the property it does not go for this assets valuation. It goes for discounted cash flow or some other method on the plea that it is a running company and it should not be on assets valuation method. Now, when the Government is purchasing a private property it purchases the property on assets valuation method and that is why a Rs. 700 or Rs. 800 crore valued company, at that time, would have purchased for Rs. 1,900 crores. My first question is this. Why is this contradictory approach? When the Government purchases, the price is jacked up, and when the Government sells and the private party purchases the price decreases causing serious loss to the exchequer. Why is this contradiction in the Government policy? Why is this assets valuation chosen in this case although the company's overall performance, at that time, could not fetch more than Rs. 800 crores? I would like to know whether due diligence has been exercised and the issues were properly scrutinised to avoid this contradiction.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, as you know, this is not Government acquisition. This is a cooperative. Under their law they preferred to go in for acquisition.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, Government is the main shareholder. You are speaking in the House.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The Government is a stakeholder. As you know, these multi-State cooperatives are governed by their own bye-laws. Under their bye-laws it has been settled that the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies would give directions and the cooperative societies are free to acquire as per the decision of the Board and the general body. They appointed a valuator, M/s. Edelweiss Capital Ltd., and on the basis of its recommendation they went for acquisition.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: In his reply, he has stated that after all KRIBHCO is a cooperative, but the Government is a major shareholder. So, whatever is the decision, the Government is a party to that because without the Government's consent, the Board can't take any decision. The whole responsibility rests on the management, because of the over-valued sale and the loss to the Government exchequer.

My second point is that your reply says that it could not yet recover the cost of acquisition. So, what is the time-bound programme to ensure that it is developed after this? When the OCFL was taken over by the KRIBHCO, why are OCFL workers discriminated in terms of wages and

salaries *vis-a-vis* the workers of KRIBHCO creating a serious unrest in the plant and disturbing productivity?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, so far as the workers' issue is concerned, that aspect was not mentioned in the question. It is a separate company. KRIBHCO is a major stakeholder but it is a joint venture company. If you want any specific details about the workers, I will certainly provide it.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, we have come across a number of deals between two private parties, two owners purchasing, selling, etc. In a matter like this, will the Government have any mechanism to check malpractices and evasion of income tax or other taxes? What I am trying to say is this. Will the Government have a mechanism, a fool-proof mechanism, to check the evasion of income-tax or other taxes in a deal between two private parties?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, so far as income tax and other related issues are concerned, in fact, if any violation or aberration takes place anywhere, the concerned Ministry or the concerned Department takes notice of it and then takes appropriate action on that.

#### **Remunerative price for potato growers**

\*122. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of potato have fallen to Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per kg. in the wholesale markets when the crop of potato is ready with farmers for sale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that cost of production of potato lies at least between Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per kg. and poor farmers are compelled to sell their product at less than their cost of production; and

(d) the steps Government will take so that farmers can sell their potato at a rate higher than their production cost?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) to (d) Data for potato wholesale market prices collected by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation does not indicate potato prices falling to Re. 1/- to Rs. 2/- per kg in the last one year. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of various horticultural commodities including potatoes, generally perishable in nature and not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme. The cost of production of potato varies from region to

region. However, to avoid a situation of distress sale by the farmers, the State/UT Governments send requests to Government of India for intervention under MIS. No proposal has been received from any State Government in this regard.

**श्रीमती कुसुम राय:** महोदय, पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में इस साल आलू की पैदावार अच्छी होने से आलू की आमद जनवरी और फरवरी में बढ़ गई है और किसान एक से दो रुपये प्रति किलो थोक में अपना आलू बेच रहा है।

महोदय, इस देश की विडम्बना है कि किसान द्वारा उत्पादित आलू जब दलालों और जमाखोरों तक पहुंच जाता है, तो वही आलू बनावटी कमी पैदा करके 20 से 25 रुपये प्रति किलो में बेचा जाता है और किसान द्वारा बेचे गए मूल्य का 10 से 15 गुना मुनाफा वसूला जाता है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगी कि इस स्थिति में सरकार आलू किसानों की दशा, जो आज ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी के शासन से भी खराब है, उसको सुधारने के लिए कौन से प्रभावी कदम उठाएगी?

**श्री शरद पवार:** यह बात सच है कि आलू की कीमत नीचे आई है और substantial नीचे आई है, लेकिन जैसा आपके द्वारा कहा गया है, उतनी नीचे नहीं आई है। जहां तक वेस्ट बंगाल की बात है, 10 फरवरी को वेस्ट बंगाल में the retail sale of potato was Rs. 4.50/- per kilo. यही आलू सितम्बर में 19 रुपये किलो, अक्तूबर में 20 रुपये किलो और नवम्बर-दिसम्बर में 18 रुपये किलो था। यह बात सच है कि आज रेट 20 से यहां तक आ गया है। इसके लिए एक ही रास्ता है। इसके लिए भारत सरकार की एक स्कीम है — Market Intervention Scheme. If the State Government is ready to accept the idea to share 50 per cent losses, then the remaining 50 per cent losses would be borne by the Government of India. The Government of India will depute NAFED to purchase from the open market in order to protect the interests of the farmers. But for that purpose, we require a request from the State Government. Till today, we have not received any request. If any State Government, whether the West Bengal Government or the Uttar Pradesh Government, sends this type of request, we will definitely start purchasing and support the farmers. Secondly, I have received a request letter from the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal saying that for the last three-four years, there were conscious efforts to establish themselves in the South East Asia market and that they were supplying potato regularly to the South East Asia Market. It is not very easy because Australia is sending, Brazil is sending, America is sending and their cost of production is less as compared to India. In such a situation, in the last three-four years, the Government of India was helping the farmers of West Bengal and providing subsidy just to reduce the transport cost. The Government of India has borne some of the burden. I have received a letter from the hon. Chief Minister. As per his own assessment, there will be glut of potato in the State and in such a situation he wants to export quite a big quantity to South East Asia and he wants that the Government of India should support them financially and if possible, the Government of India should also try to acquire some of the refrigerator containers which can protect potato. These two suggestions are there. We are going to take a decision on the second suggestion made by the hon. Chief Minister.

**श्रीमती कुसुम राय:** सर, मेरा सीधा-सा सवाल था कि आलू किसानों की जो खराब दशा है, उसको सुधारने के लिए सरकार कौन से प्रभावी कदम उठा रही है? हम उसका जवाब चाहते हैं।

**श्री सभापति:** आप अपना दूसरा सवाल पूछिए।

**श्रीमती कुसुम राय:** सर, अभी तो मेरे पहले सवाल का ही उत्तर नहीं आया है।

**श्री सभापति:** आपका दूसरा सवाल क्या है?

**श्रीमती कुसुम राय:** सर, मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि माननीय मंत्री जी कृषि मंत्रालय के साथ-साथ खाद्य मंत्रालय के भी मंत्री हैं। क्या मंत्री जी किसानों को आलू तथा अन्य सब्जियों के समुचित भंडारण के लिए कोल्ड स्टोरेज की पर्याप्त सुविधा मुहैया कराएँगे और क्या सरकार किसानों से सब्जियों की खरीद सुनिश्चित करेगी? यदि हाँ, तो उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्ध में इसका क्या ब्योरा है और यदि यह नहीं है तो उसका क्या कारण है?

**श्री शरद पवार:** सर, जब कोई राज्य सरकार अपने राज्य में कोल्ड स्टोरेज बनाने के लिए प्रस्ताव देती है तो उसमें उसकी मदद करने के लिए Horticulture Mission में एक स्कीम है। हमारी ओर से इस तरह की मदद करने की तैयारी हमेशा रहती है। इस साल देश में कई राज्यों से इस तरह के proposals आए और इनको स्वीकार किया गया। Now, to tell you; during the year 2009-10, we had decided to set up 45 cold storages. But, actually, we set up 157. So, we have crossed the target. Therefore, if there is any such proposal from the Uttar Pradesh Government, then, under the Horticulture Mission, we will, certainly, be happy to consider it.

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:** सभापति महोदय, विडम्बना यह है कि केवल आलू ही नहीं, आलू की तो हम अभी चर्चा कर रहे हैं, बल्कि जितने भी कृषि उत्पाद हैं एक तरफ तो उनकी वाजिब कीमत किसान को नहीं मिल रही है और दूसरी तरफ जो उपभोक्ता है, उसको वे चीज़ें जरूरत से ज्यादा महँगी मिल रही हैं। इस प्रकार दोनों का शोषण हो रहा है। इसका मुख्य कारण, मूल कारण, यह है कि जो बिचौलिया है, बीच का आदमी है, वह सबसे बड़ा मुनाफाखोर है और वही इनकी कीमतें सबसे ज्यादा बढ़ाता है।...(व्यवधान)... सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब कृषि-उत्पाद की वाजिब कीमत किसान को न मिलती हो और बाजार में उपभोक्ता को उसकी कीमत कई गुनी ज्यादा देनी पड़ती हो तो दोनों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने के लिए क्या कृषि मंत्रालय या खाद्य मंत्रालय इस मामले पर कोई ऐसी कानूनी व्यवस्था करेगा जिससे यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि मुनाफाखोर इस समस्या का लाभ लेकर उपभोक्ता और किसान दोनों का शोषण न कर सके? इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या करना चाहती है?

**श्री शरद पवार:** सर, जहाँ तक भारत सरकार या कृषि मंत्रालय या खाद्य मंत्रालय का सम्बन्ध है, इस देश में प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने के सम्बन्ध में इनकी जिम्मेदारी इसके लिए एक नीति तैयार करना, राज्य सरकार को इसमें मदद करना और वह किसानों तक जाएगा, इस पर ध्यान देना है। अपने देश में marketing के बारे में wholesale marketing की जब जिम्मेदारी आती है तब भारत सरकार कई जिम्मेदारियाँ लेती है। Market Intervention Scheme हो या Minimum Support Price देकर purchase करने के लिए कोई machinery खड़ी करनी हो, इसमें भारत सरकार की जिम्मेदारी जरूर रहती है और भारत सरकार इस पर ध्यान भी देती है। मगर, इस पर आगे retail sector तक अमल करना हो तो यह सब जिम्मेदारी, agriculture produce तो Marketing Act में आता है और the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है। भारत सरकार ने देश के सभी concerned ministers की मीटिंग बुलाई और APMC Act में कोई

सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है, इसका एक proposal सभी राज्य सरकारों को दिया, जिससे इन बिचौलियों को कंट्रोल करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को ज्यादा ताकत मिलेगी। देश में कई राज्यों ने इसमें कदम उठाए हैं मगर बहुत से राज्यों ने अभी तक इसमें कदम नहीं उठाए हैं। हम उनको बार-बार लिख रहे हैं कि इसमें कुछ करने की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि जब तक हम retail sector पर ध्यान नहीं देते तब तक हम उपभोक्ता के हितों की रक्षा नहीं कर सकते।

यह बात सच है, जैसा यहाँ माननीय सदस्य ने बताया, कि एक तरह से उत्पादन करने वाला जो किसान है उसको ठीक तरह से कीमत नहीं मिलती और जो उपभोक्ता है उसको भी उचित कीमत पर वह माल नहीं मिलता। अगर इसमें कोई रास्ता निकालना हो तो एक बात पक्की है कि किसानों को ठीक कीमत देने के लिए जहाँ राज्य सरकार हमारे सामने प्रस्ताव लाएगी, वहीं उसको खरीद करने के बंदोबस्त करने की हमारी तैयारी है। इसके साथ-साथ रिटेल सेक्टर पर ध्यान देकर बिचौलियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कदम उठाने की जिम्मेदारी APMC और राज्य सरकार की है। उनको इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the question asked is in the interest of farmers. I remember the hon. Minister said two days ago, while replying to the debate in the House, that the price of potato was Rs. 2 per kilo. Today, he is saying it is Rs. 4 per kilo. I would like to know why there is this difference. Secondly, I am also interested in knowing how you arrive at the cost of production of an article.

**श्री शरद पवार:** जहाँ तक कीमत का संबंध है, यह हर मंडी में अलग-अलग तरह की है। उत्तर प्रदेश में इसकी कीमत नीचे गयी थी, इस तरह की रिपोर्ट है। जैसा मैंने कहा कि कहीं-कहीं कीमत 5 रुपये किलो है। For instance, at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 5 per kilo; at Bhubaneswar in Orissa, it is Rs. 6 per kilo and so on. This is the retail price. But the farmer is getting much less than the retail price. He always gets a price much less than the retail price. So, when it is being sold at Rs. 5 per kilo in retail, it means that the farmer may not be getting more than two or three rupees per kilo. Now, coming to the other question that the hon. Member has raised regarding cost of cultivation, according to the information available, the cost of cultivation of potato varies from State to State. In Punjab, the cost of production is Rs. 2.49 per kg; in West Bengal, it is Rs. 3.56 per kg; in Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 2.74 per kg; in Jharkhand, it is Rs. 1.90 per kg. Thus, it varies from State to State. Now, which are the items you take into account to come to the conclusion about the price? we found that the value of hired human labour, hired bullock labour, own bullock labour, own machinery labour, hired machinery charges, seeds owned and purchased, insecticides and pesticides cost, manure, owned and purchased, fertilizers and their cost, depreciation of the implements and farm building, irrigation charges, land revenue, cess and other taxes, interest on working capital, interest on the value of owned fixed capital assets including land and rental value of their own land and imputed value of family labour. These are the items. इस तरह वह कीमत तय करने के लिए यह एक procedure हो सकता है।

**श्री कमाल अख्तर:** सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की किसान विरोधी नीति के कारण देश का किसान अपने उत्पादन से कम लागत पर आलू और प्याज बेचने को



मजबूर है। अभी चतुर्वेदी जी ने पूछा, जब आलू और प्याज का उत्पादन किसान के पास होता है तब तो इनकी कीमत कम होती है, लेकिन जब ये बिचौलियों और जमाखोरों के पास पहुँच जाते हैं तो इनकी कीमत आसमान छूने लगती है। तमाम विरोधों के बावजूद ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** आप सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री कमाल अख्तर:** मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ सर। यूरिया और डीजल के दाम सरकार ने बढ़ा दिये। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूँगा कि क्या सरकार गरीब किसानों की आलू और प्याज की बढ़ती हुई उत्पादन लागत को दोगुना करने पर विचार कर रही है जिससे चमकते और तड़पते भारत को दूरी को कम किया जा सके और गरीब किसानों को आत्महत्या करने से रोका जा सके?

**श्री शरद पवार:** किसानों की लूट होने की जो शिकायत है, उससे बचने का एक ही रास्ता है कि भारत सरकार और राज्य सरकार मिल कर वहाँ खरीद शुरू करें। भारत सरकार खरीद करने के लिए तैयार है, मगर राज्य सरकारों का proposal आने की आवश्यकता है। जहाँ आलू का उत्पादन होता है, उन सभी राज्य सरकारों को हमने 3 मार्च को लिखा है कि इस बारे में मार्केट में आलू के दाम नीचे जा रहे हैं.. और ऐसी स्थिति में अपने राज्य में खरीद करने का बंदोबस्त करने की आवश्यकता है और इसमें भारत सरकार सहयोग देने के लिए और 50% तक नुकसान सहन करने के लिए तैयार है, आप प्रपोज़ल भेजिए, लेकिन अभी तक प्रपोज़ल मेरे पास आया नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question No. 123.

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी :** सर, क्या न्यूनतम मूल्य और अधिकतम मूल्य ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. You have asked your question. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री कमाल अख्तर :** राज्य सरकारों का बहाना कब तक चलाएंगे? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, it is not the way. You have asked your question. ...(Interruptions)... I am afraid, you cannot have a second supplementary. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी :** \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is not recorded. Question No. 123.

#### **Import cost and subsidy outgo for urea**

\*123. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of urea produced indigenously and quantity of urea imported since 2003, year-wise;

(b) the average import cost of urea since 2003, year-wise; and

(c) the total subsidy outgo for indigenous and imported urea since 2003, year-wise?

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

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\*Not recorded.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The year-wise details of urea produced indigenously, urea imported and average import cost of urea since 2003-2004 is given below:—

Year	Indigenous Production Qty. in lakh MT	Imports Qty. in lakh MT			Weighted Average C&F price of imported urea in US \$ per MT	
		From Oman	Through STEs **	Total	From Oman	Through STEs **
2003-04	192.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2004-05	202.63	0.00	6.41	6.41	0.00	237.88
2005-06	200.98	13.25	7.32	20.57	155.23	258.56
2006-07	203.09	18.37	28.82	47.19	168.66	248.85
2007-08	198.58	18.91	50.37	69.28	180.10	344.20
2008-09	199.22	19.06	37.61	56.67	232.79	524.41
2009-10 upto Jan. 10	178.26	17.41	31.25	48.66	168.10	276.96

\*\*

(c) The year-wise total subsidy outgo for indigenous and imported urea since 2003-2004 is as under:—

Year	Amount of subsidy on urea (Rupees in crore)		
	Indigenous urea	Imported urea (Gross)	Total
2003-2004	8521.00	0.82	8521.82
2004-2005	10243.15	742.37	10985.52
2005-2006	10652.57	2140.88	12793.45
2006-2007	12650.37	5071.06	17721.43
2007-2008	16450.37*	9934.99	26385.36
2008-2009	20968.74*	12971.18	33939.92
2009-2010 upto Jan. 10	13588.84	6103.40	19692.24

\*includes bonds of Rs. 3500 crore in 2007-08 and Rs. 3000 crore in 2008-09.

\*\*STEs - State Trading Enterprises.

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : सर, मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया है, उसमें फर्टिलाइजर की कीमतों के सिलसिले में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इम्पोर्ट पेरिटी के बेसिस पर कीमतें तय करना चाहती है?

† شری محمد امین : سر، منتری جی نے جواب دیا، اس میں فرٹیلانزر کی قیمتوں کے سلسلے میں، میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا سرکار امپورٹ پیریٹی کے بیس پر قیمتیں طے کرنا چاہتی ہے؟

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : कृपया प्रश्न दोबारा बोलेंगे।

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : आप जो फर्टिलाइजर की कीमतें देते हैं, वे क्या इम्पोर्ट पेरिटी के बेसिस पर तय करना चाहते हैं?

† شری محمد امین : آپ جو فرٹیلانزر کی قیمتیں دیتے ہیں، وہ کیا امپورٹ پیریٹی کے بیس پر طے کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सर, जो इम्पोर्ट हो रहा है, यूरिया और दूसरा फर्टिलाइजर, उस पर हम इम्पोर्ट पेरिटी देते हैं।

† شری محمد امین : اس سے تو indigenous پیداوار مار کھا جائے گی۔ میرا دوسرا سوال یہ ہے کہ ہم لوگ فرٹیلانزر باہر سے مانگ رہے ہیں جبکہ ہندوستان میں سات کارخانے بند ہیں، اگر یہ کارخانے کھل جائیں تو اس سے ہم کو indigenous فرٹیلانزر بھی ملے گا اور جو کئی ہزار مزدور بے روزگار ہیں، ان کو روزگار بھی ملے گا۔ تو سرکار ان کارخانوں کو کھلوانے کی طرف کیا قدم اٹھا رہی ہے؟

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : इससे तो indigenous पैदावार मार खा जाएगी।

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि हम लोग फर्टिलाइजर बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं जबकि हिन्दुस्तान में सात कारखाने बंद हैं, अगर ये कारखाने खुल जाएं तो इससे हमको indigenous फर्टिलाइजर भी मिलेगा और जो कई हजार मजदूर बेरोजगार हैं, उनको रोजगार भी मिलेगा। तो सरकार उन कारखानों को खुलवाने की तरफ क्या कदम उठा रही है?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, though this is not a part of this question, but I would like to say that the Government has taken initiative; the Cabinet has already taken a decision for the revival of projects. The final view would be taken by the Cabinet which is viable; in which route the plants can be revived, that is also under consideration of the Government.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, in his reply, the Minister has said that the indigenous production of urea is lessened year by year. In 2003, it was 192.03 lakh MT, in 2006-07 it increased to 203.09 lakh MT. In 2009-10, it becomes 178.26 lakh MT. Indigenous production is less because there is no proper planning. Sir, in my own

† [Transliteration in Urdu Script].

own State, there is Namroop Fertilizer Plant. There are three units and they are all old units, there is no modernization plan. The Ministry has already proposed to establish the fourth unit. But, there is no modernization and no planning. How can the production of indigenous urea go up? I would like to have a specific reply from the Minister whether the Government would do a proper planning and modernization of the old plants.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, the Government has already taken the initiative and incentive also has been given to the plants who are trying to convert from Naphtha-based to gas-based. On the basis of that, the production has increased. So far as Namroop is concerned, the three units are not running satisfactorily and the Government too is seriously considering to go in for the fourth unit instead of having units which cannot be revived at this stage now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya, do not intervene. Shri Tiruchi Siva.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, the Minister is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not intervene, Dr. Maitreyan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, we appreciate that the MoS is a knowledgeable Minister. But the Cabinet Minister is absent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not intervene. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, Dr. Maitreyan.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I seek your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, protection for something unusual is not given.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, the MoS can answer. ...*(Interruptions)*... All Ministers are equal. ...*(Interruptions)*... He cannot compel.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Some are more equal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Siva, please go ahead. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Maitreyan, please.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: MoS can reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot frame new rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... As per the data given by the Minister, Sir, the subsidy given to imported urea, when compared to the indigenous urea, is double the amount. For example, if it is Rs. 50 crores for one lakh metric tonnes, it is Rs. 100 crores for imported urea. As my colleague asked, I would also like to ask the Minister that when they have plans to revive the sick units and encouraging new conversions, whether there is any timeframe to increase the indigenous production and lessen the burden of importing urea and giving more subsidy on that imported urea.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, exactly, that is the intention of the Government to revive the sick units and also to strengthen the existing units so that they can run in optimum capacity. On the basis of that, the Government has taken initiative and decision has been taken in this direction

and, probably, the revival of the closed units is under the consideration of the Government and the Government may take a final view soon.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I find that in seven years the production is static. This is a very serious matter because no industry can survive particularly when the demand is going up and we want agricultural revolution and all that and we know production in every field is going down. Urea is the most important nutrient for increasing productivity. Now, one side is that the production is not increasing. The second is, the imports are, I find, one is from Oman and another is STE. The STE is importing double the quantity and the rates are two-and-a-half times more. Can you not get from Oman more quantity and why do you have to import through ST and pay more than double? Can the Minister explain, please?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, the Oman unit is a joint venture unit and the price has been well settled right from the beginning and the quantity is also fixed. Therefore, that way it is not possible. They cannot give more than the quantity that has been agreed upon with them and whatever is the other import from other countries, it is determined by the market price. On the basis of this market price, the subsidy is also determined because the urea MRP has not been changed. Therefore, the subsidy part is increased automatically from when the international price of import is hiked.

#### **National Higher Education Finance Corporation**

\*124. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to give impetus to educational reforms, Government is planning to set up National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC);

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

(c) what will be the role of NHEFC for technical institutes, universities and schools once it is operational?

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

#### ***Statement***

(a) to (c) A proposal for the establishment of National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) is under consideration, which aims at providing loans for infrastructure development and expansion of educational institutions, as well as refinance facility for educational student loans.

**श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह :** सभापति जी, सरकार एक राष्ट्रीय उच्च शिक्षा वित्त निगम की स्थापना करने जा रही है। मैं इस विषय में मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस संस्थान की authorized share capital क्या होगी और क्या यह संस्थान non-recognized संस्थानों एवं विद्यालयों को सहायता उपलब्ध

कराएगा या केवल UGC मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालयों को सहायता उपलब्ध कराएगा, कृपया विस्तार से बताएं।

**श्री कपिल सिब्बल :** सभापति जी, अभी सरकार ने कोई ऐसा निर्णय नहीं लिया है कि Education Finance Corporation स्थापित किया जाए। आज के दिन में यह केवल proposal की stage पर है और इस पर सरकार में बातचीत चल रही है, हम प्लानिंग कमीशन से बातचीत कर रहे हैं और यह proposal अभी पूरी तरह से freeze नहीं किया गया है, लेकिन आपने जो सवाल पूछा है, उसके संदर्भ में मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि अगर Education Finance Corporation स्थापित होगा, तो हमारी सोच यह है कि आज के दिन जो पैसा education sector में लगना चाहिए और जितना पैसा उपलब्ध है, वह काफी नहीं है, क्योंकि चाहे वे Private Educational Institutions हों या Aided Institutions हों या Government Institutions हों, जो पैसा educational infrastructure के लिए जरूरी है, वह उपलब्ध नहीं है। अगर Education Finance Corporation बनेगा, तो हमारी सोच यह होगी कि सभी sectors को उस finance की जरूरत होगी और सभी sectors को वह access होनी चाहिए।

**श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह :** महोदय, इस देश में कई विद्यालय और तकनीकी संस्थाएं बगैर एआईसीटीई या यूजीसी मान्यता पर चल रही हैं और इनकी डिग्रियों को न तो सरकारी संस्थाएं मान्यता देती हैं और न ही अच्छे गैर-सरकारी offices इनकी डिग्रियों को मानती हैं। बच्चों के लाखों रुपए बर्बाद हो रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह जो इस वित्त निगम की, संसद बिल के तहत स्थापना कर रहे हैं, उसमें गैर मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालयों और विद्यालयों के बारे में कुछ विचार किया है? और यदि नहीं किया है, तो इसका क्या कारण है?

**श्री कपिल सिब्बल :** जहां तक recognition का सवाल है, it has nothing to do with the Educational Finance Corporation. जहां तक recognition का सवाल है, यह तो एआईसीटीई करती है या यूजीसी करती है। उसमें finance का कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। अगर recognised institution है, तो finance जरूर मिलेगा और अगर recognised नहीं है, तो कैसे finance मिलेगा।

SHRI P. RAJEEV: I would like to know whether the proposed new mechanism would replace UGC and if so, whether education is a subject under the Concurrent List. Has the Central Government made proper consultations with the State Governments before implementing or planning new proposals as per this?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I might just clarify. This has nothing to do with the UGC. Let me explain what the purpose of an Educational Finance Corporation is. At the moment, Sir, under the present policy framework if you want to set up an institution there is no Government agency that can finance you. So, there is no access to finance to setting up a new educational institution. So, he will have to go to the bank to actually get financing from the bank at the lending commercial rate. Now, human resource development is not considered as infrastructure development and the Supreme Court has said that this is charity, this is for public service. So, an activity which is for public service has to borrow if he wants to set up an educational institution at commercial rates. But, an activity which is in the infrastructure sector, namely

physical infrastructure, you can borrow at softer rates because that is priority sector. So, what the policy framework within which we are working is, that anybody who wants to set up an educational institution should have access to finance. That is the first purpose. This has nothing to do with UGC. Secondly, if you set up an educational institution, under the present guidelines you will get grants from the UGC or from the Government or under schemes of the Government only when you have achieved certain milestones. Now, in the meantime if you want to enhance your infrastructure — and nowadays, with research and development expanding exponentially — you need new capital investment. There is no way that you can get finance. You have to cross many milestones. So, when we set up an educational finance corporation, our objective is that anybody who wants to set up an educational institution should have free access to finance as a priority lending sector. What happens is, when you call it charity, State Government control fees. Once it is charity, State Government control fees and they cannot increase fees in their institutions. Many of them do the kind of practices that they are doing and that is the root cause of the problem. When they will have free access to finance and every child has free access to a loan why will he need to sell the family silver to enter into an educational institution? So, I think it is the need of the hour and I would request you to give me suggestions as to how we must move forward because unless we build that infrastructure and capital we will not be able to move forward.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, it is a very welcome measure that this Government is planning to set up a National Higher Education Finance Corporation. Just now the Minister said that it is very difficult for institutions to get loans at softer interest. It is very important. In his reply he said, 'under consideration'. It is a very normal, vague reply of the Government. I would like to get a categorical reply. When is he going to set up and how is he going to plan for it and how is he going to help the universities and also the educational institutions and other universities? So, I would like to know what is going to be the role of the corporation. He must come up with a time frame and commitment.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in fact, in reply to his first query, I made it clear that this in the form of a proposal. It is not a decision of the Government yet. We are moving forward with this proposal. My Ministry is extremely keen in that proposal and I want the support of the House, because unless we move forward in this direction I don't think we will solve the problems of access. Remember, Sir, we want to improve our GER. At present, out of every 100 children who go to school in India, only 12 per cent reach colleges and 88 per cent do not reach college. We want to improve our GER Ratio to 30 per cent. In any developed country, 40 per cent of every 100 children reach college. Sir, it is 6 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa. In India, it is 12 per cent. The global average is 23 per cent. Are we not doing a great injustice to our children? We want our GER Ratio 30 per cent by 2020. How will we increase it? We will increase it only if you have access to finance...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Increase your Budgetary allocation...(Interruptions)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, एच.आर.डी. मंत्री गुस्से में आए हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, do not intervene...(Interruptions)...पाणि जी, बैठ जाइए प्लीज़...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Therefore, Sir, as I said, this is in the form of a proposal in our Ministry. We are very serious about it and we hope that the Government will finally take a decision in favour of this proposal.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सेंट्रल स्कूल में admission का quota कब बढ़ाएंगे?

श्री सभापति : पाणि जी, प्लीज़...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है। जो Education Loan बैंक से मिलता है, तो क्या आप बैंक को allocation देते हैं, उनको quota देते हैं कि इतना दीजिए या बैंक को अपने कॉमर्शियल रेट पर वह देना होता है, मेरा यही सवाल है।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this is the whole point. The proposal is that anybody — under privileged or privileged — who wants a loan for setting up of an educational institution or if any child who wants to go to an educational institution where the fees are high should have access to a loan. There can be no discrimination between one and another. That is our policy. And, Sir, the rate of interest, hopefully, when the proposal goes through, will be priority lending sector rate.

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Sir, that is not my question. My question is...

श्री सभापति : हो गया। Now, Question No. 125.

#### **Quality of education in foreign university centres**

\*125. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign universities which have been allowed or given permission to set up centres in the country;

(b) whether there is any process to check and ensure the quality of education in these institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route is permitted in the Education Sector since 11th February, 2000, without the authority to confer foreign degrees.



At present, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, for entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions, imparting technical education in India and seven collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions have been registered by AICTE under the said regulations.

A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has stated that a legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India is under consideration of the Government. Sir, the hon. President's Address before the commencement of the current Budget Session also stated that the Bill known as the Foreign Education Providers (Regulation) Bill is going to be introduced very soon. Sir, we are aware that once this Bill is introduced, it will allow foreigners to set up independent colleges which will be treated as deemed universities offering independent degrees without having to seek affiliation from an Indian university or tie partnership with others. This means, the introduction of this Bill...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: I am coming to that.

The Bill received very well in many parts of the country, particularly in the North-Eastern States and my own State of Meghalaya which I represent here. However, my question is, when the Bill is moved for consideration, will the Government ensure or direct or ask the foreign universities, which would set up their campuses in India, to set up their university campuses not only in the Metropolitan cities but also in places like the North-Eastern Region...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't make a statement. Put your supplementary.

SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: My supplementary is, whether the Government will ask or direct the foreign universities to set up their campuses not only in Metropolitan cities but also in the North-Eastern Region where the tribal people of North-East also avail such facilities.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, first of all, I would just like to inform the hon. Member that all the inter-Ministerial consultations are over and the matter is to go before the Cabinet very soon and it would not be fair for me to discuss the details of the Bill at this point of time. But, the broad parameters do not require us to direct any investors in this country who want to set up educational institutions as to where they should go and where they should not go. In fact, we do not give directions to anybody or any educational institution in this country. But, when the Government sets up educational institutions, we are aware of the paucity of such institutions in the North-Eastern States and the Government on its own will endeavour to ensure and strengthen the educational infrastructure in the North-Eastern Region. And, the Government, on its own, will endeavour to ensure and strengthen educational infrastructure in the North-Eastern Region.

SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Sir, considering the Indian socio-economic and cultural contacts, and to provide quality education to different sections of the society, whether the proposed Bill has any specific provisions to ensure that the foreign universities and other universities, in India, apply and follow the reservation policy.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The law of the Supreme Court, as of today, is that in the education institutions, which are private and unaided in this country, there is no reservation. *...(Interruptions)...* That is the law of the Supreme Court. And, we will not make foreign-education-providers any different. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: You have to amend the law. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Shri D. Raja. *...(Interruptions)...* You can express your views appropriately at the right time, but this is not the occasion. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, the answer says, “A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India is under consideration of the Government.” When that legislative proposal comes before us, we will see whether it is necessary or not. But there is a mention in the President’s Address that there is a paradigm shift in higher education. As per the Minister’s statement, I, so far, understand the paradigm shift means de-regulation, privatisation and commercialisation. And, the answer says that there are seven collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions. Having said that, my question is whether any study had been made on these collaborations. What is the experience? What is the impact on the equity, equal access to education and on the quality and contents of education?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that, in fact, this shift is not towards de-regulation, but the shift is towards regulator. At the moment, foreign education enterprises are in India, but are not regulated. They are collaborating with private universities without regulation. The purpose of the Foreign Education Providers’ Bill is, in fact, to regulate them. And, our intention is to set up, what is called, the National Accreditation Authority. The National Accreditation Authority Bill has been cleared by the Group of Ministers. It will be coming to Cabinet very soon. Once the National Accreditation Authority is set up all institutions, whether in India or outside India, which want to come into India will be subject to the national accreditation process. And, only an institution of quality will be allowed to enter the space of education in India to ensure that there are quality institutions that operate. As far as the eight universities are concerned, which you are talking about, yes, seven permissions have been given by the AICTE. And, those permissions have been given after due deliberations that they are institutions of quality. In fact, there are 69 institutions that are operating outside the AICTE framework. And, because of the fact that we have no regulation, we want to regulate them. So, it is a shift not from regulation to de-regulation, but from de-regulation to regulation.

SHRI D. RAJA: No; no, that is...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, no arguments please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. This is not the occasion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: You have not replied to my question: What is its impact on equity and equal access to education? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is equal access to education. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, this is not the occasion for an argument. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: You are not answering to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am answering it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Raja, resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not an occasion for an argument. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, it is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be a serious matter, but there is a procedure by which we discuss such matters. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid, this is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the occasion for it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, please allow Half-an-Hour Discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please move through appropriate procedure for it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Karimpuri. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी :** सर, मैं आदरणीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन संस्थाओं में शेडयूल्ड कास्ट्स, शेडयूल्ड ट्राइब्स और अदर बैकवर्ड क्लासेज के लिए रिजर्वेशन की पॉलिसी है? इसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने अभी बताया कि उसमें कुछ दिक्कत है। या उस दिक्कत को दूर करके आदरणीय मंत्री जी यह यकीन बनाएंगे कि इन संस्थानों में रिजर्वेशन की पॉलिसी को माना जाए, उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन किया जाए?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I made it clear that whatever law is applicable in the land to private unaided education providers will be available to foreign education providers also; they will not be treated any differently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri Raashid Alvi.

**श्री राशिद अल्वी :** सर, एजुकेशन आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता कामर्शियलाइज होती जा रही है। फॉरेन यूनिवर्सिटीज बनेंगी, आम आदमी का बच्चा फॉरेन यूनिवर्सिटी में नहीं जा पाएगा, क्या सरकार को आम आदमी के गरीब बच्चे की चिंता है कि वह किस तरह से पढ़ेगा ? सवाल पूछा गया है कि क्वालिटी ऑफ एजुकेशन के बारे में सरकार क्या सोच रही है। सर, फॉरेन यूनिवर्सिटीज को तो छोड़ दीजिए दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी के अंदर मिनिस्टर साहब को मालूम है या नहीं मालूम है कि इंडियन लैंग्वेजिज तक के टीचर्स नहीं हैं, पिछले 15 साल से यूनिवर्सिटी के अंदर उर्दू लैंग्वेज के प्रोफेसर की अपाइंटमेंट नहीं हो पा रही है।

**श्री सभापति :** आप सवाल पूछिए।

SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Where is the question of quality of education in foreign universities if we are unable to look after our own universities? And for the last 15 years... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI RAASHID ALVI: ...nobody is working in Urdu Department as a Professor of Urdu. I want to know whether the Minister has taken any action and whether it is in the knowledge of the Minister.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this question has nothing to do with foreign education providers, but, in any case, since the hon. Member has asked the question, on the one hand, the hon. Member tells me that we should allow the university system to function independently of Government, on the other hand, he has also asked a question whether I have looked into it and whether I am appointing Urdu teachers or not. Sir, I am aware of the fact that there is a paucity of Urdu teachers, and we are trying our very best to persuade the University to, in fact, have more teachers in Urdu in the University.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 126. *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Pany, please. *...(Interruptions)...*

**डा० प्रभाकर कोरे:** सर, मैं भी प्रश्न पूछना चाहता था। *...(व्यवधान)...* Sir, I come from an educational institution. Please allow me. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow your colleague to ask the next question. *...(Interruptions)...*

**डा० प्रभाकर कोरे:** सर, मैं प्रश्न पूछना चाहता था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Mr. Pany. *...(Interruptions)...* I am afraid, I cannot go beyond three supplementaries. Mr. Pany, please.

### **उड़ीसा में किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्या**

\*126. **श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अब उड़ीसा से भी किसानों द्वारा दुःखद आत्महत्याओं के समाचार केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास आने शुरू हो गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस संवेदनशील मुद्दे पर राज्य सरकार को कोई सलाह दी है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर राज्य सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ङ) सरकार द्वारा इस गंभीर मामले पर कब तक और कौन-कौन से प्रभावी कदम उठाये जाने का विचार है?

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

### **विवरण**

(क) से (ङ) राज्य सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि फसल क्षति, ऋणभार आदि के कारण किसानों के 41 कथित आत्महत्याओं के मामले 31.1.2010 तक हाल ही में मीडिया में सूचित किए गए हैं। उड़ीसा सरकार से इन कथित आत्महत्याओं पर कारण स्पष्ट करने का अनुरोध किया गया है। राज्य सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि कथित आत्महत्याओं के कई मामलों के लिए दर्ज अप्राकृतिक मृत्यु (यूडी) मामले राज्य पुलिस द्वारा जांच प्रक्रिया के अधीन हैं।

यद्यपि, कृषि कारणों से किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्या की पुष्टि सूचनाएं उड़ीसा सरकार से प्राप्त नहीं हुई है भारत सरकार द्वारा कृषि क्षेत्र से संबंधित सभी मामलों के समाधान के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाने और किसानों की स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा शुरू विभिन्न स्कीमों के तहत राज्य सरकारों के पास सामान्यतः शक्ति निहित होती है। राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना (आरकेवीवाई) के तहत स्कीमों/कार्यक्रमों को तैयार करने और कार्यान्वयन में निर्णय लेने की शक्ति राज्य सरकारों के पास विकेन्द्रीकृत कर दी गई है ताकि राज्यों द्वारा स्थानीय व्याप्त स्थितियों और अवस्थितियों के दृष्टिगत कार्यकलाप शुरू किए जा सकें। इसी प्रकार भारत सरकार की अन्य स्कीमों भी नियोजन और कार्यान्वयन में राज्यों की सहभागिता की परिकल्पना करती है। सूखे की स्थिति में जिसने खरीफ 2009 को प्रभावित किया, में राज्य सरकारों को किसानों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए जारी स्कीमों के अंतर्गत मौजूदा प्रावधानों का उपयोग करने की सलाह दी गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त आपदा राहत कोष और राष्ट्रीय आपदा आकस्मिकता कोष के अधीन उपलब्ध निधियों का प्रयोग भी राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सूखा उपशमन प्रयासों के लिए किया जा सकता है।

उड़ीसा सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि कृषि क्षेत्र की लाभप्रदता को बढ़ाने के लिए किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने हेतु कई पहलों की शुरुआत की गई है, जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ शामिल है — राज्य में सतत और उचित विकास को प्राप्त करने के लिए व्यापक रणनीति तैयार करने के लिए राज्य किसान आयोग का गठन, आर्थिक सहायता दर पर प्रमाणित बीजों का वितरण, ‘जालानिधि’ स्कीम के तहत लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना के लिए 50% राजसहायता प्रदान करना, बागवानी फसलों के तहत लगभग 32000 है0 भूमि का कवरेज, पनधारा विकास कार्यक्रम के तहत 64000 है0 भूमि का कवरेज और 8.62 लाख किसानों को 5% ब्याज दर पर खरीफ 2009 में 1407.82 करोड़ रु. के फसल ऋण का वितरण।

#### **Suicides by farmers in Orissa**

†\*126. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the reports of tragic suicides by farmers in Orissa also have started coming to the Central Government now;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has given any advice to the State Government on this sensitive issue;
- (d) if so, the State Government's reaction thereto; and
- (e) the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this serious matter and by when?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) to (e) The State Government has informed that forty one cases of alleged suicides by farmers due to crop loss, debt burden etc. have been reported in the media recently till 31.01.10. The Government of Orissa has been requested to elaborate upon reasons for these alleged suicides. The State Government has informed that Unnatural Death (UD) cases registered for many cases of alleged suicides are under investigation by the State Police.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Though confirmed reports of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons have not been received from the Government of Orissa, the State Governments have been generally vested with powers under various schemes launched by the Government of India to take effective steps to address all the issues pertaining to the agriculture sector and to ameliorate condition of farmers. Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), decision making power has been decentralized to the State Governments in formulation and implementation of the Schemes/Programmes, so that initiatives can be taken by the States keeping in view the locally prevalent conditions and situations. Similarly, other schemes of the Government of India also envisage participation of the States in planning and implementation. In the wake of the drought that has affected Kharif 2009, the State Governments have been advised to utilize the existing provisions under the ongoing schemes in order to address the problems faced by farmers. Moreover, funds available under the Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund can also be used for drought mitigation efforts.

The Government of Orissa has reported that for improving financial conditions of farmers to increase profitability of agriculture sector, a number of initiatives have been taken which *inter-alia* include constitution of State Farmers' Commission to work out a comprehensive strategy for achieving sustainable and equitable agricultural development in the State, distribution of certified seeds at subsidised rates, providing 50% subsidy for lift irrigation projects under 'Jalanidhi' Scheme, coverage of about 32000 ha. of land under horticulture crops, coverage of about 64000 ha. of land under watershed development programme and disbursement of crop loan of Rs. 1407.82 crore in Kharif 2009 @ 5% interest to 8.62 lakh farmers.

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। किसी भी मुद्दे पर आत्महत्या अत्यंत दुर्भाग्य का विषय है और विशेषकर किसानों की आत्महत्या सर्वाधिक दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण विषय है। कृषि मंत्री जी एक कद्दावर नेता हैं, वर्ष 2004 से ज्यादा किसानों द्वारा आत्म हत्या की जा रही है और यह बात उनके सिर से जा रही है।

**श्री सभापति:** सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, अभी वर्ष 2009 से उड़ीसा में किसानों की आत्महत्या शुरू हुई है और इसको राज्य सरकार मीडिया की रिपोर्ट कह रही है। यह वास्तविकता है..।

**श्री सभापति:** आप सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, यहां पर जो राज्य सरकार की तरफ से कहा गया है कि हम यह स्कीम करेंगे, यह संतोष प्रदान नहीं करती है। सर, अनाज का जो प्रोक्योरमेंट एफसीआई के द्वारा होना चाहिए, वह स्टेट में नहीं हो पाता है, इसके कारण किसान आत्महत्या करते हैं। क्या माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी राज्य सरकार से सम्पर्क करेंगे और उसको बतायेंगे कि एफसीआई के द्वारा ढंग से प्रोक्योरमेंट किया जाए?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

**श्री शरद पवार:** सभापति महोदय, जहां तक प्रोक्योरमेंट का सवाल है, देश में जितना भी धान, चावल मिलेगा, उसको खरीदने की पूरी तैयारी भारत सरकार ने की है, क्योंकि इसकी आवश्यकता है। आज तक हम हमेशा पंजाब, हरियाणा और वेस्टर्न यू0पी0 पर डिपेंड करते थे, मगर आजकल उड़ीसा, छत्तीसगढ़ और वेस्ट

बंगाल, ये तीन राज्य बड़े पैमाने पर सप्लाई करने के बारे में आगे आ रहे हैं। यह बात सच है कि मेरे पास कुछ शिकायतें आयीं कि उड़ीसा के कुछ जिलों में जो मिनीमम सपोर्ट प्राइस है, वह किसानों को नहीं मिलता है। वहां पर लोकल गवर्नमेंट के सहयोग से खरीदने की जो व्यवस्था है, उसमें सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है। मैंने व्यक्तिगत तौर पर राज्य सरकार से कॉन्टेक्ट किया और यह बतलाया कि यदि आपको एडवांस की आवश्यकता है, तो हम एडवांस देने के लिए भी तैयार हैं। आपको अन्य और कोई सुविधा चाहिए, तो हम वह सुविधा भी देने के लिए तैयार हैं, मगर मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस किसानों को मिलती रहे, यह स्थिति ठीक नहीं है। आज देश में हम और चावल की खरीद की कोशिश कर सकते हैं, क्योंकि इसकी आवश्यकता देश को है, इसलिए भारत सरकार आपको पूरी तरह से सहयोग देने के लिए तैयार है। आप प्रोक्योरमेंट ज्यादा बढ़ाइए। इससे दो-तीन साल पहले जिस तरह से प्रोक्योरमेंट होता था, उसमें सुधार हो गया है। जो माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं, उसमें सच्चाई है। इसको और दुरुस्त करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं फिर राज्य सरकार से कांटेक्ट करूंगा। यदि इनके सामने डिस्ट्रिक्ट की कोई समस्या है, तो यदि वे मुझे उन जिलों के नाम दे देंगे, तो वहां पर स्पेशल परवेज सेंटर खोलने की सूचना, मैं राज्य सरकार को देने के लिए तैयार हूं।

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, राजनीति का रंग ऐसा हो गया है कि मैं उड़ीसा में विपक्ष में बैठता हूं और केन्द्र में भी विपक्ष में हूं। सर, संयोग ऐसा है कि माननीय कृषि मंत्री देश के एक कद्दावर नेता हैं और यहां पर सरकार में हैं, वहां की राज्य सरकार, अपने को केन्द्र सरकार के विरोधी कहती है, लेकिन माननीय कृषि मंत्री का वहां की राज्य सरकार के साथ चुनाव पूर्व गठबंधन था, अर्थात् चुनावी तालमेल था। माननीय कृषि मंत्री यहां भी सरकार में हैं, वहां सरकार के सहयोगी हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** देखिए, समय कम है।

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, मैं जब कहता हूं, तो मेरे लिए समय कम होता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मेरा मुद्दा है कि राज्य सरकार की विफलता को केन्द्रीय स्तर पर cognizance में लिया गया है, इसीलिए मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं। सर, यह भुखमरी का सवाल है। आप जानते हैं कि KBK, कोरापुट बोलांगिर कालाहांडी के नाम से एक योजना नरसिम्हाराव जी के समय में शुरू हुई थी। KBK में बोलांगिर नामक एक जिला है, क्योंकि माननीय मंत्री जी ने स्पेसिफिक जिले का नाम कहने को कहा इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूं कि बोलांगिर एक जिला है और वहां पर खप्राखोल एक ब्लॉक है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, कृपा करके सुनिए। किसानों की आत्महत्या समान प्रकार की दर्दनाक कहानी है, जिसको अनाहार मृत्यु, हंगर डेथ कहते हैं। बोलांगिर जिले के खप्राखोल ब्लॉक के एक परिवार के पांच व्यक्तियों की हंगर डेथ हुई। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** आपका सवाल क्या है?

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि वहां पर किसानों की आत्महत्या हो रही है तथा वहां पर भयंकर गरीबी और भुखमरी है। राज्य सरकार कहती है कि ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** यह तो आपका बयान है, आप सवाल पूछिए?

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, मैं सवाल पर आता हूं।...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, राज्य सरकार कहती है कि वह एक फारमर्स कमीशन बैठाएगी, एक फारमर्स आयोग बनेगा। जब हमने राज्य सरकार से प्रार्थना की कि आप इसकी judicial inquiry कराइए, एक judicial commission बैठाइए, तो उसको नहीं माना है। केन्द्र की ओर से राज्य ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please cooperate, Sir. ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not an occasion for statement. I am afraid, I have to disallow this. I have to proceed to the next question. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** You will be surprised to know that people died due to hunger. It is a serious question. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is the question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Sir, the question is this ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, लोगों की मांग यह है कि जो किसान आत्महत्या और भुखमरी से मरते हैं, क्या सरकार इसके लिए कोई judicial commission बैठाएगी?

**श्री शरद पवार :** राज्य सरकार ने जो लिखा है कि Orissa High Court में इस सब्जेक्ट पर public interest litigation हुआ है और Orissa High Court ने इसको स्वीकार किया है, इसलिए यह मैटर *sub judice* हुआ है। हमें उड़ीसा सरकार ने यह इन्फोर्म किया है। जब मैटर *sub judice* हुआ है, तो हम इसमें कहां तक जा सकते हैं, यह हमें देखना होगा। यदि आवश्यकता हो, तो जा सकते हैं, राज्य सरकार को लिखने की मेरी तैयारी है।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, it is a matter of great concern that people are dying, farmers people are committing suicides and also there are starvation deaths in Orissa, in spite of the loan waiver scheme, Minimum Support Price and other schemes of the Government of India for workers and for farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, in spite of all these schemes, the farmers are not getting benefit. In Orissa, farmers are bound to sell paddy at Rs. 750/- per quintal. Would the hon. Minister assure this House that the Government would appoint a Commission at the national level and the State level, like the Women Commission, the Child Labour Commission and the SC and ST Commission? Will you appoint a permanent Commission at the national level and also at the State level to go into the problems of farmers and to see that the Central Government schemes are implemented properly?

**श्री शरद पवार:** सर, इसके लिए कमीशन Appoint करने की अभी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। समस्या क्या है, यह हमें मालूम है। यह शिकायत है कि वहां परचेज करने का प्रबंध नहीं होता है। कौन से सेंटर पर खरीद करने की आवश्यकता है, यदि इसकी इन्फॉर्मेशन मुझे मिलेगी तो हम एफ.सी.आई. का कहीं पर भी जाकर सेंटर खोलने के लिए तैयार हैं।

**श्री रामचन्द्र खूंटिया:** सर, वह सेंटर क्लोज हो गया...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, last year, this Government made a provision of Rs. 70,000 crores or so for waiving loans of farmers. As a result of which, Orissa also was benefited; the farmers of Orissa could get some relief out of it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether because of the loan waiver scheme, the rate of suicides has declined in a very big way.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, by and large, from the information that I am getting from other States, the situation seems to be better. मगर जहां तक उड़ीसा की बात है पिछले पांच सालों में उड़ीसा की तरफ से हमें लगातार यह इन्फॉर्मेशन मिलती थी कि हमारे स्टेट में श्युसाइड किस्म के केसेज नहीं हैं। यह जो इन्फॉर्मेशन हमें मिली है, यह क्वेश्चन मुझे 25 तारीख को मिला है और 26 तारीख को मेरे मंत्रालय से, मेरे दफ्तर की तरफ से राज्य सरकार को लिखा गया, बार-बार रिमाइंडर भी दिया है। हमें राज्य सरकार की



तरफ से कल रिप्लाइ आया कि हमारे यहां पर 43 केसेज न्यूजपेपर में रिपोर्ट हुए हैं। ये एग्रेसिव क्रिसेस से हुए हैं या अन्य कारणों से हुए हैं, इसकी जांच कर रहे हैं और जांच करने के बाद इसकी रिपोर्ट आपको देंगे। जहां तक इस राज्य की स्थिति है, इस राज्य ने कंसिस्टेंटली स्टैण्ड लिया था कि हमारे यहां ऐसा कुछ नहीं होता है, मगर ऐसी बात सामने आ रही है कि इस रिपोर्ट में और एक्जुअल परिस्थिति में फर्क है। यहां कुछ इश्यू खत्म हुए हैं, आज यह स्वीकार करने की परिस्थिति में मैं नहीं हूँ।

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Sir, the Minister has not replied to my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. श्री मंगल किसन।... (व्यवधान)... बहुत जल्दी से पूछ लीजिए।

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Sir, he has not replied to my question.

**श्री मंगल किसन:** सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि उड़ीसा से धान खरीदने के लिए फूड कॉर्पोरेशन ने क्या व्यवस्था की है? पिछले साल 2009 में कितना धान खरीदा गया है, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे?

**श्री शरद पवार:** मुझे सेपरेट नोटिस दीजिए, क्योंकि — his question does not relate to the subject. But, definitely, I am ready to supply this information to the hon. Member, if he gives me separate notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Availability of foodgrains

\*127. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the available stock of wheat and rice in the country at present;
- (b) the quantity of stock of wheat and rice which is considered to be enough from the food security point of view; and
- (c) whether Government has prepared any action plan for storage of adequate amount of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The stock in the Central Pool as on 31.1.2010 was 206.23 lakh tons of wheat and 256.58 lakh tons of rice. The current level of stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool is adequate to meet the requirement of foodgrains under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Scheme (OWS) at the existing level of allocations. It is more than the buffer stock required at 82 lakh tons of wheat and 118 lakh tons of rice as on 1.1.2010.

(c) The Government has prepared plans for storage of adequate amount of foodgrains. For creation of storage capacity for the long term, Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through Private Entrepreneurs under a 7 year guarantee.

### **Educational institutions being run purely for profit**

†\*128. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some private educational institutions, by resorting to education law, are being run in the country solely with the purpose of earning profit;
- (b) if so, the number of such educational institutions in the country;
- (c) whether details of such institutions have been collected by Government;
- (d) if so, whether Government is working to control such institutions; and
- (e) whether the education and future of youth has been hampered and is still being hampered by such educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) It has been stressed in National Policy on Education as well as in several judicial pronouncements that education is a not-for-profit activity and commercialization of education is to be avoided. Further, as per the UGC Act, 1956, the Commission has been empowered to take steps to ensure that no candidate secures admission to any course of study by reason of economic power and thereby prevents a more meritorious candidate from securing admission to such course of study. The UGC Act provides that no college shall accept, whether directly or indirectly, any payment otherwise than by way of fees; or any donation of gift (whether in cash or kind), from, or in relation to, any student in connection with his admission to, and prosecution of, any course of study. According to the information furnished by the UGC, the State Governments have constituted Committee for regulating admission and fee structure in respect of the private and self-financed colleges located in their respective jurisdiction.

All India Council for Technical Education have also formulated regulations for the purpose of charging of fee by technical institutions. As per these regulations State level fee committee have been constituted by the concerned State Governments which will prescribe fee to be charged by technical institutions and also monitor the implementation.

A legislative proposal for prohibiting unfair practices in higher education is under consideration of the Government.

### **Decline in agricultural productivity**

\*129. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the decreased agricultural productivity has become a concern;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the future action plan prepared so far to tackle such situation with the help of private people to improve the productivity of each item in future with proper budgetary allocation according to the demand of each State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Though overtime agriculture productivity of major crops has not decreased, low productivity in several parts of the country, particularly for food crops, is a matter of concern. National Food Security Mission has been launched in 2007 to specifically target the low productivity districts with an aim to obtain additional production of 20 million tonnes of rice, wheat and pulses by end of Eleventh plan. Similarly, Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana has also been launched for enhancing investments in agriculture sector which, *interalia*, will also lead to productivity enhancements.

Implementation of these initiatives coupled with ongoing crops and horticulture development programmes have increased the production and productivity of food grains, horticulture and other crops during Eleventh plan period. There is about 8% increase in production and about 9% increase in productivity of food grains during 2008-09 as compared to 2006-07 (pre-eleventh plan). The total food grains production in 2008-09 was 234.47 million tonnes, as against 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 with record production of rice and wheat crops. The production of Horticulture crops was 214.71 Million tonnes in 2008-09 against 191.81 Million tonnes in 2006-07.

Apart from involving private agencies in supply of agricultural inputs to farmers and for creation of post harvest infrastructure, States can engage with the private sector in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to improve Agriculture productivity in any district.

#### **Engagement of private sector to promote Khadi**

\*130. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to engage private sector in a big way to market Khadi in our country and also develop and promote Khadi as a global brand; and

(b) 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) There is a proposal to revitalize the khadi and village industries (KVI) sector for enhanced sustainability of khadi, increased incomes and employment, increased artisan welfare and development of selected village industries through a comprehensive **Khadi Reform and Development Programme (KRDP)** with loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) amounting to US\$150 million for a period of 3 years. KRDP will be implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through 300 selected khadi institutions.

Recognizing the vast potential of growth in the KVI sector, it has been decided to implement the KRDP with private participation by setting up a professionally run marketing organization with majority share from private partner to harness the brand value of khadi, focus on product development on the basis of changing demands of market, leveraging the unique selling proposition of being a heritage product besides being eco-friendly. Private participation is also proposed in the field of raw-material production through execution of PPP models in the KVIC-run Central Sliver Plants besides sliver production at institutional level.

#### Constant rise in prices of sugar

†\*131. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of sugar are on a constant rise inspite of fixing the limit of storage/stock, allowing duty-free import and other remedial measures;

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

(c) the volume of sugar production, its consumption, its availability, its demand and the availability of stock during each of the last three years and current year as well; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government to control prices of sugar and to increase the production of sugarcane and sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The price of non-levy sugar (free-sale sugar) in the open market depends upon a number of factors such as domestic production, demand and supply of sugar; global supply, demand, shortage or surplus in the international market, international prices; market sentiments and expectations etc. The prices have increased due to interplay of market sentiments and demand-production gap. They have also decreased responding to the measures taken by Government to augment domestic availability of sugar and enforce stock holding limits. As on 03.03.2010, prices of sugar are showing declining trend as compared to prices prevailing in the previous month as indicated below:—

Date	Ex-mill prices of S-30 grade of sugar (in Rs. per quintal)		Retail price in Delhi (in Rs. per kg.)
	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Delhi
1	2	3	4
15.01.2010	3650-3670	3890-3940	47.00
01.02.2010	3825-3845	4090-4240	43.00
15.02.2010	3390-3440	3650-3690	43.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
26.02.2010	3180-3220	3390-3440	41.00
02.03.2010	3050-3150	3440-3470	41.00
03.03.2010	3050-3150	3390-3415	39.00

(c) A statement indicating the estimated Season-wise production, availability, and demand/consumption of sugar during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) The, Central Government has taken a slew of measures as given in the Statement-II (*See below*), to augment domestic stocks of Sugar and to control the prices of sugar, which, *inter-alia*, include permitting duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar upto 31.12.2010, imposition of stockholding and turnover limits on sugar dealers, stockholding limit on bulk consumers of sugar and suspension of futures trading in sugar upto September, 2010. The Government has also taken a number of measures to increase the production of sugarcane in the country, details of the which are given in the Statement-III.

**Statement-I**

*Production, consumption and availability of sugar during the last three sugar seasons and current sugar season*

(Figures in lac tons)

Particulars	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Production of Sugar	282	263	146.8	160
Availability	326	368	257.6	240.7
Internal demand/consumption	191	205	220	230

**Statement-II**

*Steps taken to augment availability of sugar and control sugar prices in 2008-09 and 2009-10 sugar seasons*

- Allowed duty-free import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills on ton-to-ton basis with effect from 17.02.2009 upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed duty-free import of raw sugar by sugar mills under Open General License with effect from 17.04.2009 and opened up to private trade from 31.07.2009 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. Presently, this facility is in force upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty-free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons with effect from 17.04.2009 and opened up to other Central/State Government agencies and private trade in addition to existing designated agencies

with effect from 31.07.2009. Presently, this facility is in force upto 31.12.2010 with out any quantitative cap.

- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the imports competitive.
- The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production for 2009-10 sugar season only.
- Stockholding and turnover limits on sugar dealers were imposed *vide* notification dated 12.03.2009. Further, khandsari sugar has been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit from 16.07.2009. Presently these limits are in force upto 30.09.2010.
- An order has been issued *vide* notification dated 22.08.2009 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, stipulating that such bulk consumers shall not hold sugar stock exceeding fifteen days of their requirement. The notification has come into effect from 19.09.2009. The stockholding limit has been lowered to ten days, and the revised limit has been notified on 05.02.2010 to come into effect from 20.02.2010 and will continue for a period of 180 days thereafter *i.e.* upto 18.08.2010.
- Futures trading in sugar in domestic exchanges has been suspended *w.e.f* 27th May, 2009 to curb any possible speculative tendency. Currently, this is in force upto September, 2010.
- Monthly quotas of non-levy sugar for sale by sugar mills in open market, have been sub-divided into fortnightly and periodically weekly targets for sale to ensure even flow of sugar into open market.

### ***Statement-III***

#### *Steps taken by the Government to increase sugarcane and sugar production*

- (a) The Central Government has now fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs. 129.84 per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 1.37 per quintal for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level. Hitherto, the Central Government was fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane. This FRP is substantially high over the SMP of 2008-09 sugar season which was

Rs. 81.18 per quintal, with an additional premium of Rs. 0.90 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9%.

- (b) The Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is one of the components of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), namely Revised Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme (RMMA). The main thrust of SUBACS is on the transfer of improved production technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing production of planting materials, efficient use of water, treatment of planting materials etc.
- (c) The Central Government provides Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, utilization of by-products viz. baggasse for co-generation of power and molasses for production of ethanol, upgradation of technology and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.
- (d) A short term scheme has been announced for cane development in the current financial year under which loans of Rs. 1.0 to 2.5 crore at 4% simple interest from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) are made available to sugar factories depending upon their crushing capacity, for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc. to be passed on to the farmers at the same rate of interest.
- (e) To optimize processing of raw sugar along with cane juice to produce white sugar, a scheme has been introduced in the current financial year for loans from SDF at 4% simple interest to sugar factories to install balancing equipment so as to maximize availability of processed sugar from imported raw sugar in 2009-10 sugar season.

#### **Introduction of bullet trains**

\*132. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether introduction of bullet trains in India was discussed with the Japanese Prime Minister when he visited the country in December, 2009;
- (b) if so, whether dedicated tracks would be laid for this purpose or the existing tracks could be upgraded for fast running of bullet trains at a maximum speed of 250 km. per hour; and
- (c) whether keeping in view India's passenger traffic profile for another twenty years, this project would be an economically viable project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, Japanese Prime Minister mentioned about the safety record of Shinkansen (Bullet) trains and stated that these technologies could be put to use in India.

Minister of Railways has announced in Budget Speech 2010-11 that Railways will undertake construction of high speed rail corridors in India. Railways have identified six corridors and as these projects require large investments, they will be taken up on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Railways have proposed to set up a National High Speed Rail Authority for planning, standard setting, implementing and monitoring these projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Installation of Anti-Collision Device in Railways**

† \*133. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Railway Zones in which Anti-Collision Device (ACD) is being used to stop train collision and the extent to which it has been successful till now;

(b) the expenditure for implementing this technology, zone-wise;

(c) the places in the country where 'Train Protection and Warning System', a technique borrowed from European Rail Traffic System for preventing the collision between trains, is being used, and the amount spent thereon;

(d) the total loss incurred on rail accidents during the last two years and the amount estimated to be incurred on installation of Anti-Collision Device; and

(e) the reasons for not using anti-collision technology by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The Anti-Collision Device (ACD), developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) has been in service trial as a pilot project, on 1736 Route Kms. of North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) since July, 2006. Based on experience on NFR, specifications for ACD have been revised to improve efficacy, reliability and availability of the ACD. The improved version is proposed to be extended to three more Zonal Railways (Southern, South Western and South Central Railway) for in service trial.

(b) On the NFR, expenditure incurred on the ACD project, so far, has been Rs. 99.31 crores against the original sanctioned cost of Rs. 50.0 crores. For the three zones on the southern region, KRCL has intimated that estimated costs, conforming to improved specifications, will be worked out after KRCL developing the product.

(c) Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) is presently being used, as a pilot project, on the Chennai Central-Gummidipundi suburban section of Southern Railway since May'08. The amount spent so far is Rs. 47.85 crores.

(d) Loss incurred to railway property (Rolling stock and Permanent way) on rail accidents for last two years (07-08, 08-09) are 40.55 crores and 60.64 crores respectively.

As already replied to part (b) of the question, Indian Railway is waiting for the cost estimate to be furnished by KRCL. The cost estimates will depend upon route kilometers, number of stations and number of locomotives to be equipped.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(e) ACD technology as a pilot project, is in use on NFR and based on experience, an improved version of the ACD to revised specification needs to be developed for service trials on three zones viz. Southern, South Central and South Western Railways, covering 1600 Route KMs.

#### **Demands of railway loco-running staff**

\*134. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the long pending demands of railway loco-running staff have not been resolved;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government for the early redressal of their grievances; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian Railways are proud of its 14 lakh employees. There is a well set machinery and system to address the grievances of the employees including the loco running staff. The grievances/demands received from various sources are dealt with accordingly.

#### **Profit of sugar companies listed on Stock Exchanges**

\*135. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar companies listed on Stock Exchanges could increase their profit from Rs. 30 crore at the end of December, 2008 to Rs. 901 crore at the end of December, 2009 due to the abnormal rise in prices of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has not been a corresponding change in the prices of sugarcane during this period?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The profit or loss of a company depends upon a number of factors like realization from sale of its product/s, the marketing strategy, management efficiency etc. As such, it is not possible to quantify or specify that the profits sugar companies have made or are likely to make, are due to rise in price of sugar alone; though it can be stated that rise in prices of sugar will have a positive impact on profits if other costs remain the same.

(c) Under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the farmers are entitled to receive fair and remunerative price (FRP) as fixed by the Central Government. For the current sugar season 2009-10, the Central Government has fixed the FRP at Rs. 129.84 per quintal linked to 9.5% recovery level with increase of Rs. 1.37 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9.5%. This is the benchmark price only below which no sugar factory can

purchase sugarcane from sugarcane farmers. However, the farmers are receiving cane price well above the FRP in the current sugar season.

**Production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**

\*136. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of sugarcane is decreasing in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the total quantity of sugarcane produced in the last three years in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to encourage farmers to increase the farming of sugarcane in these States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the quantity of sugarcane produced in the last three years in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are as under:—

State	Quantity of Sugarcane Produced (Million tonnes)		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
Uttar Pradesh	124.67	109.05	93.10
Maharashtra	88.44	60.65	54.05

\*2nd Advance estimates released on 12.02.2010

(c) In order to encourage farmers to increase the farming of sugarcane, Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS) in various sugarcane growing States of the country, including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The main thrust of the scheme is on transfer of improved technologies to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seeds production and pest management measures etc. To give more flexibility to the states and implement the scheme on the basis of states' priorities and requirements, this scheme has been clubbed under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). In addition, the Government of India provides 100% financial support for organization of front line demonstrations, national level trainings and breeder seed production through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities.

Further, in order to check shift in cultivable area from sugarcane to other crops and to ensure that cultivation of sugarcane is not rendered unattractive and unprofitable *vis-a-vis* wheat and rice, the Government has also approved fixation of higher Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs. 129.84 per quintal as compared to Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of Rs. 81.18 per quintal fixed for the previous sugar season.

The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have also undertaken various steps to make the cultivation of sugarcane remunerative to farmers. For example, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has increased the State Advised Price (SAP) and the State Government of Maharashtra has launched an ambitious Pilot Programme in 2009-10, which aims at enhancing sugarcane productivity through joint efforts of State Agriculture Department, Sugarcane factories, State Agricultural Universities and Research Institutes.

#### **Setting up of a coach factory at Kanjikode in Kerala**

**\*137 SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good part of land required for setting up a coach factory at Kanjikode in Palakkad district of Kerala has already been acquired and the balance has been promised by the State Government to be made available according to the schedule fixed by Railway authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the formal clearance will be accorded for setting up the coach factory and the ground work be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Government of Kerala has stated that, out of 430 acres required for the coach factory, 235.55 acre is already available with District Collector, Palakkad and balance land will be made available according to the schedule fixed by Railways.

Planning Commission has accorded 'in principle' approval. Further action for approval of the project is being expedited.

#### **Safety in trains**

**\*138. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of enhanced terror threat to travellers and increasing crimes on trains, Railways have worked out a seven-point action plan to ensure safe and secure travel for passengers;

(b) if so, whether high level meeting of State Home Secretaries, officials from Ministry of Home Affairs and her Ministry has decided to strengthen security in naxal-affected areas;

(c) whether to effectively curb increasing cases of crimes, Inter-State police teams will be formed for a group of trains running through the States; and

(d) if so, the other measures taken in this regard and to what extent these measures have helped in ensuring safety in trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Safety and security are our priority area. Railway is much concerned about crime in Railways. The Railway system being the softest target is the most vulnerable to sabotage and other destructive activities by the anti-social elements.

'Policing' being a State subject, registration cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police.

However, to provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The duties of RPF have been modified to protect and safeguard Railway property, passenger area and passengers by amending RPF Act 1957. The Railway Protection Force staffs are being deployed to escort about 1275 important trains daily on an average in affected sections in addition to escorting of about 2200 trains by Government Railway Police daily.

Regular coordination meetings are held by Railways with Government Railway Police and State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crimes.

Railways are coordinating with State Governments to provide better security to passengers and property regularly. A coordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.01.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi to improve security of travelling passengers in railways. The problems of extremist activities in certain states, attack on Railway property in course of political and local agitations, property related offences, incidents of drugging and difficulties encountered in registration of cases were the issues which were discussed besides other issues. During the meeting, a 7 point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The resolution includes holding of regular coordination meetings, sharing of intelligence, tackling investigation of crimes on railways etc., which has been sent to State Governments for implementation. The concerned State Governments have also been requested to take effective steps to strengthen security on railways in naxal affected areas.

(c) and (d) During the meeting it has been suggested to form inter-state police teams by State Governments so that the gangs of criminals operating in railways can be arrested. The suggestions made during the meeting are to be implemented by the State Governments. The usefulness of the systems as suggested can be assessed after the implementation by the State Governments.

#### **Continuous depletion of iron-ore resources**

\*139. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the cumulative export of iron-ore from our country since last three years;

(b) whether the exports have led to continuous depletion of such a precious resource and whether the exports have kept on rising over the years;

(c) whether Government is formulating any plan to protect the reserves of iron-ore in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) The export of iron- ore from the country during the last three years is given below:—

(Quantity in million tonnes)

Year	Quantity of iron ore exported
2006-07	93.79
2007-08	104.27
2008-09	105.87

(b) Yes, Sir. The exports of iron-ore have continuously kept on rising over the years and this has led to continuous depletion of iron-ore resources.

(c) and (d) As per recommendations made in the National Mineral Policy, 2007, there was an agreement that iron-ore resources of the country should be conserved for the use of domestic steel industry. It was decided that although conservation of iron- ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron-ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. This was approved by the Government. Initially in 2007, an export duty of Rs. 50/- per tonne was imposed on iron-ore fines upto 62% Fe content and Rs. 300/- per tonne on all other varieties of iron-ore. Subsequently, rates of export duty on iron-ore were revised from time to time. The present rates of duty on iron-ore exports *w.e.f.* 24.12.2009 are following:—

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| (i) Iron ore fines (all sorts)                               | — 5% <i>ad-valorem</i>  |
| (ii) Iron ore other than fines (including Lumps and pellets) | — 10% <i>ad-valorem</i> |

#### Closure of railway crossings in Mumbai

†\*140. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has so far closed down eight railway level crossings in Mumbai since January, 2010;

(b) if so, since when the same have been closed down and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the level crossings were used only by the pedestrians or by vehicles as well; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the alternative route provided by Railways for the passage of vehicles as well as pedestrians, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No level crossing has been closed so far since January, 2010 in Mumbai.

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**WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

**Shortage of milk production in North India**

†895. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the time when Government came to know of shortage of milk production in North India;

(b) the extent of shortage in milk production and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of milk;

(d) by when this effort will start yielding results; and

(e) the extent of price rise in milk from January, 2009 till now?

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

(a) and (b) There is no report of shortage in milk production in North India.

(c) and (d) Milk production in the country has increased from 80.6 million tonnes in the year 2000-01 to 108.5 million tonnes in 2008-09. Government is implementing following dairy development schemes in the country for increases in milk production:—

1. 'National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding' to improve productivity of milch animals.
2. 'Intensive Dairy Development Programme' in hilly and backward areas.
3. 'Dairy Venture Capital Fund' through promoting entrepreneurship and self employment in rural areas by providing interest free loan through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(e) The sale price of milk has been increased by Rs.1-7 per litre in the country in this period.

**Sowing of rabi crop in North India**

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

(a) the extent to which sowing of rabi crop in North India has suffered due to severe weather conditions in the region during this winter (2009-10), State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any financial assistance has been given to the farmers to speed up sowing operations so as to make up for the loss of time for sowing during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State and UT-wise, as against the demand of the concerned State/UT administrations for the purpose?

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

(a) to (c) As on 26.2.10, an area of 379.67 lakh hectares has been sown under total food grains in the country including north Indian states, which is 6.36 lakh hectares more than the normal area of 373.31 lakh hectares. The area coverage of wheat, the major Rabi crop, has also increased by 7.19 lakh hectares compared to the normal coverage of 270.98 lakh hectares. There is major gain of 23.82 lakh hectares under pulses coverage also compared to normal coverage of 119.47 lakh hectares. The coverage under oilseeds has been 92.27 lakh hectares as against 90.92 lakh hectares covered during last Rabi.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government/Union Territories, assistance is provided to the farmers for procuring inputs such as seeds, nutrients, plant protection chemicals, machinery etc. under centrally sponsored and Central Sector Schemes of National Food Security Mission, ISOPOM, ICDP, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc.

#### **Strategies for higher agricultural growth**

897. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently convened a meeting with States Head to discuss the strategies on achieving higher agriculture growth and to tackle the shortage of essential commodities as well as to contain increased food prices in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the issues deliberated and decisions arrived at in the said meeting; and

(c) the details of steps proposed by Government to bolster food production and tackle the shortage of essential commodities?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution convened a Conference of Chief Ministers on 6th February, 2010, to discuss issues relating to prices of essential commodities. The Conference also discussed strategies for achieving higher agriculture growth and to tackle the shortage of essential commodities.

(b) and (c) Deliberations in the Conference and decisions taken to bolster food production and tackle shortage of commodities include taking up programmes for increasing production and productivity of foodgrain crops, bridging gaps in farm yields between States, strengthening implementation of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, better implementation and amendment to Essential Commodities Act, better and effective delivery of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of society and augmentation of warehousing and storage capacity (including cold chains).

#### Production of onion and potato

†898. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of potato and onion in the country has suffered due to draught and floods;

(b) if so, the production of above mentioned products in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009; and

(c) the quantity of these items exported out of above production during each of the above mentioned years?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The area under kharif potato in some States has been reduced because of less and delayed rains. Similarly production of late kharif onion has also suffered due to delayed and scanty rains as compared to last year. However, the total production of both potato and onion in the country in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 is as follows:—

Production (000 MT)			
Year/Crop	2007	2008	2009
Onion	10847	13900	13565
Potato	28600	34658	34391

(c) The quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years is as follows:—

Quantity (000 MT)			
Year/Crop	2007	2008	2009
Onion	1102	1783	1578
Potato	78	185	25

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



### **Schemes to enhance production of foodgrains**

†899. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had implemented new schemes to increase the production of foodgrains in the country during the past years;

(b) if so, the name of these schemes, the details thereof and production target set for them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these schemes have failed due to floods and drought in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon and whether uncertainty of rain in the country was not taken into consideration while formulating the schemes?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29.05.2007 adopted resolution introducing two new initiatives namely National Food Security Mission for enhancing the productivity and production of rice, wheat and pulses; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for enhanced investments in agriculture sector to achieve 4% annual growth during Eleventh Plan period.

The aim of the National Food Security Mission is to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses by 20 million tones. The National Food Security Mission is presently being implemented in 312 identified districts of 17 States of the country. From the year 2010-11, 5 new districts of Assam and 10 new districts of Jharkhand would also be included, making the total number of districts covered to 327 under NFSM.

Under NFSM, assistance is provided to the farmers for improved technologies like use of High Yielding Varieties/Hybrids Seeds; use of Improved Farm Machines; Integrated Pest Management through distribution of Plant Protection Chemicals; Integrated Nutrient Management through distribution of Gypsum/Lime and Micronutrients; water conservation devices through distribution of Sprinklers and Pumpsets; Imparting knowledge regarding the best agricultural practices through Farmers Field Schools and demonstrations is also an integral part of the Mission.

The broad objective of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The new scheme requires the States to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for creation of such infrastructure, which are essential to catalyze the existing production scenario for achieving higher production.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

**Production of fruits and vegetables**

†900. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of fruits and vegetables has increased in the country during the year 2009-2010;

(b) if so, whether this increase in production is 2.5 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively as compared to the production during last year;

(c) if not, the actual estimate in this regard;

(d) whether along with production of these products their exports have also increased; and

(e) if so, the percentage increase in exports of fruits and vegetables as compared to that of last year?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The percentage increase in exports of fruits and vegetables is 26 per cent and 64 per cent respectively during the year 2008-09 over the period of 2007-08.

**Assessment regarding production of foodgrains**

†901. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made second phase assessment regarding production of foodgrains in the country during the year 2009-2010;

(b) if so, the details of estimate made regarding production of wheat, rice, oilseeds and pulses; and

(c) the production in the year 2009-2010 in comparison to the production in the year 2008-2009?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of estimated production of major crops *i.e.* wheat, rice, pulses, foodgrains and oilseeds during 2009-10 (2nd Advance Estimates released on 12.02.2010) *vis-à-vis* their production during 2008-09 are given below:—

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Crop	Estimated production (million tones)	
	2009-10	2008-09
Rice	87.56	99.18
Wheat	80.28	80.68
Pulses	14.74	14.57
Foodgrains	216.85	234.47
Oilseeds	26.32	27.72

#### **Steps to develop varieties of mangoes**

902. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:  
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to develop various varieties of mangoes in coordination with the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
A centre to take up research for varietal development and production system management of mango has been established at PARIYA, Navsari Agriculture University under All India Co-ordinated project on subtropical fruits. The centre has 172 varieties under field evaluation and has developed hybrids namely, Neeleshan, Neeleshwari Neelphonso and Sonpari.

Besides development of new hybrids, the centre is also testing cultivar developed in other institutes for its suitability in Gujarat.

#### **Sugarcane production**

†903. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of sugarcane production in the year 2008 and 2009;
- (b) the reasons for shortfall in sugarcane production;
- (c) the quantity of sugar that had to be imported due to shortage in sugarcane production and the amount of foreign exchange incurred thereon; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to boost farmers for increasing sugarcane production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) The estimated production of sugarcane in the country during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 (2nd Advance Estimates) stand at 285.03 million tones and 251.27 million tones respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The production of sugarcane during 2008-09 and 2009-10 has declined mainly on account of shortfall in area coverage due to shift from sugarcane to other foodgrain crops, decline in productivity due to delayed/deficient rainfalls and high percentage of ratoon area in overall area under sugarcane in some of the major sugarcane growing states, etc.

(c) The details of quantity and value of sugar imported during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in the table below:—

Year	Sugar Imported	
	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. crore)
2008-09	3.86	583.16
2009-10 (April — October, 2009)	11.71	2414.19

(d) In order to encourage farmers to increase the farming of sugarcane, Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in various sugarcane growing States of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The main thrust of the scheme is on transfer of improved technologies to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seeds production and pest management measures etc. To give more flexibility to the states and implements the scheme on the basis of states' priorities and requirements, this scheme has been cludded under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). In addition, The Government of India provides 100% financial support for organization of front line demonstrations, national level trainings and breeder and seed production through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities.

Further, in order to check shift in cultivable area from sugarcane to other crops and to ensure that cultivation of sugarcane is not rendered unattractive and unprofitable vis-à-vis wheat and rice, the Government has also approved fixation of higher Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP) of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs. 129.84 per quintal as compared to Statuary Minimum Price (SMP) of Rs. 81.18 per quintal fixed for the previous sugar season.

#### **Research and development institute for rice farming**

904. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a proposal made by the eminent agriculture scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan about the need to set up a below-sea level research and development institute for rice farming at Kuttanad in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dr. Swaminathan has recommended to the Kerala State Government for setting up of an International Centre for Below Sea Level Farming in Kuttanad, which in turn can become a resource centre even for countries such as Bangladesh and Maldives, which are similarly placed in terms of farming options as is Kuttanad. Presently two centers, namely, Moncombu Rice Research station and Kumarakam Regional Agricultural Research Station of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) located below sea level are conducting research related to the problems of this region. The proposal is under examination of this department.

### **Second Green Revolution**

905. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring about a Second Green Revolution in order to enhance the production and productivity in the agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) For revitalization of agricultural sector, improvement in production and productivity, stepping up the growth rates of the sectors, enhancement of the incomes of the farmers, etc., the Government has already taken many initiatives like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, etc. Further, the Government has announced a National Policy for Farmers in 2007, incorporating many of the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers that are aimed at the revival of the Indian agriculture with special emphasis on the economic well being of the farmers. Moreover, in keeping with an announcement contained in the address by her Excellency, the President of India regarding urgent steps towards 'Second Green Revolution', following additional proposals have been made in the Union Budget 2010-11 to give fillip to the agricultural sector:—

1. Rs. 400 crore provided to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa.
2. Rs. 300 crore provided to organise 60,000 "pulses and oil seed villages" in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting,

watershed management and soil health, to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas.

3. Rs. 200 crore provided for sustaining the gains already made in the green revolution areas through conservation farming, which involves concurrent attention to soil health, water conservation and preservation of biodiversity.
4. Banks have been consistently meeting the targets set for agriculture credit flow in the past few years. For the year 2010-11, the target has been set at Rs. 3,75,000 crore.
5. In view of the recent drought in some States and the severe floods in some other parts of the country, the period for repayment of the loan amount by farmers extended by six months from December 31, 2009 to June, 30, 2010 under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for Farmers.
6. Incentive of additional one per cent interest subvention to farmers who repay short-term crop loans as per schedule, increased to 2% for 2010-11.

**Production of rice, wheat, pulses and oilseeds**

906. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of production of rice, wheat, pulses, edible oil, oilseeds and sugar during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10;
- (b) the status of consumption of rice, wheat, edible oil, oilseeds, pulses and sugar during the above periods;
- (c) the status of cultivable land area of rice, wheat, oilseeds, pulses and sugarcane during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to enhance production of these items of food and the results thereof?

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

(a) The details of production of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds and sugar during the year 2007-08 to 2009-10 are as under:—

	(Million tonnes)		
Crops	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
Rice	96.69	99.18	87.56
Wheat	78.57	80.68	80.28
Pulses	14.76	14.57	14.74
Oilseeds	29.76	27.72	26.32
Sugar	26.30	14.67	16.00

\*2nd Advance estimates released on 12.02.2010.

*Note:* Production of sugar for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is provisional.

(b) Details of consumption of rice, wheat, pulses etc. are collected through Consumer Expenditure Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The consumption estimates from the above surveys are available only upto 2006-07.

(c) The details of area coverage under rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07 to 2008-09 are as under:—

(Million hectare)

Crops	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rice	43.81	43.91	45.54
Wheat	27.99	28.04	27.75
Pulses	23.19	23.63	22.09
Oilseeds	26.51	26.69	27.56
Sugarcane	5.15	5.06	4.42

(d) Government is implementing a number of schemes to enhance the production of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane in the country through area increase and productivity enhancement. Major schemes being implemented by the Government include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture etc. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana launched by the Government also aims to incentives the States to increase the investment in Agricultural and Allied Sectors. Government also provides encouragement to farmers by ensuring remunerative prices for their produce in the form of Minimum Support Price of various crops revised from time to time. The above steps have led to increased production of rice, wheat, pulses and other foodgrains in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

#### **Fishing harbours and fish landing centres in Andhra Pradesh**

907. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres in Andhra Pradesh with details of their locations;

(b) whether financial assistance has been provided to the State for modernization and expansion of these fish landing centres;

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

(d) whether new fishing harbours and fish landing centres are also proposed in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) Four fishing harbours and 267 fish landing centres are existing in Andhra Pradesh. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture provides financial assistance to coastal State Governments, Union Territories, Port Trusts, Fishermen Organizations/Associations, private Entrepreneurs for development of new fishing harbours, fish landing centres and expansion and modernization of existing ones under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not sought any assistance during the last three years for modernization and expansion of existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have conveyed their intention to built new fishing harbours and fish landing centres ant 16 locations. Details are furnished in the given Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Details of existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres in Andhra Pradesh*

<b>A. Fishing Harbours</b>		
Sl. No.	Name of fishing harbour	District
1.	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam
2.	Kakinada	East Godavari
3.	Nizamapatnam	Guntur
4.	Machilipatnam	Krishna
<b>B. Fish Landing Centres</b>		
Sl. No.	Name of fish landing centre	District
1	2	3
1.	Dontukuru	Srikakulam
2.	Kapaskudi	-do-
3.	Chinnakarrivanipalem	-do-
4.	Peddakarrivanipalem	-do-
5.	Idduvanipalem	-do-
6.	Kothakalingapatnam	-do-
7.	Iskalapalem	-do-



1	2	3
8.	Rammayapattnam	Srikakulam
9.	Gollagandi	-do-
10.	Kothuru	-do-
11.	Battigalluru	-do-
12.	Ekavuru	-do-
13.	Gedduru	-do-
14.	Meelagangavada	-do-
15.	Gunupalluru	-do-
16.	Akkupalli	-do-
17.	Dokalapadu	-do-
18.	Chinnakothuru	-do-
19.	Nuvvalarevu	-do-
20.	Manchineelapeta	-do-
21.	Hukkumpeta	-do-
22.	Kambalarayudupeta	-do-
23.	Kothapeta	-do-
24.	Althada	-do-
25.	Bhavanapadu	-do-
26.	Sunnapali	-do-
27.	Meghavarm	-do-
28.	Marrivada	-do-
29.	Geddalapadu	-do-
30.	Kumudavanipeta	-do-
31.	Jaganathapuram	-do-
32.	Umilada	-do-
33.	Peddakoviripeta	-do-
34.	Guppidipeta	-do-
35.	Jogampeta	-do-
36.	Kotharevu	-do-
37.	Ampalam	-do-
38.	Bandaruvanipeta	-do-

1	2	3
39.	Komaravanipeta	Srikakulam
40.	Mogalapadu	-do-
41.	Srikaurmam (Matchiliesam)	-do-
42.	Balaramapuram	-do-
43.	Kunduvanipeta	-do-
44.	Pukkalapeta	-do-
45.	Pathadibbapalem	-do-
46.	Kothadibbapalem (Rallapeta)	-do-
47.	Badivanipeta	-do-
48.	Budakatlalalem	-do-
49.	Kottamukkam	-do-
50.	Gowallamukkam (Jeerupalem)	-do-
51.	Allivalasa	-do-
52.	Peddakovvada	-do-
53.	Gurayyapeta	-do-
54.	Dhonipeta	-do-
1.	Chintapalli	Vizianagaram
2.	Mukkam	-do-
3.	Barripeta	-do-
4.	Thammayyapalem	-do-
5.	Pulligeddapalem	-do-
6.	Tippavalasa	-do-
7.	Sodipallipeta	-do-
8.	Chinnakondarajupalem	-do-
9.	Kondarajupalem	-do-
10.	Chinnakancheru	-do-
11.	Peddakancheru	-do-
1.	Pudimadaka	Visakhapatnam
2.	Annavaram	-do-
3.	Nagamayapalem	-do-
4.	Bhimilipattinam	-do-

1	2	3
5.	Uppada	Visakhapatnam
6.	Mangamaripeta	-do-
7.	Rushikonda	-do-
8.	Lawsonsbay	-do-
9.	Jalaripeta	-do-
10.	Dibbapalem	-do-
11.	Appikonda	-do-
12.	Thikkavanipalem	-do-
13.	Muthalammapalem	-do-
14.	Thanthadi	-do-
15.	Venkayypalem	-do-
16.	Rambhilli	-do-
17.	Naraspuram	-do-
18.	Kothapattinam	-do-
19.	Bangarammapalem	-do-
20.	Revupolavaram	-do-
21.	Rajayyapeta	-do-
22.	Boyipadu	-do-
23.	Bangarammapeta	-do-
24.	Pentakota	-do-
25.	Rajavaram	-do-
26.	Venkatanagaram	-do-
27.	Rajanagaram	-do-
28.	Ratnamayapeta	-do-
29.	Korlayyapeta	-do-
30.	Palachetturu	-do-
1.	Addurupeta	East Godavari
2.	Pampodipeta	-do-
3.	Kothapeta	-do-
4.	Yerriahpeta	-do-

1	2	3
5.	Yelliahpeta	East Godavari
6.	Dhaniahpeta	-do-
7.	Narsipeta	-do-
8.	Perumallapuram	-do-
9.	Kukkampeta	-do-
10.	Chodipallipeta	-do-
11.	Konapapapeta	-do-
12.	Mulapeta	-do-
13.	Aminabad	-do-
14.	Mayapatnam	-do-
15.	Ramesettipeta and Sooradipeta	-do-
16.	Uppada and Jagarajupeta	-do-
17.	Kothauru (Incl: Kothapatnam)	-do-
18.	Subbammampeta	-do-
19.	Nemam	-do-
20.	Polaram	-do-
21.	Suryaraopeta	-do-
22.	Vakalapudi	-do-
23.	Dummalapeta	-do-
24.	Bhiravapalem (Mech)	-do-
25.	Neelarevu and Pandi	-do-
26.	Chirayanam	-do-
27.	Valasala	-do-
28.	Valasalatippa	-do-
29.	Rameswaram-I	-do-
30.	Rameswaram-II	-do-
31.	Vadalerevu	-do-
32.	Antharvedipallipalem	-do-
33.	Karavaka	-do-
34.	Kesanapalli	-do-
35.	Bhiravapalem (NM)	-do-

1	2	3
1.	Biyyaputtippa	West Godavari
2.	Vemuladivi	-do-
3.	Chinnamylavani Lanka	-do-
4.	Saradhukodappa	-do-
5.	Peddamyavanilanka (S)	-do-
6.	Chillapalem	-do-
7.	Metturevu	-do-
8.	Kothadindulapallipalem	-do-
9.	Mollaparupalem	-do-
1.	Yettipogarupallipalem (N)	Krishna
2.	Mylavanilanka (Kutlakada)	-do-
3.	Chinnagollapalem	-do-
4.	Urlagondittippa	-do-
5.	Kunuru	-do-
6.	Satravapalem	-do-
7.	Manginipudi	-do-
8.	Cambelpeta	-do-
9.	Gilakalasindi	-do-
10.	Malakayalanka	-do-
11.	Palakayalanka	-do-
12.	Pathupakali (Sangmeswaram)	-do-
13.	Sorlagondi	-do-
14.	Gullalamodu	-do-
15.	Jinkapalem	-do-
16.	Nachugunta	-do-
17.	Yeelachetladdiba	-do-
1.	Mollagunta	Guntur
2.	Kothapalem	-do-
3.	Lankevanidibba	-do-
4.	Rajukalvaputtapalem (Lakshmipuram)	-do-
5.	Nakashtranagar	-do-

1	2	3
1.	Vijayalakshmipuram	Prakasam
2.	Vodarevu	-do-
3.	Ramauram (Sunnapuvaripalem)	-do-
4.	Kotaripalem	-do-
5.	Pottisubbiahpalem	-do-
6.	Uttukurubbiahpalem	-do-
7.	Ramachandrapuram	-do-
8.	Chinnaganjampallipalem	-do-
9.	Chinnaganjampeddapallipalem	-do-
10.	Peddaganjampallipalem	-do-
11.	Peddaganjampattapalem	-do-
12.	Kotamvaripalem	-do-
13.	Kodurupalem	-do-
14.	Gundayapalem	-do-
15.	Gundamala	-do-
16.	Pinnavaripalem	-do-
17.	Kothapatnam Pallipalem	-do-
18.	Vajireddipalem	-do-
19.	Rajupalem Pattapalem	-do-
20.	Ethamukkalapattapalem	-do-
21.	Ethamukkalapallipalem	-do-
22.	Madanur Chinnapattapalem	-do-
23.	Madanur Peddapattapalem	-do-
24.	Pakalapallipalem	-do-
25.	Pakalachellammagaripattapalem	-do-
26.	Pakalapotiahgaripattapalem	-do-
27.	Woolapalembavikaddupallipalem	-do-
28.	Woolapalemdevalam Pallipalem	-do-
29.	Woolapalembasirei Pallipalem	-do-
30.	Karedukothapalem	-do-

1	2	3
31.	Karedu Thenkayachetlapalem	Prakasam
32.	Battipalem	-do-
33.	Alagayapalem	-do-
34.	Chackicherlachinnapattapalem	-do-
35.	Chakicherlapeddapattapalem	-do-
36.	Chackicherlapeddapattapalem	-do-
37.	Avulaelam	-do-
38.	Montivaripalem	-do-
39.	Ramayyapatnam	-do-
40.	Karlapalem	-do-
41.	Avulavaripalem	-do-
42.	Ravoorivaripalem	-do-
43.	Chinthaigaripalem	-do-
1.	Nandemmapuram	Nellore
2.	Chennayapalempallipalem	-do-
3.	Chennayapalemchinnapattapalem	-do-
4.	Chennayapalempeddapattapalem	-do-
5.	Kothasatram	-do-
6.	Peddaramudupalem	-do-
7.	Chinnaramudupalem	-do-
8.	Sreerampuram	-do-
9.	Thummalapentapallipalem	-do-
10.	Thummalapentapattapalem	-do-
11.	Nattupattapalem	-do-
12.	Votturupallipalem	-do-
13.	Lakshmipuram	-do-
14.	Venkateswarapuram	-do-
15.	Zuvvaladinnepattapalem	-do-
16.	Kadapalem	-do-
17.	Bangarupalem	-do-

1	2	3
18.	Thattichetlapalem	Nellore
19.	Pathapalem (Navas)	-do-
20.	Pathapalem	-do-
21.	Iskapallipattapalem	-do-
22.	Kurupattapalem	-do-
23.	Kothakurupattapalem	-do-
24.	Ponnapudipattapalem	-do-
25.	Ponnapudichinnapattapalem	-do-
26.	Ponnapudilakshmiapuram	-do-
27.	Ponnapudivenkatanarayanapuram	-do-
28.	Buskapadupalem	-do-
29.	Ramachandrapuram	-do-
30.	Ramatheertham	-do-
31.	Gowripuram (Incl. Ananeyapuram)	-do-
32.	Vutukurupattapalem	-do-
33.	Vutukurupallipalem	-do-
34.	Ankaiahdibbapalem	-do-
35.	Gangapattinam Pallipalem	-do-
36.	Mypadu (North)	-do-
37.	Mypadu (South)	-do-
38.	Kollimitta	-do-
39.	Krishnapuram	-do-
40.	Kuruturu	-do-
41.	Venkanapalem	-do-
42.	Muthyalathopu	-do-
43.	Kodurunadipalem	-do-
44.	Kodurupattapalem	-do-
45.	Kodurupattapalem	-do-
46.	Eeduturpalem	-do-
47.	Advalapalem	-do-



1	2	3
48.	Neelaturupalem	Nellore
49.	Krishnapatnampattapalem	-do-
50.	Krishnapatnam Advalapalem	-do-
51.	Krishnapatnam	-do-
52.	Middrevu	-do-
53.	Gummaladibba	-do-
54.	Theegapalem	-do-
55.	Venugopalapuram	-do-
56.	Pamangipalem	-do-
57.	Thuppilipalem	-do-
58.	Kondurupallem	-do-
59.	Sreenivasapuram	-do-
60.	Pulingeripalem	-do-
61.	Vadapalem	-do-
62.	Manjakuppam	-do-
63.	Rayaduru	-do-

***Statement-II***

*Details of fishing harbours and fish landing centres proposed for construction by the Government of Andhra Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of fishing harbour/ fish landing centre	District
1	2	3
<b>A. Fishing Harbours</b>		
1.	Nizamapatnam Stage-II	Guntur
2.	Uppada	East Godavari
<b>B. Fish landing centres</b>		
1.	Antervedi Pallepalem	East Godavari
2.	Lakshmipuram	Krishna
3.	Vodalarevu	East Godavari
4.	Gundayapalem	Prakasam

1	2	3
5.	Uppalanka	East Godavari
6.	Guppidipeta	Srikakulam
7.	Mangamaripeta	Visakhapatnam
8.	Uppada	East Godavari
9.	Sorlgondi	Krishna
10.	Satravapalem	Krishna
11.	Lankevanidibba	Guntur
12.	Pothaiahgripattapupalem	Prakasam
13.	Kothasatram	Nellore
14.	Biyyaputippa	West Godavari

Four fish landing centre projects at S.No. 1 to 4 above have been accorded technical approval in January, 2008 by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture for construction under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme (TRP).

#### **National Seeds Conference**

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

- (a) whether Government has held National Seeds Conference recently;
- (b) if so, the details discussed and decisions arrived at so far;
- (c) the views of each State Government in this regard and adoptions from such conference; and
- (d) the roadmap prepared in this regard for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise and seed-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) Yes, Sir. The National Seeds Congress was organized at New Delhi from 18th to 20th January, 2010.

(b) and (c) The National Seeds Congress was attended by various stakeholders in the seed sector including officers from Central and State Governments/agencies, public sector seed Corporations, scientists, private industry etc. The Congress discussed and made recommendations in six Technical Sessions and one Panel discussion on the following subjects:—

- (i) The role of plant breeding and variety maintenance.
- (ii) Seed production.
- (iii) Seed quality assurance and seed enhancement.

- (iv) Plant variety protection, farmers' rights and movement of seed in international trade.
- (v) Seed health testing and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Plant Quarantine (SPS) issues.
- (vi) Transgenics and advanced technologies for seed testing.
- (vii) Public-private-partnership and seed security.

The recommendations of the Congress have been circulated to all concerned and are also available on [www.seednet.gov.in](http://www.seednet.gov.in).

- (d) The Government is providing assistance for seeds under the following schemes:—
  - (i) Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds.
  - (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
  - (iii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).
  - (iv) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).
  - (v) National Horticulture Mission (NHM).
  - (vi) Technology Mission on Horticulture for North East (TMNE).
  - (vii) Technology Mission on Cotton.
  - (viii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta.
  - (ix) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
  - (x) Mega Seed Project.
  - (xi) Scheme for protection of Plant Varieties and farmers' Rights.

#### **Decline in production of agriculture**

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

- (a) whether there is decline in agriculture production in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures Government are planning to take to boost the agriculture production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the 2nd Advance Estimates released on 12.02.2010, the foodgrains production in 2009-10 is estimated at 216.85 million tones which is 17.61 million tones lower than the production of 234.47 million tones during 2008-09. The shortfall in foodgrains production has

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been on account of delayed/deficient monsoon and drought in various parts of the country during kharif 2009-10.

(c) In order to further boost the agriculture production in the country, the Government is implementing a number of schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc. The schemes aim at increasing agricultural production by way of area expansion, productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility, technology demonstration, support for quality seeds of high yielding varieties, resource conservation technologies, integrated nutrient and pest management and infrastructure development through increased investment in agriculture sector.

**Stagnation in production of pulses, oilseeds, etc.**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been stagnation or very minimal growth in production of pulses, oil-seeds and deep sea marine products during last three years;

(b) whether progressive policies and constant monitoring have not been done of the pulses, oilseeds and deep-sea fisheries sectors;

(c) whether these sectors were ignored in favour of agri-business sectors;

(d) to what extent Government will correct this situation in 2010-2011;

(e) the steps proposed to remove the bottlenecks in policy implementation of these three vital sectors; and

(f) the respective production of these three sectors in last three years?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Various committees and monitoring teams constituted at national, state and district levels monitor the progress of pulses, oilseed development programmes regularly. Inter- Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine fisheries, constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) considers issue related to deep-sea fishing matter in its meetings held at regular intervals.

(d) and (e) Ministry has been actively promoting the pulses and Oilseeds through various crop development schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Pulses Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMMA). Comprehensive marine Fishing Policy ensures sustainable exploitation of marine resources in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

(f) The details of production of pulses, oilseeds and deep sea marine production during last three years are as under:—

		(Production in million tonnes)		
Sl. No	Crops	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Pulses	14.20	14.76	14.57
2.	Oilseeds	24.29	29.76	27.72
3.	Deep sea marine products	3.02	2.91	2.97

Source: ESA and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

#### Foodgrains output

911. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether competent agencies have made assessments on the foodgrains output for the year 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a possibility of short fall in the output of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
 (a) to (d) Yes, Sir As per the 2nd Advance Estimates released by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on 12.02.2010, the foodgrains production in 2009-10 is estimated at 216.85 million tonnes which is 17.61 million tones lower than the production of 234.47 million tonnes during 2008-09. The shortfall in foodgrains production has been on account of delayed/deficient monsoon and drought in various parts of the country during kharif 2009-10.

Despite decline in production of foodgrains, the position of stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool is comfortable. In Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 and 2009-10, there has been record procurement of 226.89 lakh tonnes and 253.82 lakh tonnes of wheat in the country. Similarly, there has also been record procurement of 287.36 lakh tonnes and 336.84 lakh tonnes of rice during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. With considerably higher procurement of wheat and rice during the last two years and estimated procurement of about 260 lakh tonnes of rice in current year *i.e.* 2009-10, the stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the requirement of TPDS and other welfare schemes.

### Production and procurement of coarse grain

912. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of coarse grain/millets between 2004-2005 to 2009-2010;
- (b) the procurement by Government in these years; and
- (c) the procurement price for the coarse grain during this period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) The details of production and procurement of coarse grain/millets during the years 2004-05 to 2009-10 are as under:—

	(Lakh tonnes)					
Production/ Procurement	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Production	334.65	340.69	339.23	407.50	400.38	342.73 *
Procurement	8.26	11.51	**	2.03	13.75	2.85\$

\*2nd Advance estimates released on 12.2.2010

\$As on 02.03.2010      \*\*Negligible

(c) The details of Procurement Price/Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major coarse grains for the years 2004-05 to 2009-10 are given in the table below:—

Crop	Minimum Support Price (Rs./Quintal)					
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Jowar	515	525	540	600	840	840
Bajra	515	525	540	600	840	840
Maize	525	540	540	620	840	840
Ragi	515	525	540	600	915	915
Barley	540	550	565	650	680	750

### Component plan for women farmers

913. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is earmarking some outlay in the Budget for Women Component Plan for the welfare of women farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of outlay earmarked for the last five years under the Plan, year-wise;

(c) the manner in which it has been utilized for women farmers in the country with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Rs. 21,600 crore has been allotted for 2009-10 for the Plan; and

(e) if so, the manner in which Government is planning to spend the above amount for women farmers in the country?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Women Component Plan (WCP) was introduced from the year 2007-08. Outlays earmarked for Financial Year 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 were Rs. 1656.00 crore, Rs. 2070.00 crore, and Rs. 2160.00 crore respectively.

(c) Earmarked outlays for WCP are used for implementing concerned schemes for women beneficiaries, in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The allocation under WCP for Department at Agriculture, and Cooperation for 2009-10 is Rs. 2160.00 crore.

(e) As stated in para (c) above.

#### **Schemes for small and marginal farmers**

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

(a) the number of farmers living below poverty line in the country including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented for small and marginal farmers especially for those living in hilly States like Himachal Pradesh where most of them have less than one hectare of land, along with the funds allocated for the year 2009-10; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited from these schemes, State-wise, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

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

(a) Specific data regarding number of farmers living below poverty line in Himachal Pradesh is not readily available. However, number of persons living below poverty line in Himachal Pradesh is 6.36 lakhs and 4.27 lakhs in the year 2004-05 as per the estimates compiled in the Planning Commission based on Uniform Recall Period Consumption and Mixed Recall Period Consumption respectively.

(b) and (c) There is no centrally shared or centrally sponsored scheme specifically for small and marginal farmers. However, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, (RKVY), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Macro Management in Agriculture (MMA), National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) either have preferential norm

of assistance for small and marginal farmers or emphasis on certain percentage of allocation to be spent on small and marginal farmers or earmark resources based on number of small and marginal farmers.

**Loss of apple crops due to environmental pollution in  
Himachal Pradesh**

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

(a) whether the loss of apple crop due to dust, aerosols and environmental pollution created by blasting and construction activities in Chamera Hydro Electric Project Phase-3 in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh has been estimated at Rs. 2,30,240;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with Chamera Hydro Electric Project administration for award of compensation to the affected farmers;

(d) whether the concerned authority has agreed to compensate the affected farmers; and

(e) if so, the time by when farmers are likely to be given compensation and if not, further steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only, the following three farmers have been affected due to blasting and construction activities in the vicinity of Chamera Hydel Project Phase-3 in Chamba:—

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the farmers	Amount calculated for compensation (Rs.)
1.	Sh. Ujjal, S/o Sridhar, VPO Radi Dev Block Mehla	15080.00
2.	Sh. Munshi Ram S/o Hushiara, VPO Radi Dev Block Mehla	41160.00
3.	Sh. Gurbachan Singh S/o Fenchu VPO Radi Dev Block Mehla	35000.00

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The company has not assured about award of compensation to the affected farmers. The matter is pending with NHPC authority.

**Development of horticulture in Uttarakhand**

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

(a) whether NABARD has given any assistance to Uttarakhand to support the horticulture sector and introduction of poly houses in various parts of the State;



(b) if so, the steps taken by NABARD to involve Uttarakhand in bringing about a change from cereal based economy to horticulture/floriculture and medicinal plants based economy;

(c) the total funds available with NABARD for utilization/promotion of horticulture; and

(d) the funds released till date for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand respectively?

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

(a) Yes Sir, NABARD is providing assistance to Uttarakhand, wherein NABARD has recognized horticulture including introduction of poly houses as one of the critical sectors in the economy of the state. To stimulate the credit flow to various sectors including horticulture for the year 2010-11. NABARD has identified potential of Rs. 7029.83 lakh for the state, out of which the physical potential for poly houses of 1000 sq.ft. each is 709 with expected credit flow of Rs. 1805.07 lakh.

(b) The steps taken by NABARD for promotion of horticulture sector in Uttarakhand are: (1) To conduct workshops for setting up of poly house in Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital Districts. (2) Worked out cost of cultivation for 8 high altitude medicinal crop in association with Herbal Research and Development Institute. (3) Horticulture Department Officials trained for preparation of Horticulture projects for the State. (4) Consultancy offered for integrated horticulture development project in the State. (5) Integrated Horticulture development Plan prepared for the State. (6) Uttarakhand Livelihood project under Tribal Development Fund for Guava and Mango crop development in Udham Singh Nagar and Citrus Crop Development in Dehradun District. (7) Support for mushroom production through co-finance.

(c) and (d) The details of the funds refinanced by NABARD and released to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the year 2007-08 is Rs. 154.67 lakh and Rs. 74.60 lakh and during the year 2008-09 is Rs. 274.47 lakh and Rs. 34.69 lakh respectively.

#### **Decline in population of cows**

917. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest livestock census data, population of cows is declining in our country; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir. The number of cows has increased from 1,02,702 thousand in 2003 to 1,10,205 thousand in 2007, which is 7.3%.

(b) Government is implementing comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" since October, 2000 over a period of ten years in two

phase each of five years duration, with an allocation of Rs. 402 crore and Rs. 775.87 crore for the 1st and 2nd phase respectively throughout the county on 100% grant-in-aid basis. The project envisages genetic up gradation of bovine population on priority basis. The project also has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds.

#### Shortfall in production of foodgrains

918. DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether shortfall in production of foodgrains is one of the reasons for its price rise;
- (b) if so, the quantum of shortfall, itemwise; and
- (c) the steps taken to counteract it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the demand projected for the year 2009-10 by the Working Group of Planning Commission for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the estimated production (2nd Advanced Estimates released on 12.02.2010), the expected shortfall of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and foodgrains for 2009-10 is given in the table below:—

Crop	Estimated Shortfall for 2009-10 (Million tonnes)
Rice	-7.27
Wheat	+6.02
Pulses	-3.55
Coarse Cereals	-2.38
Foodgrains	-7.19

*Note:* Negative sign indicates shortfall of estimated production over projected demand and positive sign for excess production over projected demand.

(c) Government has launched various schemes to enhance the production and productivity of foodgrains in the country. Major initiatives in this regard include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Crop Development Programme for rice and wheat under Macro Management of Agriculture, Micro-Irrigation. Increased availability of concessional credit and availability of improved seeds and fertilizers to the farmers to increase foodgrains production.

Further, despite decline in production of foodgrains, the position of stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool is comfortable. In Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 and 2009-10, there has been record procurement of 226.89 lakh tonnes and 253.82 lakh tonnes of wheat in the

country respectively. Similarly, there has also been record procurement of 287.36 lakh tonnes and 336.84 lakh tonnes of rice during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. With considerably higher procurement of wheat and rice during the last two years and estimated procurement of about 260 lakh tonnes of rice in current year *i.e.* 2009-10, the stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool are sufficient to meet the requirement of TPDS and other welfare schemes. The shortfall in pulses is met through imports.

#### **Investment for infrastructure development in agriculture sector**

919. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the over-all production of foodgrains particularly rice and wheat for the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the productivity per hectare, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for disparity in productivity;
- (d) whether Government has taken/proposes to take measures to increase investment in the infrastructure development in the agricultural sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the funds earmarked for the purpose?

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

(a) The estimated production of rice, wheat and foodgrains in the country during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the table below:—

	(Million tonnes)		
Crops	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rice	93.35	96.69	99.18
Wheat	75.81	78.57	80.68
Foodgrains	217.28	230.78	234.47

(b) The State-wise productivity of foodgrains during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The productivity of different crops depends on the soil fertility, use of fertilizers, rainfall pattern, weather conditions, quality/variety of seeds etc. As such, fluctuating trends in the productivity have been observed in the crops grown in the different areas/States depending upon the existence of the above factors. Further, potential of production technology appropriate to different agro-climatic conditions has not been fully utilized resulting in disparity in productivity of crops across States/Districts.

(d) and (e) Government has taken a number of measures to increase investment in infrastructure development in the agriculture sector. Some of the major schemes being implemented by the Government include Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY), Macro

Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) etc. Broad activities identified for focused attention and investment under these schemes include Integrated Development of Food Crops, Agriculture Mechanization, Soil Health and productivity, Development of Rainfed Farming System, Integrated Pest management, Market Infrastructure, Horticulture, Watershed Development Programme etc.

As a result of the efforts made by the Government, investment in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sectors has increased from Rs. 78848 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 138597 crore in 2008-09.

***Statement***

*State-wise Productivity of Foodgrains during 2006-07 to 2008-09*

	Productivity (kg/hectare)		
States	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2231	2613	2744
Arunachal Pradesh	1216	1241	1255
Assam	1286	1378	1551
Bihar	1656	1546	1766
Chhattisgarh	1148	1238	1041
Goa	2254	2091	2231
Gujarat	1423	1831	1595
Haryana	3393	3420	3388
Himachal Pradesh	1714	1918	1757
Jammu and Kashmir	1733	1711	1851
Jharkhand	1550	1709	1720
Karnataka	1289	1548	1511
Kerala	2331	2221	2440
Madhya Pradesh	1167	1069	1168
Maharashtra	940	1150	1001
Manipur	2241	2297	2236
Meghalaya	1800	1774	1783
Mizoram	822	285	898
Nagaland	1482	1567	1811

1	2	3	4
Orissa	1359	1484	1363
Punjab	4017	4255	4231
Rajasthan	1119	1180	1263
Sikkim	1354	1378	1351
Tamil Nadu	2610	2125	2225
Tripura	2399	2563	2526
Uttar Pradesh	2057	2206	2365
Uttarakhand	1760	1785	1715
West Bengal	2511	2525	2493
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2746	2485	2343
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1445	1445	1434
Delhi	3405	3340	3348
Daman and Diu	1548	1417	1740
Pondicherry	2180	2130	2201
ALL INDIA:	1756	1860	1909

#### **Bird flu in West Bengal**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that bird flu has recently erupted in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has sent a Central team to the State to help the State Government in culling birds;
- (d) if so, the details of assistance extended to the State Government to contain virus of bird flu; and
- (e) the strategies formulated by Government to ensure that bird flu virus is not spread in any part of the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bird flu outbreak was reported in two villages of West Bengal, namely, Nagar and Hazrabati in Khargram block of Murshidabad district, which later spread to 10 more villages including three villages of adjacent Barwan block. All the poultry birds were culled within a radius of 3 KMs of the epicentres. About 1.56 lakh birds have been culled.

(c) In order to aid and advise the State Government in control and containment operations, a Central team has been deputed to the affected area.

(d) A sum of Rs. 350 lakhs have been released to the State Government as Central assistance for undertaking control and containment of the disease. 6,000 numbers each of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and N-95 masks were provided to the State Government from the Central Strategic Reserves.

(e) The steps taken by Government to check spread of Avian Influenza in the country are given in the Statement.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Steps taken by the Government to check spread of Avian Influenza in the country*

- (i) Culling of entire poultry population in the affected zone of 0-3 Kms to check spread the disease from the affected area.
- (ii) Strengthening of preparedness to tackle any future eventuality in terms of upgradation of laboratories, training of manpower, stockpiling of equipments and materials for control and containment etc.
- (iii) Continuous training of veterinary personnel in preparedness, control and containment.
- (iv) Sensitization of general public on Avian Influenza through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns for safe poultry practices, biosecurity and early reporting of unusual mortality in poultry.
- (v) Transparent approach towards reporting not only outbreaks but also information of unusual sickness/mortality in poultry and results of laboratory diagnosis.
- (vi) All the State Governments have been alerted to be vigilant about the outbreak of the disease.
- (vii) Import of poultry and poultry products have been completely banned from HPAI positive countries.
- (viii) Border check posts with neighbouring countries have been strengthened.
- (ix) Guidelines issued to the states for further guidance to the poultry farmers.

#### **Control of mafia on agricultural market**

921. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the model Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, 2003 provides for public private partnership in management of agricultural markets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a powerful mafia still controls agricultural markets across the States;

(c) the reasons why Government is not encouraging State Governments to promulgate APMC Act in their respective States; and

(d) the measures Government has taken to break the mafia control on marketing agricultural produce?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government is encouraging State Government to promulgate Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act in their respective States. As the Agricultural Marketing is a State subject, the Ministry of Agriculture has formulated the Model State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 in consultation with the stakeholders and requested all State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to adopt the provision of the Model Act. The status of reforms by various States/UTs is given in the Statement (See below). The Model Act has provisions of Direct Marketing, Contract Farming, Setting up of markets/yards in private and cooperative sector etc. to enable better farmer market linkages as well as to provide efficient alternative marketing channels to the farmers for a better remunerative price for his produce. It will also facilitate the buyers for procurement of agricultural commodities of required quality at reasonable price.

(d) Question does not arise.

#### **Statement**

##### *Status of Reforms in Agricultural Markets (APMC Act) as on 28.02.2010*

Sl. No.	Stage of Reforms	Name of States/Union Territories
1	2	3
1.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura.
2.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done partially	(a) <b>Direct Marketing:</b> NCT of Delhi. (b) <b>Contract Farming:</b> Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh. (c) <b>Private markets:</b> Punjab and Chandigarh

1	2	3
3.	States/UTs where there is no APMC Act and hence not requiring reforms	Bihar*, Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep.
4.	States/UTs where APMC Act already provides for the reforms	Tamil Nadu
5.	States/UTs where administrative action is initiated for the reforms	Mizoram, Meghalaya, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Puducherry, NCT of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

\*APMC Act is repealed *w.e.f.* 1.9.2006.

#### Amendments to APMC Act

922. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is making amendments to the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far;
- (c) the reasons behind such amendments; and
- (d) in what way it would be beneficial to the farmers and industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
 (a) and (b) Since Agricultural Marketing is a State subject, the Ministry of Agriculture has requested all State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to adopt the Model State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 circulated to all States/UTs. The status of reforms by various States/UTs is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question no. 921 Part 'c']

(c) and (d) In order to improve the farmer's share in consumer's rupee by way of reduction of intermediation and improving marketing efficiency, a holistic reform in the agricultural marketing system is needed. The Model State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with the stakeholders, has provisions of Direct Marketing, Contract Farming, Setting up of markets/yards in private and cooperative sector etc. to provide for better farmers — market linkages as well as efficient alternative marketing channels to the farmers for a better remunerative price for his produce. It is also intended to facilitate large investments required for development of post-harvest and cold chain infrastructures through private sectors. It will also facilitate the industry for direct procurement of agricultural commodities of required quality at reasonable price from farmer's field.



### **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**

923. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the genesis and objectives of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana;
- (b) the financial allocation under this scheme and achievements thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) how far the objectives have been fulfilled?

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

(a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched during August, 2007 pursuant to the resolution adopted on 29.05.2007 by the National Development Council (NDC), to reorient the current agricultural development strategies to meet the needs of the farmers and for fresh efforts by the Central and State Governments to rejuvenate the agricultural sector.

RKVY has envisaged outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore for the Plan period. The RKVY aims at contributing to achievement of 4% annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan period, by ensuring a holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors. This is sought to be done by incentivizing States to allocate higher share of their plan expenditure for agriculture and to make investments in interventions as per local priorities and agro-climatic conditions.

(b) A statement indicating the State-wise financial allocation and releases made during 2009-10 under RKVY to the States are enclosed (*See below*).

(c) States have stepped up allocation to agriculture and allied sector from 5.11% of total State Plan Expenditure in 2006-07 to 5.84% in 2008-09 (RE/Approved).

Most states have also formulated comprehensive District and State Agricultural Plans and have taken up projects of over Rs. 2668.82 crore for agriculture and allied sector development.

#### ***Statement***

*Allocation and Release under RKVY for 2009-10*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Allocation 2009-10	Total release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	410.00	410.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.10	4.03
3.	Assam	79.86	79.86
4.	Bihar	110.79	110.79
5.	Chhattisgarh	131.78	131.78
6.	Goa #	11.87	0.00
7.	Gujarat	386.19	386.19
8.	Haryana	112.77	112.77
9.	Himachal Pradesh	33.02	33.02
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	42.05	42.05
11.	Jharkhand	70.13	70.13
12.	Karnataka	410.00	410.00
13.	Kerala	110.92	110.92
14.	Madhya Pradesh	247.44	178.20
15.	Maharashtra	407.24	346.11
16.	Manipur	5.86	1.47
17.	Meghalaya	24.68	24.68
18.	Mizoram #	4.15	0.00
19.	Nagaland	20.38	20.38
20.	Orissa	121.49	121.49
21.	Punjab	43.23	43.23
22.	Rajasthan	186.12	186.12
23.	Sikkim	15.29	15.29
24.	Tamil Nadu	127.90	127.90
25.	Tripura	31.28	31.28
26.	Uttar Pradesh	390.97	390.97
27.	Uttarakhand	71.36	71.36
28.	West Bengal	147.38	147.38
TOTAL:		3770.25	3607.40

1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12.21	1.28
2.	Chandigarh	3.70	0.42
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli #	0.29	0.00
4.	Daman and Diu #	0.30	0.00
5.	Delhi	2.36	0.24
6.	Lakshadweep	10.12	1.09
7.	Pondicherry #	0.69	0.00
TOTAL UTs:		29.67	3.03
District Agriculture Plans		6.82	0.90
NIRD, ISEC, IEG, IIM-CMA			0.33
GRAND TOTAL:		3806.74	3611.66

#The States/UTs are not eligible for funds under RKVY during 2009-10.

#### Suicide by farmers

924. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide during 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, State-wise;

(b) out of above, how many were small/marginal farmers and how many of them were under debt;

(c) whether all bereaved families have received some State grant;

(d) whether suicide of a single farmer is a sad commentary on poor economy of farm sector; and

(e) whether earning from agriculture would not improve till remunerative price is not ensured for farmers produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) to (c) Details indicating State-wise number of suicides due to agrarian reasons during the last four years, as made available by the State Governments, is given in the Statement (See below). The State Governments do not report this data by the status of landholding or indebtedness of the farmers. Under the Rehabilitation Package announced in the year 2006, there is a provision of *ex-gratia* assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund @ Rs. 50 lakh per district. Besides this, the State Governments also grant *ex-gratia* assistance.

(d) and (e) Every incident of suicide is tragic and it must be averted. The Government is committed to always ensuring the well being of all its citizens as enjoined upon it by the Directive Principles of State Policy.

While announcing the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Government considers that the farmers get a price realization which gives them a reasonable margin over the cost of production. Substantial increase in the MSP of major cereals ranging from 39% to 78% was provided during the last 5 years. MSP of pulses and oilseeds were enhanced by up to 104% during the same period.

**Statement**

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

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. of suicides by farmers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2006-07	530
		2007-08	490
		2008-09	390
		2009-10 (upto 16.11.2009)	77
2.	Karnataka	2006-07	176
		2007-08	182
		2008-09	143
		2009-10 (upto 31.08.2009)	14
3.	Maharashtra	2006-07	1028
		2007-08	590
		2008-09	627
		2009-10 (upto 15.11.2009)	259
4.	Kerala	2006-07	112
		2007-08	68
		2008-09	22
		2009-10 (upto 31.08.2009)	02
5	Tamil Nadu	2006-07	01
		2007-08	01
		2008-09	01
		2009-10 (upto 31.10.2009)	Nil
6.	Punjab	2006-07	19
		2007-08	24
		2008-09	10
		2009-10 (upto 31.10.2009)	18

1	2	3	4
7.	Gujarat	2006-07	04
		2007-08	04
		2008-09	01
		2009-10 (upto 03.06.2009)	Nil
8.	Assam	03.12.2009	Nil
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.08.2007	Nil
10.	Bihar	14.05.2008	Nil
11.	Chhattisgarh	31.07.2009	Nil
12.	Goa	31.10.2009	Nil
13.	Haryana	16.11.2009	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	19.11.2009	Nil
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.11.2009	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	25.04.2008	Nil
17.	Manipur	19.11.2009	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	31.07.2009	Nil
19.	Madhya Pradesh	24.11.2009	Nil
20.	Mizoram	23.07.2009	Nil
21.	Nagaland	23.11.2009	Nil
22.	Orissa	23.11.2009	Nil*
23.	Rajasthan	04.12.2007	Nil
24.	Sikkim	21.11.2009	Nil
25.	Tripura	25.03.2008	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20.11.2009	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	08.05.2008	Nil
28.	West Bengal	31.10.2009	Nil
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	19.11.2009	Nil
30.	Government of NCT of Delhi	28.09.2007	Nil
31.	Daman and Diu	15.07.2009	Nil
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	01.07.2008	Nil

1	2	3	4
33.	Lakshadweep	19.11.2007	Nil
34.	Pondicherry	23.11.2009	Nil
35.	Chandigarh	15.11.2009	Nil

\*23 cases of alleged suicide by farmers.

#### **Research on agro-products**

925. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the agricultural products on which biotechnology research is being undertaken;
- (b) the products with respect to which research is complete;
- (c) the agro-products which Government is considering for commercialization; and
- (d) the details of decision taken by Government in respect of Brinjal?

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

(a) Biotechnology research is in progress at various institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in some of the important crops which include cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables etc.

(b) Transgenic Bt cotton variety (Bikaneri Narma) and four improved varieties: two in rice (Samba Mahsuri and Improved Pusa Basmati-1), one in maize (QPM Vivek Hybrid-9) and one in pearl millet (HHB 67) have been released after incorporation of desired traits using marker assisted selection.

(c) Products reflected in answer to question (b) above are being commercialized.

(d) The Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests organized national consultations chaired by the Minister of Environment and Forests (MoEF) at seven locations. On February 09, 2010, it was decided to impose a moratorium on commercialization of Bt brinjal until all concerns expressed by the public, NGOs, scientists and the State Governments are addressed adequately. The matter is now pending consideration of the GEAC.

#### **Second Green Revolution**

926. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of India in her Republic Day address, has stressed for Second Green Revolution to ensure food availability;
- (b) if so, the steps taken or being taken towards this goal;
- (c) whether there will be a time-frame to do so; and

(d) whether it would be major solution of the problem or it will be one among the several steps?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) For revitalization of agricultural sector, improvement in production and productivity, stepping up the growth rates of the sectors, enhancement of the incomes of the farmers, etc., the Government has already taken many initiatives like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, etc. Further, the Government has announced a National Policy for Farmers in 2007, incorporating many of the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers that are aimed at the revival of the Indian agriculture with special emphasis on the economic well being of the farmers. Moreover, in keeping with an announcement contained in the address by her Excellency, the President of India regarding urgent steps towards 'Second Green Revolution', following additional proposals have been made in the Union Budget 2010-11 to give fillip to the agricultural sector:—

1. Rs. 400 crore provided to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa.
2. Rs. 300 crore provided to organize 60,000 "pulses and oilseed villages" in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting, watershed management and soil health, to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas.
3. Rs. 200 crore provided for sustaining the gains already made in the green revolution areas through conservation farming, which involves concurrent attention to soil health, water conservation and preservation of biodiversity.
4. Banks have been consistently meeting the targets set for agriculture credit flow in the past few years. For the year 2010-11, the target has been set at Rs. 3,75,000 crore.
5. In view of the recent drought in some States and the severe floods in some other parts of the country, the period for repayment of the loan amount by farmers extended by six months from December 31, 2009 to June, 30, 2010 under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for Farmers.

6. Incentive of additional one per cent interest subvention to farmers who repay short-term crop loans as per schedule, increased to 2% for 2010-11.

All the above initiatives are aimed to enhance the prosperity of the farmers and food security of the Nation.

#### **Restarting of closed fertilizer units**

†927. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Group of Ministers had decided in October, 2008 to restart the eight closed fertilizer units of Barauni, Gorakhpur, Talcher, Korba, Haldia, Ramagundam, Durgapur and Sindri;
- (b) if so, whether at present the work has been started in these fertilizer units;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether these closed fertilizer units are a cause for scarcity of manure/fertilizers in the country and imported fertilizers cost more to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Pursuant to Cabinet decision dated 30.10.2008, it has been decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. An Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) has been constituted 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 considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable options. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

(d) The revival of closed plants is likely to reduce the supply and demand gap regarding availability of urea in the country. As regards prices of urea to the farmers, urea is made available to farmers at same maximum retail price irrespective of imported or indigenously produced.

#### **Availability of fertilizers for Kharif season**

928. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(a) whether Government is aware of shortage of fertilizers in various parts of the country resulting in direct affect on foodgrain production;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has since taken any steps or directed the fertilizer companies to make available sufficient fertilizers in view of Kharif season ahead; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State. 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.

The cumulative State-wise availability of major fertilizer like Urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilizers (NPK) during the current year 2009-10 (April'09 to January'10) is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Steps taken to make available sufficient fertilizers:

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

(ii) Department of Fertilizers has been operating buffer stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;

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

(iv) New pricing policy for attracting investment in urea sector has been announced on 4th September, 2008. Further, fertilizer sector has been given highest priority in allocation of gas, for debottlenecking, expansion and revival projects in the country. As a result, it is expected that urea production may increase to 21.70 million tonnes during 2010-11 against estimated production of 20.00 million tonnes during the current year.

(v) All possible steps are taken by the Department of Fertilizers to match the availability of fertilizers with the assessed requirement.

**Statement**

*Cumulative availability of Fertilizers during the year 2009-10 (April'09 to January'10)*

Qty in ('000) MTs

2009-10	Urea			DAP			MOP			Complex		
State	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	2490.00	2163.94	2144.10	925.00	831.95	828.03	560.00	544.82	465.33	1940.00	1604.51	1549.84
Karnataka	1216.00	1203.66	1181.75	730.00	704.82	700.74	452.00	551.00	477.11	995.00	860.79	824.32
Kerala	151.20	144.46	139.15	32.75	27.49	27.46	142.00	146.34	136.54	167.25	185.96	180.01
Tamil Nadu	970.00	867.47	863.72	386.00	263.60	263.48	496.00	458.74	415.22	332.00	529.26	522.30
Gujarat	1705.00	1603.36	1591.39	749.00	688.67	665.49	202.00	219.65	214.43	415.00	360.27	339.46
Madhya Pradesh	1507.41	1497.63	1480.32	848.32	914.14	903.85	119.46	131.03	110.82	354.56	204.88	198.48
Chhattisgarh	495.00	454.92	450.29	169.50	202.63	202.56	78.40	72.40	65.47	129.55	80.78	79.07
Maharashtra	2204.00	2020.21	2005.67	1095.90	1228.04	1210.45	470.70	607.21	517.90	1235.00	867.32	840.65
Rajasthan	1403.00	1222.70	1211.02	628.00	581.72	572.45	32.00	49.65	37.91	130.00	77.16	76.37
Haryana	1810.00	1563.15	1560.69	684.00	647.29	647.17	47.00	73.20	73.18	43.00	36.87	35.72
Punjab	2350.00	2114.69	2108.01	800.00	786.30	785.56	87.00	97.26	87.87	55.00	52.02	48.85
Himachal Pradesh	60.00	48.68	44.96	0.00	2.65	2.65	5.50	5.24	5.24	45.00	30.50	30.39
Jammu and Kashmir	116.86	64.31	62.35	73.79	40.35	39.49	22.84	15.47	15.47	0.00	0.00	0.00

Uttar Pradesh	4740.00	4467.22	4427.60	1580.00	1526.24	1520.42	275.00	303.76	266.87	750.00	688.46	626.13
Uttarakhand	183.00	195.63	194.02	36.00	37.23	36.89	12.50	3.46	3.46	45.00	29.40	26.86
Bihar	1660.00	1446.43	1436.14	430.00	379.75	377.84	195.00	200.10	179.90	300.00	224.62	220.41
Jharkhand	200.00	145.26	141.30	115.00	76.66	76.66	15.00	12.02	12.02	50.00	59.65	56.07
Orissa	485.00	417.60	394.69	188.05	209.88	200.04	150.93	125.01	104.04	258.72	205.49	195.29
West Bengal	1022.77	890.57	851.41	424.50	423.89	416.11	359.00	439.92	416.10	680.80	708.71	698.21
Assam	212.40	189.25	184.24	28.20	22.32	22.31	102.20	83.89	71.20	5.50	6.47	6.47
ALL INDIA:	25102.84	22796.54	22545.33	9962.48	9604.17	9508.22	3852.66	4156.75	3692.05	7972.44	6836.72	6578.44

### Fertilizers supplied to Jammu and Kashmir

929. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of fertilizers of different variety supplied to Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the names of distribution agencies and quantity of different fertilizers distributed by each one of them during the above period in Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure smooth supply of fertilizers in all seasons including remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The company-wise supply (availability) of major fertilizers *i.e.* Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and complex fertilizers during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April'09 to February'10) to Jammu and Kashmir is given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (c) The steps taken for smooth distribution of fertilizers are as under:
  - (i) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system ([www.urvarak.co.in](http://www.urvarak.co.in)) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
  - (ii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of 5000 MT Urea through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in Jammu and Kashmir;
  - (iii) The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports; and
  - (iv) In addition to Jammu, Srinagar has been declared as a national rake point by Department of Fertilizers for movement/distribution of fertilizers to remote locations in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Statement

*Company-wise supplies of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (Estt. April'09 to February'10)*

('000 MTs)

	2007-08				2008-09				2009-10 (April'09 to February'10)			
Company	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
IFFCO	42.88	19.63		8.05	44.56	25.85		0.62	23.62	26.42		
IPL		15.87	7.42			24.99	9.02			8.67	12.40	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CFCL	25.31				40.85	8.10	2.12		28.26	7.90	0.50	
NFL	53.86				47.98				18.07			
TATA							2.51				2.57	

Data as per FMS (Fertilizer Monitoring Systems) as on 03.03.2010

#### Control of drug pricing

930. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug majors have asked Government to be more predictable in the way it imposes price control on brands that are normally outside Government's direct price control and account for four-fifth of over Rs. 50,000 crore domestic market;

(b) whether pharma firms also want Government to consider price fluctuations either in calendar year or financial year; and

(c) if so, what are other main points mentioned by pharma firms and to what extent these suggestions have been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) There is no specific representation received from drug majors in this regard. However, various representation received from drug companies from time to time in the matter of price control on drug/medicines manufactured by them are dealt with as per the provisions of Drugs ((Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). So far as matter regarding consideration of price fluctuation either in calendar year or financial year is concerned it is stated that prices of non-scheduled formulations/medicines (drugs out of price control) are monitored by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly. As per the prescribed criteria companies are shortlisted by NPPA where there is an increase in price of a non-scheduled formulation by more than 10% in one year and the annual turnover of the formulation pack exceeds Rs. 1 crores. Further, the share of the formulator in that segment of the formulation is required to be at least 20% of the market or the medicine is one of the first 3 top brands of that group. The criteria, namely, high turnover and 10% price increase are designed to identify cases of mass consumption and to meet the requirement of 'public interest', referred to in para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. Wherever any abnormal price increase is noticed, necessary action is taken. This is an ongoing process. The price fluctuations need to be assessed each month for this purpose considering the preceding twelve month period and hence calendar year or financial year would not be relevant for monitoring the changes in prices and further action thereon.

#### Dependence on import of fertilizers

931. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our country is fully dependent on import of fertilizers for meeting demand; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to augment domestic production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The country is not fully dependent on imports of fertilizers like Urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate, various grades of complex fertilizers, Single Super Phosphate (SSP) etc. which are being produced in the country. However, the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production is being met through imports. Muriate of Potash (MOP) is the only fertilizer, whose demand is fully met through imports as there are no viable sources of MOP in the country.

(b) Government is always encouraging production of urea in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has announced a new policy on 4th September, 2008 to attract new investments. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor and ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to substantially bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea in next five years subject to adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices. Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P&K sector by allowing import parity price to the indigenous manufacturers of DAP. Government has also reduced the custom duty on phosphoric acid from 5% to 2% to enable indigenous manufacturers of P&K fertilizers to procure this important input at reasonable price. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector.

#### **Pharma PSUs entering new business areas**

932. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public Sector Pharmaceutical Companies under the administrative control of his Ministry;

(b) the details of their profit/loss position during each of the last three years;

(c) whether some pharma PSUs have submitted plans for entering into new business areas to improve margins; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Names of Public Sector Pharmaceutical Companies under the administrative control of this Ministry are as under:—

(i) Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurgaon

(ii) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pimpri, Pune

- (iii) Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), Kolkata
- (iv) Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), Bangaluru
- (v) Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL), Jaipur
- (vi) Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL), Kolkata — Closed
- (vii) Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited (SSPL), Kolkata — Closed
- (viii) Maharashtra Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (MAPL), Nagpur — Closed
- (ix) Manipur State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (MSDPL), Imphal — Closed
- (b) Profit/Loss position during last three years:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of PSU	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
IDPL	(412.66)	(438.88)	(443.70)
BCPL	(20.07)	(10.68)	(5.35)
HAL	200.49*	(20.71)	(22.09)
KAPL	4.19	5.19	6.00
RDPL**	3.11	3.80	0.48

Figures shown in bracket indicates Loss.

\* After considering the extraordinary items towards reliefs/concessions received as per the Rehabilitation Scheme approved by BIFR amounting to Rs. 23954.94 lacs.

\*\* Profit before tax

(c) and (d) HAL and IDPL have entrusted the jobs to Consultants to prepare pre-feasibility report to make Corporate Strategic Plan for the Company which envisages, new business areas like upgradation of formulation facilities, product mix, unlocking of untapped real estate assets *i.e.*, joint development of land on PPP basis, creation of Pharma Park, Biotechnology Park, Incubation Centres etc., creation of support infrastructure like R&D, ETP, Life Sciences, Education etc. and collaboration with international and national organizations for advanced technologies and technical knowledge etc.

#### Poor quality of imported fertilizers

933. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the steps taken by his Ministry to avoid poor quality of imported fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): In order to ensure availability of good quality of fertilizers to the farmers, the Government has promulgated the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The specifications of various fertilizers have been specified under FCO, 1985. The Fertilizer Inspectors of Central

Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI) Faridabad and the Regional Fertilizer Quality Control laboratories at Mumbai, Kalyani and Chennai regularly inspect and collect fertilizer samples for quality check from all the fertilizer vessels discharging at Indian ports. The subsidy on imported fertilizers is paid only if these fertilizers conform to quality specifications as per FCO.

#### **Quality of drugs exported by drug companies**

934. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that six Indian drug makers were restrained from supplying medicines by Sri Lanka recently, due to quality lapses;
- (b) the number and details of similar cases where Indian drug export companies have come under the regulatory scanner in other countries during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to address the issue?

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

(b) No such instance has come to the notice of the Department where Indian drug export companies have come under the regulatory scanner in other countries.

(c) Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council has reported that Drug Controller General (India) has already initiated/stipulated procedures to ensure that quality drugs and pharmaceuticals are exported from India.

#### **Short supply of levy sugar in Assam**

935. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is always a short supply of levy sugar in various districts including Barpeta in Assam under PDS due to non-availability of stock;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken for corrective measures for receipt of Government allotted quantity of levy sugar in regular manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Assam is one of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) operated States where levy sugar is supplied to the State Government agency by FCI, by lifting levy sugar from the concerned sugar mills against allocation orders issued by the Directorate of Sugar in the Government of India. The levy sugar quota of Assam is allocated in full by Directorate of Sugar in favour of FCI. However, on account of operational difficulties and restrictions imposed by the Railways from time to time and reluctance on part of



some sugar mills to give levy sugar, the full allocated quantity of levy sugar could not be dispatched to Assam by Food Corporation of India.

(c) The following steps have been taken for delivery of Government allotted quantity of levy sugar in a regular manner to FCI operated States including Assam:—

- (i) Alternative allocations are made by the Central Government whenever there is any specific request either from the FCI or the State concerned to make good the shortfall of levy sugar in the State.
- (ii) The Government regularly monitors the allocation, lifting and supply position of levy sugar in respect of FCI operated States including Assam in periodical meetings held with FCI officers.
- (iii) Food Corporation of India at its Headquarters closely monitors the lifting/delivery and issues instructions regarding lifting and dispatch of levy sugar from sugar mills and sorts out teething problems.
- (iv) Food Corporation of India through its field offices constantly pursues with the Railways and Railways have agreed to diversion of rakes from one nominated terminal to some other terminal at short notices even if rakes earmarked for that terminal are not received in time.
- (v) Railways have resorted to ¶ rake placement system.
- (vi) Penal action has been initiated against chronically defaulting sugar mills, which fail to supply levy sugar.

#### **Price hike of sugar**

936. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:  
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that price of sugar has increased about one hundred and fifty per cent during 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for such steep rise in price of sugar;
- (d) the details of the prices of sugar during the month of November and December, 2009 and January and February, 2010 till date;
- (e) the amount and rate at which sugar was imported and exported during last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to redress the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The retail price of sugar in the

four metropolitan cities as on 01.01.2009 and 31.12.2009 along with the details of percentage increase in sugar prices are given as under:—

(Rs. per kg.)			
Centre	On 1st Jan., 09	On 31st Dec., 09	Percentage increase in sugar prices.
Delhi	21.00	39.00	85.71%
Mumbai	21.50	39.00	81.39%
Kolkata	21.00	38.00	80.95%
Chennai	21.00	34.00	61.90%

(c) The shortfall between domestic production and demand of sugar in the last 2008-09 sugar season and the current season 2009-10 is the main reason for rise in sugar prices. Besides, deficit in global supply and demand, increase in international prices of sugar, adverse market sentiments and expectation contributed to rise in prices of sugar in the domestic market.

(d) The month-wise range of prices of sugar (Ex-mill and retail) during the month of November, 2009, December, 2009, January, 2010 and February, 2010 is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(e) There has been no export or import of sugar on Government account during the last three sugar years (October-September). It is the sugar mills or Public Sector Undertakings or merchant importers/exporters who have undertaken export or import of sugar as per their commercial prudence. The international sugar prices of export or import have varied from time to time. Export of sugar was mainly to Bangladesh, Djibouti, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Somalia and Sri Lanka. There was hardly any import of sugar in 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons. Sugar has mainly been imported in 2009-10 sugar season from Brazil and Thailand. The quantum of export and import of sugar during the last three sugar years was as under:—

Sugar Year	Quantity exported (in lac tons)	Quantity imported (in lac tons)
2006-07	24.91	0.005
2007-08	58.22	0.004
2008-09	2.165	10.97

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

(f) The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of Sugar and to check rise in sugar prices which, *inter-alia*, include permitting duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar upto 31.12.2010, imposition of stockholding and turnover limits on sugar dealers, stockholding limit on bulk consumers of sugar, etc. as given in the Statement-II (See below). These measures have helped to contain sugar prices in the country.

**Statement-I**

*Sugar prices upto 26th February, 2010*

**Ex-Mill Non-levy sugar prices (S-30 grade)**

(Rs. per quintal)

State	Nov., 2009	Dec., 2009	Jan., 2010	Feb., 2010 (upto 26th)
Uttar Pradesh	3240-3590	3165-3690	3745-4290	3590-4240
Maharashtra	3140-3350	3020-3365	3550-3930	3220-3845
Tamil Nadu	3075-3250	3000-3400	3500-4000	3500-4000

*Source: Daily Trade Mart Enquiry, Directorate of Sugar*

**Retail price of sugar**

(Rs. Per kg.)

Centre	Nov., 2009	Dec., 2009	Jan., 2010	Feb., 2010 (upto 26th)
Delhi	38.00	37.00-39.00	40.00-47.00	41.00-45.00
Mumbai	33.50-39.00	36.50-39.00	39.00-44.00	40.00-43.00
Kolkata	31.00-36.00	36.00-37.00	38.00-42.00	38.00-42.00
Chennai	33.00-34.00	34.00	34.00-42.00	40.00-42.00

*(Source: Price Monitoring Cell, Department of Consumer Affairs)*

**Statement-II**

*Steps taken to augment availability of sugar and moderate sugar prices in  
2008-09 and 2009-10 sugar seasons*

- Allowed duty-free import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills on ton-to-ton basis with effect from 17.02.2009 upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed duty-free import of raw sugar by sugar mills under Open General License with effect from 17.04.2009 and opened up to private trade from 31.07.2009 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. Presently, this facility is in force upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty-free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons with effect from 17.04.2009 and opened up to other Central/State Government agencies and private trade in addition to existing designated agencies with effect from 31.07.2009. Presently, this facility is in force upto 31.12.2010 without any quantitative cap.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the

importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.

- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the imports competitive.
- The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production for 2009-10 sugar season only.
- Stockholding and turnover limits on sugar dealers were imposed *vide* notification dated 12.03.2009. Further, khandsari sugar has been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit from 16.07.2009. Presently these limits are in force upto 30.09.2010.
- An order has been issued *vide* notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding 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, stipulating that such bulk consumers shall not hold sugar stock exceeding fifteen days of their requirement. The notification has come into effect from 19.09.2009. The stockholding limit has been lowered to ten days, and the revised limit has been notified on 05.02.2010 to come into effect from 20.02.2010 and will continue for a period of 180 days thereafter *i.e.* upto 18.08.2010.

#### **Bogus ration cards**

937. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that millions of ration cards both BPL and APL are bogus;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with particular reference to Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard during last years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State/UT Governments to issue ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. Details showing the number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by 21 State/UT Governments including Uttar Pradesh from July, 2006 to January, 2010 are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). Statement-II indicating District-wise

ration cards deleted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh during 2008-2009 and 2009-10 (up to January, 2010) is enclosed.

**Statement-I**

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

(Updated on 31.01.2010)

Sl. No.	State	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted/eliminated (in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2.	Assam	0.07
3.	Bihar	1.51
4.	Chhattisgarh	3.65
5.	Delhi	16.32
6.	Gujarat	7.83
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02 #
8.	Jharkhand	0.65
9.	Karnataka	6.45
10.	Kerala	0.00 &&
11.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
12.	Maharashtra	29.45
13.	Meghalaya	0.00 *
14.	Mizoram	0.02 ##
15.	Orissa	2.50
16.	Sikkim	0.01 @
17.	Uttar Pradesh	8.17
18.	Uttarakhand	0.16
19.	West Bengal	59.67 (individual cards)
20.	Lakshadweep	0.00 \$
21.	Puducherry	0.00 **
TOTAL		171.91

Actual figures # 1536, && 114, \* 341, ## 1633, @ 914, \$ 300, \*\* 16

**Statement-II**

*District-wise number of ration cards deleted during from April, 2008 to  
March, 2009 and April, 2009 to January, 2010*

Sl. No.	District	April, 2008 to March, 2009	April, 2009 to January, 2010
1	2	3	4
1.	Aligarh	735	1801
2.	Etah	954	3818
3.	Hathras	166	187
4.	Kashiramnagar	241	68
5.	Agra	179	118
6.	Firozabad	221	354
7.	Mathura	558	815
8.	Mainpuri	401	267
9.	Azamgarh	495	542
10.	Mau	210	3459
11.	Ballia	898	1549
12.	Allahabad	358	904
13.	Pratapgarh	206	373
14.	Kaushambi	686	746
15.	Fatehpur	304	494
16.	Etawah	349	103
17.	Auraiya	212	223
18.	Kannauj	209	78
19.	Kanpur Dehat	431	413
20.	Kanpur Nagar	1581	300
21.	Farrukhabad	282	612
22.	Kushinagar	1433	359
23.	Gorakhpur	718	976
24.	Deoria	632	317
25.	Maharajganj	960	1097

1	2	3	4
26.	Chitrakoot	62	150
27.	Banda	464	120
28.	Mahoba	718	418
29.	Hamirpur	372	546
30.	Jalaun	848	178
31.	Jhansi	684	499
32.	Lalitpur	657	369
33.	Gonda	127	106
34.	Balrampur	188	145
35.	Bahraich	161	280
36.	Shravasti	113	74
37.	Ambedkar Nagar	606	33
38.	Faizabad	689	436
39.	Barabanki	1066	516
40.	Sultanpur	1379	2156
41.	Pilibhit	332	434
42.	Budaun	441	3694
43.	Bareilly	582	2669
44.	Shahjahanpur	378	120
45.	Basti	2177	616
46.	Sant Kabir Nagar	157	268
47.	Siddharthnagar	326	427
48.	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	375	123
49.	Bijnor	3348	292
50.	Moradabad	4625	4875
51.	Rampur	600	381
52.	Ghaziabad	820	516
53.	Gautam Buddha Nagar	106	188
54.	Bagpat	449	181
55.	Bulandshahr	439	1474

1	2	3	4
56.	Meerut	2732	164
57.	Unnao	329	117
58.	Kheri	516	514
59.	Rae Bareli	656	114
60.	Lucknow	170	1067
61.	Sitapur	323	132
62.	Hardoi	1810	253
63.	Ghazipur	192	225
64.	Chandauli	601	354
65.	Jaunpur	2247	808
66.	Varanasi	1009	257
67.	Mirzapur	1093	791
68.	Sonbhadra	953	508
69.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	1584	720
70.	Muzaffarnagar	359	290
71.	Saharanpur	1118	6298
TOTAL		52400	54869

#### **Connivance of hoarders with sugar mill owners**

†938. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sugar prices are on a constant rise across the country because of connivance of hoarders with sugar mill owners country-wide and also due to lack of a concrete system for supply of sugar;
- (b) the system in place for supply of sugar country-wide;
- (c) whether Government has set any criteria at the State level for supply of sugar; 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) The price of non-levy sugar (free-sale sugar) in the open market depends upon a number of factors like production, demand and supply of sugar, international prices, market sentiments,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



etc. The prices have risen due to interplay of market sentiments and demand-production gap and have also fallen from time to time responding to the measures taken by Government to augment domestic availability of sugar and enforce stockholding limits.

(b) The Central Government has been following the policy of partial control on sugar since 1967-68 except for two short spells from 25th May, 1971 to 30th June, 1972 and from 16th August, 1978 to 16th December, 1979. Under this policy, a portion of sugar production (10% of the sugar production during the 2008-09 sugar season and raised to 20% for sugar season 2009-10) is requisitioned from the producers of sugar as levy sugar for distribution through ration/fair price shops in the Public Distribution System (PDS) at a uniform retail price throughout the country. The remaining portion of sugar is allowed to be sold as non-levy sugar (free-sale sugar) through the system of Regulated Release Mechanism which is applicable uniformly to all the sugar mills throughout the country.

(c) and (d) The sugar mills are required to sale and deliver the specified levy sugar quota to the Food Corporation of India/State Government or UT Administration or their nominated agencies. Sugar mills are free to sale and deliver the non-levy quota to a dealer of sugar in any State/UT across the country subject to weekly/fortnightly/monthly sale stipulation as considered appropriate by the Central Government.

#### **Allocation of APL rice to Andhra Pradesh**

939. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any request from Andhra Pradesh Government for restoration of APL rice allocation for the year 2009-10 to the level of 2007-08 aimed at ensuring uninterrupted supply of rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. under PDS;

(b) if so, the details and latest status thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in restoration of allocation requested; and

(d) the response of the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Andhra Pradesh Government requested for restoration of APL rice allocation to the level of 2007-08.

Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocations of foodgrains including rice for APL category are at present made to all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake.

Higher level of allocations of foodgrains were made to the State upto 2007-08 when there was surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Considering the present stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, it is not possible to restore allocations to 2007-08

levels. However, to augment availability of foodgrains in the State to meet its requirement under TPDS, the following normal and additional allocations have been made to the State during 2009-10.

Existing monthly allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh under APL category are as follows:—

(Qty. in tons)

Commodity	APL Allocation
Rice	131334
Wheat	2754
TOTAL	134088

Over and above these normal allocations, the following additional allocations have been made to the State:—

- (i) Allocation of 2.40 lakh tons of APL rice during the period April to September, 2009 as part of incentive for higher procurement of rice.
- (ii) Allocation of 17893 tons of rice and 35785 tons of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices for drought relief from October, 2009 to March, 2010.
- (iii) A special *ad hoc* allocation of 125737 tons of rice and 32473 tons of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices for January and February, 2010 @ 10 kg. per family for all accepted APL, BPL and AAY families under TPDS.
- (iv) 2250 tons of wheat per month at MSP based price during the period April to June, 2009.
- (v) 756 tons of Maize and 7200 tons of Jowar at Central Issue Price (CIP) during May to October, 2009.
- (vi) Under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), 305506 tons of rice and 16478 tons of wheat have been allocated to the State for distribution to retail consumers during October, 2009 to March, 2010.

#### Price rise of essential commodities

940. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:  
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether in view of continuing rocketing of prices of essential commodities particularly food items, Government has taken a slew of measures;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the price rise;

(c) whether various political parties and leaders have expressed serious concern over the price rise in food commodities; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government has succeeded in bringing down the prices of essential commodities?

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

(b) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in the Statement (*See below*).

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

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

Weather, apart from seasonal factors, may have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables and fruits.

The less than estimated sugar production in the country during the last sugar season 2008-09 and the anticipated low production of sugar during the current sugar season 2009-10 led to escalation in sugar prices.

(c) Yes, Sir. Short Duration discussions were held in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 25.2.2010 where the Members of the Parliament had expressed concerns over the escalation in food prices.

(d) The retail prices of essential commodities are either declining or are steady across 27 centres over the past one month. This is mainly due to the number of steps taken by the Government to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***Measures taken by Government to control prices of essential commodities***

#### **1. Fiscal Measures**

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero — for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize and butter and ghee;
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;
- (iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. up to 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009) 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) 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) Withdrew export incentives on milk and milk products.
- (vi) Withdrawal of 5% benefit under VKGUY for the export of oil cake/meal.
- (vii) Reduced custom duty on Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) to 30% as in the case of butter/butter oil.
- (viii) Permitted import of 10,000 MT Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) under TRQ (5%) for 2009-10.

## **2. Administrative Measures**

- (ix) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (x) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (xi) Effected no changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils.
- (xii) 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.
- (xiii) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at \$500 per tonne for February, 2010) and basmati rice (\$900 PMT);
- (xiv) 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.
- (xvi) 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 the end of June, 2010.
- (xvii) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs. 15/kg.
- (xviii) 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.
- (xix) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs. 10 per kg to State Governments.
- (xx) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.

- (xxi) Proportion of sugar production requisitioned as levy sugar has been increased from 10 to 20% for 2009-10 sugar season to ensure adequate levy sugar supplies under PDS.
- (xxii) For the month of February, 2010, 15.97 lakh tons of non levy sugar have been made available which includes 12.00 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 2.97 lakh tons of sugar processed from imported raw sugar during December, 2009, estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.00 lakh ton. Besides, levy sugar quota of 1.94 lac tons also been released. Thus, for the month of February, 2010, 17.91 lac tons has been made available.
- (xxiii) An additional allocation of wheat/rice @ 10 kg/family/months of January and February, 2010 has been made to the accepted numbers of AAY, BPL and APL ration cards. This is in addition to existing allocation while the wheat will be allocated at MSP price, rice will be allotted at MSP derived price.
- (xxiv) **OMSS interventions:**
  - (i) Allocation to State Governments under OMSS (Domestic) for release of 20.00 lakh tonnes of wheat has been made to check inflationary trends in food economy from October, 09 to March, 2010. The State/UT Governments have been asked to distribute wheat released under OMSS (D) to household consumers and small processors of wheat.
  - (ii) In addition to above a quantity of 10.00 lakh MT wheat was also allocated by Government for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI from October, 09 — March, 10. On 18.1.2010, another 5.18 lakh tonnes of wheat from the expected savings from retail allocations, has been allocated for bulk consumers through tender sale.
  - (iii) In order to check inflationary trend in prices of rice, a quantity of 10.0 lakh tonnes of rice was allocated during Oct.'09 to March, 2010 to State Governments for distribution to retail consumers.
  - (iv) On 18.1.2010, NAFED has been allotted 37400 tonnes of wheat and 17000 tonnes of rice from the un-lifted quantity of OMSS allocations to State Governments. Similarly, NCCF has been allocated 32684.21 tonnes wheat and 11000 tonnes rice for sale to retail consumers.

### 3. Medium Term Measures:

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

#### Price rise of sugar

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

- (a) whether in the year 2008-09 the total availability of sugar was 300 million tones

taking into account the amount of sugar production, import of sugar and the stock of sugar and the demand of sugar was 230 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, when there was a surplus of 70 million tonnes of sugar, the reasons for rise in prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In the sugar year 2008-09, the total availability of sugar was about 25.8 million tonnes comprising of opening stocks of about 10 million tonnes, import of about 1.1 million tonnes and production of about 14.7 million tonnes (provisional) against the estimated domestic consumption of about 22 million tonnes and actual release of 23.1 million tonnes of sugar.

The estimated closing stock at the end of the 2008-09 season was merely 2.5 million tonnes and not 70 million tonnes. The domestic prices of sugar depend not only on the supply and demand position in the country but also on other factors like anticipated production in the coming season, global production, demand surplus or deficit, international prices, market sentiments and expectations, etc.

#### **Food Security Law**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to accord legal status to the claim of food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government considers that the promise it is going to make to provide food grains under Food Security Law would ensure full meal to half of the population of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what would be the significance of this Food Security Law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Her Excellency, the President of India, during her address to the joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, announced that the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act.

A Draft National Food Security Bill is under the preparation for early publication.

#### **Allotment of wheat and rice to Kerala**

943. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of monthly APL rice and wheat allotment to Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that allotment has been reduced recently;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has given any representation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The allocations of foodgrains including rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made to all States/UTs including Kerala depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Present monthly allocations under APL category to Kerala are as per details given below:—

(Qty. in tons)

Commodity	APL Allocation
Rice	36056
Wheat	11777
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>47833</b>

Monthly allocations of rice and wheat to Kerala have not been reduced recently. In addition to the above monthly allocations, the following additional allocations have been made to the State for APL families:—

- (i) 50,000 tons of rice and 25,000 tons of wheat in August, 2009 for Onam Festival.
- (ii) A special *ad hoc* allocation of 46057 tons of rice and 15043 tons of wheat per month at MSP derived/based prices @ 10 kg per family for all accepted number of AAY, BPL and APL families for January and February, 2010.
- (iii) Under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), 51350 tons of rice and 81320 tons of wheat for distribution to retail consumers during October, 2009 to March, 2010.

Government of Kerala has given representations for restoration of APL allocation to the level of 2006-07. Higher allocations of foodgrains under APL category were made upto 2006-07 due to surplus availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool at that time. The offtake by the State, however, was very less at 23.44% in 2006-07. Considering the current level of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool, additional allocation of foodgrains under APL category to the level of 2006-07 is not possible.

#### **Enhanced allocation under PDS**

944. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for allotment of at least 35 kg. of rice to each family at the rate of Rs. 2.00 per kg. under PDS considering seriousness of price hike in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the PDS to fight the recent unprecedented price hike and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government makes allocation of foodgrains to all States/Union Territories (UTs) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted 6.52 crore BPL including AAY families. Allocations of foodgrains under Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake. At present, allocation of foodgrains to APL category are between 10 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.

The Government has made allocations of 276.77 lakh tons of food grains — both rice and wheat — for BPL/AAY families during 2009-10. For APL category, during 2009-10, a quantity of 199.93 lakh tons of foodgrains (rice and wheat) have been allocated. This is against the allocation of 112 lakh tons of foodgrains under APL category during 2008-09.

In addition, a total quantity of 36.08 lakh tons of foodgrains has been allocated as a special *ad-hoc* additional allocation @ 10 kg of foodgrains per family in respect of all accepted number of families (BPL/AAY/APL) in the country for two months, namely for January and February, 2010 to check inflationary trend in food economy.

Further, allocations have been made to States/UTs under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) which include a quantity of 20 lakh tons of wheat and 10 lakh tons of rice for distribution to retail consumers and 10 lakh tons of wheat for sale to bulk consumers during October, 2009 to March, 2010.

A quantity of 37,400 tons of wheat and 17,000 tons of rice under OMSS has also been allocated to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and a quantity of 32,684.21 tons of wheat and 11,000 tons of rice to National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) for sale to retail consumers.

State/UT Governments have been asked to take proactive steps to contain rise in prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities and keep the cost of intermediation under check for reducing the gap between the wholesale and retail prices by using agencies such as Civil Supplies Corporations for procurement of non-PDS food articles in bulk for distribution to the retail consumers.

Further, in order to cushion consumers against price rise in pulses and edible oils, the Central Government is allocating imported edible oil and pulses, at subsidized rates to the State/UT Governments as per their requirements for distribution to the ration card holders/consumers.



In addition to the commodities allocated by Central Government under TPDS, State/UT Governments may organize distribution of additional essential commodities through fair price shops and other outlets.

#### **BPL families in Andhra Pradesh**

945. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the 1993-94 poverty estimates, the number of BPL families in Andhra Pradesh stands at 40.63 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ration cards issued by the State stands at 191.12 lakhs, including AAY which stands at 15.58 lakhs;

(c) whether the above cards have been issued as per the estimates provided by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry is providing foodgrains to 191.12 lakh card holders in the State; and

(e) if not, how the above BPL families would get foodgrains inspite of issuing ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. For allocations of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 01st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crores, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

These 6.52 crore BPL families, include 40.63 lakh BPL families, including 15.578 lakh AAY families in Andhra Pradesh. However, as reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, they have issued 203.178 lakh BPL/AAY ration cards (187.60 lakh BPL and 15.578 lakh AAY ration cards).

The Central Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) @ 35 kg per family per month to 6.52 crore BPL/AAY families, including 40.63 lakh BPL families (which include 15.578 lakh AAY families) in Andhra Pradesh.

The above mentioned norms are uniformly applicable for all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh.

Foodgrains are also allocated for Above Poverty Line (APL) families between 10 and 35 kg. per family per month, depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the Central pool, including Andhra Pradesh.

As reported by the Andhra Pradesh Government, they utilize the allocation of rice made by the Central Government for BPL (other than AAY) and APL category of households, to meet the requirement of 187.60 lakh BPL families at Rs. 2.00 per kg. The deficit between the actual requirement and allotment of rice made by the Central Government under BPL and APL categories is being met through purchases in the open market by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Discrepancies in BPL cards**

†946. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any discrepancies have been found in the BPL cards by Government and eligible people are not getting the benefit of BPL card;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove such discrepancies;
- (c) whether Government feels the need to increase BPL quota in proportion to the population; and
- (d) if so, up to what extent and if not, whether all eligible people of BPL are getting facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rest with the concerned State and UT Governments.

Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State levels. For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. The number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. However, as reported by end of January, 2010, State and UT Governments have issued 11.12 crore BPL ration cards including 2.43 crore AAY cards. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by the State Governments/UTs is due to improper targeting of the poor households, and have inclusion as well as exclusion errors. The State and UT Governments have been directed to take up a campaign during October to December, 2009 to detect and eliminate bogus/ineligible BPL ration cards.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

### Storage of foodgrains under open sky

†947. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Food Corporation of India stores foodgrains under open sky if the foodgrains are more than their capacity of storage;
- (b) if so, the names of the States in which such type of storage is done;
- (c) the quantity of foodgrains that gets rotten up due to storage under open sky; and
- (d) whether few warehouses of FCI of any State remain empty due to non-availability of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India stores foodgrains under open if the stocks of foodgrains exceed the covered storage capacity of FCI. However, storage in open is done scientifically and such stock are moved on priority. For storage in the open, FCI has developed an indigenous method of storage called CAP (Cover And Plinth). CAP storage is a term given to storage of foodgrains in the open with adequate precautions such as rat and damp proof plinths, use of dunnage and covering of stacks with specially fabricated polythene covers etc. In this type of storage, both prophylactic and curative treatment is done regularly for proper maintenance of stock. The stocks kept under CAP are scientifically graded, fumigated and aerated by qualified trained and experienced personnel.

(b) CAP storage is done by FCI in the following States :

(i) Bihar (ii) Jharkhand (iii) West Bengal (iv) Delhi (v) Haryana (vi) Punjab (vii) Chandigarh (viii) Rajasthan (ix) Uttar Pradesh (x) Uttarakhand (xi) Andhra Pradesh (xii) Kerala (xiii) Karnataka (xiv) Tamil Nadu (xv) Pondicherry (xvi) Gujarat (xvii) Maharashtra (xviii) Madhya Pradesh.

(c) No quantity of foodgrains have become rotten in the Food Corporation of India due to storage under CAP.

However, some quantity of foodgrains have been downgraded.

In 2009-10, details of non-issuable stocks in CAP are as under:—

(Figures in MTs)

Region	Quantity Damaged
1. Maharashtra	103
2. Gujarat	633
3. Chhattisgarh	957
TOTAL	1693

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No, Sir. At present the warehouses of FCI are not sufficient to hold the stocks of foodgrains. The storage of foodgrains in the godowns is an ongoing activity because of continuous inflow and outflow of stocks and the capacity utilization of storage godowns keeps on changing during the year. However, FCI have not capacity utilization in some godowns is poor due to court cases, labour disputes, etc.

#### **Prices of essential commodities**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to provide essential commodities to poor people on subsidised rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. The retail prices of essential commodities are either declining or are steady over the past one month in respect of most of 27 centres, prices for which are monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY. There is a scheme where the Imported Pulses are sold by the PSUs to the State Governments for distribution under the PDS. The total subsidy is limited to Rs. 10 per kg.

The Government had also launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute upto one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg per ration card per month at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg. The Scheme has been continued in the current year upto 31.10.2010 with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. PEC, STC, MMTC, NAFED and NCCF were authorized to import upto 10 lakh tons of oils during 2009-10 upto 31.10.2010 States are free to distribute the oil through whatever outlets they decide on.

#### **Action plan for stability of prices**

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

(a) the details of average wholesale and retail prices of food articles, viz., rice, wheat/flour, pulses, sugar, jaggery, iodised salt, potato, onion etc. as prevailed during the

current financial year, month-wise and comparison thereof with those of corresponding period of previous year;

- (b) whether Government had any prior apprehension about potential rise in prices;
- (c) if so, the basis thereof;
- (d) whether Government drew alternative action-plans with a view to ensuring stability of prices;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of the All India average wholesale and retail prices of food articles, viz., rice, wheat, pulses, sugar, salt, potato, onion etc. during the current financial year, month-wise, as compared to the corresponding period of previous year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The impact of delayed monsoon as well as of floods on production and therefore on prices was recognized by the Government.

(c) This was based on the area coverage and production estimates released by Ministry of Agriculture and the reports on the status of rainfall released by the Indian Meteorological department.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers. Government measures are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to Answer to the Unstarred Question No. 940 Part 'b']

(f) Does not arise.

#### ***Statement***

*All India Average Wholesale Prices (2008-09 and 2009-10)*

(Rs. per quintal)

	Rice		Wheat		Gram Dal		Tur Dal	
Month	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Apr.	1374.43	1542.63	1241.68	1278.29	3241.49	3065.34	3711.57	4676.53
May	1411.45	1553.31	1221.39	1271.36	3193.8	3024.44	3681.62	4837.89
Jun.	1454.17	1542.06	1200.26	1269.84	3141.94	3014.4	3723.94	5007.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jul.	1491.54	1540.54	1226.17	1276.55	3163.95	3096.83	3906.04	5733.85
Aug.	1497.36	1557.49	1248.94	1295.29	3292.23	3197.1	4095.74	6472.72
Sep.	1515.3	1576.19	1248.43	1311.3	3297.58	3190.33	4181.95	6615.63
Oct.	1513.96	1619.09	1243.06	1342.19	3246.47	3159.17	4246.77	6705.23
Nov.	1520.44	1654.66	1245.13	1409.98	3192.69	3251.24	4272.7	7085.27
Dec.	1524.84	1678.32	1249.47	1466.83	3156.81	3282.17	7275.41	7084.49
Jan.	1526.84	1720.07	1263.46	1475.01	3102.55	3286.84	4285.1	6975.41
Feb.	1528.28	1708.87	1274.43	1474.71	3118.02	3142.81	4418.35	6590.67
Mar.	1531.15		1281.07		3088.29		4488.12	
	<b>Sugar</b>		<b>Ground nut oil</b>		<b>Mustard oil</b>		<b>Vanaspati</b>	
Apr.	1600.74	2216.55	8123.77	7678.54	6970.14	7044.55	6230.62	4773.59
May	1604.91	2294.71	8147.43	7680	6833.96	6963.67	6031.91	4922.96
Jun.	1608.67	2338.38	8309.94	7567.02	7193.58	6848.66	6127.74	4912.92
Jul.	1630.32	2403.43	8400.33	7609.57	7622.31	6677.11	6256.5	4864.01
Aug.	1807.91	2598.87	8337.22	7679.3	7763.99	6500.98	6074.93	4791.26
Sep.	1916.28	2806.92	8227.62	7677.36	7741.94	6435.41	5790.69	4723.18
Oct.	1892.01	2879.3	8103.59	7780.15	7744.38	6604.43	5534.54	4724.15
Nov.	1872.28	3074.44	8054.06	7677.08	7735.14	6654.24	5411.05	4739.52
Dec.	1899.05	3162.19	7984.94	7763.46	7721	6684.25	5295.72	4764.21
Jan.	1971.3	3311.16	7913.02	7829.94	7697.39	6681.73	5145.49	4756.61
Feb.	2059.86	3401.46	7799.28	7722.66	7530	6625.2	5048.43	4785.06
Mar.	2130.66		7669.19		7337.15		4871.7	
	<b>Potato</b>		<b>Onion</b>		<b>Salt</b>		<b>Gur</b>	
Apr.	609.75	713.65	613.39	1088.73	704.95	807.75	1520.19	2036.39
May	610.95	804.68	593.34	946.68	718.16	812.02	1567.34	2240.83
Jun.	606.66	894.85	574.19	947.45	741.47	818.5	1574.68	2377.27
Jul.	626.31	1036.54	659.66	970.36	751.88	830.61	1639.74	2475.64
Aug.	672.36	1158.9	867.31	950.21	763.83	857.54	1757.19	2595.49
Sep.	701.95	1288.91	906.59	961.89	772.82	878.34	1829.84	2710.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Oct.	701.79	1451.4	889.6	1314.38	780.25	896.52	1842.58	2863.66
Nov.	700.91	1510.01	985.45	1522.7	788.26	900.16	1847.26	2942.59
Dec.	646.19	1395.11	1079	1568	791.18	905.84	1843.19	2931.72
Jan.	626.06	1254.01	1253.37	1593.35	791.2	906.97	1884.73	2973.28
Feb.	596.09	1056.54	1221.45	1515.84	792.92	892.34	1941.36	2975.86
Mar.	615.76		1198.9		798.38			1956.82

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments

*All India Average Retail Prices (2008-09 and 2009-10)*

(Rs. per kg)

Rice			Wheat			Gram Dal		
Month	2008-09	2009-10	Month	2008-09	2009-10	Month	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Apr.	15.35	17.13	Apr.	13.75	14.08	Apr.	35.23	34.18
May	15.69	17.28	May	13.66	14.03	May	34.69	33.95
Jun.	16.05	17.28	Jun.	13.36	13.98	Jun.	34.21	33.84
Jul.	16.61	17.39	Jul.	13.41	14.12	Jul.	35.16	34.95
Aug.	16.63	17.59	Aug.	13.76	14.35	Aug.	36.17	35.98
Sep.	16.75	17.78	Sep.	13.78	14.52	Sep.	36.1	35.68
Oct.	16.63	18.22	Oct.	13.75	14.81	Oct.	35.63	35.49
Nov.	16.65	18.36	Nov.	13.71	15.12	Nov.	35.32	35.64
Dec.	16.78	18.89	Dec.	13.74	16.23	Dec.	34.97	36.37
Jan.	16.84	19.47	Jan.	13.87	16.45	Jan.	34.49	35.84
Feb.	17	19.25	Feb.	13.94	16.4	Feb.	34.44	34.85
Mar.	17.03		Mar.	14.03		Mar.	34.3	
<b>Tur dal</b>			<b>Sugar</b>			<b>Milk</b>		
Apr.	39.94	49.74	Apr.	17.08	23.57	Apr.	19.81	21.29
May	40.24	51.55	May	17.2	24.69	May	20.03	21.52
Jun.	40.63	53.24	Jun.	17.14	25.06	Jun.	20.27	21.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jul.	42.34	60.55	Jul.	17.48	25.58	Jul.	20.33	21.72
Aug.	43.78	68.64	Aug	19.32	27.63	Aug.	20.63	21.96
Sep.	44.59	70.73	Sep	20.67	29.67	Sep.	20.99	22.13
Oct.	45.43	71.04	Oct	20.41	30.16	Oct.	20.9	22.21
Nov.	45.65	73.73	Nov	20.16	31.03	Nov.	20.83	22.21
Dec.	45.75	74.46	Dec	20.34	33.26	Dec.	20.93	22.53
Jan.	45.59	73.89	Jan	21.01	35.03	Jan.	21.1	22.66
Feb.	46.97	71.7	Feb	22	36.01	Feb.	21.12	22.87
Mar.	47.98		Mar	22.75		Mar.	21.17	
<b>Mustard oil</b>			<b>Vanaspati</b>			<b>Potato</b>		
Month	2008-09	2009-10	Month	2008-09	2009-10	Month	2008-09	2009-10
Apr.	72.86	75.39	Apr	65.83	51.99	Apr.	8.22	9.1
May	71.39	74.54	May	63.85	52.89	May.	8.2	10.14
Jun.	75.87	73.03	Jun	65.3	52.83	Jun.	8.21	11.28
Jul.	80.61	71.2	Jul	67.35	52.69	Jul.	8.46	13.01
Aug.	81.5	69.91	Aug	65.62	51.81	Aug.	9.01	14.15
Sep.	81.48	69.64	Sep	63.52	51.47	Sep.	9.15	15.42
Oct.	80.83	68.7	Oct	60.41	50.57	Oct.	9.09	17.36
Nov.	86.74	69.66	Nov	61.77	51	Nov.	9.21	18.57
Dec.	80.95	70.62	Dec	58.1	51.92	Dec.	8.68	17.26
Jan.	81.28	70.5	Jan	55.75	80.6	Jan.	8.44	15.66
Feb.	79.73	70.51	Feb	54.8	51.99	Feb.	7.98	13.64
Mar.	77.81		Mar	53.11		Mar.	8.03	
<b>Onion</b>			<b>Salt</b>			<b>Gur</b>		
Month	2008-09	2009-10	Month	2008-09	2009-10	Month	2008-09	2009-10
Apr.	8.2	14.07	Apr	8.44	9.45	Apr.	17.42	23.01
May.	8.03	12.08	May	8.52	9.54	May	17.84	25.11
Jun.	7.76	11.76	Jun	8.62	9.63	Jun.	18.15	26.6
Jul.	8.61	12.19	Jul	8.76	9.71	Jul.	18.77	27.9



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aug.	11	12.23	Aug	8.85	9.95	Aug.	19.99	28.85
Sep.	11.44	12.43	Sep.	9.05	10.09	Sep.	20.58	29.8
Oct.	11.54	16.76	Oct.	9.13	10.08	Oct.	20.69	31.18
Nov.	12.55	18.82	Nov.	9.17	10.22	Nov.	20.78	31.9
Dec.	14.17	19.69	Dec.	9.22	10.35	Dec.	20.9	31.85
Jan.	15.93	20.23	Jan.	9.27	10.39	Jan.	21.32	32.47
Feb.	15.64	19.54	Feb.	9.32	10.34	Feb.	22.07	32.58
Mar.	15.14		Mar.	9.38		Mar.	22.2	

*Source:* State Governments/UTS Civil Supplies Department

#### **Foodgrains at subsidized rates**

950. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide foodgrains at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System to all the citizens of the country, irrespective of their ration card status; and

(b) 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) Government makes allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by State/Union Territories (UTs) Governments, whichever is less. Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains for AAY and BPL categories are made @ 35 kg per family per month to all accepted 6.52 crore BPL/AAY families to all States/UTs. Allocations under Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake. There is no proposal to provide foodgrains at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System to all the citizens of the country irrespective of their ration cards status.

#### **Sugar recovery**

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

(a) the details of sugar recovery in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to recent floods in some parts of the country, the sugar recovery in this season has come down drastically;

(c) if so, the details of sugar recovery during the current season, State-wise; and

(d) how Government is planning to keep the sugar prices under control in view of less production and also less recovery from sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) A statement showing sugar recovery in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) and (c) Sugar recovery during the current sugar season 2009-10 has not been worked out.

(d) The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of sugar and to keep sugar prices under control which, *inter-alia*, include permitting duty free import of raw and white/refined sugar upto 31.12.2010 as given in the Statement-II [Refer to Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 936 (Part 'f')]

**Statement**

*State-wise sugar recovery per cent cane for the last three sugar season from 2006-07 to 2008-09 (Oct.-Sept.)*

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09(P)
1	2	3	4
Punjab	9.54	9.30	9.33
Haryana	9.74	9.90	9.05
Rajasthan	9.04	7.10	7.10
Uttar Pradesh	9.49	9.30	8.91
Uttarakhand	9.54	9.80	9.20
Madhya Pradesh	10.11	10.60	10.60
Chhattisgarh	7.62	9.00	9.00
Gujarat	10.68	10.90	9.50
Maharashtra	11.39	11.80	11.52
Bihar	8.67	9.20	9.30
Andhra Pradesh	9.69	10.10	9.88
Karnataka	10.69	10.10	10.30

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	9.31	9.30	9.56
Orissa	9.74	9.50	
West Bengal	8.32	7.00	7.00
Pondicherry	8.31	8.90	8.90
Goa	9.57	10.10	10.10
ALL INDIA:	10.16	10.30	10.05

(P) — Provisional

#### Import of pulses through Government agencies

952. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Government agencies have imported pulses during last three years;

(b) if so, the names of such agencies and the quantity of pulses imported from 2007-08 to December, 2009;

(c) whether these pulses have been sold time to time through bidding in markets;

(d) if so, the quantity of pulses and the time when these pulses were sold through bidding process in the country; and

(e) the profit earned by these agencies during each year of the above mentioned period?

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

(b) The 4 agencies were NAFED, MMTC, STC and PEC which imported pulses. A total quantity of 27.15 lakh tonnes of pulses were imported by the 4 agencies during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto December, 2009)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The sale of pulses is a continuous process in order to stabilize the price in the domestic market. The pulses imported by the 4 agencies were sold in the open market as per the internal procedure of the PSUs. A total quantity of 22.86 lakh tonnes of Pulses were sold by the 4 agencies during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto December, 2009).

(e) Only MMTC and STC earned profits of Rs. 25.53 crore and Rs. 17.20 crore during 2007-08.

### **Inflation in food prices**

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

- (a) whether there is inflation in food prices;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken to control the same;
- (c) whether any step has been taken to strengthen the Public Distribution System to control the inflation in food prices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Government has taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers. Government measures are given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 940 (Par 'a')]

(c) and (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor, is operated under joint responsibility of Central and the State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of fair price shops, rest with the concerned State and UT Governments. The Measures taken by the Government to strengthen the TPDS are given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (e) Does not arise.

### ***Statement***

#### **I. Price control measures through allocations of foodgrains under TPDS to States/UTs and strengthening of the TPDS.**

- **BPL/AAY allocation:** Allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted 6.52 crore families in the country. The total BPL including AAY allocations made during 2009-10 have been 276.77 lakh tons comprising 181.05 lakh tons of rice and 95.72 lakh tons of wheat.
- **APL allocation:** Allocations under APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, these allocations range between 10 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs. **During 2009-10**, a quantity of 199.93 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under APL category as against 112 lakh tons during 2008-09. This included a total quantity of 14.36 lakh tons issued at MSP based/derived price as drought relief for APL families in drought affected States from October, 2009 to March, 2010.

**II. Government Measures taken for strengthening of TPDS are given below:**

A number of measures have been initiated by Department of Food and Public Distribution to strengthen TPDS which include improved monitoring and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and communication technology tools and efficient operation of FPS.

These measures include:

**A. Measures to strengthen monitoring and vigilance**

- (i) Implementation of the Nine Point Action Plan.
- (ii) Review to detect and eliminate bogus ration cards and action against those with Bogus Ration Cards.
- (iii) Greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

**B. Increased transparency in functioning of TPDS**

- (i) Adoption and implementation of revised Model Citizens' Charter to facilitate use of Right to Information Act.
- (ii) Introduction of monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains at price shops and their distribution to ration card holders.
- (iii) Publicity-cum-awareness Campaign on TPDS.
- (iv) Display of allocation of foodgrains — district and FPS wise on websites for public scrutiny.

**C. Use of ICT tools**

- (i) Pilot Scheme on Computerization of TPDS Operations in four States.
- (ii) Pilot Scheme on Smart Card based Operations in Haryana and Chandigarh.
- (iii) Piloting of new technologies for tracking movement of vehicles transporting TPDS Commodities.

**D. Improve the efficiency of FPS operations**

- (i) Doorstep delivery of foodgrains to FPS.
- (ii) Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS.
- (iii) Distribution of wheat flour/fortified wheat flour under TPDS.
- (iv) Allotment of Fair Price Shops to Institutions and Groups.
- (v) Sale of non-PDS items by FPS.
- (vi) Revision of Commission paid by State Government to FPS licensees.

**III. To improve functioning of TPDS, specially during the period of drought, State/UT Governments have been directed to take up a special campaign during October-December, 2009 to verify BPL and AAY ration cardholders to detect and eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards.**

#### **Price rise of essential commodities**

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

- (a) the steps so far been taken by Government to control the spiraling prices rise of essential commodities;
- (b) whether Government intends to provide rice, wheat, pulses and edible oils through the Public Distribution System of BPL as well as APL families; and
- (c) if not, how Government intends to make available essential commodities at an affordable price to the people to ensure their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 940 (Part 'a')]

(b) The Allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg. per family per month under TPDS. Allocations of foodgrains under APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool and past offtake.

As regards pulses and edible oils, Government has launched 2 Schemes:—

- (i) Distribution of imported pulses at subsidised rates by State Governments through PDS- @ 1 kg per family per month at a subsidy of Rs. 10 per kg. The distribution is generally restricted to BPL families but could cover a part of APL families also, depending on the availability and distribution logistics.
- (ii) Distribution upto one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg per ration card per month at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Shortage of essential commodities**

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

- (a) whether Government intends to ban export of rice, onion and other essential commodities in the prevailing drought and flood situation to meet country's food requirement;
- (b) the expected deficit of rice and wheat production because of prevailing drought and flood situation; and
- (c) how Government plans to meet the shortages of rice, wheat and sugar to ensure food security of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Export of non-basmati rice is banned

*w.e.f.* 1.4.2008. The Minimum Export Price (MEP) is used to regulate exports of onion (currently averaging at \$500 per tonne for March, 2010).

Export of pulses except kabuli chana is banned *w.e.f.* June 22, 2006. Export of major edible oils is banned *w.e.f.* 17.3.2008.

(b) As per the Second Advance Estimates released by Ministry of Agriculture, the production of rice and wheat during 2009-10 is estimated at 87.56 million tonnes and 80.28 million tonnes respectively as compared to 99.18 million tonnes of rice and 80.68 million tonnes of wheat in 2008-09 (final estimates).

(c) The Government measures taken to meet the shortages of rice, wheat and sugar and to ensure food security of the people are given in the Statement.

### ***Statement***

#### ***Government Measures***

##### **1. Fiscal Measures**

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero — for rice, wheat
- (ii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009) extended upto 31.12.2010. Furthermore, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31.12.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis.
- (iii) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.04.2009) 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.

##### **2. Administrative Measures**

- (i) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (ii) Banned export of non-basmati rice.
- (iii) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, sugar, 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.
- (iv) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of basmati rice (\$900 PMT);
- (v) 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.

- (vi) Futures trading in Rice, 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 the end of June, 2010.
- (vii) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfill export obligation on tonne to tonne basis.
- (viii) Proportion of sugar production requisitioned as levy sugar has been increased from 10 to 20% for 2009-10 sugar season to ensure adequate levy sugar supplies under PDS.
- (ix) For the month of February, 2010, 15.97 lakh tonnes of non levy sugar have been made available which includes 12.00 lakh tonnes of normal non-levy sugar and 2.97 lakh tonnes of sugar processed from imported raw sugar during December, 2009, estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.00 lakh tonne. Besides, levy sugar quota of 1.94 lac tonnes also been released. Thus, for the month of February, 2010, 17.91 lac tonnes has been made available.
- (x) An additional allocation of wheat/rice @ 10 kg/family/months of January and February, 2010 has been made to the accepted numbers of AAY, BPL and APL ration cards. This is in addition to existing allocation while the wheat will be allocated at MSP price, rice will be allotted at MSP derived price.
- (xi) **OMSS interventions:**
  - (a) Allocation to State Governments under OMSS (Domestic) for release of 20.00 lakh tonnes of wheat has been made to check inflationary trends in food economy from October, 09 to March, 2010. The State/UT Governments have been asked to distribute wheat released under OMSS (D) to household consumers and small processors of wheat.
  - (b) In addition to above a quantity of 10.00 lakh MT wheat was also allocated by Government for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI from October, 09 — March, 10. On 18.1.2010, another 5.18 lakh tonnes of wheat from the expected savings from retail allocations, has been allocated for bulk consumers through tender sale.
  - (c) In order to check inflationary trend in prices of Rice, a quantity of 10.0 lakh tonnes of rice was allocated during October, 09 to March, 2010 to State Governments for distribution to retail consumers.
  - (d) On 18.1.2010, NAFED has been allotted 37400 tonnes of wheat and 17000 tonnes of rice from the un-lifted quantity of OMSS allocations to State Governments. Similarly, NCCF has been allocated 32684.21 tonnes wheat and 11000 tonnes rice for sale to retail consumers.
- (xii) The Government also contemplating bringing legislation on Food Security.



#### **Sale of levy sugar in open market**

956. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate of Sugar *vide* its order No. SC-11/2008-09/FS/O dated 30th September, 2009 allowed sale of 72,684.3 metric tonnes of levy sugar in open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government had allowed sale of 72,684.3 metric tonnes of un-lifted levy sugar of 2006-2007 and earlier sugar seasons as non-levy sugar in open market during the month of October, 2009.

#### **Seizure of rice meant for PDS**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that around 2112 tonnes of PDS rice was seized at Tuticorin port recently when it was to be exported to Maldives by a private exporter;

(b) if so, whether this kind of loot was found in other parts of the country also;

(c) which are the States largely instrumental to this kind of fraud; and

(d) whether there will be a fool-proof system to prevent the malpractices, misuse and mismanagement of PDS goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the rice being exported to Maldives by a private company was not PDS rice. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of

Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The details of the raids conducted, persons arrested, persons prosecuted and convicted and value of goods confiscated for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during the year 2009 are indicated in the Statement (See below).

To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for:—

- (i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels; and
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities.

**Statement**

*Action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the year-2009 -Information received from States/UTs upto 31.12.2009*

Sl. No.	State/Uts	No. of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated in Rs. lakh	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7873	43	Nil	1	233.31	December
2.	Assam	2382	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	July
4.	Bihar	17	8	Nil	Nil	1.69	December
5.	Chhattisgarh	751	36	90	66	858.27	December
6.	Delhi	93	98	76	Nil	Nil	December
7.	Gujarat	28025	30	89	Nil	528.31	December
8.	Goa	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
9.	Haryana	107	8	1	Nil	0.82	December*
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14946	3	2	Nil	6.28	July
11.	Jammu and Kashmir						Not Reported
12.	Jharkhand						Not Reported
13.	Karnataka	1659	137	9	3	24.58	December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Kerala	48829	21	2	Nil	121.47	December***
15.	Madhya Pradesh						Not Reported
16.	Maharashtra	1782	2292	1389	Nil	13965.45	December
17.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November**
18.	Meghalaya	8	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	November
19.	Mizoram	366	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
20.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December\$
21.	Orissa	23890	7	56	Nil	3.75	November
22.	Punjab	122	54	34	26	464.52	December
23.	Rajasthan	281	3	62	Nil	36.89	March
24.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil	September
25.	Tamil Nadu	16404	4775	1471	7	623.25	December
26.	Tripura	6	2	2	Nil	0.34	November
27.	Uttaranchal						Not Reported
28.	Uttar Pradesh	39684	1023	1491	Nil	1929.48	December
29.	West Bengal	134	90	2	Nil	56.19	November
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	208	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
31.	Chandigarh	7	7	Nil	Nil	7.93	September
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	2	Nil	Nil	0.22	December
33.	Daman and Diu						Not Reported
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
35.	Pondicherry	512	63	68	15	15.53	December
TOTAL:		188119	8707	4848	118	18878.28	

\* — Except — August and September

\*\* — Except August and October

\*\*\* — Except October

\$ — Except November

Updated as on 18.2.2010

#### Shortage of sugar

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

(a) the actual cause of hike of sugar price in our country;

- (b) the stock of sugar in the country at present, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of sugar at fair price shop under the Public Distribution System and in the open market; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken by Government to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The shortfall between domestic production and demand of sugar in the last 2008-09 sugar season and the current 2009-10 sugar season is the actual cause of hike in sugar prices in the country.

(b) The Central Government does not maintain stocks of sugar. Sugar stocks in the country consist of stocks with mills, wholesalers and retailers and importers of sugar in various States. As such, it is not possible to precisely estimate the stocks of sugar in the country, much less State-wise.

(c) and (d) There is adequate supply of sugar in the Public Distribution System as well as in the open market. The Central Government has already raised levy obligation on sugar factories from 10% to 20% with effect from 01.10.2009 for 2009-10 sugar season. Further, the Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of non-levy sugar and to check rise in sugar prices which, *inter-alia*, include permitting duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar upto 31.12.2010.

#### **Food security**

959. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has recently admitted that there was a false sense of security that availability of food has ceased to be a concern;
- (b) if so, whether in view of failure to provide food security, the price of foodgrains have increased;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to ensure food security to check spiraling prices as well as its availability to each needy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

#### **Payment of interest to sugarcane farmers in Haryana**

960. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several thousand farmers in the area of Narayanganj Sugar

Mills in the State of Haryana have not been paid the amount of interest of over Rs. 12 crore payable on the delayed payment for the sugarcane they supplied to the mill in the year 2002-03 in accordance with the orders issued by the Supreme court of India; and

(b) if so, the measures that Government intends to take to accelerate the payment to the farmers and against the Sugar Commissioner who deliberately omitted to act on the explicit orders given by the Supreme Court of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Cane Commissioner, Government of Haryana has informed that there is no Sugar Mill under the name and style of Narayanganj Sugar Mills in Haryana. However, there is one Sugar Mills at Naraingarh with the name Naraingarh Sugar Mills Ltd. But there is no litigation about the payment of interest on delayed payment for Sugarcane supplied during 2002-03 crushing season. However, there was some dispute about the payment of interest on delayed payment for Sugarcane supplied during 2001-02 crushing season which was agitated in the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court through CWP 18943/2003. The Hon'ble High Court was pleased to direct the Cane Commissioner *vide* its order dated 30/07/2004 to "*determine the rate of interest objectively and expeditiously preferably within 3 months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order*". The Management of the Sugar Mills moved an SLP 18476/2004 which was dismissed on 22/8/2008. In compliance of the order *ibid*, the then Cane Commissioner *vide* his order dated 15/01/2009 passed a speaking order determining the rate of interest as 15% per annum payable to the petitioners (Ram Kumar, Sant Ram, Ram Karan, Ajmer Singh, Rohtas, Karam Singh and Ram Singh) for delayed payment of Sugarcane price for the Sugarcane supplied in 2001-02 crushing season.

The sugar mill issued a public notice in 'Dainik Jagran' on 03/04/2009 requesting the farmers to collect their payment by submitting their claims since no record was available for the period. The management of the sugar mill lodged a FIR no. 41 dated 26/04/2006 against the then General Manager u/s 406, 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC. The case is still pending in the Criminal Court at Naraingarh. In spite of the public notice, the petitioners did not come forward to lodge their claims or collect their payment as intimated by the Management of sugar mill. The Management of Naraingarh Sugar Mills Ltd. has deposited Account Payees cheques in the office of SDM Naraingarh in favour of Sant Ram, Ram Singh, Ram Kumar and Ram Karan on 18/12/2009. The amount as mentioned by these four persons was taken as such as mentioned by them in their case in the High Court. However, the amount in case of Ajmer Singh, Rohtas and Karam Singh was not mentioned in the court case nor did they come forward to lodge their claim despite public notice. Hence, it was not possible to release their cheques.

The Cane Commissioner, Government of Haryana has directed the Management of the Naraingarh Sugar Mills Ltd. to issue one more public notice asking the four petitioners to collect

their cheques from SDM office and remaining three petitioners to submit their claims since no record of cane supplied during 2001-02 is available with the Management. Also, the Management has been directed to afford an opportunity to all the cane suppliers other than seven petitioners who supplied Sugarcane during 2001-02 crushing season to lodge their claims, if any.

#### **Demand for ban on future trading**

961. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been persistent demand for ban on future trading of wheat and other essential commodities in the country to contain their rising prices; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has received representations to ban futures trading in Wheat and other essential commodities from a few organizations.

(b) The forward trading in commodities is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management and not a mechanism to check price rise. The actual prices of the commodity are governed by physical demand and supply factors. The futures market only gives price signals for future periods of time based on the projections about the likely supply and demand situation at those points of time. This helps various stakeholders in various commodities, viz., farmers, producers, processors, exporters etc. to plan their production, marketing as well as to use futures markets to mitigate their price risks.

Government had set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission Member Prof. Abhijit Sen to examine whether futures markets was responsible for rise in the prices of essential commodities. The Committee submitted its report in April, 2008. The Committee did not find futures market responsible for the increase of the prices of essential commodities. A study by the Indian Institute of management, Bangalore on Wheat, Rice, Tur, and Urad (around the same time) also did not find any influence of futures trading on the price rise in such commodities. The increasing convergence seen in the physical and futures prices of the commodities in the recent past is indicative of the fact that the futures prices have, by and large, been a correct barometer of the expected prices at a future point of time.

In view of the facts above, the Government is not in favour of imposing any ban on futures trading in any commodity. However, Forward Market Commission, the Regulator, takes decision from time to time about suspension of futures trading in specific commodity for specific period as a regulatory measure to meet emergent situation.

#### **Misleading of students by educational institutions**

962. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the news-item appeared in Indian Express dated 25th January, 2010 under the caption "Tie-ups with foreign universities but no recognized degrees";

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted about the lack of academic facilities in these Institutes as also non-recognition of courses by Government;

(c) the number of students enrolled in the institutions of the university who are required to pay very high fees on the false ground it has tie up with foreign universities; and

(d) the action being taken against the management of the institute who have mislead the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The institution figuring in the news-item is one of the institutions in a matter which is *sub judice* before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As per directions of the Hon'ble Court, two affidavits have been filed by the Government in the Writ Petition (PIL) [WP (C) 142 of 2006]. The apex Court has directed the Government to maintain *status quo* as regards the afore-mentioned institutions till the date of the next hearing, on 8th March, 2010.

#### **New UGC regulations for promotions and service conditions**

963. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers of various Central Universities and Delhi University went on a strike recently demanding changes in the new UGC regulations pertaining to promotion and other service conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a delegation of teachers comprising representatives from all Central Universities submitted a memorandum to his Ministry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As a sequel to the revision of pay scale of teachers and equivalent positions in universities and colleges, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is required to issue detailed regulations indicating the pay structure and service conditions of such teachers. An Expert Committee was constituted by the UGC under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, for the purpose.

Attractive pay scales have been given to university and college teachers in order to ensure high standard of teaching and to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching profession. As a step in this direction, a system based on Academic Performance Indicators (API) has been

devised by the UGC, for promotion and direct recruitment to various teaching and equivalent positions. Representatives of the Federation of Central Universities Teachers Association (FEDUTA) as well as Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) have represented against introduction of API system, particularly in relation to research and academic contributions on the ground that sufficient research facilities are not available in colleges; and have been asked to propose alternative evaluating mechanism which could objectively assess performance and teaching outcomes so as to justify the high salary structure approved for persons in the teaching profession.

#### Deemed University status granted to institutions

964. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has given Deemed University status to some institutions in the period from 1st June, 2006 to 1st March, 2009;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions and their locations;

(c) the names of the members of the University Grants Commission during the above specific period; and

(d) how many visits were made by U.G.C. officials to such institutions during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Institutions of Higher Education are declared as 'Deemed to be Universities' by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, on the advice of the UGC. Details of the Institutions declared as 'Deemed to be Universities' during the period from 1st June, 2006 to 1st March, 2009 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'	Notified on
1	2	3
(1)	Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	13.08.2007
(2)	ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	16.12.2008
(3)	Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research, Vadlamudi, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh	19.12.2008
(4)	Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh	20.02.2009
(5)	Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar	13.11.2006



1	2	3
(6)	Sumandeep Vidyapeeth, Village Piparia, Taluka Waghodia, District Vadodara, Gujarat	17.01.2007
(7)	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana-Ambala, Haryana	12.06.2007
(8)	Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad, Haryana	21.10.2008
(9)	Lingaya's University, Nachauli, Faridabad, Haryana	05.01.2009
(10)	Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Tamaka, Kolar, Karnataka	25.05.2007
(11)	Yenepoya University, Mangalore, Karnataka	27.02.2008
(12)	BLDE University, Bijapur, Karnataka	29.02.2008
(13)	Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeswara University (JSSU), Mysore, Karnataka	28.05.2008
(14)	Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Siddharthanagar, Tumkur District, Karnataka	30.05.2008
(15)	Nitte University, Mangalore, Karnataka	04.06.2008
(16)	Christ College, Hosur Road, Bangalore, Karnataka	22.07.2008
(17)	Jain University, V.V. Puram, Bangalore, Karnataka	19.12.2008
(18)	Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IISST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	03.07.2008
(19)	MGM Institute of Health Sciences, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	30.08.2006
(20)	Institute of Chemical Technology, Matunga, Mumbai, Maharashtra	12.09.2008
(21)	Shiksha "O" Anusandhan, Khandagiri, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	17.07.2007
(22)	Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Pillaiyarkuppam, Puducherry	04.08.2008
(23)	Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology, Longowal, Punjab	10.04.2007
(24)	IIS University, Mansarovar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	02.02.2009
(25)	Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Anand Nagar, Krishnankoil, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu	20.10.2006
(26)	Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	15.12.2006
(27)	Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology (PMIST), Periyar Nagar, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	17.08.2007
(28)	Academy of Maritime Education and Training, Kanathur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	21.08.2007

1	2	3
(29)	Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science and Technology (PRIST), Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	04.01.2008
(30)	Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Padur, Kelambakkam, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu	05.05.2008
(31)	St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research, Avadi, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	26.05.2008
(32)	Vel's Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	04.06.2008
(33)	Chettinad Academy of Research and Education (CARE), Padur, Kelambakkam, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu	04.08.2008
(34)	Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	25.08.2008
(35)	Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	15.10.2008
(36)	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu	23.10.2008
(37)	Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education, Kumaracoil, Thuckalay, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu	08.12.2008
(38)	B.S. Abdur Rahman Institute of Science and Technology, Seethakathi Estate, Vandalur Post, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu	16.12.2008
(39)	Swami Rama Vidyapeeth (renamed as HIHT University), Swami Rama Nagar, P.O. Doiwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	06.06.2007
(40)	Graphic Era University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	14.08.2008
(41)	Shobhit Institute of Engineering and Technology, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	08.11.2006
(42)	Santosh University, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	13.06.2007
(43)	Nehru Gram Bharati Vishwavidyalaya, Kotwa-Jamunipur, Dubwali, District Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	27.06.2008
(44)	National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi	11.08.2006

(c) As per the information provided by the UGC, the following persons were the members of the Commission during the period from 1st June, 2006 to 1st March, 2009:—

Sl. No.	Name of the member	Period of membership
(i)	Dr. Adarsh Kishore (ex-officio)	May, 2005 to 31.10.2006
(ii)	Dr. Sanjeev Mishra (ex-officio)	01.11.2006 to 25.05.2008
(iii)	Mrs. Reeta Menon (ex-officio)	26.05.2008 to 23.03.2009
(iv)	Mrs. Vilasini Ramachandran (ex-officio)	24.03.2009 onwards
(v)	Prof. Sureshwar Sharma, Jabalpur	16.06.2003 to 15.06.2006
(vi)	Prof. B.H. Briz Kishore, Hyderabad	16.06.2003 to 15.06.2006
(vii)	Dr. P.N. Tandon, Delhi	12.06.2003 to 11.06.2006
(viii)	Prof. Suranjan Das, Kolkata	11.02.2005 to 10.02.2008
(ix)	Dr. Shivajirao Shripatrao Kadam, Pune	01.06.2005 onwards
(x)	Prof. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Hyderabad	20.10.2005 onwards
(xi)	Dr. (Mrs.) Shashi Rai, Bhopal	08.02.2006 to 07.02.2009
(xii)	Prof. (Dr.) D. Singh Chauhan, Uttarakhand	23.06.2006 to 22.06.2009
(xiii)	Prof. Jalees Ahmed Khan Tareen, Mysore	23.06.2006 to 22.06.2009
(xiv)	Prof. S. Xavier Alphonse, S.J., Chennai	08.02.2008 onwards
(xv)	Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Pune	23.06.2006 onwards
(xvi)	Prof. Achyutananda Samanta, Bhubaneswar	11.02.2008 onwards

(d) According to the UGC, no official of the Commission visits applicant-institution separately for the purpose of conducting inspection. Inspection of applicant-institution for the purpose of grant of status of 'Deemed to be University' is done by an Expert Committee constituted by the Chairman UGC wherein an official of the UGC is nominated as coordinator to coordinate the visit of Expert Committee to have on the spot inspection and assessment of the academic and physical infrastructure of that institution.

#### **Raising of fees in Central Schools**

†965. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

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

(a) whether Government has highly raised the tuition and development fees in Central Schools;

(b) if so, the complete details of amount increased;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the amounts to be earned from it;
- (d) the purpose for which it would be used;
- (e) whether Government considers increase in fees in private schools as unjustified and wants to put a sealing on it; and
- (f) if so, the justification for increasing fees in Central Schools fees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The tuition fees and the Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been raised with effect from 1.10.2009. The details of revision are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The expected receipts in a year from tuition fee, VVN and Computer fund by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan amount to Rs. 113 crore, Rs. 299 crore and Rs. 52 crore respectively.

(d) The amount collected from the tuition fee is treated as internal receipt and utilized for expenditure under “Non-Plan”. The purposes of utilization of VVN fund are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) The school fees in private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) are regulated, *inter-alia*, by the affiliation Bye-laws of CBSE and CISCE guidelines for affiliation respectively. It is for State Governments to regulate school fees in schools in their jurisdiction as deemed appropriate.

(f) Prior to the recent revision, the tuition fees in Kendriya Vidyalayas were last revised as far back as on 1.10.1998. In the light of the increase in the reimbursement of tuition fee of the children of Central Government employees following the implementation of the recommendations of the 6th Central Pay Commission, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has enhanced the tuition fees.

#### ***Statement-I***

##### **Tuition Fee**

Class	Pre-revised monthly fee	Revised monthly fee
IX-XII	Rs. 45/-	Rs. 250/-

##### **Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN)**

I-X	Rs. 160/-	Rs. 240/-
XI-XII	Rs. 160/- for non-science and Rs. 200/- for science Students	Rs. 240/- for non-science and Rs. 300/- for science students.

##### **Computer Fund**

III-XII	Rs. 20/-	Rs. 50/-
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***Statement-II***

Sl. No.	Purposes for which Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi Fund is utilised
1	2
1.	Engagement of Part time teachers (Including Instructors/Teachers/Art and Craft/Coaches/Spoken English etc.) on contract basis.
2.	Petty construction work concerning the school viz. Toilets, Sewerage Tank, Overhead Tank, Stage/Activity Room etc.
3.	Repairs and maintenance of:
3(A)	School Building, its toilets, Septic and overhead tanks, including playground and campus. School Building: White Wash/Enamel Paint/Oil Bond (Internal and External Electrical work and Civil Works: Patch work, repairs of floor, plastering of walls, roof seepage (minor) repair and replacement of doors and windows, black board etc.
3(B)	Repair and maintenance of classroom furniture and fixtures.
3(C)	Repair and maintenance of Lab Equipments.
3(D)	Repair of P.A System and Musical Instrument.
3(E)	House Keeping/Conservancy Services.
4.	Purchase of Class room furniture and fixtures.
5.	Purchase of Lab equipments/Consumable and also upkeep of the laboratories.
6.	Purchase of Audio-visual aids and musical Instruments.
7.	Purchase of sports good and kits, Prize to winners in school sports and inter-class or inter-house matches: entry fee of the school teams for tournaments, photography and providing of refreshments, TA/DA of Students.
8.	Pupils societies, Annual function, other school function (e.g. Republic Day, Independence day, Teachers Day etc.).
9.	School Excursions.
10.	Conduct of Examinations.
11.	Incidental expenses connected with visits to the school by dignitaries like Hon'ble Ministers, Parliamentary Committee etc.
12.	Beautification and horticultural development of the school campus including tree plantation. 1. Upto 5 acres of land 2. More than 5 acres of land.
13.	Development of facilities for library such as purchase of books, educational technology aids (CDS teaching learning packages etc.) and printing of magazine students diary, newsletters etc. (Per Shift).

1	2
14.	Procurement, Maintenance and development of computer and computers related technologies hardware as well as software including broadband connectivity for internet for students/teachers and Principal, interactive white boards and similar technological aids which can be very useful for enhancing effectiveness of teaching learning process for the students. Computer Instructor, AMC of Computers, Stationary etc.
15.	Provision of medical facilities of emergent nature during school hours: (a) for medical facilities of emergent nature during school hours. (b) for two medical check ups per child.
16.	Security of School: Expenditure on outsourcing agencies.
17.	Misc. office expenses: Taxes, Electricity/Water charges and Other expenditure (Telephone charges, toner cartridge, office stationary etc.).
18.	Misc. Printing as per direction of KVS: (a) Study Materials (b) Split of Syllabus etc.

#### **Inflated enrolments under Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

†966. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1888 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st July, 2009 and state:

(a) whether State Governments do not bear the expenditure under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Panchayats/schools are forced to bear the expenditure instead;

(b) whether these institutions meet this expenditure load by black-marketing the foodgrains received for students;

(c) whether inflated enrolments are shown for excess supply of foodgrains;

(d) whether due to collusion at all levels right from State Government to lower level in this inflated enrolments, it cannot be caught; and

(e) the strategy proposed to come out of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. The cost of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is borne by the Central Government and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government bears entire cost of foodgrains, transportation cost of foodgrains in 11 special category States at Public Distribution System (PDS) rates and in other States/UTs

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

subject to the ceiling of Rs. 75/- per quintal, costs of kitchen devices and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME). The expenditure towards cooking cost of mid-day meal, construction of kitchen-cum-store and honorarium to cook-cum-helper is shared between the Centre and the North Eastern Region States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25. However, some States/UTs contribute more than their share. Central assistance under the scheme is released in advance by the Central Government to the States/UTs in their Consolidated Fund. Flow of funds from States/UTs to the cooking agencies varies from State to State and UT to UT.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The supply/allocation of foodgrain is not based on the enrolment of children in schools. The Programme Approval Board (PAB) constituted in the Ministry reviews the performance of the State/UT and approves the Annual Work Plan and Budget of a State/UT on the basis of performance *i.e.* number of children, who actually availed mid-day meal in the previous year and the number of days. It is also clarified to the States/UTs that these numbers are only a guide to allocate resources. Every student attending the eligible institutions has to be provided mid day meal on all school days. In case the number of children or number of days is more than the approval, the State Government/UT Administration should move a proposal for grant of additional Central assistance. The progress of the scheme is monitored through the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs), designed in a way to compare the cooking cost expenditure, foodgrains utilized and number of meals etc. to find out discrepancies in the implementation of the programme. Programme is also monitored through half-yearly reports of 42 independent Monitoring Institutions, National/State/District/Block level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees, Village Education Committee, Parent Teacher Association and School Management and Development Committee for implementation and supervision of the scheme. Besides, MDM guidelines also provide that officers of State Governments/UT Administrations should inspect on an average 25% of the schools every quarter to ensure proper implementation of the scheme.

As and when any such complaint comes to the notice of the Central Government, the concerned State Government 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 in future.

#### **Investment in education**

967. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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

(a) whether India needs \$400 billion investment — equal to 80 per cent of its infrastructure funding requirement — in education over the next decade;

(b) if so, Government's plan to mobilize this amount in the education sector; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has estimated the financial implication of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 as Rs. 1.71 lakh crore in 2009-10 prices for a period of five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15. Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Centre and State Governments are equally responsible for investment in Education. National Policy on Education, 1968 modified in 1992 stipulates that non-Government and voluntary effort including social activists group will be encouraged to invest in the education. Resources, to the extent possible, will be raised by mobilizing donations, asking the beneficiary communities to maintain school buildings and supplies of some consumables, raising fees at the higher levels of education and effecting some savings by the efficient use of facilities. Institutions involved with research and development of technical and scientific manpower should also mobilize some funds by levying a cess or charge on the user agencies, including Government departments, and entrepreneurs. The Eleventh Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to explore private sector initiatives and various forms of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

#### **Opening of model colleges**

†968. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether Government is planning to open model colleges in educationally backward districts;

(b) if so, the total number of such model colleges to be opened and the number thereof in Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the proposed districts where these colleges are to be opened; and

(d) the amount to be incurred thereon during Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Government has approved the introduction of a new scheme to provide central assistance for setting up of a model degree college in each of the identified 374 educationally backward districts where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education is less than the national GER. During the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, provision exists for establishing 200 model colleges in identified districts, with priority being given to special category states and districts having concentration of weaker sections and minorities as well as other districts in Schedule V and Schedule VI areas.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



A list of the 374 identified higher educationally backward districts is given in the Statement (See below). An outlay of Rs. 782 crores was made for the scheme in the Eleventh Plan.

***Statement***

*List of 374 identified Higher Educationally Backward Districts*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands</b></p> <p>Andamans</p> <p>Nicobars</p>   | <p><b>4. Assam</b></p> <p>Bongaigaon</p> <p>Cachar</p> <p>Darrang</p> <p>Dhubri</p> <p>Goalpara</p> <p>Hailakandi</p> <p>Karbi Anglong</p> <p>Karimganj</p> <p>Marigaon</p> <p>Nagaon</p> <p>Sonitpur</p> <p>Tinsukia</p>             |
| <p><b>2. Andhra Pradesh</b></p> <p>Adilabad</p> <p>Anantapur</p> <p>East Godavari</p> <p>Kurnool</p> <p>Mahbubnagar</p> <p>Medak</p> <p>Nizamabad</p> <p>Prakasam</p> <p>Srikakulam</p> <p>Vizianagaram</p> <p>West Godavari</p>         | <p><b>5. Bihar</b></p> <p>Araria</p> <p>Aurangabad</p> <p>Banka</p> <p>Begusarai</p> <p>Darbhanga</p> <p>Gopalganj</p> <p>Jamui</p> <p>Kaimur</p> <p>Katihar</p> <p>Khagaria</p> <p>Kishanganj</p> <p>Lakhisarai</p> <p>Madhepura</p> |
| <p><b>3. Arunachal Pradesh</b></p> <p>Changlang</p> <p>Dibang Valley</p> <p>East Kameng</p> <p>Lohit</p> <p>Lower Subansin</p> <p>Tawang</p> <p>Tirap</p> <p>Upper Siang</p> <p>Upper Subansiri</p> <p>West Kameng</p> <p>West Siang</p> |   |

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Madhubani                        | Diu                         |
| Nawada                           | 9. <b>Gujarat</b>           |
| W. Champaran                     | Amreli                      |
| E. Champaran                     | Banas Kantha                |
| Purnia                           | Bharuch                     |
| Saharsa                          | Bhavnagar                   |
| Samastipur                       | Dohad                       |
| Sheohar                          | Jamnagar                    |
| Sitamarhi                        | Junagad                     |
| Siwan                            | Kachchh                     |
| Supaul                           | Kheda                       |
| Vaishali                         | Mahesana                    |
| 6. <b>Chhattisgarh</b>           | Narmada                     |
| Bastar                           | Panch Mahals                |
| Bilaspur                         | Patan                       |
| Dantewada                        | Porbandar                   |
| Dhamtari                         | Rajkot                      |
| Durg                             | Sabar Kantha                |
| Janjgir-Champa                   | Surat                       |
| Jashpur                          | Surendranagar               |
| Kanker                           | The Dangs                   |
| Kawardha                         | Valsad                      |
| Koriya                           | 10. <b>Haryana</b>          |
| Mahasamund                       | Fatehabad                   |
| Raigarh                          | Gurgaon                     |
| Raipur                           | Jind                        |
| Rajnandgaon                      | Kaithal                     |
| Surguja                          | Karnal                      |
| 7. <b>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</b> | Panipat                     |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli           | Sirsa                       |
| 8. <b>Daman and Diu</b>          | 11. <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> |
| Daman                            | Chamba                      |

- |                              |                 |                           |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|                              | Kinnaur         | Bellary                   |
|                              | Lahul and Spiti | Bijapur                   |
|                              | Sirmaur         | Chamarajanagar            |
| 12. <b>Jammu and Kashmir</b> |                 | Chikmagalur               |
|                              | Anantnag        | Chitradurga               |
|                              | Badgam          | Dakshina Kannada          |
|                              | Baramula        | Gadag                     |
|                              | Doda            | Hassan                    |
|                              | Kargil          | Haveri                    |
|                              | Kathua          | Kodagu                    |
|                              | Kupwara         | Kolar                     |
|                              | Leh             | Koppal                    |
|                              | Punch           | Mandya                    |
|                              | Rajauri         | Raichur                   |
|                              | Udhampur        | Tumkur                    |
| 13. <b>Jharkhand</b>         |                 | Udupi                     |
|                              | Chatra          | Uttara Kannada            |
|                              | Deoghar         | 15. <b>Kerala</b>         |
|                              | Dumka           | Kasaragod                 |
|                              | Garhwa          | Malappuram                |
|                              | Giridih         | Palakkad                  |
|                              | Godda           | Wayanad                   |
|                              | Gumla           | 16. <b>Lakshadweep</b>    |
|                              | Kodarma         | Lakshadweep               |
|                              | Pakaur          | 17. <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> |
|                              | Palamu          | Balaghat                  |
|                              | P. Singhbhum    | Barwani                   |
|                              | Sahibganj       | Betul                     |
| 14. <b>Karnataka</b>         |                 | Bhind                     |
|                              | Bagalkot        | Chhatarpur                |
|                              | Bangalore Rural | Chhindwara                |
|                              | Belgaum         | Damoh                     |

Datia  
Dewas  
Dhar  
Dindori  
East Nimar  
Guna  
Harda  
Jhabua  
Katni  
Mandla  
Mandsaur  
Morena  
Narsimhapur  
Neemuch  
Panna  
Raisen  
Rajgarh  
Ratlam  
Sagar  
Satna  
Sehore  
Seoni  
Shahdol  
Shajapur  
Sheopur  
Shivpuri  
Sidhi  
Tikamgarh  
Ujjain  
Umaria  
Vidisha  
West Nimar

18. **Maharashtra**

Buldana  
Gadchiroli  
Hingoli  
Jalna  
Raigarh  
Ratnagiri  
Sindhudurg

19. **Meghalaya**

East Garo Hills  
Jaintia Hills  
Ri Bhoi  
South Garo Hills  
West Khasi Hills

20. **Mizoram**

Champhai  
Kolasib  
Lawngtlai  
Lunglei  
Mamit  
Saiha  
Serchhip

21. **Nagaland**

Mon

22. **Orissa**

Anugul  
Balangir  
Bargarh  
Baudh  
Debagarh  
Dhenkanal  
Gajapati

	Ganjam	Barmer
	Kalahandi	Bharatpur
	Kandhamal	Bhilwara
	Kendujhar	Bikaner
	Koraput	Bundi
	Malkangiri	Chittaurgarh
	Nabarangapur	Churu
	Nayagarh	Dausa
	Nuapada	Dhaulpur
	Rayagada	Dungarpur
	Sonapur	Ganganagar
23.	<b>Pondicherry</b>	Hanumangarh
	Yanam	Jaisalmer
24.	<b>Punjab</b>	Jalor
	Amritsar	Jhalawar
	Bathinda	Jhunjhunun
	Faridkot	Jodhpur
	Fatehgarh Sahib	Karauli
	Firozpur	Nagaur
	Gurdaspur	Pali
	Kapurthala	Rajsamand
	Mansa	Sawai Madhopur
	Moga	Sikar
	Muktsar	Sirohi
	Nawanshahr	Tonk
	Patiala	Udaipur
	Sangrur	
25.	<b>Rajasthan</b>	26. <b>Sikkim</b>
	Ajmer	East
	Alwar	North
	Banswara	South
	Baran	West

27. **Tamil Nadu**

Ariyalur  
Coimbatore  
Cuddalore  
Dharmapuri  
Dindigul  
Erode  
Kancheepuram  
Kanniyakumari  
Karur  
Madurai  
Nagapattinam  
Perambalur  
Pudukkottai  
Ramanathapuram  
Salem  
Sivaganga  
Thanjavur  
The Nilgiris  
Theni  
Thiruvallur  
Thiruvarur  
Thoothukkudi  
Tirunelveli  
Tiruvannamalai  
Vellore  
Viluppuram  
Virudhunagar

28. **Tripura**

North Tripura  
South Tripura  
West Tripura

Dhalai

29. **Uttar Pradesh**

Bahraich  
Balrampur  
Banda  
Barabanki  
Bareilly  
Basti  
Bijnor  
Budaun  
Bulandshahr  
Chitrakoot  
Etah  
Farrukhabad  
Fatehpur  
Gonda  
Hamirpur  
Hardoi  
Hathras

**Jyotiba Phule Nagar**

Kannauj  
Kanpur Dehat  
Kaushambi  
Kheri  
Kushinagar  
Lalitpur  
Maharajganj  
Mahoba  
Mathura  
Moradabad  
Muzaffarnagar  
Pilibhit

Rae Bareli	Birbhum
Rampur	Dakshin Dinajpur
Saharanpur	Darjiling
Sant Kabir Nagar	Haora
Shahjahanpur	Hugli
Shrawasti	Jalpaiguri
Siddharthnagar	Koch Bihar
Sitapur	Maldah
Sonbhadra	Medinipur
Sultanpur	Murshidabad
Unnao	Nadia
30. <b>Uttaranchal</b>	North 24 Parganas
Bageshwar	Puruliya
Champawat	South 24 Parganas
31. <b>West Bengal</b>	Uttar Dinajpur
Bankura	TOTAL DISTRICTS: = 374
Bardhaman	

#### Quality and extent of education in rural areas

969. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:  
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:  
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that quality of education in rural areas of the country is very poor and deteriorating day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether major population of rural children specially girls are still away from school; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a

comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas.

The NPE recognizes that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes/programmes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education. The schemes/programmes include Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-day Meal scheme (MDM), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, Manila Samakhya and the scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in rural areas specifically in order to provide quality education to rural children. There are other institutions such as Gandhigram Rural Institute and the National Council of Rural Institutes which address issues of reducing disparities in education.

As per an independent study commissioned by Government of India the number of out of school children has decreased from 1.35 crore in 2005 to 81 lakh in 2009. The improvement in gender parity index at elementary level from 0.80 in 2000-01 to 0.93 in 2006-07, indicates the improvement in participation of girls at elementary education level.

The Saakshar Bharat scheme also focuses on women's literacy, especially in rural areas. 80% overall literacy is targeted by the end of the Eleventh Plan period. The States/UT Governments have been informed that under Saakshar Bharat 70 million non-literates are to be made literate, of which 60 million will be women.

#### **Irregularities in Central Universities**

970. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

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

(a) the details of complaints/representations against corruption/irregularities in Central Universities received during last three years, University-wise;

(b) whether a representation signed by at least 22 members of Parliament was submitted to Hon'ble President and by public and others, alleging irregularities in functioning of Jamia Millia Islamia University in general and its Vice Chancellor in particular;

(c) if so, details thereof and the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) if no action has been taken/proposed to be taken, the reasons for protection of corruption and irregularities in Jamia Millia Islamia and other universities of the country?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Central Universities being autonomous bodies established and incorporated under the Acts of Parliament, the Central Government has no control over their day-to-day functioning. However, the President of India, in the capacity as the Visitor of these Universities, has the right to cause an inquiry to be made in respect of any matter connected with the administration or finances of a University. The University Grants Commission (UGC), which is mandated to maintain standards of higher education in the country and to allocate and disburse grants to the Central Universities, may also look into the allegations/complaints against the Central Universities. During the last three years, the Visitor/UGC has constituted Fact Finding Committees to look into the allegations/complaints relating, *inter-alia*, to financial mismanagement, misappropriation of funds, irregularities in appointments, violation of Statutes and Ordinances, personal charges against Statutory Officers, etc. against the Vice Chancellors and other officials of Nagaland University, Aligarh Muslim University and Visva-Bharati. Besides, the Central Vigilance Commission has instituted a fact finding inquiry into certain complaints against the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

The various allegations contained in the representation made to the President, in her capacity as the Visitor of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), by 18 Members of Parliament, were the subject matter of other complaints received in the Ministry — these included the alleged irregularities in the matter of appointment to the various posts, particularly those in AJ Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre (AJKMCR), statutory violations, award of honorary degrees without obtaining the prior approval of the Visitor, during the tenure of the former Vice Chancellor. All these complaints, together with the then Vice Chancellor's comments and this Ministry's observations thereon, were placed before the Visitors. It was felt that the allegations were yet to be proved. Meanwhile, following disagreement between the Selection Committee and the Executive Council in the matter of appointment to the post of Lecturer (Still Photography) in AJKMCR, this Ministry is in the process of submitting the case to the Visitor for the final orders. As regards the other appointments made in AJKMCR, further action would be taken only after the report of the Inquiry Committee constituted by the University, duly considered by its Executive Council, becomes available.

#### **International conference on Digital Libraries**

971. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) have organized an International Conference on Digital Libraries in the recent past;

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

- (c) the extent to which the country has been benefited by the said conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University and TERI have organised the International Conference on Digital Libraries during 23rd–26th February, 2010 with the objective to provide a platform for interaction among experts, researchers, academics and students on the issue of bridging the digital divide through knowledge sharing. The Conference provided vision to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled education, including web-based methodologies, etc. for furtherance of the objectives of Distance Learning.

#### Opening of Navodaya schools

†972. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Navodaya schools opened in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise and place-wise;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating to open more Navodaya schools in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is contemplating to provide facilities like those of Central Schools of the country in Navodaya schools; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The details of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Navodaya Schools sanctioned during the year(s)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Village Mehda, PO GI Estate, District Deoria	Nil	Village and PO Kira, Tehsil Shahbad, District Rampur
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Village Chaotipali, Tehsil Basudevgarh, District Umaria	Nil	1. Pipaliya Mollu, PO Unhel, District Ujjain 2. Village Machdi Mata, PO Thandla, District Jhabua

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Out of these, JNVs in Umaria, Ujjain and Jhabua districts of Madhya Pradesh are functional.

(b) and (c) Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme envisages setting up of one JNV in each district. Setting up of a JNV is based on the proposal from the concerned State Government offering suitable land free of cost and making available required temporary building to run the Vidyalaya till the permanent building is constructed. There are 71 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 70 of them have got Vidyalayas sanctioned, and in 68 of them, the Vidyalayas are functional. Vidyalayas in the districts of Deoria and Rampur are not functional for lack of temporary buildings from the State Governments. No proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for opening of a JNV in the remaining district of Kanshi Ram Nagar.

(d) and (e) JNVs are residential schools and the requisite facilities have been provided in these Vidyalayas.

#### **Ragging incidents**

973. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that incidents of ragging are still occurring in colleges and universities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by the authorities and how effective have they proved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Based on information obtained from the National Anti Ragging Helpline established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 350 complaints of ragging have been registered through Helpline during the current academic year.

(b) In accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court of India dated 16.05.2007, 12.12.2007, 30.3.2009 and 8.5.2009, in the matter of University of Kerala Vs Council, Principals' Colleges, Kerala and Ors., the Government has issued directions to regulatory bodies to implement major recommendations made by the Committee headed by Dr. R.K. Raghavan to look into the issue of ragging and suggest means of prevention in educational institutions. This Ministry has also requested the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all State Governments/Union Territories to comply with the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court of India.

The University Grants Commission has notified, on 17th June, 2009, its regulation namely "The UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009". The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also notified its anti-ragging regulation on 01-07-2009.

The regulations require higher educational institutions to take effective steps in order to sensitize students on the dehumanizing effects of ragging and generate awareness among all

stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. The administrative action against the students found indulging in or abetting ragging is taken by the concerned higher educational institution while the criminal action, if any, is taken by the district administration. The Regulations also provide for action against an institution or college by the affiliating University that fails to curb ragging effectively. Administrative action can be taken against a member of the faculty or staff, including the Principal, where a lapse is attributable in the matter of reporting or taking prompt action to prevent an incident of ragging or display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging. This action is to be taken by the concerned appointing authority of the institution. Therefore, the initial action in incidents of ragging against the students or Principal is to be taken by the concerned institution and by the affiliating University. The statutory regulatory bodies *i.e.* the UGC or the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), can proceed against an institution which fails to curb ragging effectively by taking any one or more of the following steps, namely, withdrawal of declaration of fitness to receive grants under section 12B of the UGC Act, withholding any grant allocated, declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes, informing the general public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum academic standards.

A toll free anti-ragging “Helpline” has already been launched on 20th June, 2009 with Call Centre facilities in English, Hindi and regional languages (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, Oriya, Assamese, Gujarathi and Bengali) to begin with, for helping victims of ragging, besides facilitating effective action in respect of such incidents. This is being further strengthened by creating a web enabled portal for monitoring appropriate data bases and online interactive facilities.

#### **Requirement of teachers**

974. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of additional teachers required to fully implement the Right to Education Act;

(b) the steps Government has taken for ensuring availability of trained teachers with leadership skills at the block and district levels in diverse terrains across the country as there is chronic shortage of trained teachers even for the existing educational institutions at the primary and secondary level, especially in rural and semi-urban areas; and

(c) whether matching infrastructure like accommodation, basic libraries and reading material, etc. is available in requisite quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per estimates prepared by the National

University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), approximately, 5.1 lakh additional teachers will be required to ensure the pupil teacher ratio prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, Act, 2009. Academic Resource Support is provided to teachers through 6499 Block Resource Centers (BRCs) and 70805 Cluster Resource Centers (CRCs) which have been sanctioned across the country. State Governments have also been asked to undertake redeployment of existing teachers to address the issue of urban-rural imbalance in teacher availability. The SSA provides financial support for text books, school and teacher grants and teacher learning equipment to new schools. Further, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms provide for the setting up of school library and a one time grant @ Rs. 3,000/- for primary schools and Rs. 10,000/- for upper primary schools within the ceiling of 33% of civil works.

#### **Supreme Court direction on education in the country**

975. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has asked Government to change its attitude towards education in country; and

(b) if so, by when it would be achieved and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from the Government of NCT of Delhi and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Opening of colleges and universities**

976. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to build at least 30,000 colleges and 900 universities in the country by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for increasing more infrastructure funds in the country;

(c) the details of proposals which have been received from various States, particularly Maharashtra for opening of more colleges and universities; and

(d) Government's response so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Eleventh Plan proposes to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 15% by 2011-12 which would require an annual increase in enrolment of 8.9% and an appropriate increase in number of institution of higher learning to meet the target.

(b) During the Eleventh Plan establishment of Central Universities in hitherto uncovered

States has been envisaged. 15 New Central Universities have been notified on 15.1.2009 and a second Central University has been established in Jammu Division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) has been established for facilitating and promoting studies in areas concerned with the tribal population in the country.

A new Regional Centre of the IGNTU has been inaugurated in Manipur. 374 model degree colleges in the districts having GER lower than national level with the Centre-State funding in the ratio of 1:1 for Special Category States and 1:2 for other States has also been approved for which the University Grants Commission (UGC) has invited detailed project proposals from State Governments. Other scheme in the Eleventh Plan include incentivizing State Governments for setting up of new institutions or expansion of existing institutions with Central assistance, strengthening 6000 colleges and 150 State universities with focus on underserved areas to enable these institutions to fulfill the criteria for UGC assistance and additional assistance to 160 State universities and about 5500 colleges which are already declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. Eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been set up during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan. Five new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have also been set up during this Plan period. Seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are also proposed to be established. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted second shift in certain engineering colleges and polytechnics. Expansion of intake in Central Educational Institutions by 54% has been undertaken consequent to the implementation of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received from the States in the format prescribed by the Commission except from State Government of Punjab for establishing of 13 Model Degree Colleges in educationally backward districts. The proposal from Punjab has been accepted in principle by the University Grants Commission.

#### **Model schools scheme**

977. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started implementing model schools scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of talukas selected till-date, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has decided modalities regarding financing such schools; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far 186 model schools have been sanctioned in as many blocks in 7 States, as indicated below:—

Sl. No.	State	No. of Schools sanctioned
1.	Chhattisgarh	20
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	19
3.	Karnataka	74
4.	Madhya Pradesh	33
5.	Mizoram	01
6.	Punjab	21
7.	Tamil Nadu	18

(c) and (d) The sharing pattern between the Central Government and the State Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for model schools to be set up in educational backward blocks is 75:25 except for special category states, for which it is 90:10. Land is to be provided by the State Governments. Rs. 12,750 crore has been allocated for this scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

#### Shortfall of teachers

978. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current shortfall in the number of teachers in Government schools across the country;

(b) the likely shortfall in the number of teachers once the Right to Education Act is notified;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to recruit teachers to ensure that the student-teacher ratio is not more than 30:1; and

(d) the details of financial burden from such a recruitment exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) The estimated requirement of additional teachers as projected by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) to achieve the pupil teacher ratio as per schedule under Section 19 of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 is 5.1 lakh, over and above the current vacancies in the States. The financial requirement is contingent on state specific unit costs, however, at national level it is estimated at Rs. 5474 crore annually. All States/UT Governments have been requested to take steps for rationalization and redeployment of existing teachers as well as to recruit teachers against vacancies.

### Children dropping out of schools

979. SHRI B.S. GANNADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 8 per cent of children are still dropping out of schools and over 17 per cent during the transition from primary to upper classes as per a report by a constituted body for checking the trend of Universal Elementary Education;

(b) whether the report prepared by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) also underlined that the quality of education is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to achieve the goal of Universal Primary Education and also to fill up vacancies of teachers across the country as most of the schools are having single teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects Elementary School Statistics annually through the District Information System for Education (DISE) from all districts in the country. DISE data reveals that transition rates from primary to upper primary schools have improved from 81.13 in 2006-07 to 82.68 in 2007-08. The annual average dropout rates as per DISE have decreased from 8.61 in 2006-07 to 8.02 in 2007-08. The percentage of single teacher schools has reduced from 11.76% in 2006-07 to 9.71% in 2008-09. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a flagship programme for the universalisation of elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing dropout rates and improving quality of education. The interventions include, *inter alia*, opening of new schools and improving school infrastructure, recruiting additional teachers, providing annual school and teacher grants, conducting regular training of teachers, providing academic support to teachers, and free text-books to children. In addition, SSA provides interventions for community support for children who are dropouts, promotes education of girls, children with special needs and children from disadvantaged groups.

### IIITs

980. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether locations of 20 Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) have been finalized; and

(b) if so, whether they include the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.



(b) Does not arise as the scheme for setting up 20 IIITs in PPP mode is yet to be approved by the Government.

**Legislation for entry of foreign educational institutions**

981. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country has been finalized; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India is under consideration of the Government.

**National examination for admission to courses**

982. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a national examination for admission to engineering and medical courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same;

(c) if so, whether the Competent Authority of various States have been informed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) if so, whether the prevailing provisions in the allocation of seats including reservation had been considered before declaring the national examination;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, whether steps would be taken to consult all the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to introduce a common national examination for admission to engineering and medical courses.

(b) to (h) Does not arise.

**Accreditation system for universities/institutes**

983. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether accreditation system adopted by Government to allow universities/institutes to compete on the basis of their ratings has failed in its prime objective of healthy competition for quality education; and

- (b) if not, the reasons for which the system has not been vigorously enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Presently accreditation of universities and other institutions of higher learning is voluntary. As a result only those institution or universities which are desirous of obtaining accreditation apply for the same. The accreditation system at present, does not permit *inter se* comparison of individual institutions having the same accreditation rating.

**Provision for Hindi medium for taking examinations**

†984. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether English is the only medium for imparting education and conducting exams in Central Schools;
- (b) whether there is a provision for questions and answers in Hindi, in Hindi speaking areas;
- (c) if not, the provisions being made in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. Hindi is also a medium of instruction in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Central University status for Ravishankar University**

†985. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for according status of Central University;
- (b) whether there is any technical bottleneck in opening more than one university in a State;
- (c) whether the suggestion to accord the status of Central University to Ravishankar University in the capital of Chhattisgarh has been accepted in principle; and
- (d) if not, the bottlenecks thereof and if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no criterion prescribed for grant of Central University status to a State University. Government's priority is to establish one Central University in each State without such University.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Owing to resource constraints it is not possible for the Government to consider grant of Central University status to any more State Universities. Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, an erstwhile State University has been converted into a Central University for Chhattisgarh.

#### **Setting up of model colleges**

986. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up 374 model colleges in educationally backward districts under Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of colleges proposed, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to link all knowledge institutions through high speed data communication network to encourage knowledge, specialized resources and collaborative research as recommended by National Knowledge Commission (NKC); 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 Government has recently approved a new Central Sector Scheme with Central-State funding for establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national GER for higher education. However, the Scheme is not under the Scheme of provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA). During the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, assistance shall be provided for establishing 200 Model colleges in identified districts, with priority being given to Special Category States and districts having concentration of weaker sections and minorities as well as other districts in Schedule V and Schedule VI areas. A list of the 374 identified educationally backward districts is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 968 (Part 'a' to 'd')]

(c) and (d) The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in any time any where mode. The Mission has two major components:—

(i) providing connectivity, alongwith provision for access devices, to institutions and learners;

(ii) content generation.

It aims to extend computer infrastructure and connectivity to over 20000 colleges in the country including each of the departments of nearly 419 universities/deemed universities and

institutions of national importance as a part of its motto to provide connectivity upto last mile.

### **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan**

987. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are at advanced stage of implementing newly launched Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) which seeks to improve quality of Secondary education in the country and also check dropout rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up new secondary schools in various States where RMSA is in low stage; 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 centrally sponsored scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in March, 2009. Annual Plan proposals for 2009-10 have been received from 31 States and UTs and project proposals worth more than Rs. 3,000 crore have been appraised. State-wise details of sanction and release of amounts are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) RMSA, *inter-alia*, envisages setting up of new secondary schools to enhance access to secondary education. The target for the Eleventh Plan period is to set up about 11000 new schools. So far proposals for setting up of more than 2,400 new schools in various States, have been appraised.

### **Statement**

*State-wise details of funds sanctioned and released under RMSA*

Rs. in crores									
Sl. No.	State/UTs	Total project proposal recom-mended under Annual Plan 2009-10	Central share	Fund sanctioned for preparatory activities	Fund sanctioned towards Annual Plan proposal	Total fund sanctioned	Fund released for preparatory activities	Fund released towards Annual Plan proposal	Total fund released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	753.41	565.06	2.30	141.26	143.56	2.30		2.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			1.60		1.60	1.60		1.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	28.25	25.43	2.35	6.35	8.70	2.35		2.35
4.	Bihar			2.92		2.92	2.92		2.92
5.	Chhattishgarh	150.18	112.64	1.80	56.32	58.12	1.80	56.32	58.12
6.	Goa	1.64	1.23	0.20	0.31	0.51	0.20		0.20
7.	Gujarat	27.46	20.60	2.70	5.15	7.85	2.70		2.70
8.	Haryana	20.57	15.43	1.48		1.48	1.48		1.48
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46.98	35.24	1.20		1.20	1.20		1.20
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	87.79	65.84	2.20	8.82	11.02	2.20	8.82	11.02
11.	Jharkhand	193.67	145.25	1.69	36.31	38.00	1.69		1.69
12.	Karnataka	379.38	284.54	3.30	71.13	74.43	3.30	71.13	74.43
13.	Kerala	47.79	35.84	1.40	17.87	19.27	1.40		1.40
14.	Madhya Pradesh	493.8	370.35	5.00	92.58	97.58	5.00	92.58	97.58
15.	Maharashtra	9.99	7.49	3.50		3.50	3.50		3.50
16.	Manipur	78.41	70.57	0.90		0.90	0.90		0.90
17.	Meghalaya			0.80		0.80	0.80		0.80
18.	Mizoram	15.15	13.64	0.80	6.72	7.52	0.80	6.72	7.52
19.	Nagaland	49.07	44.16	0.93	11.04	11.97	0.93		0.93
20.	Orissa	207.19	155.39	3.00	38.84	41.84	3.00		3.00
21.	Punjab	62.88	47.16	2.00	23.25	25.25	2.00	23.25	25.25
22.	Rajasthan	43.19	32.39	3.20	16.18	19.38	3.20	16.18	19.38
23.	Sikkim	10.23	9.21	0.40	2.30	2.70	0.40		0.40
24.	Tamil Nadu	151.44	113.58	3.00	52.18	55.18	3.00	52.18	55.18
25.	Tripura	42.58	38.32	0.40	9.58	9.98	0.40		0.40
26.	Uttar Pradesh	154.93	116.20	7.10	29.00	36.10	7.10	29.00	36.10
27.	Uttarakhand	57.15	42.86	1.30	10.71	12.01	1.30		1.30
28.	West Bengal	58.65	43.99	2.00	10.99	12.99	2.00	10.99	12.99
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.54	0.41	0.17	0.20	0.37	0.17		0.17
30.	Chandigarh			0.10		0.10	0.10		0.10
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			0.10		0.10	0.10		0.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32. Daman and Diu				0.20		0.20	0.20		0.20
33. Delhi				0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
34. Lakshadweep	5.87	4.40	0.00	1.10	1.10	0.00	1.10	1.10	
35. Puducherry			0.32		0.32	0.32			0.32
INDIA:	3178.19	2417.20	60.36	506.93	567.29	60.36	368.27	428.63	

*Note:* Annual plan proposals of Bihar, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya were appraised on 25.02.2010

#### Contribution of education in GDP

988. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of education in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country and other countries, each separately; and

(b) the comparative figures of expenditure on education in the country and other countries, each separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The expenditure on education in India out of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 3.63 % during 2006-07 and in other countries like Egypt (3.8%), Belarus (5.2%), Ukraine (5.4%), Tajikistan (3.4%), Cambodia (1.6%), Hong Kong SAR of China (3.5%), New Zealand (6.3%), Thailand (3.9%), Peru (2.5%), Jamaica (6.5%), Pakistan (2.9%), Bangladesh (2.6%), Ethiopia (5.5%), South Africa (5.4%) and Zambia (1.5%).

(b) The expenditure on education in India was Rs. 137165.09 crore during 2006-07. However, expenditure on education for other countries is not maintained by this Ministry.

#### Funding of institutes

989. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of functioning autonomous institutes funded by UGC or his Ministry in each University;

(b) the number of centres for various purposes funded by UGC functioning in each University;

(c) the fate of Guru Granth Institute announced by the Prime Minister at Amritsar five years back; and

(d) the recommendations of the Committees appointed by his Ministry/UGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) establishes Inter-University Centers (IUCs) under section 12(ccc) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 for providing common facilities, services and programmes for a group of Universities or for the Universities in general. The IUCs are autonomous bodies within the University system providing centrally state of the art facilities which are not available at many Universities due to the cost of investment and provide facilities to a number of Universities. There are six such inter university centers established by UGC namely:—

1. Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi
2. Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune
3. UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, (UGC-DAE CSR), Indore
4. Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Ahmedabad
5. Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi
6. National Assessment and Accreditation Council, (NAAC), Bangalore

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to establish of a Centre of Research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib studies in the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. The centre shall be fully funded by the UGC from its own scheme from out of the lump sum grant provided to it by the Ministry and the Commission also released first instalment of grants to the University for the Centre. An expert Committee appointed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) had recommended the setting up of a National Institute of Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib instead of a Centre.

#### **New system of examination in schools**

990. DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has advised States to abolish the 'pass-fail' system of examination upto class VIII;

(b) if so, the logic behind this;

(c) the States and secondary boards which have so far agreed to the centre's proposal; and

(d) whether he can ensure that necessary staff and infrastructure will be available to them to make the new system a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), provides that the academic authority, while laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedure shall take into consideration *inter alia*, comprehensive and continuous evaluation of child's understanding of knowledge and his or her ability to apply the

same. It also provides that no child shall be required to pass any Board examination till completion of elementary education.

The States have been advised to develop evaluation systems in conformity with the RTE Act. For building capacities of teachers to undertake comprehensive and continuous evaluation funds are provided for annual in-service teacher training under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

#### **Issuing of academic degrees**

991. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is working on a scheme to issue academic degrees on time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the system will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Universities have autonomy in academic matters and the academic degrees are issued by them.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Pensionary benefits for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya employees**

†992. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pensionary benefits are not available to the personnel of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that these personnel do not have fixed working hours and the settlement of matters relating to their promotion and time-bound increment take substantial time;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government would take any effective initiative for redressal of the burning problems faced by these personnel so as to provide them benefits on par with other personnel of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) has issued a notification on 04.8.2009 for implementation of a new pension scheme for the employees of NVS.

- (b) to (d) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are residential schools where students and staff are required to stay in the Vidyalaya campus. There is a regular schedule of activities in the schools. Promotion and increment are given to the employees of the Samiti as per rules.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



### **Incidents of suicide due to ragging**

†993. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of ragging that have come into light in higher educational institutes in the current session and during last three educational sessions and whether there is indication of constant increase in such cases;

(b) the number of students who committed suicide, in the context of part (a) due to ragging or died due to depression caused by ragging;

(c) whether Government has given compensation to the kith and kins of those students who committed suicide due to ragging or who died due to depression; and

(d) whether Government would consider to make more stringent provisions in this regard keeping in view the constant increase in number of ragging cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As no information on incidents of ragging was being maintained centrally prior to the launch of the National Anti-Ragging Helpline under the “UGC regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009” no comparison with previous academic sessions is possible. Based upon the information collected from the Anti-Ragging Helpline and other information obtained by UGC, 350 complaints have been registered, which have been forwarded to the concerned institutions. A total number of 18 complaints communicated to the institutions have been responded by the concerned institutions and accordingly closed by the helpline.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Regulations of University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) already have stringent provisions to deter and punish incidents of ragging.

### **Central University status for Sambalpur University**

994. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NDA Government had taken steps to convert Sambalpur University into a Central University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present Government proposes to convert Sambalpur University into a Central University; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Proposals are received

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from various quarters, from time to time, for conversion of certain State Universities to Central Universities. The Central Government had taken a decision to establish, during the Eleventh Plan, one central university, in each such State which did not have a Central University. All States, except Goa, now have at least one Central University. There is no proposal to convert Sambalpur University into a Central University, as the Central University for Orissa has been established in Koraput district..

#### **Children dropping out of schools**

995. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to achieve the target in Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE), Government has drawn up any schemes to check dropout rate at primary levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that more than eight per cent of children are still dropping out of primary schools in the country and State Governments' efforts to check such dropouts are not found satisfactory; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Union Government's schemes/plans are going to check dropout rate at primary levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The cohort dropout rates at primary education level have declined consistently from 40.70% in 2000-01 to 25.60% in 2006-07 as per the Select Education Statistics (SES) brought out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. At elementary level the dropout rate has declined from 53.70% in 2000-01 to 45.90% in 2006-07. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a flagship programme for the universalisation of elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing dropout rates. The interventions include, *inter alia*, opening of new schools, improving school infrastructure, recruiting additional teachers, providing annual school and teacher grants, conducting regular training of teachers, providing academic support to teachers, and free text-books to children. In addition, SSA provides intervention for community support for children who are dropouts, promotes education of girls, children with special needs (CWSN) and children from disadvantaged groups.

#### **Schemes for small and medium enterprises**

996. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes/programmes of his Ministry implemented towards the betterment of the small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) the total budget allocation received by Ministry during the last fiscal year for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the amount spent thereon during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing various schemes/programmes for the promotion and development of MSMEs and to enhance their competitiveness. The major schemes/programmes include Credit Guarantee Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Marketing Development Assistance, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, ISO 9000/14000, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and Skill Development Programme.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 1794 crore was allocated to the Ministry of MSME during 2008-09 against which an amount of Rs. 1658.05 was spent.

#### **Khadi Research Centre in Gujarat**

997. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the steps taken by his Ministry to set up Khadi Research Centre in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has revamped the erstwhile Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute as Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI) to *inter alia* promote research and development (R&D) in khadi in the country, including Gujarat. To ascertain the viability of a khadi Research Centre in Gujarat, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has carried out a preliminary study through its Gujarat State Office which underlined the need for a coordinated approach with close involvement of State Government and other stakeholders. A consultative meeting was held by KVIC with MGIRI and Chairman, Gujarat Khadi and Village Industries Board at Ahmedabad on 11th December, 2009 in this matter.

#### **Cottage industry**

†998. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage share of small and cottage industry in the Gross Domestic Production of the country;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government promote small and cottage industries during last five years; and

(d) the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The contribution of micro, small and cottage enterprises to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (latest available) was estimated to be 6.39 per cent, 6.12 per cent and 6.09 per cent respectively.

(c) and (d) To facilitate promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector (including cottage industries), the Government has 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 for the promotion and development of the MSMEs and to enhance their competitiveness.

The Government is also implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/skill development, etc., for assisting the MSE sector. 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 and Market Development Assistance Scheme. The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) also targets promotion of micro enterprises, including cottage industries by providing margin money assistance through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in conjunction with loans from implementing scheduled commercial banks. In addition, Government is implementing specific schemes to promote the handicraft sector, which include Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Marketing Support and Services Scheme, Design and Technological Upgradation, Research and Development and Human Resource Development.

#### **Setting up of Task Force**

999. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force has been set up by the Prime Minister to provide support and relief to the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Task Force, if already made; and

(c) by when these recommendations 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) The Task Force constituted to address the issues of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector has submitted its report. The Task Force has made various recommendations in the areas of credit, taxation, labour issues, infrastructure/technology/skill development, marketing, etc., for providing an impetus to the

growth of the sector. The detailed report is available on the web site: [www.dcmsme.gov.in](http://www.dcmsme.gov.in). The report has been circulated to the departments/agencies concerned for time-bound action as laid down in the report.

#### **Rail network in the country**

1000. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of districts which have been connected by the rail network in India;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of the pending projects for rail networks for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) District-wise statistics of rail network is not maintained.

(c) As on 01.04.2009, there are 109 ongoing new line projects pending for completion which also includes 67 projects which are more than five years old *i.e.* taken up prior to 2004-05.

#### **Construction of centralized goods train lobby at Madar**

†1001. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has decided to construct centralized goods train lobby alongwith a depot at Madar station in Ajmer;
- (b) whether any amount has been sanctioned in the Rail Budget of last or current financial year; and
- (c) if so, the details of target fixed for completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Facilities for disabled passengers**

1002. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether train bogies meant to be for the differently-abled (called “Coach for Disabled”) have been converted to reserved coaches with reduced capacity for disabled passengers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of stations which do not have specially designed toilets and facilities for people with disabilities; and
- (d) the steps being taken to make all stations disabled-friendly?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Specially designed disabled friendly coaches, with compartments having two lower and two upper berths, known as SLRD coaches in normal Mail/Express trains, are treated as reserved for handicapped passengers till preparation of charts, and thereafter vacant accommodation, if any is available for roadside unreserved passengers. Since the accommodation, both reserved as well as unreserved, is available for handicapped passengers, there is no reduction in capacity for disabled passengers.

In Garib Rath trains, which are fully reserved trains the unreserved passengers cannot board the train and as such, the unutilised disabled friendly accommodation in these SLRD coaches is released to RAC/Waiting List passengers, at the time of preparation of charts.

(c) and (d) Railways have planned to provide toilets and other facilities for differently abled persons at all A-1, A and B category stations. Details of number of stations where these facilities are yet to be provided are shown in the Statement (*See below*). It is planned to complete such facilities at all A-1, A and B category stations by 31st March, 2010.

***Statement***

*Facilities for disabled passengers*

Railway	Toilet	Water Tap	Walkway	Signage	Parking	Help Booth	Ramp
Central	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
East Coast	3	2	4	4	2	5	7
East Central	25	22	30	3	26	21	26
Eastern	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
North Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
North Eastern	8	3	8	12	12	7	5
Northeast Frontier	21	16	16	17	16	13	3
Northern	23	20	23	22	20	23	21
North Western	2	6	0	9	3	10	3
South Central	6	5	4	3	1	6	1
Southeast Central	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
South Eastern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Southern	13	7	9	10	7	9	8
South Western	3	3	4	7	6	11	5
West Central	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
Western	2	0	2	1	2	1	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Computerised reservation facilities**

1003. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2579 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 2009 and state:

(a) the names of cities and towns in Uttar Pradesh where railway stations undertake 100 or more transactions per day and have not been provided with a facility of computerised reservation;

(b) by when these railway stations would be provided with computerised reservation facilities; and

(c) the names of railway stations in Uttar Pradesh where this facility would be provided during the current financial year and the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. There is no Railway Station on Northern Railway, North Eastern Railway and North Central Railway, covering Uttar Pradesh, which undertake hundred or more reservation transactions per day, and are not computerized.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision of Unreserved Ticketing System-cum-Passenger Reservation System (UTS-cum-PRS) at 23 stations and Passenger Reservation System (PRS) at one station is planned which is as follows:—

North Central Railway: 6 UTS-cum-PRS

Northern Railway: 10 UTS-cum-PRS and one PRS.

North Eastern Railway: 7 UTS-cum-PRS.

### **Rail projects in Maharashtra**

1004. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing/pending railway projects in Maharashtra during the last three years alongwith details of the rail over/under bridges and manned/unmanned crossings in the State;

(b) whether these works are being executed/progressing as per their schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The details of ongoing railway projects alongwith rail over/under bridges and manned/unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the ongoing project	Km.	Anticipated cost *	Present status and target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New Line</b>				
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath	261.25	462.67	Final location survey completed. On Ahmednagar-Narayandoh section 71% earthwork, all major and minor bridges completed.
2.	Amravati-Narkher	138	284.27	Section from Amravati to Chandur Bazar (44 kms.) completed. In Chandurbazar-Narkher section, earthwork, bridge work and ballast collection taken up. The work is targeted for completion during 2010-11.
3.	Baramati-Lonad	54	138.48	Lonad-Phalton (27 kms) — Earthwork taken up. All major bridges and 17 minor bridges completed. The section is targeted for completion during 2010.
4.	Puntamba-Shirdi	17.8	79.77	Completed.
5.	Wardha-Nanded	270	697	Estimate for land acquisition and major bridges for Wardha-Deoli (16 km) sanctioned and work taken up.
<b>Gauge conversion</b>				
1.	Akola-Purna	210	245.22	Completed.
2.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat Katangi	285	524.88	Gondia-Balaghat (42 km) and Nelurghat-Katangi completed. On balance portion, land acquisition, earthwork and bridge completed.
3.	Miraj-Latur	374	515.57	Conversion of Kurduwadi-Pandharpur and Latur-Latur Road new line portion completed. In balance Pandharpur-Miraj (137 kms) section, earthwork completed, bridgework taken up, targeted for completion in 2009-10.



1	2	3	4	5
4.	Solapur (Hotgi)- Gadag	284	357.7	Completed and commissioned.
5.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	149.52	383.79	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition taken up. Earth-work and bridgework taken up.
6.	Ratlam-Mhow- Khandwa-Akola	472.64	1421.3	Preliminary works taken up.
<b>Doubling</b>				
1.	Diva-Kalyan 5th and 6th line	10.73	70	Completed and commissioned.
2.	Pakni-Mohol	17	42.73	Completed and commissioned.
3.	Pakni-Solapur	16.28	38.52	Completed and commissioned.
4.	Panvel-Pen	35.46	96.16	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
5.	Pen-Roha	40	98.74	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
<b>Mumbai Urban Transport Project</b>				
1.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project		3480.7	Work is progressing satisfactorily on various stages and expected to be completed by December, 2010
2.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project (Phase-II)-Rail component		5300	Work included in the Budget 2008- 09 and work taken up.
3.	Santa Cruz-Borivali 5th line	16.37	93.71	Completed and commissioned.
<b>Railway Electrification</b>				
1.	Railway Electrification- Udhna-Jalgaon	306	144.42	Completed and commissioned.

Projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

As regards ROB/RUBs and level crossings, it is mentioned that there are 104 ROB/RUB works in progress (other than new line, doubling, gauge conversion) in the State of Maharashtra. During last three years five ROB/RUBs have been completed. There are 1135 manned and 784 unmanned level crossings in the State of Maharashtra. 16 unmanned level crossings have been manned during the last three years.

### **Setting up of a wagon factory at Alappuzha in Kerala**

1005. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:  
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:  
SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an MoU has been signed between Railway Board and Autocast Ltd. and a public purpose vehicle (joint venture) has also been constituted for setting up a wagon factory at Alappuzha in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No MOU has been signed between Railway Board and Autocast Ltd. However, an MOU had been signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Kerala for formation of a Joint Venture for undertaking manufacture of Railway coach and wagon components. Process for the constitution of the JV has been initiated.

### **Train accidents**

1006. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents in first two months of 2010;

(b) how many of these were due to mechanical failures and those due to human error;

(c) the details of loss of lives and properties of Railways and passengers suffered in the accidents;

(d) the responsibilities for the causes of accidents; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such type of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of train accidents, viz. Collisions and Manned Level Crossing accidents during January and February, 2010 have been 3 and 1 respectively. Further, there have been 14 Derailments, 1 Miscellaneous accident and 11 accidents on Unmanned Level Crossings.

(b) and (c) Based on *prima-facie* causes, 13 were due to failure of railway staff and 17 due to failure of other than railway staff. No accident was attributed to mechanical equipment failure. 43 persons lost their lives in these accidents and 110 suffered injuries. Loss to railway property in these accidents was Rs. 3.66 crore (approximately).

(d) 2 accidents are being inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety and the remaining by Departmental Enquiry Committees. Recommendations and findings of the

Commission of Railway Safety and the Departmental Committees are examined by the concerned Departments for compliance if feasible and disciplinary action is taken against the defaulting staff.

(e) All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.

#### **Train accidents near Kanpur**

1007. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:  
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:  
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of train accidents which took place near Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh in the beginning of January this year;
- (b) the details of other accidents which occurred in 2010;
- (c) the total number of passengers and staff who died/got injured in these accidents;
- (d) whether incidents of train mishaps have increased recently;
- (e) if so, whether this is due to negligence or human error or due to some corrupt practices and shortcomings; and
- (f) the concrete steps her Ministry will take to check the increasing rail accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Details of two Consequential train accidents which took place in the beginning of January, 2010 near Kanpur are as under:—

- (i) On 02.01.2010 at 08.46 hrs., train number 2556 Gorakhdham Express collided in rear of train number 2418 Prayagraj Express on Tundla — Kanpur section resulting in death of 12 persons and injuries to 48 persons. This accident is being inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle and his Final Report is awaited.
- (ii) On 02.01.2010 at 08.05 hrs., train number 4006 Lichchavi Express collided in rear of train number 2402 Magadh Express on Tundla — Kanpur section in which one person was injured. This accident is being inquired into by a Departmental Committee.

(b) and (c) During the period from 1st January to 23rd February, 2010 there have been 3 collisions and 1 Manned Level Crossing accident. Further, there have been 10 derailments, 1 miscellaneous accident and 10 accidents on Unmanned Level Crossings. The number of

passengers killed and injured therein in collisions and in manned level crossing accidents were 14 passengers, 1 staff killed, and 64 passengers and 3 staff injured. Further, in the miscellaneous accidents there were 19 passengers who were injured.

(d) No, Sir. Number of accidents has come down during the current year.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Anti-Collision Device (ACD), Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals and Vigilance Control Device (VCD).

#### **Prevention of train accidents in foggy weather**

†1008. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:  
SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to any modern technology to check the delay and accidents of trains due to fog so that these problems could be resolved and the losses to the rail passengers could be prevented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of action taken towards mitigating the problems due to fog are appended as a Statement.

#### ***Statement***

*Details on action towards mitigation of problems due to  
foggy weather condition:*

#### **A. Mitigation of factors causing delays during foggy weather:**

##### **1. Delays arising from unstable traction power supply in Northern Region:**

Replacement of porcelain insulators of 25KV, 132 KV and 220 KV lines by anti-fog composite insulators in polluted areas has been carried out and improved maintenance practices have been adopted on Northern Railway and North Central Railways.

##### **2. Improving visibility of Signals:**

LED signals have been provided at about 3400 stations on Indian Railway to improve visibility of Signals.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**3. Communication aids:**

In order to have communication and to deal with the situation arising out of foggy weather, Walkie Talkie VHF sets have been provided to guards and drivers of trains. Additionally, decision has been taken to provide Closed User Group (CUG) mobile phones to guards and drivers. A dedicated Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) is also being progressively provided on important busy routes to start with for providing communication in running trains for drivers, guards, station masters, controls etc. to enhance safety in train operations.

**4. Flashing tail lamps:**

Flashing LED Tail Lamps on last vehicle of trains are provided in foggy weather.

**N.B.** (i) A pilot project for development of fog vision instrumentation was taken up by Research Designs and Standards Organization, (RDSO) Lucknow in association with Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT), Kanpur under Technology Mission for Railway Safety (TMRS). Under this project, several experiments in the laboratory were carried out at IIT, Kanpur with technologies employing radar, thermal imager and CO2 laser in 'Fog Chamber'. Project was closed due to its not being successful.

(ii) Experiments have been conducted on Electric, Diesel locomotives and EMUs on Northern Railway for assistance to the drivers but none of these have proven to be foolproof.

**B. Mitigation of factors contributing to human errors identified as cause of accidents during fog: Human errors in Automatic Signaling territory:**

Recent incidences indicated that the accidents occurred in high traffic density Automatic Signaling Territories due to human errors. Train Protection System, as a technical aid to drivers, is proposed to be progressively provided, to begin with in automatic signaling territories to mitigate this problem.

**New rail line between Kalyan and Ahmednagar**

1009. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in taking up the work of 204 kilometre new rail line between Kalyan and Ahmednagar via Malshej Ghat in Maharashtra despite the Railway Board completing requisite formalities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the work would start and the approximate time frame and cost fixed by the Railway Board for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Kalyan to Ahmednagar via Malshej Ghat (204 km) was completed in year 2000. As per the survey, cost of construction of the line was assessed as Rs. 772 crore. Due to constraint of resources the proposal could not be considered earlier. A fresh survey has again been sanctioned in 2006-07 and report is yet to be received. Further consideration of the proposal would be feasible once survey is completed and results of the survey report are finalized.

**Demand of running Hirakund Express on daily basis**

1010. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the demand being raised for many years to run 8507/8508 Hirakund Express between Vishakhapatnam and Amritsar on daily basis;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in fulfilling the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Increase in the frequency of 8507/8508 Hirakund Express from tri-weekly to daily has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational constraints including terminal constraints at Amritsar.

(c) Does not arise.

**Commercial utilization of surplus railway land**

1011. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal of Government for commercial utilization of surplus railway land excludes the possibility of reverting back those land to States;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Vacant railway land is required for Railways own developmental works such as doubling, gauge conversion, yard remodelling and traffic facility works, setting up of factories, freight corridors, etc.

Vacant land not required for Railways immediate future operational needs is put to alternative usage including commercial development, wherever feasible.

**Sharing of cost of rail projects by States**

1012. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State Governments which have agreed to share cost of ongoing/proposed new railway lines and gauge conversion projects in their respective States;

(b) the details of such projects, State-wise; and

(c) the present status of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing railway projects under new line and gauge conversion on cost sharing with State Governments are as under:—

Sl. No.	Projects	State	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New Lines</b>				
1.	Kottur-Harihar <i>via</i> . Harpanhalli	Karnataka	328.06	Earthwork, bridge, etc. in progress. Targeted for 2009-10.
2.	Wardha Nanded	Maharashtra	697	Final location survey taken up.
3.	Rewari-Rohtak	Haryana	475.17	Rewari-Jhajjar is targeted for 2009-10 and balance for 2010-11.
4.	Jind-Sonipat	Haryana	234.45	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
5.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet)	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	1000.23	Final location survey taken up.
6.	Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur*	Chhattisgarh	968.6	Land acquisition taken up. Work entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
7.	Bidar-Gulbarga	Karnataka	554.55	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
8.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat <i>via</i> Dumka (Jharkhand portion)	Jharkhand, West Bengal	676	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
9.	Giridih-Koderma	Jharkhand	451.35	Koderma-Maheshpur has been completed and on balance formation works are in progress.
10.	Deoband-Muzzaffarnagar-Roorkee	Uttarakhand	164.8	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition taken up.
11.	Koderma-Ranchi	Jharkhand	1099.2	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Deogarh-Dumka	Jharkhand	335	Deogarh-Ghoramara completed and balance targeted for 2009-10.
13.	Koderma-Tilaiya (Jharkhand portion)	Jharkhand, Bihar	418.17	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
14.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur Beri	Himachal Pradesh	1046.88	Final location survey taken up.
15.	Munirabad- Mehboobnagar	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	497	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
16.	Ahmednagar-Beed- Parli Baijnath	Maharashtra	462.67	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works, etc. taken up.

\*State Government will provide Government land free of cost, meet cost of land acquisition and exempt royalty and State Taxes on minerals and materials required for construction of this line.

Sl. No.	Projects	State	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Status
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#### Gauge Conversions

1	Shimoga-Talguppa	Karnataka	158.59	Targeted for completion during 2009-10.
2	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extn. to Tori	Jharkhand	449.83	Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion has been completed. Work on new line portion taken up.
3	Bardhaman-Katwa	West Bengal	346.47	Contract finalized for Bardhaman-Balgona and work taken up.
4	Cuddalore-Salem	Tamil Nadu	556.64	Cuddalore-Salem gauge conversion completed. Final location survey for new line portion from Chinnasalem to Kallakurichi taken up.

In addition to the above, State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have proposed to take up new projects on cost sharing/Public-Private Partnership basis.



### **Doubling of railway line between Mehsana and Alwar**

1013. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects for doubling of railway line between Mehsana-Alwar and Mehsana-Rajkot of the Western Railway and North Western Railway have been approved during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the status of the projects approved; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The details and status of doubling projects alongwith targets wherever fixed, in Mehsana-Alwar and Mehsana-Rajkot sections in last three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Status
<b>Doubling between Mehasana-Alwar section</b>		
1.	Karjoda to Sarotra Road (23.59 km.)	Proposed in the Budget 2010-11.
2.	Sarotra Road to Abu Road (23.12 km.)	Proposed in the Budget 2010-11.
3.	Palanpur-Ajmer (357 km.)	Survey taken up
4.	Ajmer-Phulera (80 km.)	Gahlotra-Phulera section (45 km.) has been completed and balance section of Ajmer-Gahlotra (35 km.) is likely to be completed by March, 2010.
4.	Phulera-Jaipur (54.75 km.)	Completed.
5.	Jaipur-Dausa (61.28 km.)	Work is in advance stage of completion and likely to be completed by March, 2010.
6.	Dausa-Bandikui (29.04 km.)	Work is in advance stage of completion and likely to be completed by March, 2010.
7.	Bandikui-Alwar (60.37 km.)	Survey, completed and report under examination.
<b>Doubling between Mehasana-Rajkot section</b>		
1.	Viramgam-Rajkot (202 km.)	Survey sanctioned. Doubling of Viramgam-Surendranagar (65.26 km.) section proposed in the Budget 2010-11.

### Rail projects in Jharkhand

1014. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects relating to new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrification undertaken in Jharkhand;

(b) how far these projects have progressed so far; and

(c) the details of steps taken for their early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) 8 New Lines, 1 Gauge Conversion and 8 Doubling projects are in progress in the State of Jharkhand. The works are progressing as per availability of resources. Details of Projects are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Approx length in km.	Status of Project
1	2	3	4
<b>New Lines</b>			
1.	Deogarh-Dumka	72	Jasidih -Ghoramara (26.27 kms.) — work completed. Ghormara-Dhumka (46 km.) taken up and targeted for completion 2010-11.
2.	Deogarh-Sultanganj, Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bihtiah Road	151	Banka-Barhat (15.5 km.) completed. Earth-work, Major bridges, minor bridges taken up and Deogarh-Chandan (15 km.) targeted for 2010-11.
3.	Gaya-Chatra	97	Preliminary works taken up.
4.	Giridih-Koderma	102	Koderma-Maheshpur (20 km.) and Maheshpur-Nawadih (14 km.) completed. Earthwork, Minor and major bridges etc. taken up in balance portion Nawadih-. Dhanwar (11 km.) targeted for 2010-11.
5.	Koderma-Ranchi	202	Land acquisition, earthwork, minor bridges, Road over bridges and Road under bridges has been taken up.
6.	Koderma-Tilaiya	65	Land acquisition and major bridges have been completed. Earthwork, minor bridges etc. have been taken up.

1	2	3	4
7.	Manderhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	Earthwork, minor bridges, major bridges and track linking etc. has been taken up.
8.	Hazaribagh-Shivpur-Tori	93	Land acquisition, forestry clearance taken up.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>			
1.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	111	Ranchi-Lohardaga- (69 kms.) completed. Lohardaga-Bargichampi (15 km.) completed in 2009-10. Earthwork, major bridges, minor bridge and track linking in balance portion taken up.
<b>Doubling</b>			
1.	Barharwa-Tinpahar	16.49	Barharwa-Bakudi (7.70 km.) completed. Bakudi-Tinpahar is targeted for completion 2009-10.
2.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra	18.3	Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up.
3.	Chandrapura-Rajabera-Chandrapura-Bhandaridah	10.6	Preliminary works taken up.
4.	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur-Bondamunda Section)	40	Work executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) Final Location Survey completed.
5.	Muri-North Outer Cabin/Muri-Doubling of section with provision of 2nd bridge over Subarnarekha	1	Final Location Survey completed. Tender for Civil Engineering works awarded.
6.	Padapahar-Banspani	32	Padapahar-Dongaoposi (5.6 kms.) and Jamakundia-Deojhar (6.6 kms.) completed. Balance work is targeted for completion 2009-10.
7.	Rajkharsawan-Sini-3rd line	15	Preliminary works, tendering etc. taken up.
8.	Tinpahar-Sahibganj as PH-I of doubling of Tinpahar-Bhagalpur	37.81	Final Location Survey completed. Preliminary works taken up.

There is presently no Railway Electrification project in progress in Jharkhand.

(c) To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land availability, security issues and forestry clearances, etc. meetings with State Officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management, and field units have been further empowered.

#### **Rail projects in Orissa**

1015. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has received the proposal for second flyover at railway plots in Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and also construction of public foot-path on the railway bridge No. 391 on river Baitarani in between Manjari Road and Baitarani Road railway station in Orissa; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these two projects could not be implemented as there was no positive response from the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No proposal has been received from State Government of Orissa for construction of second Fly Over Bridge at Railway plots in Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and for construction of public footpath on the Railway Bridge No. 391 upon river Baitarani in between Manjuri road and Baitarani Road Railway Station in Orissa.

(b) These two projects can be processed further after receipt of proposals from the State Government.

#### **Action plan for commercial use of surplus railway land**

1016. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has formulated any action plan for commercial utilization of surplus railway land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given discretionary powers to release such land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria fixed for utilization of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to mobilize additional financial resources Railways have set up Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005 to undertake

development of vacant railway land and air space, which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. So far, 135 sites have been entrusted to the RLDA for commercial development.

In addition, Railways plan to utilise its vacant land wherever feasible for setting up of various infrastructure and socially inclusive projects, Health Care Facilities, etc. through innovative financing models.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Encroachment of railway land in Punjab**

1017. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of railway land in Punjab still under adverse possession with details thereof, indicating the parties in possession;

(b) the area of railway land retrieved from the grabbers during the last three years ending 31st December, 2009; and

(c) the action so far taken against railway employees who were found involved in grabbing railway land or who helped the squatters in such land with the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is no Railway land under adverse possession in the State of Punjab. However, an area of 35.4 hectare is under encroachments, mostly by farmers, in the State of Punjab.

(b) An area of 19.8 hectare of railway land has been retrieved from the encroachers during the last three years ending 31.12.09 in the State of Punjab.

(c) Involvement of railway officials in land grabbing and/or helping the encroachers has not been established or reported so far.

#### **Train accidents**

1018. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of train accidents have taken place recently;

(b) if so, the details of accidents, the number of people died/injured, the compensation paid, etc., zone-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that shortage in the number of drivers and fatigue of drivers due to over work has been the main reason for majority of the accidents; and

(d) if so, the details of shortage of drivers in different zones and steps being taken to appoint sufficient number of drivers and other staff in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The number of train accidents, viz. Collisions and Manned Level Crossing accidents

during January and February, 2010 have been 3 and 1 respectively. Further, there have been 14 Derailments, 1 Miscellaneous accident and 11 accidents on Unmanned Level Crossings. The number of persons killed/injured in Collision and Manned Level Crossings accidents were 15/67 (in North Central Railway) and 1/0 (in East Coast Railway) respectively. Further, number of persons died/injured in Derailments, Unmanned Level Crossing accidents and Miscellaneous accidents are 2/3 (2/2 in East Central Railway and 0/1 in North Western Railway), 25/21 (5/1 in North Eastern Railway, 4/1 in Northeast Frontier Railway, 5/8 in Northern Railway, 7/3 in North Western Railway, 2/0 in Western Railway, 3/2 in South Central Railway, 2/3 in East Coast Railway) and 10/9 (in Central Railway) respectively.

Compensation is paid only after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal. So far, no decree has been received by the railway administration for the consequential train accidents which took place during January and February, 2010 and hence no compensation could be paid for these accidents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Electrification of Chandigarh- Morinda rail line**

†1019. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chandigarh-Morinda railway line is not electrified;

(b) whether the engines of Una-bound trains which depart from Delhi are changed at Ambala; and

(c) the time by when this 50 kilometres railway line is proposed to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The work on Electrification of Chandigarh-Morinda is in progress.

(b) Yes, Sir. Electric loco is being changed at Ambala for Una bound trains.

(c) Inspection of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) is being followed up for electric train operation.

#### **Development of surplus railway land for commercial purposes**

1020. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways proposes to use surplus land on commercial basis;

(b) if so, whether guidelines in this regard have been framed;

(c) whether Railways has identified locations for the commercial development; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(d) So far, 135 sites have been entrusted to the RLDA for development of vacant railway land. Details of sites entrusted to RLDA for commercial development is as under:—

Adilabad, Aurangabad, Ajmer (2 sites), Amritsar (2 sites), Ballyghat, Bangalore City, Bansdrani Station, Bareilly City, Belgharia, site between Central Station and M.G. Road, sites between Shyambazar and Sovabazar and between Tollygunj Station and Rabindra Sarabor, Bhavnagar (7 sites), Bhilai (3 sites), site between Bidhannagar-DumDum, Bokaro (2 sites), Borabanda, Budge-Budge, Budhlada, Central Station (07 sites), Chandigarh (2 sites), Chandni Chowk station, Chennai, Clutterbuckganj, Delhi (5 sites), Gaya, Guntakal (2 sites), Guwahati (13 sites), Gwalior (2 sites), Kanpur (2sites), Halishahar, Hingoli, Hyderabad (3 sites), Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Kanchrapara, Karimganj, Katra, Lucknow (3 sites), Maninagar (2sites), MTP (Chennai), Mudkhed, Mumbai, Nagapatinam, Naktala Station, New Alipurduar, New Cooch-behar, New Garia Station, New Jalpaiguri (5 sites), Pattukoti, Raipur (2 sites), Rajkot (10 sites), Raxaul, Salem, Secunderabad (6 sites), Shahamatganj, Shyambazar (3 sites), Siliguri (6 sites), Tatanagar, Thane, Tollygunj station, Vijaywada, Villipuram, Visakhapatnam (2 sites), Washim, Bangalore Cantonment Railway Station.

#### **New railway line from Ajmer to Pushkar**

†1021. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any dead line for completion of work of new railway line from Ajmer to Pushkar in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, by when and the reasons for the delay caused so far; and

(c) by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Against a requisition for 129.57 hectares land placed with State Government, 117.85 hectares land has been made available. Difficulty is being faced in handing over of balance land by State Government. Earthwork, bridgework, etc. have been taken up in available land. The work is planned for completion during 2010-11.

#### **Speed of express train between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad**

1022. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1812 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 2009 and state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the average per hour speed of express trains between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad before renewal of the track;

(b) the present average per hour speed of express trains on that track after the renewal;

(c) to what extent renewal has improved the quality and condition of the track and speed of trains; and

(d) the steps being taken to take full advantage of the new track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The average speed of express train as on date is 30.6 kmph, which is the same as before track renewal, as other requisite works are at various stages of planning and execution.

(c) and (d) Though the safety of track has improved due to track renewal, other requisite works *i.e.*, deep screening, ballasting, repair of cess and welding of rails are in different stages of planning and execution to take full advantage of the upgraded track.

#### **Special Railway Safety Fund**

1023. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has been able to accumulate Rs. 17,000 crores proposed under the Special Railway Safety Fund;

(b) if so, the amount it collected from passengers through safety surcharge, budgetary support, etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that no safety work has been undertaken from the Special Railway Safety Fund; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Rs. 16,915 crores has been appropriated to Special Railway Safety Fund from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2008. The amount collected from passengers through Safety Surcharge, Budgetary Support and Railway Revenue is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Surcharge Collected from Passengers	Allocation from Railway Revenue	Budgetary Support
3,784	1,177	11,954

(c) No, Sir. Special Railway Safety Fund was created for the replacement of over-aged assets and safety works. The funds were utilized for safety works such as Track Renewal, Bridge rehabilitation, replacement of Signaling and Telecom gears etc.

(d) Does not arise.



### Model railway stations

†1024. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is converting railway stations as model stations;
- (b) if so, the names of such stations, zone-wise;
- (c) whether the name of Muzaffarnagar railway station in Uttar Pradesh is also included in this said list;
- (d) if so, by when Muzaffarnagar railway station would be developed as a model station; and
- (e) if not, the main reason for such discrimination with Muzaffarnagar railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) With a view to provide upgraded passenger amenities at stations, 594 stations have so far been selected as model stations details of which zone-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Work of development of Muzaffarnagar Railway station as model station is planned for completion by 31st March, 2010.
- (e) Does not arise.

### Statement

#### *Stations selected as Model Stations*

Railway	Name of station
1	2
Central (35)	Akola, Bhusaval, Chandrapur, Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus (Kolhapur), Dadar, Gulbarga, Jalgaon, Kalyan, Kurla (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus), Malkapur, Mumbai CST, Nagpur, Nasik Road, Pune, Solapur, Thane, Wardha, Lonavala, Khandwa, Manmad, Amrawati, Miraj, Ahmednagar, Matheran, Badnera, Burhanpur, Chalisgaon, Devlali, Shegaon, Betul, Ballarshah, Karad, Sangli, Satara and Daund.
Eastern (51)	Andal Jn., Asansol, Baidyanathdham, Bandel, Barasat, Bardhaman, Baruipur Jn., Basirhat, Bhagalpur, Bidhannagar Road, Bolpur, Bongaon, Budge Budge, Canning, Dankuni, Dhakuria, Dum Dum, Durgapur, Garia, Ghutiari Sharif, Howrah, Jamalpur Jn., Jasidih, Krishnagar Road, Kulti, Labpur, Madhupur, Madhyamgram, Malda

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
	Town, Murshidabad, Nabadwip Dham, New Farakka, Ranaghat Jn., Raniganj, Sainthia, Sealdah, Sonarpur, Sultanganj, Tarakeswar, Tollyganj, Ultadanga, Barrackpur, Naihati, Rishra, Srirampur, Rampurhat, Sheoraphulli, Chandannagar, Sahibganj, Barharwa and Bariarpur.
East Central (55)	Akshayawat Rai Nagar, Ara, Buxar, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Bettiah, Daltonganj, Danapur, Darbhanga, Dhanbad, Dehri-on-Sone, Gaya, Hajipur Jn., Janakpur Road, Khagaria, Koderma, Mokama, Motihari, Mughalsarai, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nayagaon, Narkatiaganj jn, Nawadah, Parasnath, Patna, Sagauli jn, Sasaram, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Sitamarhi, Sonapur Jn., Barkakana, Patna Sahib, Bakhtiyarpur, Biharsharif, Jamui, Jhajha, Kiul, Lakheesarai, Rajendra Nagar (T), Rajgir, Anugrah Narayan Road, Raxaul, Saharsa, Madhubani, Renukot, Singrauli, Chopan, Garhwa Road, Barh, Bhabua Road, Dalsinghsarai, Phulwarisarif and Mananpur.
East Coast (24)	Badakhandita, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar, Brahmapur, Byree, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Golantra, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Kapilas Road, Khurda Road, Puri, Rahama, Sambalpur, Surla Road, Titlagarh, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Palasa, Rayagada, Balugaon, Sambalpur Road and Kesinga.
Northern (80)	Ambala Cantt, Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib, Ayodhya, Baghpat Road, Baraut, Bareilly, Bhatinda, Beas, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Delhi, Delhi Cantt, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Dhuri Jn., Faizabad, Faridabad, Firozpur, Garhmukteshwar, Ghaziabad, Haridwar, H. Nizamuddin, Jullundur City, Jammu Tawi, Kalka, Kathua, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Merrut City, Moradabad, Nangloi, New Delhi, Panipat Jn., Pathankot, Patiala, Prayag, Rae-Bareilly Jn., Saharanpur, Shimla, Varanasi, Rohtak, Delhi Shahdra, Ballabgarh, Karnal, Sonipat, Meerut Cantt., Jaunpur, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Bhadohi, Akbarpur, Chakki Bank, Jalandhar Cantt, Phagwara, Shahjahanpur, Jagadhari, Sirhand jn., Muzaffarnagar, Kurukshetra, Sabzi Mandi, Palwal, Shakurbasti, Barabanki, Shahganj, Unnao, Janghai, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Roorkee, Najibabad, Rampur, Hardoi, Hapur, Chandausi, Rishikesh, Rajpura, Chandi Mandir, Abohar, Deoband and Bhodwal Majri.
North Central (21)	Agra Cantt, Agra Fort, Aligarh, Allahabad Jn., Etawah, Gwalior, Jhansi, Kanpur Central, Mathura Jn., Tundla, Mirzapur, Banda, Morena, Raja Ki Mandi, Fatehpur, Firozabad, Naini, Babina, Chitrakut Dham Karvi, Lalitpur and Orai.

1	2
North Eastern (34)	Badshah Nagar, Ballia, Basti, Chhapra Jn., Deoria Sadar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Izzatnagar Jn., Kathgodam, Katra, Lucknow, Manduadih, Mau Jn., Pilibhit, Rawatpur, Siwan Jn., Lucknow City, Allahabad City, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Barhani, Belthra Road, Bhatni Jn, Farrukhabad, Ghazipur City, Kasganj, Kashipur, Khalilabad, Lakhimpur, Lalkuan, Salempur, Sitapur, Varanasi City and Kaimganj.
Northeast Frontier (35)	Alipurduar Jn., Alubari Road, Araria Court, Coochbehar, Dalkolha, Dharmanagar, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Ghum, Gosaigaonhat, Guwahati, Harishchandrapur, Jalpaiguri, Jorhat Town, Karnakhya, Katihar, Kishanganj, Kokrajhar, Lumding, Maal Bazar, New Alipurduar, New Bongaigaon, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, New Mal Jn., New Tinsukia, Purnea Jn, Raiganj, Rangia Jn., Silchar, Siliguri Town, Srirampur, Tezpur, Bongaigaon and Tinsukia.
North Western (26)	Abu Road, Ajmer, Bikaner, Hissar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Rewari, Sri Ganga Nagar, Udaipur, Alwar, Falna, Rani, Marwar Jn., Beawar, Bhilwara, Pali Marwar, Jaisalmer, Nagaur, Makrana, Suratgarh, Bhiwani, Hanumangarh, Sirsa, Rana Pratapnagar, Kishanganj and Kosli.
Southern (48)	Alwaye, Arakkonam Jn., Calicut, Cannanore, Chengannaur, Chengalpattu, Chennai Beach, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore, Ernakulam Jn., Erode Jn., Kanniyakumari, Katpadi, Kayankulam, Kottayam, Madurai, Mambalam, Mangalore, Palghat, Pondicherry, Quilon, Rameswaram, Salem, Tiruchchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruttani, Trichur, Trivandrum Central, Tuticorin, Varkala, Jolarpettai, Dindigul, Shoranur, Tellicherry, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Nagercoil, Tiruvalla, Ernakulam Town, Ambur, Kovilpatti, Virudhunagar, Badagara, Kankanadi, Tirur, Villupuram Jn. and Alleppey.
South Central (64)	Dharmavaram Jn., Guntakal, Guntur, Hyderabad, Kacheguda, Kakinada Town, Nanded, Nellore, Raichur, Rajahmundry, Secunderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Warangal, Anakapalli, Anantapur, Aurangabad, Bhimavaram Town, Cuddapah, Eluru, Godavari, Jalna, Kazipet, Khammam, Ongole, Parbhani, Samalkot, Tenali, Adoni, Chirala, Kurnool Town, Machilipatnam, Manchiryal, Palakollu, Ramagundam, Tadepalligudem, Tandur, Tanuku, Tuni, Yadgir, Bhimavaram, Dhone, Dornakal Gooty, Gudivada, Gudur, Mudkhed, Nadikudi, Nidadavolu, Pakala, Purna, Renigunta, Vikarabad, Annavaram, Basar, Bhadrachalam Road, Bidar,

1	2
	Mantralayam Road, Nagarsol, Nalgonda, Parlivaijnath, Srikhalahasti, Nandyal and Nizamabad.
South Eastern (22)	Adra, Bagnan, Balasore, Bishnupur, Bokaro Steel City, Chakradharpur, Contai Road, Garbeta, Hatia, Jhargram, Jharsuguda, Kharagpur, Kolaghat, Mecheda, Midnapore, Ranchi, Rourkela, Santragachi Jn., Tamluk, Tatanagar, Ulubaria and Purulia
S.E. Central (11)	Bilaspur, Durg, Raipur, Raigarh, Gondia, Champa, Shahdol, Bhatapara, Tilda, Rajnandgaon and Chhindwara.
South Western (22)	Bangalore Cantt, Bijapur, Hospet, Hubli, Mysore, Shimoga Town, Toranagallu, Vasco-de-gama, Belgaum, Bellary Jn., Yesvanthpur Jn., Alnavar, Bangalore City, Bangarpet Jn., Davangere, Dharwad, Gadag, Hassan, Hasur, Krishnarajapuram, Londa Jn. and Tumkur.
Western (45)	Ahmedabad, Anand Jn., Bamnia, Bandra Terminus, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Chittaurgarh, Dadar, Dharangaon, Dwarka, Gandhidham, Gandhigram, Indore, Mumbai Central, Navsari, Nimbahera, Okha, Rajkot, Ratlam, Surat, Ujjain, Vadodara, Valsad, Vapi, Ankleshwar, Nadiad, New Bhuj, Palanpur, Mhow, Jamnagar, Billimora, Udhana, Nandurbar, Maninagar, Mahesana, Dahod, Dewas, Mandsaur, Nagda, Nimach, Hapa, Surendranagar, Junagadh, Porbandar and Verawal.
West Central (20)	Bhopal, Damoh, Habibganj, Guna, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Katni Jn., Kota, Pipariya, Satna, Sawai Madhopur, Madanmahal, Sagour, Maihar, Rewa, Itarsi, Bina, Bharatpur, Gangapur City and Vidisha.
KRCL (1)	Madgaon.

#### **Captive power plants**

†1025. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry is aware of quality, utility and low cost of captive power plant;
- (b) if so, whether Railways has conducted any survey for setting up of said plants in different railway zones so that requirement of power could be reduced in future;
- (c) the details of cities or places, where Railways plans to set up such plants;
- (d) the efforts being made by Railways to draw and install the project in more efficient and cost effective manner; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Railways has fixed any gestation period for promotion of power production, development and distribution projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Indian Railways has formed a joint venture company “Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company” with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to set up a captive power plant of 1000 MW capacity at Nabinagar in Aurangabad District (Bihar).

Indian Railways is also planning to set up another power plant of 1320 MW capacity at Adra in Purulia District (West Bengal) to avail traction supply at economical tariff.

(e) Out of four units of 250 MW at Nabinagar Power Plant, the first unit is likely to be commissioned by March, 2012 and balance three units have been planned to be commissioned after every three months thereafter.

#### **Monorail projects for Patna**

†1026. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether former Minister of Railways had announced Monorail project for Patna, the capital of Bihar, last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that after having the initial survey report of this project, Government is indifferent to it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government for the progress of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to examine the potential of development of monorail around Patna railway station. Techno-Economic and Feasibility Study for monorail system in Patna is being conducted by M/s RITES Ltd. The final Report is awaited.

#### **Incidents of theft and drugging in trains**

1027. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft and drugging incidents in trains are occurring regularly;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to ensure better passenger security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. Concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) registers the cases for investigation.

However, to provide better security to passengers in trains and in passenger areas, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort important trains in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP). Steps taken by the Railways:—

1. The train escorting parties are being briefed to remain extra vigilant in trains at the affected stations/sections.
2. Efforts are being made in coordination with GRP/civil police to collect and share crime intelligence for apprehension of the offenders.
3. To improve railway security, a coordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.01.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which a 7 point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The resolution includes holding of regular coordination meetings, sharing of intelligence, tackling investigation of crimes on railways etc., which has been sent to State Governments for implementation.
4. Necessary announcements are frequently being made through public address systems and use of loud hailers to desist passengers for purchasing/accepting eatables from unauthorized hawkers and unknown persons while traveling by trains or at the platforms.
5. Posters/pamphlets with cautionary indication against the menace of drugging are being circulated and pasted at conspicuous places at the stations and in trains to create awareness amongst the traveling passengers.
6. Regular co-ordination meetings with GRP at all levels are made to prevent such incidents.

#### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) The cases of theft of passengers' belongings and drugging registered over Zonal railways during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as under:—

Railways	Cases of theft of passengers' belongings			Cases of drugging		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CR	853	1370	1233	71	67	79
ER	488	408	373	77	159	91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECR	657	759	752	18	135	210
ECoR	159	140	347	31	20	58
NR	1052	871	997	36	21	34
NCR	407	356	527	60	9	64
NER	55	66	55	73	14	24
NFR	99	227	200	117	103	84
NWR	304	184	361	60	51	33
SR	294	147	521	33	25	29
SCR	553	611	904	43	16	25
SER	116	129	204	86	56	69
SECR	163	268	353	7	6	12
SWR	145	149	257	21	16	8
WR	1621	873	1494	56	52	52
WCR	828	787	956	58	62	75
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>7794</b>	<b>7345</b>	<b>9534</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>947</b>

**Deteriorating quality of food served in trains**

1028. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the quality of food supplied and the quantity served thereof in trains like Rajdhani Express are deteriorating day by day after the private contractors' regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the private contractors serving food in the Rajdhani Express to Guwahati;

(d) the details of food specification and prices fixed by Railways, while granting the contracts, item-wise; and

(e) the details mechanism to monitor the process by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The content of standard casserole meals, to be served in Rajdhani/Shatabdi and Mail/Express trains are fixed by Railway Board. Railways takes various measures such as inspection, monitoring, audits, passenger satisfaction surveys, etc. through officers, Quality Control Professionals (QCPs) and independent professionals agencies to ensure quality of food

items. Punitive action is also being taken against defaulting licensees by imposing fines in case of deficiencies.

(c) M/s R.K. Associates and Hoteliers (P) Ltd., Deepak Nagar, Durg, Chhattisgarh are providing food in the Rajdhani Express to Guwahati.

(d) The details of food specification fixed by the Railways for the Rajdhani/Shatabdi Trains is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(e) Quality Control Professionals are deputed to monitor the catering services on important trains. Railway and IRCTC officers inspect the catering services in Trains. A third Party independent Food Audit agency is also nominated to conduct food safety and hygiene audits. However, the present Catering Policy is under review.

### ***Statement***

*Services and apportionment charges of existing catering services in  
Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains:*

#### **1. Morning tea/Welcome drink/Light refreshment**

2A/3A/AC Chair Car	IAC/Executive class
1	2
<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>
Eclairs 2 Nos.	Eclairs 2 Nos.
<b>Tea/Coffee(Service)</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee(Service)</b>
Sugar 2 No (7.00 gms.*)	Sugar 2 No. (7.00 gms.*)
Coffee 1 No (1.50 gms.*)	Coffee 1 No. (1.50 gms.*)
Tea Bag 2 No (2.00 gms.*)	Tea Bag 2 No. (2.00 gms.*)
Creamer 2 No (2.50 gms.*)	Creamer 2 No. (2.50 gms.*)
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
<b>Cold drink in case of welcome drink (200ml)</b>	<b>Cold drink in case of welcome drink (200ml)</b>
Biscuits 2 Nos. (Glucose/Marie Gold sealed)	Biscuits 2 Nos. (Marie Gold sealed)
Napkin 1 No.	Napkin 1 No.
<b>Service in tray with mat cup and Thermos of standard Food grade material</b>	<b>Service in tray with mat cup and Thermos of standard Food grade material</b>
*weight per sachet	*weight per sachet
Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 15/- (inclusive of Service Tax)	Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 23/- (inclusive of Service Tax)



1	2
<p><b>2. Breakfast (Veg/Non-Veg)</b></p> <p>Croissant-1 no. (50 gms) Jam or marmalade (blister pack) (15 gms) Butter Chippet-1 No. (8.1 gm) Tomato sauce Sachet-1 No. (12gm)</p> <p><b>Veg:-</b> Veg cutlet/paneer cutlet-2 No. + Finger chips and green peas/Vada+Bonda/Upma-Vada/Idli-Vada (disposable casserole) (125gms)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p> <p><b>Non-Veg:-</b> Omlette of 2 eggs or 2 boiled eggs or Stuffed Paneer/Cheese (125 gms) Tea/Coffee Kit Tea bag/coffee sachet-1 each Sugar and creamer sachets-2 each Tetra (200 ml) Pepper and salt sachet Napkin Tissue paper</p> <p><b>Service in tray with mat</b> <b>Crockery of standard food grade material</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 44/- (inclusive of Service Tax)</p> <p><b>3. Lunch/Dinner (Veg/Non-Veg)</b></p> <p>Soup/Rasam (150ml) Soup Stick-2 (sealed) (20 gms) Basmati rice Dish or Pulao (100 gms) Dal Dish (150 gms) <b>Veg:-</b> Paneer dish (70 gm paneer) with seasonal veg (150 gms)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p>	<p>Cornflake or Porridge or wheat flakes with milk with sugar (25 gms) Croissant-1 No. (50 gms) Jam or marmalade (blister pack) (15 gms) Butter Chippet-1 No. (8.1 gms) Tomato sauce Sachet-1 No. (12 gms)</p> <p><b>Veg:-</b> Veg cutlet/Paneer cutlet-2 No. + Finger chips and green peas/Vada +Bonda/Upma-Vada/Idli-Vada (disposable casserole) (125 gms)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p> <p><b>Non-Veg:-</b> Egg preparation of 2 eggs — Cheese Omletts (125 gms) Tea/Coffee Kit Tea bag-2 Nos. or Coffee sachet-1 No Sugar Sachets-2 Nos. each Creamer- 2 Nos. (each) Pepper and salt sachet Napkin Tissue paper Fruit Juice/Seasonal Fruit (200ml/100gms.)</p> <p><b>Service in tray with mat</b> <b>Crockery of standard food grade material</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 66/- (inclusive of Service Tax)</p> <p>Soup/Rasam (150ml) Soup Stick-2 and Bun-1 (sealed) (20 gms) Basmati rice Dish or Pulao (100 gms) Dal Dish (150 gms) <b>Veg:-</b> Paneer dish (70 gm paneer) with seasonal veg (150 gms)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p>

1	2
<b>Non-veg:-</b> chicken Dish Curd in Kullarh (100 gms) Parantha or Puri or (100 gms) Roomali Roti-2 Salad (40 gms) Butter Chippet (8.1 gms) IceCream/Fruit jelly/ (100 ml) Srikhand/Gulabjamun-2/ Rasagulla-2 Pickle (blister pack) (15 gms) Salt and pepper Sachet (1 each) napkin soft tissue and Tooth pick  <b>Service in tray with mat Crockery of standard food grade material Stainless steel cutlery wrapped in napkin</b>  Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 88/- (inclusive of Service Tax)  <b>4. Hi-tea/Evening tea</b>  Eclairs 2 Nos. Tetra Pack (200 ml) Samosa/Paneer Pakoda/ (50 gms) Kachori/Cheese patties Veg. or Cheese Sandwich 2 Nos. (60 gms) Tomato Sauce sachet 1 No. (12 gms) Sonpapri/Mysore Pak/Patisha (30 gms) Tea/Cofee Kit: Tea Bags -2 Nos. (2.0 gms) Or Cofee sachets 1 No. (1.5 gms) Sugar sachets 2 Nos. (7.0 gms) Creamer 2 Nos. (2.5 gms.) Spoon Napkin 1 No. (soft tissue)  <b>Service in tray with mat Thermos and cup of standard food grade material</b> *weight per sachet  Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 44/- (inclusive of Service Tax)	<b>Non-veg:-</b> chicken Dish Curd in Kullarh (100 gms) Parantha or Puri or (100 gms) Roomali Roti-2 Salad (40 gms) Butter Chippet (8.1 gms) Ice Cream/Fruit jelly/ (100 ml) Srikhand/Gulabjamun-2/ Rasagulla-2 Pickle (blister pack) (15 gms) Salt and pepper Sachet (1 each) napkin soft tissue and Tooth pick  <b>Service in tray with mat Crockery of standard food grade material Stainless steel cutlery wrapped in napkin</b>  Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 132/- (inclusive of Service Tax)  Chocolate bar (20 gms) Coke/Pepsi in cane/Fresh Juice (200 gms) Dry Fruit Cashew nut/ (20 gms) Salted Pista Paneer pakoda/Kachori/ Cheese Patties/Samosa (50 gms) Veg/cheese Sandwich 2 Nos. Triangle (60gms) Tomato Sauce sachet 1 No. (12 gms) Sonpapari/Mysore Pak/Patisha (30 gms) Tea/Cofee Kit: Tea Bags-2 Nos. (2.0 gms)* Or Cofee sachets 1 No. (1.5 gms)* Sugar sachets 2 No. (7.0 gms)* Creamer 2 No. (2.5 gms.)* Spoon Napkin 1 No. (soft tissue)  <b>Service in tray with mat Cutlery and crockery of standard food grade material</b> *weight per sachet  Tariff included in the ticket fare Rs. 66/- (inclusive of Service Tax)

### Train tracking system

1029. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that train tracking system called SIMRAN which has been introduced on pilot basis in Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duronto Express Trains is going to be introduced in all trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Status of rail projects in Andhra Pradesh

1030. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion, doubling, new rail lines, electrification, rail overbridges, rail under bridges, manned and unmanned level crossings in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the steps taken for early completion of the above projects, project-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government has come forward to bear 50 per cent of money to complete the above projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The status of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrification of ongoing rail line works in Andhra Pradesh and total number of over/under bridges and manned/unmanned level crossings built therewith are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Latest anticipated cost	Expenditure expected upto 31.3.2010	Status
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New Line</b>				
1.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (255.4 km.)	1040.23	13.41	Government of Andhra Pradesh is sharing 50% cost.
2.	Attipattu-Puttur (88.3 km.)	446.87	45.31	Project being executed through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Final location survey completed.
3.	Rayadurg-Tumkur (213 km.)	1027.89	25.48	Final location survey completed. Tender being planned. Land acquisition taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Jaggayyapet-Mallacheruvu (19.1 km.)	115.53	107.24	Earth, bridge works etc. taken up. 58% work completed.
5.	Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad (177.49 km.)	617.62	347.47	Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Jagtiyal (83.53 km.) completed. Jagtiyal-Nizamabad (95.62 km.) land acquisition, earthwork, bridges etc. taken up.
6.	Gadwal-Raichur (60 km.)	219.00	130.68	Earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up. Gadwal-Panduraga-swamy Road (30 km.) targeted for completion in 2010-11.
7.	Macherla-Nalgonda (92 km.)	243.17	0.28	Preliminary activities taken up.
8.	Kakinada-Pithapuram (21.50 km.)	85.51	1.01	Preliminary activities taken up.
9.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla (126 km.)	429.48	314.11	Yerraguntla-Nossam (50 km.) completed. Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges etc. taken up in balance portion.
10.	Munirabad-Mahabubnagar (246 km.)	537.47	62.01	Yeramaraś-Yadalapur (14.5 km.) doubling completed. Land acquisition, earth work, major/minor bridge work taken up in balance portion. Karnataka Government sharing 50% of cost in their State.
11.	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapattnam (113 km.)	788.81	156.57	Earth work, bridge work etc. taken up in Venkatachalam Krishnapattnam. Land acquisition taken up in balance portion.
12.	Kotipalli-Narsapur (57.21 km.)	695.00	10.41	Land acquisition, earth work, bridge work etc. taken up.
13.	Vishnupuram-Janpahar (11 km.)	60.72	34.85	Land acquisition, earth work, bridge work etc. taken up.
14.	Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 km.)	582.83	34.04	Requests for Land requisition procedure with State Government, earth work, bridge work etc. taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Manoharabad-Kotapalli (148.9 km.)	670.03	2.43	Final location survey completed. Preliminary works taken up.
<b>Gauge conversion</b>				
16.	Dharmavaram-Pakala (227 km.)	610.07	529.13	Pakala-Madanapalle (82 km.) completed. Madanapalle-Dharmavaram (144.25 km.) completed in 2009-10.
17.	Naupada-Gunupur 90 km.)	168.87	163.08	Naupada-Parlakimidi-section completed. Balance is likely to be completed in 2009-10.
<b>Doubling</b>				
18.	Gooty-Renigunta (151.04 km.)	455.00	361.91	Executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Pullampet-Bhakarapeta (44 km.) completed. In Balance portion land acquisition, earthwork, bridge work etc. taken up. 62 km. targeted for completion in 2010-11.
19.	Raichur-Guntakal (81.1 km.)	221.93	131.54	Executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Land acquisition, earth-work, bridge work etc. taken up. 20 (km.) doubling targeted for 2010-11.
20.	Raghavapuram-Mandamari (Patch tripling) (24.47 km.)	136.23	17.46	Detailed estimate sanctioned. Land acquisition taken up.
21.	Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa 3rd line (34.7 km.)	194.88	44.24	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge work etc. taken up.
22.	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam North-4th 1 line (16.69 km.)	94.73	51.51	Earthwork, minor/major bridges, ROB/RUBs and ballast supply work is taken up.
<b>Electrification</b>				
23.	Renigunta-Guntakal (308 km.)	182.55	58.51	86 km. completed. Nandalur Guntakal section is being executed through RVNL.
24.	Lingampalli-Wadi (161 km.)	116.23	104.48	Work in progress, expected for completion by 2010.

As regard ROB's/RUB's and level crossings, it is mentioned that there are 184 ROB/RUB works in progress (other than New Line, doubling, gauge conversion) in the State of Andhra Pradesh. During last three years 15 ROB/RUBs have been completed. There are 1255 Manned and 1097 Unmanned level crossings in the State of Andhra Pradesh. 17 unmanned level crossings have been manned during year 2009-10. All unmanned level crossing qualifying for manning have been sanctioned.

(b) To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land availability, security issues and forestry clearances, etc. meetings with State Officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management, and field units have been further empowered.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is sharing 50% cost of new line between Cuddapah-Bangalore (255 km.).

#### **Quality of food served in trains**

1031. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the new changes brought in to improve the quality of food served in the trains;
- (b) whether any new policy to improve the efficiency of service providers in the Railways is under consideration; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways is reviewing the present Catering Policy. The new policy will *inter-alia* address issues of quality, supervision, contract management, introduce passenger feed back systems, increase sales of low-cost Janta food and introduce regional cuisines through Jan Ahar outlets.

#### **Vision document of Railways**

1032. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether vision document of Railways for next decade envisages a cumulative investment of Rs. 13.87 lakh crores by 2020 to achieve annual growth of 10 per cent over this period;
- (b) whether it would be difficult for Government to provide such support with a running fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of the GDP;
- (c) if so, whether Government would consider corporatisation of Railways into three companies *i.e.* infrastructure operator, freight operator and passenger service operator;
- (d) whether such arrangement would allow infrastructure arm to raise both equity and debt funds as clarity over revenues would help attract private investors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government support is an essential component of the implementation of Vision 2020, within the constraints of overall financial position of Government. Corporatisation of Railways into three companies *i.e.* infrastructure operator, freight operator and passenger service operator does not offer a satisfactory solution to the issue of investment.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Upgradation and expansion of Railways**

1033. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether earlier Governments ignored upgradation and expansion of Railways from 1950-51 to 2007-08 with its freight share plunging from 89 per cent in 1950-51 to 30 per cent in 2007-08;

(b) whether India added a mere 10,000 km. railway track to the 54,000 km railway track it inherited at an abysmal rate of 161 kms. a year;

(c) whether during 2004-05 to 2008-09, India added just about 220 kms. a year against China's 1100 kms. a year; and

(d) the present status of on-going new railway line projects covering a sanctioned length of 11,985 kms.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Upgradation and expansion of Indian Railways is an ongoing process. As on 01.04.1950, Indian Railways had 53,596 Kilometers of route length consisting of 25,258 Kilometers Broad Gauge, 24,185 Kilometers Meter Gauge and 4153 Kilometers of Narrow Gauge routes. The total Route Kilometer increased to 64015 Kilometers on 31.3.2009. The Broad Gauge Network length increased to 52808 Kilometers by 31.3.2009, by laying of new lines and large scale gauge conversion of existing meter and narrow gauge lines.

(c) During 2004-2005 to 2008-2009, 1093 Kilometer of New Lines were laid.

(d) As on 01.04.2009, there are 109 new line ongoing projects which are in various stages of progress and on completion would add 11,985 Kilometers of new Broad Gauge Line.

#### **Train accidents in the country**

1034. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents that took place during the last one year, date-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in the accidents; and

(c) the reasons for such accidents, accident-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) During the last one year in 2008-09, there have been 3 collisions, 3 cases of fire in train and 7 manned level crossing accidents. Date-wise details of these accidents, number of persons killed and injured therein and cause of the accidents are given in the Statement (*See below*). Further, there were 85 derailments, 7 accidents on miscellaneous account and 62 cases of accidents at unmanned level crossings.

***Statement***

*Train Accidents in the Country*

Sl No.	Date of accident	Type of accident	Railway	Division	Train No.	Casualty	Cause (Including Prima-facie
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	04.04.08	Collision	South Eastern	Kharagpur	(i) Empty Coaching Rake of 2021 Exp (ii) Banking Engine	Injured-1	Failure of Railway Staff
2.	14.04.08	Manned Level Crossing	Central	Solapur	2701 Express	Killed-1	Failure of Railway Staff
3.	01.05.08	Collision	South Eastern	Kharagpur	(i) Up P-5/EMU (ii) Up N BOX(E) Spl	Injured-1	Failure of Railway Staff
4.	02.05.08	Collision	South Eastern	Kharagpur	(i) DN N/SL BURN (ii) DN Elec/BCN/RXL	Killed-1, Injured-2	Failure of Railway Staff
5.	07.07.08	Collision	Central	Pune	(i) Coupled Engine(ED) (ii) Coupled Engine (PA)	Killed-3 Injured-2	Failure of Railway Staff
6.	01.08.08	Fire in Train	South Central	Secunderabad	2738 (SC-COA) Dn Gautami Express	Killed-31, Injured-12	Failure of other than Railway Staff
7.	12.08.08	Collision	Northern	Delhi	(i) 4723 Kalindi Exp. (ii) 4207 Padmavat Exp.	Killed-1, Injured-5	Failure of Railway Staff



8.	02.09.08	Manned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Varanasi	(i) 483 Passenger (ii) 1061 Pawan Exp.	Killed-1, Injured-6	Failure of Railway Staff
9.	24.09.08	Fire in Train	South Central	Vijayawada	2764 (SC-TPTY) Padmavati Express	Nil	Failure of other than Railway Staff
10.	30.09.08	Collision	South Central	Secunderabad	(i) 355 Up Passenger (ii) 165 Up MEMU	Injured-1	Failure of Railway Staff
11.	28.11.08	Collision	Northern	Moradabad	(i) 5209 Jansewa Exp. (ii) BTRA Pol	Nil	Failure of Railway Staff
12.	05.12.08	Manned Level Crossing	South Central	Secunderabad	7233 Bhagyanagar Express	Killed-1 Injured-14	Failure of Railway Staff
13.	08.12.08	Collision	North Central	Allahabad	(i) CC16737 Goods (ii) CC934 Goods	Killed-3	Failure of Railway Staff
14.	16.12.08	Manned Level Crossing	Northern	Delhi	8478 Express	Killed -1	Failure of Railway Staff
15.	28.12.08	Collision	North Central	Agra	(i) 1 GDM Passenger (ii) Dn Panipat Goods	Nil	Failure of Railway Staff
16.	04.01.09	Collision	North Central	Allahabad	(i) Dn King 7761, (ii) Dn BOXN BPU	Nil	Failure of Railway Staff
17.	16.01.09	Collision	Southern	Tiruchchirappall	(i) Light Engine (ii) 6128 Egmore Exp.	Injured-4	Failure of Railway Staff
18.	25.01.09	Manned Level Crossing	Northern	Lucknow	112 Dn CNB-ALD Passenger	Killed-12, Injured-	Failure of Railway Staff

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	27.01.09	Collision	Northern	Lucknow	(i) 4258 K.V. Express (ii) Up E/BCN Chapra	Nil	Failure of Railway Staff
20.	31.01.09	Manned Level Crossing	Northeast Frontier	Katihar	636 Dn (Jogbani-Katihar) Passenger	Killed-1	Failure of Railway Staff
21.	14.02.09	Collision	East Central	Samastipur	(i) 530 Dn Passenger (ii) Shunting engine	Injured-34	Failure of Railway Staff
22.	01.03.09	Manned Level Crossing	Northern	Firozepur	2925 Express	Killed-1, Injured-1	Failure of Railway Staff
23.	21.03.09	Fire in Train	East Central	Mughalsarai	2310 (NDLS-PNBE) Rajdhani Express	Nil	Combination of Factors

### **Construction of Adarsh Railway Stations**

1035. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work on construction of 375 Adarsh Railway Stations is going on as per schedule;
- (b) the progress made in this regard so far;
- (c) by when the entire work is likely to be completed; and
- (d) the total amount involved in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Identification of stations for undertaking improvement/upgradation of passenger amenities under Adarsh station scheme is a continuous process. So far, 145 stations have been developed as Adarsh station. Expenditure for improvement/upgradation of passenger amenities under this scheme is done under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" for which an allocation of Rs. 1102 crores has been made for financial year 2009-10 for all Zonal Railways.

### **Change of name of railway stations**

1036. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of change of names of railway stations from Nanded (Maharashtra) as Hazoor Saheb Nanded, Attari (Punjab) as Sham Singh Attari and Baj Baj Ghat (Kolkata, West Bengal) as Kama Gata Maru, which have historical significance; and
- (b) the reasons for delay in taking a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The proposal regarding changing the name of "Nanded" railway station as "Hazoor Saheb Nanded" station was approved by Ministry of Home Affairs and necessary notification issued by Government of Maharashtra. Ministry of Railways have also issued instructions to the Zonal Railways in this regard.

The proposal regarding change of name of "Attari" station as "Attari Sham Singh" station has been closed by the Ministry of Home Affairs as no detailed justification was forthcoming from the State Government concerned.

The proposal regarding change of name of "Budge Budge Ghat" station as "Komagata Maru Budge Budge" station was approved by Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government concerned was requested by Ministry of Home Affairs to issue necessary notification which is still awaited.

### **Sabotage of railway properties by Maoist**

1037. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of incidents of sabotage of railway properties perpetrated by the outlawed maoist organization reported during the last two years;

- (b) whether any action has been taken against the Maoists by the Railways;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The numbers of incidents of sabotage suspected to have been perpetrated by the Left Wing Extremists during the years 2008 and 2009 were 21 and 41 respectively over Indian Railways.

(b) to (d) Policing on Railways is the duty of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP). As such, maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railways is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. FIR has been lodged by the Railway authorities in the incidents against which, specific cases have been registered by the concerned Government Railway Police.

#### **Placement of doctors in Duronto Express**

1038. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to place doctors on board in Duronto Express;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would also take initiative to place doctors in all long distance trains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Placing of doctors, in Duronto Express trains only has been started as a pilot project for a period of one year. The scheme envisages availability of one doctor and a paramedic on board, to deal with medical emergencies.

#### **Phasing out of IRCTC**

1039. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to phase out services of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and handle catering services itself;
- (b) whether Government has also asked IRCTC to stop contract catering services of IRCTC to private licensees and shift to department canteen;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also proposed to hire huge manpower to carry out the catering services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The Catering Policy of Railways is under review.

**More electric train services between  
Chennai-Tirutani**

1040. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is persistent demand for increasing electric train services from Chennai-Tirutani and Tirutani-Chennai; and

(b) if so, the proposal of Government on this long pending demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Introduction of new service between Chennai Beach-Tiruttani-Chennai Central has been announced in the Railway Budget 2010-211.

**Attachment of pantry cars in long distance trains**

1041. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has plans to attach pantry cars in all long distance trains from Chennai Central; and

(b) the criteria adopted for attachment of pantry cars in the long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Attachment of Pantry Cars to trains Ex. Chennai Central and other locations is considered on the basis of various factors such as the availability of rolling stock, the duration of journey, priority of the train, the timings, commercial justification, operational feasibility etc.

**Crimes in running trains**

1042. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of crimes including theft reported during the last three years and the current year in the running trains till date;

(b) whether safety of passengers is compromised due to shortage of personnel in Railway Protection Force;

(c) if so, the steps taken to recruit personnel in the Railway Protection Force; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Railways to prevent such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of crimes including theft of passengers' belongings reported in running trains during the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 (Upto January) are as under:—

Years	Number of crimes including cases of theft of passengers' belongings
2007	7860
2008	7946
2009	8739
2010 (Upto January)	146

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Augmentation of strength and filling up of vacancies is a continuous exercise. The total existing strength of RPF is 69303. Additional strength of 973 has been created for which recruitment is completed. In addition, steps have been taken to fill up existing vacancies.

(d) Policing on Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned.

However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers, following measures have been taken by the Railways for enhancing the security of passengers:—

1. 1275 trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily on an average in addition to escorting of about 2200 trains by Government Railway Police.
2. Integrated Security scheme consisting of CCTV Surveillance system, access control system, personal and baggage screening system and Bomb detection and disposal system has been finalized and the same is under implementation at 202 sensitive stations.
3. Dog Squads in Divisions and Zones are being augmented.
4. Commando Training is being imparted to selected RPF staff.
5. Steps have been taken to enhance the quality and content of the training of RPF.
6. Under modernization scheme security gadgets are being procured and the weaponry is being upgraded for enhancing the striking capability of RPF.
7. Regular coordination meetings are held with GRP and State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime.

#### **Funds to projects announced for Bihar**

†1043. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds to the projects announced for Bihar during the tenure of former Railways Minister are not being provided;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the mega projects announced for Bihar by the former Railways Minister but the funding to which has now been discontinued;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these projects are at present undergoing a financial crunch and have been put into cold storage;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take to implement these projects so that they become vehicle of development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Funds are being provided to the ongoing projects as per the availability of resources. There is huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources.

(e) To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land availability, security issues and forestry clearances, etc. meetings with State Officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management, and field units have been further empowered.

#### **Udhampur-Qazigund railway line**

1044. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry considers it desirable to extend the railway line from Udhampur to Qazigund as early as possible; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the construction work going on at a snail's pace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Udhampur-Katra-Qazigund section passes through one of the most difficult terrains in the world. Himalayas being a young mountain range pose a number of geo-technical problems like swelling and squeezing of soil, heavy inflow of water inside the tunnels etc. The progress of the project had been affected and stopped for some time due to such problems. The work on Udhampur-Katra and Katra-Qazigund sections have since recommenced.

#### **Poor condition of railway stations in Orissa**

1045. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that almost all railway stations in Orissa are lacking vital infrastructural facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that Jharsuguda railway station, which is one of the first railway stations in Orissa has been neglected for a long time and no developmental work has been carried out there causing difficulties to passengers;

(c) whether any developmental activities are undertaken by Railways in the southern Orissa especially nearby Jharsuguda railway station; and

(d) the demands submitted by Orissa Government to Railways in connection with railway improvement and new lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Development of railway stations including stations located in the State of Orissa is a continuous process. 36 stations in the State of Orissa have been taken up under various developmental schemes including Adarsh station scheme.

Development of Jharsuguda station as Adarsh station has also been taken up and is planned for completion by December, 2010.

(d) Demands have been received from Orissa State Government for increase in allocation to the ongoing projects and also for taking up certain projects in the State.

#### **Increase in price of forging quality steel**

1046. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the prices of forging quality steel have risen much more than increase in prices of inputs required for steel making;

(b) whether according to experts, direct impact of this hike of around Rs. 6600/- per metric tonnes on the price index will be about 1.55 per cent which would ultimately affect common man apart from rendering Indian forging industry uncompetitive in global pricing and set back to export; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take to save Indian forging industry from this big blow of price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel sector operates in a deregulated environment and in a liberalized market prices are determined by a multitude of complex factors such as cost of raw materials, production cost, international steel price movement and the demand supply gap in the domestic market. Further, in case of value added steel items like forging grade steel the price would also depend on additional factors such as intellectual value addition, process, and cost of technology. The movement of 'forging steel' in the Whole Sale Price Index (WPI), and the Rate of Inflation based on WPI, maintained by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion from January, 2009 to January, 2010 is given in the Statement (See below). These indicate that price of forging steel in the domestic market has been stable over the past one year.

(c) In a deregulated market the role of a Government is limited to that of facilitator. Nonetheless, the Government keeps a close watch on the price movement of commodities such as steel and takes appropriate fiscal measures whenever necessary.



***Statement***

*Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Basic Metals and Alloys*

Commodities	Weight	Jan.'09	Feb.'09	Mar.'09	Apr.'09	May'09	Jun.'09	Jul.'09	Aug.'09	Sep.'09	Oct.'09	Nov.'09	Dec.'09	Jan.'10
Forging	0.03	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	389.7	363.5	284.8	284.8	284.8	284.8

*Rate of inflation based on WPI for Basic Metals and Alloys*

Commodities	Weight	Jan.'09	Feb.'09	Mar.'09	Apr.'09	May'09	Jun.'09	Jul.'09	Aug.'09	Sep.'09	Oct.'09	Nov.'09	Dec.'09	Jan.'10
Forging	21.63	21.63	11.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6.72	-26.92	-26.92	-26.92	-26.92

### Growth in production of steel

1047. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a secular growth in steel production;

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

(c) the future action plan of Government in this regard especially in the rural areas compared to urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The production of steel in India has been progressively increasing over the years since independence. However, the rate of growth in steel production entered into a high growth trajectory in the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The average annual growth in steel production in the last five years (between 2003-04 and 2008-09) was at 7.02%. There have been significant variations in the yearly growth rates as given in the table below:—

Sl. No.	Year	Total Finished Steel Production (Alloy + Non-alloy) (in '000 tonnes)	% growth rate
1.	2003-04	40709	9.53
2.	2004-05	43513	6.88
3.	2005-06	46566	7.01
4.	2006-07	52529	12.80
5.	2007-08	56075	6.75
6.	2008-09	56416	0.60

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

(b) The data regarding State-wise production of crude steel is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Production of steel is directly related to steel consumption and India's per capital steel consumption, particularly in the rural areas, is abysmally low. In order to achieve the desired level of consumption, Ministry of Steel is conducting a survey to assess the demand of steel in rural areas.

### Statement

#### State-wise production of Crude Steel ('000 tonnes)

State	Production		
	2007-08	2008-09	% change
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	3844	3,916	2

1	2	3	4
Assam	88	81	-8
Bihar	160	190	19
Chandigarh	92	94	2
Chhattisgarh	8286	8,513	3
Daman	165	166	1
Goa	595	500	-16
Gujarat	5639	5,217	-7
Haryana	911	942	3
Himachal Pradesh	138	302	119
Jammu and Kashmir	200	134	-33
Jharkhand	9881	9,999	1
Karnataka	3981	3,817	-4
Kerala	533	435	-18
Madhya Pradesh	271	185	-32
Maharashtra	4,896	7,455	52
Meghalaya	174	175	1
New Delhi	58	59	2
Orissa	3177	4,483	41
Pondicherry	634	563	-11
Punjab	2,228	2,623	18
Rajasthan	490	452	-8
Silvassa	344	346	1
Tamil Nadu	1666	1,861	12
Uttar Pradesh	1364	1,431	5
Uttarakhand	387	373	-4
West Bengal	3655	4,124	13

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

#### Anti-dumping mechanism

1048. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations from Public Sector steel companies to evolve a time bound anti-dumping mechanism to curb the rising cheap steel imports;

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

(c) whether cheap imports of steel has adversely affected indigenous steel companies either in public sector or in private sector; and

(d) if so, the plans formulated by Government to strengthen the anti-dumping duty mechanism on steel imports and to check its impact on indigenous companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The Directorate General of Anti Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD and AD), under Department of Commerce has informed that no representation from any public sector steel company has been received for evolving a time bound anti-dumping mechanism.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There is no general case of imports causing injury to the domestic steel industry. In specific cases where the domestic industry has filed application with the DGAD and AD with *prima facie* evidence of dumping of a particular category of steel in the country, injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the dumped goods and injury to the domestic industry the petitions have been duly investigated by DGAD and AD in accordance with the extant law and wherever appropriate, DGAD and AD has notified the final findings recommending to the Central Government, the amount and form of anti-dumping that is sufficient to remove injury to the domestic industry.

(d) The petitions submitted by domestic industry are processed by DGAD and AD as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made there under. These laws are in consonance with WTO's Agreement on Anti-Dumping. As such therefore, a time bound anti-dumping mechanism already exists.

#### **Fire at Bhilai Steel Plant**

†1049. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that furnace of Bhilai Steel Plant running continuously for last 51 years had to be closed due to fire therein in the 1st week of February;

(b) if so, the reasons behind such incident and whether it was a result of management's negligence;

(c) the details of the loss incurred by Bhilai Steel Plant in this fire;

(d) whether keeping in view the gravity of this incident, the management had apprised the local administration; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The losses on account of the fire incident at Bhilai Steel Plant on a provisional basis works out to Rs. 10.49 crores. The fire occurred in the cable gallery which resulted in tripping of boilers and turbo-blowers leading to temporary stoppage of blast furnaces. An enquiry has been ordered to identify the cause of the incident and also to suggest measures to prevent such incidents in future.

- (d) Yes, Sir. The concerned District Administration was kept informed about the incident.

- (e) Does not arise.

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[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

12.00 NOON

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### **Report (2009-10) and Accounts (2008-09) of ICAR, New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2009-10.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned a (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1792/15/10]

##### **I. Notifications of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**

##### **II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of CIPET, Chennai and related papers.**

##### **III. Accounts (2008-09) of the NIPER, Mohali and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals) Notification No. 52/70/2008-NIPER, dated the 1st February, 2010, publishing amendments to ordinance regulating the courses of study offered by the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research relating to Degree of Masters and Doctor of Philosophy, under sub-section (2) of Section 36 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2056/15/10]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) Notification No. S.O. 1546 (E), dated the 25th June, 2009 regarding the supplies of Urea to be made by domestic manufacturers of Urea to States and Union Territories during Kharif 2009, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1736/15/10]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Forty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Chennai, 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.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1734/15/10]

- III. (a) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the accounts, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1717/15/10]

**I. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of National Book Trust, New Delhi and related papers.**

**II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of NCMEI, New Delhi and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Book Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with Auditors Report on Annual Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1730/15/10]

- II. (a) Annual Report of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Memorandum of Action Taken on the Recommendation of the above Commission in its Annual Report for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1729/15/10]

- I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture.**
- II. Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- III. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of LDCL, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep and related papers.**
- IV. Statement going reasons for not laying Reports (2007-08 and 2008-09) of various Corporations.**
- V. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of NCCF, New Delhi and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I lay on the Table

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under sub-section (2) of Section 4-D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914:—
  - (1) S.O. 3269 (E), dated the 23rd December, 2009, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Third Amendment), Order, 2009.
  - (2) S.O. 3298 (E), dated the 24th December, 2009, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fourth Amendment), Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1803/15/10]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
  - (1) S.O. 30 (E), dated the 7th January, 2010, notifying specification of certain Customised fertilizers for a period of three years.
  - (2) S.O. 47 (E), dated the 11th January, 2010, notifying the specifications of certain provisional fertilizers for a period of three years by M/s Punjab Chemicals and Crop Protection Ltd., Chandigarh.

- (3) S.O. 48 (E), dated the 11th January, 2010, notifying the specifications of certain provisional fertilizers for a period of three years by M/s Plant Gro Industries, Jodhpur.
- (4) S.O. 49 (E), dated the 11th January, 2010, publishing the Fertilizer Control (Amendment) Order, 2010.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) See No. L.T. 1814/15/10]

- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Notification No. G.S.R. 901 (E), dated the 17th December, 2009, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (Third Amendment) Rules, 2009, under Section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1812/15/10]

- (iv) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) Notification No. G.S.R. 302 (E), dated the 1st May, 2009, publishing the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under Section 26 of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005, together with delay statement.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1698/15/10]

- II (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) S.O. 3249 (E), dated the 18th December, 2009, publishing the Removal of (Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Seventh Amendment) Order, 2009.
- (2) S.O. 3267 (E), dated the 22nd December, 2009, publishing the Essential Commodities Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1814/15/10]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) Notification No. G.S.R. 869 (E), dated the 9th December, 2009, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Amendment Regulations, 2002, under Section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1813/15/10]

- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. S.O. 33 (E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane, dated the 7th January, 2010,



publishing the Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2010, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1814/15/10]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under subsection (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) (a) Twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited (LDCL), Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, 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) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1804/15/10]

IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Reports of the Food Corporation of India for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, within stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1696/15/10]

(ii) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited (GSSC) for the year 2008-09 within the stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1695/15/10]

V. (a) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1699/15/10]

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#### REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

(i) Second Report on Sale of Surplus Land and Buildings by National Textile Corporation Limited based on Chapter IX of C&AG Report No. PA 27 of 2009-10 (Performance Audit); and

- (ii) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Performance of Engine Division of Bharat Earth Movers Limited based on C&AG Report No. 9 (Commercial) of 2007.

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#### **SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2009-10**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Second Batch of the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1764/15/10]

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#### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter has been received from Shri Virendra Bhatia stating that he is unable to attend office due to his illness. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave from 22nd February, 2010 till the end of the first part of the current (219th) Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent till the end of the first part of the current Session?

**(No hon. Member dissented.)**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

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#### **STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 8th of March, 2010, will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
2. General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2010-11.
3. Consideration and return of the Railway Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands for Grants, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2010-11;

- (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2009-10; and
- (c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2007-08.
- 4. General Discussion on the Budget (General) for 2010-11.
- 5. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands for Grants, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2010-11; and
  - (b) Second Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2009-10.
- 6. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008.

#### SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

##### **Kidnapping and murder of three year old Indian child in Melbourne Australia**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, before we move on to the next business, I have a humble request to make. Some of the hon. Members have met the Chairman and have also given a notice about the horrendous incident that has taken place in Australia. Sir, a three year old child was abducted and murdered 30 kms away from her residence. The entire world was shocked by this incident. The news has come now because of the time difference. I would only request you to give us some time, whenever it is appropriate, to raise this issue. Fortunately, the Minister of External Affairs is here. Let him take note of the same and then make a statement by evening. Otherwise, it will be insensitive on our part if we do not condemn this incident...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I have given a notice...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Yesterday, the Australian Foreign Minister was here in Delhi...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This matter was discussed...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, all the trade unions are going on a massive demonstration...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. As you all know, the Calling Attention Motion has been listed today, and hence there is no Zero Hour. This is the rule that we have been following. But a request was made to the Chairman about the issue of the trade unions. As an exceptional case, this will be allowed. We have allotted one hour for the Calling Attention Motion.

So, in about 15 minutes, this matter of trade unions will be raised. It is not under Zero Hour, officially. But that was agreed. Then, the other issue was also raised and the Chairman said that it would be taken up on Monday.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, it will be too late. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री कलराज मिश्र** (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, प्रतापगढ़ में 75 लोग मर गए हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति:** ठीक है ...*(व्यवधान)*... I agree. ...*(Interruptions)*... These are all important issues which, definitely, have to be taken up in the House. But there are rules. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Let the External Affairs Minister, who is sitting here, take note of it as an exceptional case and come back to us at any time of his choice. Monday is too far. He is very much here. I do not know whether he has got this information or not; I am not aware of it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is about the kidnapping and murder of a 3-year old Indian child, Gurshan, in Melbourne.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): Sir, we are yet to get the details of this most unfortunate incident which took place yesterday, that is, the 4th of March, 2010.

A 3-year old child, Gurshan Singh Channa, was reported missing around 1:00 p.m. yesterday afternoon from his house in Lalor which his parents were sharing with two other couples. We were informed shortly thereafter by the Department of Premier and Cabinet who have been keeping us updated on the developments. Due to privacy laws, we were not given the family details. But we did ask our Consulate contact numbers to be given to the family and they be told that the Consulate was ready to offer them any assistance that they might need.

Gurshan's mother, Harpreet Kaur, had left him with her landlady, Simranjit Singh, while she took bath. The landlady left him alone for a few minutes and when she came back, the boy was missing. This was around 12:15 p.m. Gurshan had been in the front room and the main door of the house was open, with the screen door pull-shut, but not latched. They ran for the boy in and about the house for around twenty minutes in which time the father, Harjit Singh, who had gone to the library and had been informed of the boy having gone missing, also returned to the house. When it was clear that the boy was not to be found, they called the police which responded immediately.

A large-scale search was mounted in Lalor. Around 7:00 p.m., the police got a call from a Consulate worker who reported having seen the body of a small child in the glasslands at a place called Oaklands Junction, about 25 kms. from Lalor and about 12 kms. from the Melbourne Airport. The parents have not yet been allowed to see the body. They have been told that it will happen the next morning, that is, today morning. But the police and coroner are now satisfied that the body is that of Gurshan. While they still have not ruled out any possibility, the police have confirmed there were no external injuries and no immediate apparent reason for the

death. It is believed that toxicology exams and other more detailed forensic exams will be carried out today.

Sir, this is sketchy information that I have been able to gather and that I am sharing with the House.

I extend my deep-felt condolences to the family and we are all very sorry for this incident.

I am sure the police will go into the depth of whether there has been a wanton attack on this innocent boy.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Any action on this, Sir?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Has any action been taken?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Let full report come.

Now, on trade unions issue, there are four speakers. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany, please.

#### **Mass demonstration by all National Trade Unions all over India**

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा):** उपसभापति महोदय, महंगाई एक ऐसा मुद्दा है और अब इस प्रकार की कमर तोड़ महंगाई है - राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव हो, बजट हो, रेल बजट हो, सभी में संसद के अन्दर यह चर्चा हो रही है। सर, देश भर में सब लोगों को महंगाई ने ग्रास लिया है। इस देश के सारे Central Trade Unions, जैसे, BMS, HMS, INTUC, CITU, AITUC और राज्यों के सभी श्रमिक संगठनों ने आज सड़कों पर आकर लोकतांत्रिक तरीके, जैसे- धरने, प्रदर्शन, रास्ता रोको, जेल भरो आदि कार्यक्रम करके इस महंगाई के मुद्दे को उजागर करने का तय किया है। ऐसे कार्यक्रम देश भर में चल रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह माँग करूँगा कि कम-से-कम ऐसा कोई उपाय किया जाए जिससे महंगाई पर तुरंत रोक लगाई जाए। विशेषकर, मजदूरों की छँटनी करने के लिए जो काम चल रहा है, वह बंद होना चाहिए। पब्लिक सेक्टर जो मुनाफा देने वाली है, वहाँ पर पूँजी विनिवेश न किया जाए। सरकार इसके लिए कारगर कदम उठाए।

महोदय, यह जो 11 लाख 6 हजार 749 करोड़ का बजट आया है, इसमें से महज 1 हजार करोड़ रुपये असंगठित क्षेत्र के कामगारों के कल्याण के लिए रखा गया है ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, यह तो “ऊँट के मुँह में जीरा” के बराबर है। यह सर्वथा निंदनीय है।

**श्री उपसभापति:** ठीक है, ठीक है।

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** तमाम Trade Unions के जितने सारे कार्यकर्ता हैं, ...**(व्यवधान)**... हम सरकार से माँग करते हैं कि महंगाई को रोकने के लिए कोई कारगर उपाय किया जाए।

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to draw, through you, the attention of this august House as well as the Government to the great event of coming together of all national trade union centres affiliated to Right, Left and Centre, to unitedly hold mass satyagraha and court-arrest in several lakhs throughout the country from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

There are five issues. Firstly, prices of essential commodities are going up. Secondly, there is rampant violation of basic labour laws. The third issue is of the sale of profitable public sector

units. The fourth is of social security and the fifth is that of minimum wages for the unorganized sector. The united platform of trade unions had already highlighted their grievances by holding dharna before Parliament on 16th December, 2009 and submitting a memorandum on all those issues to the hon. Prime Minister.

But, unfortunately the Government responded in retrogression by increasing the prices of fertilizers, petrol and diesel and pushing through disinvestment programme besides remaining indulgent to the blatant violation of labour laws by the employers' class. Sir, the working class has decided for a befitting reply to the arrogant insensitivity of the Government of the day and in the first phase all the trade unions in the country, millions of workers will be courting arrest and staging *Satyagraha* throughout the country to put the Government on notice demanding 1. universalisation of PDS and ban on futures trade of essential commodities, 2. putting a stop to disinvestment in public sector units, 3. strict implementation of all labour laws, 4. universal social security coverage to all unorganized sector workers without any restriction based on the so called povertyline and 5. linking of the so called stimulus and concessional package with the condition of employment protection and "no-retrenchment" commitment. After all, public exchequer should be devoted more for those who contribute to the exchequer than those big-corporate big business houses, both domestic and foreign, who suck much more by evading taxes and pay little. I urge upon the Government to take note of the notice and better mend their policies.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the primary productive force in any mechanism is the working people, both organised and unorganised. The plight of the working people in India today is miserable. They are passing through the worst phase of their life. In the wake of recession thousands of workers have lost jobs and thousands of workers are facing job insecurity. In such a situation, Government of India has failed to control prices. Rather it has increased the price of diesel and petrol. This has hit the workers in a very big way. In such a situation, the trade unions, irrespective of political affiliations, are agitating. Thousands of workers are on the streets. They are doing *Satyagraha*. They are courting arrest. Many leaders of the trade unions are courting arrest today. Government of India is giving stimulus to corporate sectors, big business houses but Government of India is not insisting upon big business houses, corporate houses not to go for any retrenchment of workers. That is why the trade unions are raising very serious issues. They are opposing disinvestment of PSUs. They are demanding universalisation of public distribution system. They are asking the Government to control prices, to roll back the prices of diesel and petrol which has just now increased. Government cannot afford to keep silent. Government will have to respond to the calls given by the trade unions and the whole House should express its solidarity with the fighting workers outside the Parliament for a just cause. That is my request.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We all associate with the concern expressed by Shri D. Raja.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): We all know that today central trade unions, INTUC, CITU, AITUC are jointly demonstrating and are courting arrest in Delhi and all over the country also. The main demand is, as we know, 400 million workers are working in unorganised sector but only Rs. 1000 crores have been given. It is not enough. Arjun Sen Gupta Committee recommended Rs. 22,000 crore for agricultural workers. That has not been done. So, the main demand is for a social security scheme for all unorganised sector workers, strict implementation of minimum wages all over the country and action against violation of labour laws and also disinvestment of the public sector. That should not be done because public sector also has saved our country at the time of the slow down.

That should not be disinvested. So, these are the main points which are always raised by the other hon. Members also. I support that. I also expect that the Government will consider it positively and give adequate funds for the unorganized sector security workers so that all the workers working all over the country get the benefit and all workers are covered under the social security scheme. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sitaram Yechury to call attention to a matter of urgent public importance.

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**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT  
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Situation arising out of role of print and electronic media indulging in  
paid news in disguise of news**

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the situation arising out of role of print and electronic media indulging in paid news in disguise of news.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): The Government is committed to ensuring the right to the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under the Constitution of India. In pursuance of this objective of preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers in India and to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press, the Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body was set up under the Press Council Act, 1978. The PCI has developed Norms of Journalistic Conduct that cover the principles and ethics regarding journalism.

PCI has also laid down guidelines on reporting of specific issues of public and national importance. In 1996, it drew up a set of guidelines that are particularly applicable to financial journalism. PCI has also issued guidelines on reporting of elections.

In recent months, however, there have been a number of media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations or corporate entities, what is essentially “advertisement” disguised as “news”. This has been commonly referred to as the “paid news syndrome”. While this is not a new phenomenon, it has attracted greater public attention of late, and is being widely discussed and debated across the country.

It has been reported that the owners of some media organizations have financial relationships, including share-holdings, with advertisers.

Further, cases have been reported wherein identical articles with photographs and headlines have appeared in competing publications carrying bylines of different authors or sometimes even without bylines, around the same time. On the same page of specific newspapers, articles have been printed during elections, projecting rival candidates, both as winning candidates! While it is widely agreed that it is not easy to find proof for such malpractices, there exists strong circumstantial evidence.

It is, however, very commendable that this issue of “paid news” has been vigorously raised by some sections of the media themselves. The Editors Guild of India has in its press note on this issue dated 23.12.2009 condemned this unethical practice and called upon all editors of the country to desist from publishing any form of advertisements which masquerade as news. They went on to say that it is imperative that news organizations clearly distinguish between news and advertisements with full and proper disclosure norms, so that no reader and viewer is tricked by any subterfuge of advertisements published and broadcast in the same format, language and style of news. The Indian Women Press Corp, a body of working women journalists from print, TV and online media are also highlighting this issue in a seminar being held in a few days from now in order to build an opinion against this malpractice. The Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (A.P.U.W.J.) conducted a detailed sample survey to highlight the manner in which newspapers had published “paid news” items. A number of senior journalists have formally complained about the phenomenon of “paid news” to the Press Council of India and the Election Commission of India.

In view of all this, the PCI has constituted a Sub-Committee to consider this issue and collect evidence from stakeholders, including the Election Commission of India. The representatives of Election Commission of India in their interaction with the Sub-Committee on 16.12.2009 desired the Council to define what constituted “paid news” so that expenditure incurred by the political parties and the candidates become accountable. The Committee also met representatives of Indian Newspapers Society (INS) and Indian Language Newspapers Association (ILNA). The Committee also held its meeting at Mumbai on 27th and 28th January, 2010 to interact with the stake holders.



As part of evidence gathering exercise, the Committee also visited Hyderabad on 9th and 10th February, 2010 and met stake-holders. The representatives of A.P.U.W.J, named six newspapers, carrying numerous paid news stories.

The report of this Committee is likely to be placed before the Council by the end of March for further action.

This phenomenon of “paid news” is therefore, a serious matter as it influences the functioning of a free press. The media, acts as a repository of public trust for conveying correct and true information to the people. However, when paid information is presented as news content, it could mislead the public and thereby hamper their judgment to form a correct opinion. Thus, there is no denying the fact that there is an urgent need to protect public’s right to correct and unbiased information.

It is important that all sections of society should introspect on this issue as it has wide ranging implications for our democratic structure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yechury. Mr. Yechury, you have seven minutes.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I am raising this issue and call the attention of the Government. As the Minister has said, it is not merely a serious matter influencing the functioning of a free Press, but it is an issue with deep anguish and anxiety I am raising this because it concerns not only the functioning of the free Press but also the future of parliamentary democracy in India. The health of our system that we gave ourselves in our Constitution rests on the inviolable principle of sovereignty being vested with the people. People’s representatives, the legislature exercises vigilance on the Government or the Executive making it accountable to them and thereby to the people. The sovereignty of the people, therefore, is established through this system and this inviolability is crucially dependent upon unbiased information and the proper news that the people receive. So, the role of the Fourth Estate or the media has always been very crucial in taking the information to the people properly so that people can make a proper judicious decision on what are the policies that are involved in governance and who are the ones who are capable of effective governance in the country. So, this is an issue that does not affect only the future of media or the Fourth Estate, this affects the future of parliamentary democracy in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will suggest to you to put him in the Chair, Sir. That is the only way to stop him. Therefore, Sir, what I am saying is that access to unbiased, unfiltered and objective news or information that is the role that the media is supposed to play. This comes under very severe clout with the emergence of this paid news syndrome. The hon. Minister has said that this is not a new phenomenon. But what is happening today is completely a new phenomenon because what media is conveying has reached a staggering proportion and the corporatization of your media houses has actually led to a situation whereby this sort of paid news is no longer confined to one print media or one electronic media, but you have the same

houses that own print media, electronic media, radio waves and packages are being offered for the projection of certain people in all the media, all forms of media. Now this distorts, in my opinion, the parliamentary democracy in multiple ways: (a) the media ceases to be objective and, therefore, distorts public perception, (b) it distorts the electoral political choices of the people through the undue advantage of those people who can afford such news, (c) it manipulates democracy, negating it completely by denying, not providing equal access provided in the Constitution of India to those who cannot afford to indulge in such malpractices, and, (d) it demeans journalism itself. I know, Sir, journalists who are very well meaning good journalists, who have actually played a stellar role in shaping public policy in our country and in guiding political parties into directions which is for the betterment of the country and its people. Now such journalists have been somehow completely weeded out of this sort of system.

In order to, actually, protect journalism, it is necessary today to rescue journalism from being muzzled by the corporate muzzle. I know the way you make them to sit in this House, my journalist friends speak only behind my back, most of the time. All the good work that they do does not find expression in the print or electronic media many times, because the choice of what goes in or what needs to be reported is directed or dictated by the money power from behind the scene. So, therefore, this issue has come into focus, because, I think, a large number of people are concerned about it. The hon. Minister is right. The Press Council of India, the Editors GUILD and the hon. Vice-President, at least, on three occasions in the recent past, have referred to this. In fact, if I can quote from one of the speeches of the hon. Vice-President where he says, "In a changed and changing world, it would be useful to remember that a vibrant journalism in a democracy is a watchdog journalism. It monitors the exercise of power by the State and stands for the rights and freedoms of citizens. It informs and empowers citizens rather than entertains and titillates them. Vibrant journalism is based on professional ethics. I should be the rule, rather than the exception it has come to be." Now, this vibrant journalism has to be restored. If this has to be restored, then this undue influence of money power in journalism has to be eliminated.

The Election Commission of India has put in various restrictions in the name of free and fair elections. Poor parties like ours cannot do wall-writing. We cannot put posters, because the Election Commission says it defaces. We cannot speak after 10 o'clock. But, the point is, 24-hour channels can broadcast all through the night my opponent's election campaign, because they have paid for it. This is nothing but distortion of democracy. So, the paid news is, actually, negating India's Parliamentary democracy and undermining journalism itself which needs to be rescued from the corporate muzzle. The corporatisation of the media houses is leading to such a situation and if it is not checked immediately, it will completely negate Parliamentary democracy in our country. Therefore, Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government, through you, that it is not enough to give moral sanctimonious lectures. Something has to be

done. What needs to be done is, you require a serious effort on probity and accountability of what is happening.

Now, the journalist friends have said and the hon. Minister has reported to us that according to a bare estimation in A.P. in the last election alone, this paid news phenomenon has reached over Rs. 1,000 crores and this is a very gross underestimation. In Maharashtra, which is a cradle for this paid news, it has gone into some thousands of crores. That is why — I said it on some other occasion — elections in India are the single largest stimulus for our economy. It is precisely because of this, huge amounts of money are being expended and this is completely distorting the news and I don't want to repeat the examples that the hon. Minister has given. So, what I, therefore, want to suggest is that there needs to be accountability. I don't know how that will be ensured. But, one way in which you can ensure is that the Government institute enquiry wherever such complaints come and whichever paper or channel found indulging in that the Government must stop its advertisements in that paper or in that channel. So, unless there is some kind of deterrent action of this sort is thought out, it will not be possible, at least, to control this phenomenon which is a very serious phenomenon affecting the our Parliamentary democracy. That is why I want the Government not to take the position by saying, “लड़का-लड़की राज़ी, तो क्या करेगा क़ाज़ी.” You have corrupt politicians and corrupt media houses and if दोनों राज़ी है, तो क्या करेगा क़ाज़ी। क़ाज़ी को करना पड़ेगा, क़ाज़ी को करना पड़ेगा। This deterrent action will have to be put in place and, at least, that consciousness has to be generated in society. Please help our genuine journalists and our well-meaning journalists who are a plenty in our country who are actually discharging their job rather than being muscled by these corporate dodging that has now come up. Therefore, I want the Government to take some deterrent action on this issue. Thank you.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I completely share the spirit and substance of what my friend, Shri Yechury, has just now said. I only disagree with him partly when he suggested a possible solution. The menace has become so large that a solution can't be that just deny them Government advertisements. I read the Statement of the Minister. The statement of the Minister is really based on two premises — first, that this is all free speech; second, that the Press Council of India, which I will state is a toothless wonder, is already looking into the matter. And, therefore, both these premises that the Press Council of India is capable of finding a solution to this, and that this is an expression of free speech, the fundamental premise itself is erroneous. Sir, if you look at the menace of the money power in elections, over the last few years, it has grown disproportionately. It is directly linked to collection of funds for that election by candidates and parties and State Governments, those in power and those in parties. This leads to cases of political corruption being on the increase. It pollutes the very stream of administration and public life in this country. The volumes have

grown. Therefore, if we suggest a solution, as Mr. Yechury has suggested that stop advertisements from Government in those newspapers, when the magnitude of the problem is so large, the solution suggested has to be proportionate to the problem and evil that is sought to be curbed. And, what is the problem? The problem is that about a decade ago we noticed that during elections some strange media organizations were asking for money over and above the advertisements. In the last two years, it has grown disproportionately. It has grown disproportionately in the sense that you are, now, told that there are paid packages; there are news packages. What the hon. Minister has highlighted in the statement is all evidence of that.

Not only this, the parties are being compelled to pay, candidates are being compelled to pay, blackout of campaigns, disproportionate coverage to another candidate, all this pollutes the very process. This problem also exists, besides elections, in the sphere, called, business journalism. In fact, one of the outgoing chairpersons of the SEBI, on his farewell speech, referred to the existence of anchor investor. Therefore, this problem, in a different sense, though it cannot be called paid news, also existed in business journalism. But, here, we are predominantly concerned with the manner in which it is polluting the whole electoral process. Some respectable media organizations, I saw in the last General Elections, legitimised this. It was legitimised by the former organization of broadcasters, coming up and saying, all of you must, now, form a carton and increase your rates over and above commercial advertising for political advertisement. This was called 'election premium'. And, when candidates and parties protested as to why they were being charged more, they were told that they would be compensated by way of live coverage of rallies and press conferences.

Therefore, coverage of rallies and press conferences got linked to those who paid this extra election premium. This is where the problem stands. So, the first question, I think, the hon. I&B Minister will have to address: Is this an expression of free speech? Unquestionably, it is not. Free speech is what is intended to be a right guaranteed to people to express their views. What seems to pollute the very political system and the electoral system is that we all came up with a conservative notion that news must be fair and views are free. There is freedom to express your views, but as far as news coverage is concerned, it is sacred. The newspapers write and the television channels say that even free speech is secondary. The primary rights belong to a viewer or a reader. It is the right to knowledge; it is a right to information. He is entitled to unadulterated information, as far as news is concerned.

Today, 'paid news' is passed on to him without even telling him that this is all another name for 'advertisement' and it is propaganda; and if the gullible viewer or reader is asked to absolve that, that affects human mind. Sir, when we grow in terms of economy, let us not forget that industry can shape the economy but media will shape the human mind. Therefore those who are in a position to pay more for having through this adulterated information, the human minds in this country are going to be shaped accordingly and, therefore, this 'paid news' finds place.

Sir, no student of constitutional law will ever tell you that 'paid news' can ever be free speech. At best, it could be trade, it could be business, and, therefore, the Government, once it takes this out of the area of free speech and takes it into the area of business or trade, in public interest, can find solutions other than the toothless wonder called 'Press Council' dealing with it. Therefore, if the Government has a will to stand up and find a solution, solutions are possible; because once it goes into that area, it is clear that it is going to be trade and a trade with an unlawful object. It is an unlawful object because the first thing you do is to violate the Income Tax Act. You are taking money in a colour which is not permitted. You are inciting people and involving people by wholesale violation of electoral laws. You are subverting one of the basic features of India's Constitution which is the free and fair election, and, therefore, the entire exercise that is being done is a complete pollution of the electoral process and it is a trade or a business with an unlawful purpose. Therefore, does the Government of the day have the ability to stand up and say that this business or trade which threatens Indian democracy — that is the unlawful purpose — is going to be prohibited or not prohibited?

When market malpractices come up in terms of business, you have anti-trust law, you have market regulators which try and stop this. The kind of evidence that the Minister has given in the statement itself speaking that a simple solution, a remedy is possible, and I am requesting the Minister; and that is going to be my query. Once it gets into the area of unlawful trade or trade with an unlawful purpose, you prohibit it through a legislation, you create a Regulator. A Regulator must be a judicial authority and therefore the easiest thing to do is : the Election Commissioner on receipt of a report from the Returning Officer or even otherwise from any of the person, once gets satisfied that there is some case made out refers it to the Tribunal headed by a Judge, then the candidate concerned, the political party concerned, the media organization concerned, must face that.

The world-over, Regulators have now started a new system. Prosecutions take years and years and nobody is scared of them and so the Regulators hear these matters and deterrent penalties are imposed. Look at the Competition law. If somebody is accused of cartelization, the penalty will be ten times of volume of business. So, it may be Rs. 50 crores or 100 crores. In the case of media organisations, you need not be so harsh; it could be lesser. But certainly, it has to be a deterrent penalty. In the case of candidate, it has to be an offence under election laws of the world. Corrupt practice must be amended in the Representation of the People's Act and this should be a ground for setting aside the election and disqualifying the candidate and if parties indulge in this whole institution, there must be action against this. My question therefore to the hon. Minister is, is the Government willing to accept this position that this is a trade and business with an unlawful purpose which has started? It threatens Indian democracy? Are you merely going to ask the Press Council to look into this matter or are you going to take some precipitative action as far as this is concerned?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Members from both the Parties who had given Notice have spoken. Actually, the Notice is signed by four hon. Members. On behalf of the BJP, Shri Kalraj Mishra and the Leader of Opposition, Mr. Arun Jaitley, have spoken. Also, Mr. Sitaram Yechury has spoken. As for Shri Rajeeve and Shri Moinul Hassan, they both belong to the same Party. As the Calling Attention Motion has to be concluded at one o'clock, we would request the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I had given Notice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, today it was originally meant for one hour. Then, at the request of the political parties, we allowed Zero Hour. And then some other subject came up. You must also appreciate these things. After the Minister replies, if there is time...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, we are willing to cooperate. In case the two parties have any additional points, let them make it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. After the Minister's reply, if they wish to seek further clarifications, I shall allow them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश):** सर, मैं भी एक-दो सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपको मौका दूंगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I had given a Notice even earlier.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have given a Notice. You may make any additional points that you may have. Please put only queries and not make a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, in the Statement, the hon. Minister has said that this is an old phenomenon. In my view, this is institutionalising paid news. As hon. Member, Shri Sitaram Yechury has mentioned, this is a more than Rs. 1000 crore—business in Andhra Pradesh. Secondly, what is the impact of this paid news on democracy? It is clearly evident from the data submitted by Election Watch that two-third of the MLAs in Maharashtra and four-third of MLAs in Haryana are *crorepatris*. The average wealth of Lok Sabha MP...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may seek clarifications arising out of the Statement of the Minister.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I mean to say that this is the impact of paid news on the democratic system. Thirdly, the Statement does not mention the basic route taken by the paid news system. I would like to say that this is the only pillar of our democratic system that is commercialised. With a commercialised Press, we cannot protect the sacred principles of democracy. That was clearly stated by the hon. Vice- President in his speech. I quote, "The winds of economic liberalisation in the country have brought with them elements of the market economy which have changed the DNA of the Indian media organisation." This was stated by the hon. Vice-President. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, one more point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made your points. The Minister needs sufficient time to answer all the queries.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I have just two more queries. Will the media be brought under the purview of the RTI Act? And lastly, for ensuring free and fair Press, we should protect the job security of the journalists and ensure better salary for them. Is the Minister willing to make amendments?

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): In her Statement, the hon. Minister has said that this is not a new phenomenon. I would like to ask her how calling it a new or old phenomenon dilutes the gravity of the matter. Secondly, the Minister, in her statement, has talked about the activities of the PCI, the Press Council of India. It is not for the PCI to tackle it; the Government must come out with a full roadmap to tackle the menace.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mysura Reddy; please seek just clarifications from the Statement itself.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with all the points raised by my colleagues here. My point is that in the electronic media there is no self-regulation or statutory regulation. In view of this, has the Press Council of India come up with any proposal for changing the Act or framing a Media Council of India? Do amendments need to be made to give them more powers? Right now, they are only admonishing or censuring and nothing more. But powers should be given to punish...*(Interruptions)*... Will any powers be given to this organisation to punish? Also, would any powers be given to the Election Commission of India in this regard?

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा):** सर, मेरे इसमें दो प्वाइंट हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, this is a very important issue. My suggestion is that we should have a full-fledged discussion on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you give notice for full-fledged discussion, we will take it up.

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार):** सर, आप विशेषाधिकार का उपयोग करिए। यह राष्ट्रहित का विषय है। यह बहुत बड़ा विषय है..।

**श्री उपसभापति:** मैंने क्या कहा। मैंने कहा है कि आप पहले नोटिस दीजिए।

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सर, आप टेक्निकल न बनें। आप हमें बोलने का मौका दीजिए। आपकी कृपा होगी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tarlochanji, just ask clarifications from the statement.

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह:** सर, इसमें दो प्वाइंट clear है जितनी डिबेट हुई है। जो हम कह रहे हैं, वह जो सब कुछ हो रहा है। इसका प्रॉफिट मालिकों को जा रहा है, पत्रकारों को नहीं। बात clear हो जाएगी कि यह जो कुछ हुआ है प्रेस के मालिकों का खेल है। मालिक आगे आर्डर देते हैं, तो जो भी एक्शन हो, वह उनके अंगेस्ट होना चाहिए। नम्बर वन।

सर, हम यह बात इसमें भूल गए और यह बात मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि टी0वी0 चैनल के जो ओपिनियन पोल हैं, वे ज्यादा करप्ट हैं, सबसे ज्यादा पैसा टी0वी0 ओपिनियन पोल पर लगता है। मैंने हरियाणा के इलेक्शन को खूब देखा है।

**श्री उपसभापति:** ठीक है। Please, only seek clarifications. श्री कलराज मिश्रा।

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह:** वहां पर इससे बहुत फर्क हुआ है..।

**श्री कलराज मिश्र:** उपसभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहूंगा कि चुनाव आयोग ने जन प्रतिनिधित्व कानून, 1951 की धारा 127 में संशोधन करने के लिए एक पत्र सरकार को भेजा था और इसको प्रेस काउंसिल को भी भेजा है। उसमें यह कहा गया है कि एक संशोधन करके एक उपधारा यह लगाई जाए कि जो विज्ञापनकर्ता होंगे, विज्ञापनकर्ता का नाम, पता सब उसमें लिखित होना चाहिए और उसके आधार पर निर्वाचन आयोग की विश्वसनीयता बनेगी। इस तरह का पत्र चुनाव आयोग ने सरकार को 2004 में लिखा है। उस संबंध में सरकार की तरफ से कोई जवाब नहीं गया है, यह चुनाव आयोग का कहना है।

दूसरी बात “रेटिंग” की है। “रेटिंग” के कारण भी बड़ी परेशानी पैदा हो जाती है।

**श्री उपसभापति:** आप क्लेरिफिकेशन पूछिए।

**श्री कलराज मिश्र :** जो “रेटिंग” है, वह चाहे छमाही हो या सालभर में हो, और साथ ही साथ जो “रेटिंग” का जो एप्रोप्रिएट क्षेत्र है, एरिया है, उसको भी तय करना चाहिए, जैसे — बिहार है, झारखंड है, उसके अन्तर्गत नहीं आता है।...(समय की घंटी)... आप इस पर भी विचार करें, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Stanley, only one question.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): All the leaders, who have spoken on the subject, have raised the issue of paid news regarding political parties. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards paid news by doctors and hospitals.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are speaking from Shrimati Kanimozhi's seat ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the hon. Minister take into consideration the issue relating to paid news given by doctors and hospitals which is highly misleading?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has nothing to do with the subject.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, it is regarding paid news. In the same advertisements, this is also coming. Sir, hospitals and doctors are making big claims. So, they are also misleading.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That comes under malpractices. Now, Shri Rajniti Prasad.

**श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार):** सर, जो ओपिनियन पोल इन लोगों ने बनाया है, इसके बारे में इलेक्शन कमीशन ने कहा है कि यह गलत है, यह नहीं होना चाहिए और बाद में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि आप कर सकते हैं, ऐसा कुछ नहीं है। सर, मैं ओपिनियन पोल के बारे में जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो वोट कास्टिंग को आपने दिया है, क्या हम लोग कोई ऐसा कानून बनायेंगे, कोई रेग्युलेटरी अथारिटी जैसा कोई कानून बनायेंगे जिससे कि किसी खास पार्टी को जिताना है, तो क्या करना है, किसी खास पार्टी को हराना है, तो क्या करना है, यह इंडिव्युजली चलेगा या हमारे यहां डेमोक्रेसी चलेगी ? ...(समय की घंटी)...



**श्री उपसभापति:** नहीं, नहीं, ऐसा नहीं होगा।

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, my question is very simple. One of the biggest incentives to this paid news is the biggest fraud of management of TRP in the country. In the most undemocratic manner, this fraud is being done, whereby a body not accountable to the Government, to the people, to the civil society, has arrogated to itself the right to determine which programme is more popular. And, this is becoming the incentive to have paid news on particular channels. What steps are you taking to control this biggest fraud on TRP management in the country?

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, it is rightly pointed out by the opposition Member that the Press Council is proved to be ineffective. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why can't we appoint a parliamentary Committee to enquire about the paid news channel? Will the hon. Minister consider the proposal to appoint a National Media Commission instead of Press Council covering both print and electronic media?

**श्री परिमल नथवानी (झारखंड) :** सर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने स्टेटमेंट में प्रेस कौंसिल की बात कही है, प्रेस कौंसिल ने आज तक कितने केसेज का निचोड़ निकाला है, क्योंकि जो लोग प्रेस कौंसिल में जाते हैं, उनका कोई सोल्यूशन नहीं आता है? मैं मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि उनके जो प्रपोजल्स हैं, उसमें प्रेस कौंसिल की बजाय डायरेक्ट गवर्नमेंट को ऐक्शन में आना चाहिए। ऐसा एक रूल बनना चाहिए। प्रेस कौंसिल के पास जाने की जो बात है, वह लाजिमी नहीं है।

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Sir, basically this is a criminal activity. My question is: Will the Government constitute a body which will initiate criminal action against newspaper owners, publishers and editors who indulged in this kind of practice?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to make, through you, the intention categorically clear to this august House and to all the hon. Members that the Government does not view paid news syndrome as the freedom of Press. I don't think my statement, which I prepared quite late in the night, conveys it anywhere. I only indicated Government's commitment to the freedom of speech as is enshrined in the Constitution. After having asserted that commitment, which I would repeat ad nauseam, I would like to tell you that the Press Council of India was established by an Act of Parliament in 1978 to perpetuate that commitment. I have all the aims and objectives with which the Press Council was set up. I would like to just go over the concluding part of my written statement which very categorically emphasises the concern of not only the Government but of all the Members who have spoken and of those Members who have not spoken. The media people themselves raised this issue at great cost to what could be a danger to their own assignments and their jobs. It is media who have raised it and brought it to this extent that today we are feeling that the Press Council of India is not the apt body to conduct negotiation because ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: We salute those journalists. ...*(Interruptions)*...

1.00 P.M.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: It is unfortunate to call the Press Council a 'toothless wonder'. It was established by an Act of Parliament. It has from 2001 continuously asked the Governments in office to increase its scope and its teeth but for one reason or the other different Governments have not thought it appropriate to increase the power, jurisdiction and the terms of reference of the Press Council of India. As late as in late 2009 and in early 2010 we have received fresh proposals from the Press Council of India and those proposals are under the consideration of the UPA Government.

My statement was longer than it should have been, but I did explain that the Press Council along with the Election Commission of India has set in process a road map where they have interacted, taken opinions of stakeholder of different kinds, whether financial paid news, political paid news or any other kind of editorials page, which is sometimes rumoured to be sold. They are paying adequate attention to see that the primacy of the editor's chair is re-established. There is a very strong public debate and all of us are participating in that, which is going on. I would request the hon. House and the hon. Members that we do give the Press Council of India time till the end of March. They have said that till that time this exercise, which they have set in motion since December last year, will be complete, and, the report will be before the Parliament, and, then, we can have a lengthier and a more structured debate, and, the Members of Parliament, this hon. House, which legislates, can deem it fit to legislate on any issue, which they would think appropriate.

My colleague, Shri Sitaram Yechury, said that the Government should use the DAVP. The moment I would have even hinted at this — I thank God that it was not me who suggested that — I would have been accused of blackmailing what is supposed to be the Free Press. I would like to tell the hon. Leader of Opposition to please clear his mind of any such suspicion that my statement might have caused that I am treating paid news as Freedom of the Press, or, Freedom of Expression. It is far from that. I am as concerned and as liberal as you are, Sir. You have been our predecessor, and, so has been Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad. I am as liberal as you are, and, second to none. When it comes to what affects the democratic structure of our country, or, what inhibits the flow of free, unbiased, and, unadulterated news to the citizens, I would be in the front row to check that through any commitment to be made by the Government in consensus with the hon. Members of this House. Sir, everybody has said that we are almost agreeing to this paid-news syndrome to be ended. But, Sir, I would, in all humility, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, there is also the issue of TRP. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I think, this is an issue which does not come under today's programme but I can assure the hon. Members....*(Interruptions)*... I will take it up with you

personally. I am going to sit with the hon. Member, my predecessor, and, take his point of view. My Ministry has already been informed that I am going to interact with some hon. Members of this House, who have volunteered to give us suggestions on rectifying the TRP rating system in this country, and, I will not go back on my words.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, on a lighter note, the influence of the TRP is such that the hon. Minister is referring to this discussion as a 'programme'. You just mentioned it as a 'programme'.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: It is not part of this. Sir, in all humility, I will take as my guidelines the two recent speeches of the hon. Chairperson of this House, the Vice-President of India. He made a speech on 29th November to the Parliament's Media Advisory Committee, and, then he spoke in the Varghese Memorial Lecture on 28th January. Extracts from his speech have already been quoted by the hon. Members. The hon. Vice-president, the hon. Chairman of this House, spoke of the growth, the mind-boggling growth of different platforms of media, and, in that context, he also drew up what media meant during the freedom struggle, what media meant post- Independence, and, what media has come to mean after the 1990 — Era of liberalisation.

Sir, I would like to end by quoting again another extract from the Vice-President's speech. He said, "The recent practices of leveraging political and economic content in our media for overt and covert revenue generation have the malevolent potential to tarnish our polity and even destabilise the economy." This is how seriously the Government also feels about this whole issue. Let the report come in end of March. I will place it in the House and the hon. Members can then have a structured debate and we can take whatever suggestions that come out.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for one hour.

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The House then adjourned for lunch at five minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at seven minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

#### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

**श्री शान्ता कुमार** (हिमाचल प्रदेश): मान्यवर उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, राष्ट्रपति महोदया के अभिभाषण में अंतिम पृष्ठ की जो पंक्ति है, जिनकी चर्चा मेरे कुछ और मित्रों ने भी की है, वह मुझे सबसे अधिक अच्छी लगी। उन पंक्तियों में आज से लगभग 63 वर्ष पूर्व, 14 अगस्त 1947 को पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी द्वारा कहे गए शब्दों को उद्धृत किया गया है। वह एक संकल्प है देश से गरीबी दूर करने का, अज्ञानता दूर करने का और बराबरी लाने का। उस संकल्प को फिर से याद किया गया। मैं सबसे पहले उसके लिए उनका धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

अभिभाषण में बहुत-सी बातों का जिक्र है, उपलब्धियों का जिक्र है। कुछ बातें सराहनीय हैं। जनता को उसका लाभ हुआ है, हो रहा है। मैं उन सराहनीय जनहित की बातों के लिए उनकी सराहना करता हूँ, समर्थन करता हूँ। लेकिन, मुख्य बात क्या है? जो मूल समस्याएँ देश की हैं और 63 वर्ष पहले जिन बातों के लिए

संकल्प किया गया था, उन बातों के संबंध में क्या हुआ है? यह एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। क्या गरीबी दूर हुई है? क्या विषमता दूर हुई है? क्या महंगाई की मार से गरीब बच रहा है? क्या आतंकवाद और माओवाद से किसी प्रकार की मुक्ति देश को मिली है? ये जो बुनियादी समस्याएँ हैं, इन पर क्या हुआ? यह है कसौटी सफलता की और विफलता की। बाकी बहुत-सी बातों की चर्चा है। आखिर संसद ने सरकार को 10 लाख करोड़ रुपये दिये थे। इतना पैसा दिया था तो खर्च तो होना ही था। Routine के कामों की चर्चा के बारे में पढ़ कर ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे वह सरकार का विज्ञापन हो। इतने करोड़ यहाँ खर्च किया, इतने करोड़ वहाँ खर्च किया। वह routine के कामों की चर्चा है, कोई बहुत बड़ी उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि नहीं है। कोई और सरकार होती, वह भी यह करती, लेकिन संकल्प का क्या हुआ? बुनियादी समस्याओं का क्या हुआ? प्रश्न यह है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय,** उस दृष्टि से यदि विचार किया जाए तो आज गरीबी की दिशा में कुछ नहीं हुआ, यही नहीं है, बल्कि देश की गरीबी बढ़ रही है। आज 28 करोड़ लोग गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे हैं और इसी सरकार के विभिन्न विभागों ने 14 रुपए दैनिक की रेखा निश्चित की है, अर्थात् एक दिन में 14 रुपए में 28 करोड़ लोग जी नहीं रहे हैं, मर रहे हैं। कहां है आपका संकल्प? कहां है गांधी जी का अंत्योदय? 28 करोड़ लोग यदि गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे हैं और Global Hunger Index में जो भूख से पीड़ित देश हैं, उनमें भारत की गणना 68वें स्थान पर है। United Nations Food Programme में कहा गया कि दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा भूखे लोग आज भारत में रहते हैं, कुपोषण से सबसे ज्यादा बच्चे भारत में मरते हैं।

मैं देख रहा था कि गरीबी दूर करने की दिशा में क्या उपलब्धि है? सच्चाई तो यह है कि गरीबी बढ़ी है और पिछले अधिवेशन में लोक सभा में सरकार ने स्वयं स्वीकार किया था कि गरीबों की संख्या 4 करोड़ 40 लाख बढ़ी है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न यह है कि पिछले एक साल में एक भी व्यक्ति गरीबी की रेखा को पार करके ऊपर नहीं गया, तो फिर कहां है आपका संकल्प? 10 लाख करोड़ रुपया संसद ने आपको दिया, गरीबी दूर करने का संकल्प आपका था, लेकिन गरीबों की संख्या बढ़ी, एक भी व्यक्ति गरीबी की रेखा से उठकर ऊपर नहीं गया। इतना ही नहीं, अमीरी बढ़ गई। मेरे कुछ और मित्रों ने भी जिक्र किया है कि आज दुनिया के करोड़पतियों की संख्या में भारत के करोड़पतियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है। भारत के 100 अमीर लोगों की सम्पत्ति पिछले एक साल में 6 लाख करोड़ से बढ़कर 13 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गई। 36 अमीर घरानों के पास 10 लाख करोड़ रुपए हैं। दुनिया के सबसे अमीर बीस लोगों में अमरीका के पांच हैं तो भारत के तीन हैं। देश अमीर हो रहा है और देश गरीब हो रहा है। कुछ लोग इतने ज्यादा अमीर हो रहे हैं कि बहुत से लोग बहुत ज्यादा गरीब हो रहे हैं। यह दुर्भाग्य है देश का। यह एक चमत्कार है कि GDP बढ़ रहा है, अमीरी बढ़ रही है, लेकिन 28 करोड़ लोग झोंपड़ियों में सिसक रहे हैं! यह स्थिति इस देश की है। कारण क्या है? सामाजिक न्याय नहीं हुआ। देश की सम्पत्ति बढ़ी, देश का ऐश्वर्य बढ़ा, GDP बढ़ा, लेकिन वह कुछ हाथों में ही सिमटकर रह गया और बहुत से लोग गरीब हो गए। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं समझता हूँ कि यदि यही गति सरकार की रही, यदि इसी प्रकार से pro-rich policy, anti-poor policies आपकी रहीं, जिसने कुछ लोगों को कमाई करने का नहीं, लूट का लाइसेंस दिया, तो भारत में गरीबों और भूखे-नंगों की संख्या बहुत बढ़ेगी। एक साल में 100 लोगों की सम्पत्ति 6 लाख करोड़ से बढ़कर 13 लाख करोड़ हो गई और आप सामाजिक न्याय की बात कर रहे हैं, आप संकल्प दोहरा रहे हैं 63 साल पुराना, इन 100 अमीर लोगों की सम्पत्ति अगर 6 लाख करोड़ से बढ़कर 13 लाख करोड़ हुई तो कमाई से नहीं, लूट से हुई और लूट का लाइसेंस किसने दिया? आपने दिया।

मुझे लगता है कि अगर नीतियाँ और हालात यही रहे तो कुछ दिन बाद भारत में बहुत बड़ा चमत्कार होने वाला है और वह चमत्कार यह होगा कि दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा करोड़पति लोग हिन्दुस्तान में होंगे और दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा भूखे-नंगे भी हिन्दुस्तान में होंगे। तब शायद गिन्नीज़ बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकार्ड्स में आपका नाम आ जाए, तब कौन सा पुरस्कार इस सरकार को देना पड़ेगा। मैं कहना यह चाहता हूँ कि संविधान के अंदर

आर्टिकल 39 में कहा था — Article 39 (c) provides that the operation of economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. सम्पत्ति का कंसन्ट्रेशन नहीं होने दिया जाएगा, लेकिन 63 वर्ष पहले से लेकर आज तक सम्पत्ति का एकाधिकार हो रहा है, कंसन्ट्रेशन हो रहा है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष जी,** जो गरीबी है और अमीर तथा गरीब के बीच की जो खाई है, यह अपने आप में एक बहुत बड़ा संकट है। देश की संपत्ति बढ़ रही है, यह खुशी की बात है, लेकिन वह संपत्ति कुछ ही हाथों में केंद्रित हो रही है और करोड़ों लोग भूखे-नंगे झोपड़ियों में सिसक रहे हैं, यह खतरे की घंटी है, बहुत बड़ी खतरे की घंटी है। आज इस देश में अपराध बढ़ रहा है, दिल्ली में सुबह-सुबह अखबार पढ़ने से डर लगता है। सरकार की नाक के नीचे कितने अपराध प्रतिदिन होते हैं। नक्सलवाद बढ़ रहा है, माओवाद बढ़ रहा है। इन अपराधों के बढ़ने के पीछे एक बड़ा कारण गरीबी है, एक बड़ा कारण आर्थिक विषमता है, क्योंकि अगर करोड़ों लोग निराश हैं, हताश हैं, बेरोजगार हैं, दो वक्त की सूखी रोटी उनको नहीं मिल रही है। किसी पिता की आंखों के सामने अगर उसके बच्चे रात को भूखे सोते हैं, तो वह मजबूर, हताश कहां जाएगा? वह अपराध के रास्ते पर जा सकता है, वह नक्सलवाद के रास्ते पर जा सकता है। मैं यहां उद्धृत करना चाहूंगा — “Development Challenges in Extremist Affected Areas” इस संबंध में एक Report of an Expert Group to Planning Commission है, इस रिपोर्ट के अंदर दो-तीन जगह, उन विद्वान लोगों ने जो निष्कर्ष निकाला है, उसे मैं सदन के सामने रखना चाहूंगा। एक जगह उन्होंने कहा है कि:

“India is, today proudly proclaiming an above nine per cent growth rate and striving to achieve a double digit growth. But it is a matter of common observation that the inequalities between classes, between town and country, and between the upper caste and the under-privileged communities are increasing. That this has potential for tremendous unrest is recognised by all.”

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, विकास हो रहा है, लेकिन भेदभाव बढ़ रहा है, विषमता भी बहुत अधिक बढ़ रही है। इसी रिपोर्ट में से मैं एक और बात quote करना चाहूंगा, ये शब्द बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और विचार करने योग्य हैं।

“The Administration should not have waited for the Naxalite movement to remind it of its obligation towards the people in this matter. But at least now that the reminder has been given, it should begin rectifying its own deficiencies. It should be recognised that such a responsibility would lie upon the Indian State even if the Naxalites were not there, and even in regions where the Naxalite movement does not exit.”

इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक नक्सलवादी, माओवादी मूवमेंट का सबसे बड़ा कारण गरीबी है, सबसे बड़ा कारण विषमता है। यह किसने फैलाई? आपने गरीबी दूर करने का संकल्प किया था और आपने विषमता दूर करने का संकल्प किया था, 63 साल के बाद आज सरकार की रिपोर्ट यह कह रही है कि नक्सलवाद, माओवाद का सबसे बड़ा कारण है आर्थिक विषमता। इस रिपोर्ट के अंत में एक और महत्वपूर्ण बात कही गई है—

“There is no denying that what goes in the name of ‘Naxalism’ is, to a large extent, a product of collective failure to assure to different segments of society their basic entitlements under the Constitution and other protective legislation.”

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उस संकल्प का क्या हुआ, यदि उस संकल्प को आपने पूरा किया होता, तो आज नक्सलवाद इस ढंग से न होता। यह जमीन किसने तैयार की, यह गरीबी की जमीन किसने तैयार की, इसमें भुखमरी की खाद किसने डाली? आज नक्सलवादी उसमें बीज लगाने के लिए आ गए, यदि वे न आते, तो कोई और आता। इसका सबसे बड़ा कारण आर्थिक विषमता है, इस बात को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। मेरे कुछ मित्रों ने एक और बात का जिक्र किया है, मैं भी उसका जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ कि इस पूरे अभिभाषण में बढ़ती हुई आबादी की समस्या के बारे में कहीं कोई जिक्र नहीं है। आज global warming की बात की जा रही है। जनसंख्या बढ़ेगी, तो घर बनेंगे, तो सड़कें बनेंगी, तो गाड़ियां होंगी, तो भीड़-भड़का होगा, सब कुछ होगा, लेकिन जनसंख्या को रोकने की दृष्टि से कोई चिंता सरकार नहीं कर रही है, प्रति वर्ष लगभग 2 करोड़ लोग हमारी आबादी में बढ़ रहे हैं।

चीन के मुकाबले हमारा वृद्धि दर अधिक हो गया है। 2025 तक भारत की आबादी 140 करोड़ हो जाएगी। स्टेशन से लेकर सड़क तक और हर जगह इतना भीड़-भड़का दिल्ली में हो रहा है, लेकिन सरकार बिल्कुल चिंतित नहीं है। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी इस सवाल पर पहल करें। सभी राजनीतिक दलों को बुलाकर एक National Population Policy बनाइए। कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं, जैसे बिल्ली को देखकर कबूतर आंखें बंद कर लेता है, वैसे ही हम इस समस्या से अपनी आंखें बंद करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक और महत्वपूर्ण बात का जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ, जिसकी चर्चा इसमें कहीं पर नहीं है। आज भ्रष्टाचार कैसर की तरह, महामारी की तरह इस देश को अंदर से खोखला कर रहा है। सबसे बड़ी समस्या भ्रष्टाचार की बन रही है। हर कदम पर भ्रष्टाचार है, लेकिन कोई चर्चा नहीं है, कोई जिक्र नहीं है। क्या सरकार ने भ्रष्टाचार से समझौता कर लिया है या सरकार को भ्रष्टाचार दिखाई नहीं देता है? समय सीमा के कारण मैं केवल उसका जिक्र मात्र करूंगा। वर्ल्ड बैंक की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि निचले स्तर पर 21 हजार करोड़ रुपए का लेन-देन यहां पर होता है, और तो छोड़िए, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, बिजली, जिस पर नियंत्रण सरकार का Electricity Board करता है, उसमें तीस परसेंट से ज्यादा बिजली चोरी होती है। जो लगभग 27 हजार करोड़ रुपए की है। इस तरह से इस देश में 27 हजार करोड़ रुपए की बिजली की चोरी होती है। Transparency International की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक दुनिया के 180 देशों को भ्रष्ट माना गया है, उनमें भारत का नंबर 84 पर है। महाभ्रष्ट देशों की सूची में भारत आ गया है, जो कभी विश्व गुरु कहा जाता था, जो कभी सोने की चिड़िया कहा जाता था, आज उसको महाभ्रष्ट कहा है। उसके लिए सरकार serious नहीं है। भ्रष्टाचार दूर करने के लिए सरकार गंभीर नहीं है। बेनामी Transaction Prohibition Act 1988 में बना, लेकिन कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हो रही है। काले धन का उपयोग सबसे अधिक इसी में हो रहा है, लेकिन कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हो रही है।

सीबीआई न्यायालयों में 9,310 मामले पड़े हैं, दो हजार मामले दस साल पुराने हैं, 154 अनुमति के लिए सालों से पड़े हैं। अनुमति नहीं देते हैं। जो अनुमति नहीं देते हैं, उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि अपराध को छिपाना भी एक अपराध है। भ्रष्टाचार समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार बिल्कुल गंभीर नहीं है। Corrupt Public Servant Forfeiture of Property Bill 1999 बिल पास करने की सिफारिश Law Commission न की थी। इसको पास कराइए। मुख्यन्यायाधीश कह चुके हैं कि इसको पास कराइए। सरकार गंभीर नहीं है, आज तक इस बारे में कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई है। हैरानी की बात है कि लोकपाल बनाने का बिल Administrative Reform Commission की सिफारिश पर 1968 में सबसे पहले लोक सभा में लाया गया। चालीस साल हो गए, लेकिन वह लटका पड़ा है। सरकार भ्रष्टाचार समाप्त करने के लिए बिल्कुल गंभीर नहीं है। लोकपाल बिल चालीस साल से लटका हुआ है।

मैं एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ, जिसका जवाब चाहूंगा, वह यह है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट में भारत सरकार ने एक affidavit दिया है, दिया कि नहीं दिया, क्या तथ्य है, मैं जानना चाहूंगा? मेरी जानकारी के मुताबिक उसमें कहा है कि जर्मनी सरकार ने सूचना दी है कि लिक्वेंस्टाइन बैंक में भारत के लोगों के गुप्त खाते हैं। Affidavit में

भारत सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में कहा, लेकिन आखिर में कहा है कि उन्होंने शर्त लगाई थी कि आप इस सूचना को सार्वजनिक नहीं करें। अगर यह affidavit दिया है, तो आपने शर्त क्यों मानी? बेईमानों का नाम छिपाने की शर्त क्यों मानी? अगर आप ईमानदार हैं, तो बेईमानों के नाम छिपाने की शर्त क्यों मानी और नाम न बताने की बात कही है, कार्रवाई करने की बात तो नहीं कही। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि उसमें असलियत क्या है? एक विचित्र बात, मैंने जैसे कहा कि भ्रष्टाचार बहुत गंभीर कैंसर के रूप में देश में फैल रहा है और इसके लिए पूरी दुनिया चिंतित है। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि भारत ही चिंतित नहीं है, बल्कि United Nations भी चिंतित है। United Nations Convention Against Corruption 2003 में बनी। दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी पार्लियामेंट ने चिंता प्रकट की और एक convention बनाई।

मैं इसके लिए United Nations को बधाई दूंगा और इसकी भूमिका की चार पंक्तियां, जो UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi A. Annan ने लिखी हैं, उनको पढ़ना चाहूंगा—

“Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organised crime, terrorism and other threats to human society to flourish”.

और उसके अंत में कहा है कि यह जो convention है,

“It makes a major breakthrough by requiring Member States to return assets obtained through corruption to the country from which they were stolen”.

इसका उद्देश्य यह है कि अगर एक देश से करप्शन के द्वारा सम्पत्ति दूसरे देश में जमा की गई है, तो उस देश को वह सम्पत्ति लौटानी होगी। लेकिन हैरानी की बात है और मैं सरकार की तरफ से उत्तर चाहूंगा कि 2003 में इस convention को स्वीकृत किया गया। 140 देशों ने हस्ताक्षर किए और 120 देशों ने उसको ratify कर दिया, लेकिन भारत ने आज तक उसको ratify नहीं किया। आपने क्यों ratify नहीं किया? अगर दुनिया के 120 देश हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद इस convention को ratify कर सकते हैं, तो आपने उसको ratify क्यों नहीं किया? योंकि यह आम बात है और इस बात के बहुत से प्रमाण आ चुके हैं कि लगभग 60-65 लाख करोड़ रुपया केवल स्विट्ज़रलैंड के बैंकों में जमा है। यह पैसा इस देश का है, गरीबों का है, जो 28 करोड़ लोग झोपड़ियों में कराह रहे हैं, उनका पैसा है। लोगों ने यह पैसा बेईमानी से लिया और विदेशों में जमा कराया और दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी अदालत ने एक convention, एक तरीका अपनाया और महोदय, यह देखकर हैरानी हुई कि स्विट्ज़रलैंड ने इस पर sign भी कर दिए और स्विट्ज़रलैंड ने ratify भी कर दिया ! उसे नहीं करना चाहिए था। उसकी तो मौज हो रही है, दुनिया भर के बेईमान लोगों के पैसे पर वह देश मौज कर रहा है, लेकिन स्विट्ज़रलैंड ने signature भी कर दिए, ratify भी कर दिया और भारत सरकार ने 2005 में हस्ताक्षर किए थे, लेकिन आज तक इस convention को ratify नहीं किया है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्यों नहीं किया? इस बात का जवाब हम चाहते हैं। अगर दुनिया के 120 देश यह कर सकते हैं, तो भारत क्यों नहीं कर सकता?

महोदय, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि करप्शन के कारण गरीबी बढ़ती है, गरीबी के कारण विषमता बढ़ती है और गरीबी व विषमता आज इस देश में अपराध, तनाव और नक्सलवाद का सबसे बड़ा कारण है। इसलिए मैं अंत में इतनी ही बात कहना चाहूंगा.. मैं एक मिनट में खत्म करूंगा। मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि सरकार इन सारी बातों के बारे में गंभीर नहीं है। आपने पुराने संकल्प का जिक्र किया, इस देश में तो यह संकल्प पहले से ही है। मुझे याद है स्वामी विवेकानन्द ने सबसे पहले यह कहा था कि हिंदुस्तान के लोगो, इस देश के गांव का गरीब आपका देवता है। भूल जाओ, सभी देवी देवताओं को। जब तक भारत का प्रत्येक व्यक्ति भरपेट भोजन नहीं करता, मुझे मोक्ष नहीं चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि देश के गरीब आदमी की सेवा करो और उसे

उन्होंने “दरिद्रनारायण” कहा। फिर महात्मा गांधी ने अंत्योदय की बात कही और 63 साल पहले आपने यह संकल्प दोहराया, लेकिन आज देश की हालत क्या है? भ्रष्टाचार से देश टूट रहा है। गरीबी बढ़ रही है, महंगाई की मार से देश की हालत खराब है। आज इस सदन में उड़ीसा की बात कही गई। रोज़ खबरें आती हैं कि किस ढंग से भुखमरी से लोग मर रहे हैं। तो आखिर में मैं यही कहना चाहूंगा कि देश की सरकार इस बारे में गंभीरता से विचार करे। गरीबी और अमीरी रहेगी, भगवान भी उनको बराबर नहीं कर सकता, लेकिन अति गरीबी दूर होनी चाहिए। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... मैं दो मिनट में खत्म करता हूँ। बुनियादी समस्याएं और दो वक्त की सूखी रोटी हर व्यक्ति को मिलनी चाहिए। शायद इसी बात को देखकर महात्मा गांधी जी ने अंत्योदय की बात कही थी।

जो अंत में है, जो सबसे गरीब है, उसका विचार सबसे ज्यादा करिए, लेकिन आज सरकार की नीतियां अंत्योदय के आधार पर नहीं चल रही हैं। ये pro rich नीतियां हैं, जिससे गरीबी और बढ़ रही है और गरीबी बढ़ने के कारण देश में तनाव बढ़ रहा है, आतंकवाद बढ़ रहा है, नक्सलवाद बढ़ रहा है। यह जो नक्सल गलियारा है, यह गरीब गलियारा है। जहां-जहां गरीबी जितनी ज्यादा है, वहां-वहां नक्सलवाद उतना अधिक बढ़ रहा है। नक्सलवाद में दो प्रकार के लोग हैं - एक नेता हैं, जो उस मूवमेंट को चलाने वाले हैं, वे विचारधारा से प्रेरित हैं, लोकतंत्र में उनका भरोसा नहीं है, वे देश को तोड़ना चाहते हैं, बंदूक के सहारे काम करना चाहते हैं। नक्सलवाद का नेतृत्व करने वाले लोग अलग हैं, उनके साथ किसी किस्म की कोई दया नहीं होनी चाहिए। मैं सरकार को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि नक्सलवाद को मिटाने के लिए सरकार बहुत बड़ा प्रयत्न कर रही है, उसमें किसी प्रकार की ढिलाई नहीं आनी चाहिए। पूरा देश उसके लिए सरकार के साथ है। लेकिन एक बात का ध्यान रखिए, उनके पीछे जो गांव के गरीब लोग चल रहे हैं, वे सभी विचारधारा के कारण साथ नहीं हैं। उनको बरगलाया जा रहा है, उनको फुसलाया जा रहा है - गरीबी और बेरोजगारी के कारण - जो इस रिपोर्ट में कहा है। इसलिए जब तक सरकार उन कारणों को दूर करने की कोशिश नहीं करेगी, तब तक यह तनाव, यह नक्सल और आतंक की समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं होगा।

मैं जहां सरकार को बधाई दूंगा कि नक्सलवाद को समाप्त करने के लिए आप जो प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं, उसमें कोई ढील नहीं आनी चाहिए, लेकिन जो इस रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि नक्सलवाद की भूमि जो इस देश के अंदर तैयार हुई, उस गरीबी और अति गरीबी को दूर करने के लिए युद्धस्तर पर काम होना चाहिए। आज वह नहीं हो रहा है, बिल्कुल नहीं हो रहा है। अगर हो रहा होता तो एक साल के बाद आप कहते कि हम पांच करोड़ लोगों को गरीबी की रेखा से ऊपर ले आए, लेकिन आपको यह कहना पड़ा कि 4 करोड़ 40 लाख लोग और ज्यादा गरीब हो गए। नक्सलवाद को दूर करने की जिम्मेदारी इस सरकार की है। देश की गरीबी और विषमता एक बहुत बड़ा संकट है इसलिए मैं यही कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार युद्ध स्तर पर अति गरीबी को दूर करने के लिए कुछ नयी नीतियां बनाए और बेईमानी तथा भ्रष्टाचार को खत्म करने के लिए विदेशी धन वापस लाने का प्रयत्न करे। इस कन्वेंशन पर सिग्नेचर करे। स्विट्ज़रलैंड से पैसा वापस लाने का जो वायदा किया था - कुछ नहीं हुआ। इसमें भी केवल चलते हुए उसका जिक्र है।

महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सरकार आज यह कानून बनाए कि गैर कानूनी तरीके से विदेशी बैंकों में पैसा जमा कराना अपराध है - आज भी कानून है - उसमें यह करे कि अपराध है और उस अपराध के लिए 20 साल की सख्त सजा तय कर दे। अगर कोई ढिलाई देनी है तो उसमें 6 महीने का समय दे और कह दे कि 6 महीने के अंदर जो लोग स्वयं अपने धन की घोषणा कर देंगे, उनको रियायत दे दी जाएगी, उनका नाम गुप्त रखा जाएगा। सरकार के पास उनके नाम हैं, जिनके खाते विदेशों में हैं। उनके खिलाफ थोड़ी सी कार्यवाही शुरू कर दी जाए और 20 साल की सख्त कैद की घोषणा की जाए तो सरकार के दरवाजे पर उन सब बेईमान लोगों की लाइन लग जाएगी जिन्होंने देश का 60 लाख करोड़ रुपया लूटकर विदेशों में जमा कराया। हमने इतिहास पढ़ा है कि दुनिया के लुटेरे आए और हमें लूटा। इस बार तो हमें अपनों ने लूटा और उन



अपनों की कहीं आप रक्षा तो नहीं कर रहे, कहीं आप उनको बचा तो नहीं रहे? इस पर आज तक क्यों सिग्नेचर नहीं किए? जर्मन सरकार ने जो आपको नाम दिए हैं - एफिडेविट में आपने कहा है - उनके खिलाफ आप कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं कर रहे? ये बहुत बुनियादी समस्याएं हैं। कितने करोड़ किस काम पर लगाए - रूटीन के काम कोई भी सरकार करती - लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं जो बुनियादी सवाल था, जो संकल्प था, जिस संकल्प को आपने दोहराया था, उस दिशा में कोई काम नहीं हुआ है। गरीब त्रस्त है, गरीब निराश है, विषमता बढ़ रही है, भ्रष्टाचार कैंसर की तरह देश को खोखला कर रहा है।

भ्रष्टाचार चिंता का विषय है, सबसे चिंता का विषय यह है कि भ्रष्टाचार से सरकार ने समझौता कर लिया है। भ्रष्टाचार को खत्म करने के लिए सरकार गंभीर नहीं है, यह और भी चिंता का विषय है। अंत में, मैं देश के उन करोड़ों लोगों को ध्यान में रखकर एक बात कहना चाहता हूं, वे दुखी हैं, निराश हैं, परे शान हैं। इस देश के गरीब लोगों ने बहुत बर्दाश्त किया है और झोपड़ी में रहने वाला गरीब आदमी जब अपनी आंखों के सामने अपने भूखे बच्चों को देखता है और फिर देखता है कि कुछ लोग रातों-रात अमीर हो जाते हैं, उसके दिल पर क्या बीतती होगी? हम उससे क्या उम्मीद कर रहे हैं, वह कब तक इंतजार करेगा? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने मेरी बात बड़े ध्यान से सुनी और देश के उन गरीबों को ध्यान में रखकर, मैं अपनी बात हिन्दी के एक कवि की चार पंक्तियों से समाप्त कर रहा हूं। इन्हीं लोगों की इस अवस्था का जिक्र करते हुए हिन्दी के कवि नीरज ने कहा है:—

“तन की हवस मन को गुनहगार बना देती है,  
बाग के बाग को बीमार बना देती है,  
भूखे पेटों को देश-भक्ति सिखाने वालो,  
भूख इन्सान को गद्दार बना देती है।”

आप अधिक इंतजार मत करवाइये। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Rajniti Prasad, you take five minutes.

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I have seven minutes' time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Let me make it clear...*(Interruptions)*... I want to make it clear. Otherwise, I will have problem. Among the 'Others' category, there are 13 names, and I have to divide the time equally. So, you finish in five minutes.

**श्री राजनीति प्रसाद:** सर, मेरा सात मिनट बोलने का समय है, लेकिन मैं सात मिनट से पहले खत्म करूंगा।

सर, मैं आपको धन्यवाद दे रहा हूं। इस अभिभाषण में पैरा 74 है और पैरा 74 की सेकेंड लाइन से मैं शुरू करता हूं। यह जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी का कहना है कि भारत की सेवा का अर्थ है, उन करोड़ लोगों की सेवा, जो पीड़ित हैं। इसका अर्थ है गरीबी, अज्ञानता, रोग, अवसर की समानता को समाप्त करना। सर, मैं यहीं से शुरू कर रहा हूं। डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया, मधु लिमये, कर्पूरी ठाकुर वगैरह इस देश में राज का संचालन करते थे, तो हम लोग नारा लगाते थे कि इस देश में टाटा-बिरला की सरकार नहीं चलेगी। लेकिन अब टाटा-बिरला की सरकार का कोई मतलब नहीं है, अब टाटा-बिरला की सरकार गई। अब हम लोग...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You kindly address the Chair. They are trying to distract your attention...*(Interruptions)*... They are not supporting you. You kindly address the Chair.

**श्री राजनीति प्रसाद :** आप मुझे बोलने दीजिए। आपने भी हाथ जोड़ा था, मैं भी हाथ जोड़ रहा हूँ। मुझे आपका भाषण बहुत अच्छा लगा था। सर, पहले मैंने कहा था कि जब मैं बचपन में समाजवादी आंदोलन से जुड़ा था, तो मैंने समाजवादी नारा लगाया था कि इस देश में पूँजीपतियों का राज नहीं चलेगा। सर, मुझे दुर्भाग्य के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने 14 अगस्त, 1947 को जो भाषण दिया, उसी संदर्भ में, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज नये प्रयोग किए गए हैं। अब टाटा-बिरला की कोई बात नहीं है, अब यहां पर कॉरपोरेट बॉडी आ गई है। कॉरपोरेट बॉडी और वायदा बाजार इसलिए आया कि किसानों को कुछ राहत मिलेगी, जो पैदावार करने वाले हैं, उनको राहत मिलेगी, जो आदमी कच्चा माल पैदा करता है, उसको राहत मिलेगी। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनको राहत नहीं मिली, किसानों को राहत नहीं मिली, बल्कि वायदा बाजार और कॉरपोरेट बॉडी को कई हजार करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा हुआ है।

यह देश वायदा बाजार और कॉरपोरेट बाडी से चल रहा है, इसीलिए इस देश में महंगाई है। सर, मैं एक दूसरी बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमने यह कहा था कि आपने एक *नरेगा* नाम से योजना चलाई है और उसमें महात्मा गांधी का नाम जोड़ दिया है। हमने कहा कि *नरेगा* अकार्थ हो गया, *मरेगा*, तो हमने कहा कि *मरेगा* नहीं, इन लोगों ने कहा कि भई, बहुत झांझाट करते हैं, *मरेगा* नहीं है। सर, अगर महात्मा गांधी जी का नाम जोड़ दिया और आप शॉर्ट फार्म में *नरेगा* कह रहे हैं, तो हम उसको *मरेगा* क्यों नहीं कहें। हमने यह कहा था कि आप महात्मा गांधी का नाम बदनाम मत करिए, क्योंकि *नरेगा* पवित्र चीज है। आपने यह अच्छा काम किया है, लेकिन सर, किस राज्य में क्या है, हम इसके बारे में नहीं कहना चाहते हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सबसे ज्यादा भ्रष्टाचार, सबसे ज्यादा करप्शन अगर कहीं है, तो आपने जो *नरेगा* में 40 हजार करोड़ दिया है, उसमें है। इससे किसी को कोई रोजगार नहीं मिलता है, बल्कि रोजगार कार्ड मिलता है। इसमें सब बिचौलिया और दलाल लोग शामिल हैं। मैंने जो *नरेगा* के लिए *मरेगा* कहा था, वह सही है। इस *नरेगा* में पर्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार है, इसलिए इसके बारे में जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। सर, नुरुल हसन जी यहां पर शिक्षा के कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर थे और बड़े ही विद्वान आदमी थे, अभी नहीं हैं। वे पश्चिमी बंगाल में गवर्नर भी रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि पांच वर्ष तक बच्चे को अच्छी शिक्षा, अच्छा पोषण तथा अच्छा खाना नहीं दिया तो इसकी वजह से जो उसमें कमी आएगी, वह बाद के दिनों में ठीक नहीं हो सकती है। सर, आपने सर्वशिक्षा अभियान चलाया है। आप गांवों में जाकर देखिए, हो सकता है कि एक-दो राज्य में इस पर अच्छा काम हो रहा हो, मैं अंडमान निकोबार गया था, तो मैंने वहां पर देखा सर्वशिक्षा अभियान ठीक चल रहा है। अधिकतर जो राज्य हैं, आप उनमें जाकर देखें कि वहां पर स्कूल तो हैं, बिल्डिंग हैं और कहीं-कहीं पर तो बिल्डिंग भी नहीं है और बच्चों के लिए बैठने की जगह नहीं है। वहां पर बच्चों को मिड-डे-मील दिया जाता है। मैंने एक जगह पर वहां के मास्टर्स से कहा कि यह मिड-डे-मील आपको खाना पड़ेगा। हम लोग एक जगह चेकिंग पर गए थे और मास्टर्स से कहा कि आप लोग यह मिड-डे-मील खाइए। उन्होंने कहा कि हम यह नहीं खाएंगे, क्योंकि मिड-डे-मील से बच्चे बीमार पड़ रहे हैं। अभी शांता कुमार जी ने भी कहा है कि इसमें काफी भ्रष्टाचार है और गरीबों को मिलने वाले अनाज में भी भ्रष्टाचार है। हमें इस भ्रष्टाचार को रोकना पड़ेगा। मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि मिड-डे-मील...(समय की घंटी)... अभी

पांच मिनट तो हुए नहीं है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** आपके 6 मिनट हो गए हैं।

**श्री राजनीति प्रसाद:** सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें डिफ्रेंस आया है। मैं उसको पढ़कर सुना देना चाहता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)... आप ऐसा मत करिए। सर, मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं उन परिवारों के प्रति हार्दिक संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ जिन्होंने हाल के पुणे में आतंकवादी हमले में अपने प्रियजन खो दिए। सर, यह अकेले पुणे की घटना नहीं है। इससे पहले मुम्बई में आतंकवादी हमला हुआ है और शायद इसके बाद भी ऐसा हमला होने वाला है।...(व्यवधान)...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** ऐसा मत बोलिए।

**श्री राजनीति प्रसाद:** सर, अभी और जगहों पर भी होने वाला है, ऐसा मैं कहने वाला हूँ- यह सांसद भी तो गवाह है।...(समय की घंटी)... मैं आप से यह कहना चाहता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (बिहार):** सर, ये फेयरवेल लिस्ट में हैं, इनको बोलने दीजिए।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** नहीं, नहीं। यह आपका टाइम नहीं है और यह आपकी पार्टी का टाइम भी नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री राजनीति प्रसाद:** सर, मैं एक बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आंतरिक सुरक्षा के मामले के बारे में जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। यह गंभीर सवाल है अगर आप इस पर विचार नहीं करेंगे, तो ये घटनाएं और घटती रहेंगी। जो हमारा खुफिया तंत्र है, उसके बारे में भी विचार करना पड़ेगा। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि जब भी मैं खड़ा होता हूँ, तो सभी लोग पीछे ही पड़ जाते हैं। मुझे पता नहीं है कि क्यों पीछे पड़ते हैं, समझा मैं नहीं आता। सर, ठीक है, मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Shantaram Laxman Naik. Please note that you have 20 minutes. You just adjust your speech accordingly.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I stand here to support the Motion moved by you and seconded by Shri Santosh Bagrodiaji. On that account, I should get five minutes more. Sir, the Presidential Address is not a ritual, it is an event. I say it is an event because even during my college days, I used to see the next day's newspapers front pages were full of the Address of the President. Today, Sir, I see that the President of India's Address is put by several newspapers in inside pages. Only if there is some rape item or murder cases or film star marriages, film stars divorces are not there then only the Presidential Address gets front page. This is the scenario. I speak with all seriousness. Kindly use your good offices with media that our President of India's Address must be treated as an event and it should get its due respect in media too. Sir, अभी शांता कुमार जी ने ऐसा कहा कि इन पचास-साठ सालों में कुछ नहीं हुआ है। लाखों रुपए खर्च कर दिए, लोग गरीब रहे, कुछ नहीं हुआ, देश जैसा था, वैसे का वैसे रहा, उन्होंने इस तरह की पिक्चर दी है।

First of all, I would like to know as an Opposition Party what was your role and as a ruling party in various States that you are ruling what you are doing. In some States, there is practically State terrorism, it has been proved. आप लोगों से पूछिए, पीछे भागकर छुरी, चक्कू से मारने लगे। आपने उन लोगों को encourage किया, आपने इस तरह के राज चलाये हैं।

We must have, perhaps, failed in giving food to some people, shelter to some people. ...*(Interruptions)*... What did you do in those States where you are ruling? Please consider this.

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा):** दिल्ली में 84 के दंगे पहले हुए...(व्यवधान)...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** मिस्टर पाणि, आप बैठिए...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: It appears that you have no appreciation; the Opposition has no appreciation for the way we withstood our recession. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have no appreciation for the way we withstood recession. You do not give any cooperation

for running of the House. You appear to be jealous of the progress that the country has made under the leadership of the Congress Party. You are very, very jealous that is why you are playing a role of destructive opposition rather than playing the role of a constructive opposition.

SHRI BIRENDRA BAISHYA (Assam): This is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot blame everybody.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: You are in minority in Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your allies are not supporting you on the issue of price rise in the Lok Sabha.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please address the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pany, please. Do not get provoked by what he says. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, the President of their party ...*(Interruptions)*... I am submitting that the President of their party does not even know the Constitution of the country. He has come on deputation from RSS to their party. He is telling that for price rise the Congress President has to reply. This is what your President is saying. Please show him the Constitution of India, please tell him how we govern. Your President who has been recently appointed against your wishes ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay, elected. He is telling that

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Our president is not born, he is elected. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Shantaram, you focus on the Motion.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: I am focusing on the Presidential Address. We don't have to learn lessons from such people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You speak on the Presidential Address.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, we are a coalition Government and in this respect I think, we have to think of having some sort of constitutional amendment for running a coalition Government. I am saying in a broad aspect because coalition Governments are going to be there for some time at least. Therefore, there must be a provision in the Constitution, there must be an independent chapter because certain eventualities come and therefore, there is a need that the provisions in the Constitution should be there to regulate the functioning of a coalition Government.

Now, Sir, as a Parliament we are giving relief to everybody. But, there is a need today to restore our own powers. We say that Parliament is supreme. But, unfortunately, it is not supreme in my submission. Today, most of our powers have been taken away by the Supreme Court. Partly they have been taken away by the Election Commission and hardly have they got any power left for our functioning. The other day there was a decision of the Supreme Court.

There is a Central Act under Section 6 of Delhi Police Establishment Act which says that instead of CBI, State permission is required. It is very clearly written. There is no ambiguity. There is no scope for a different interpretation and Supreme Court says, 'we are a constitutional court and if we require we can order anybody to investigate. We can ask CBI to investigate in any case'. This is the sort of interpretation that they are doing. Tomorrow, as a Member of Parliament anyone of us can make a submission and as Supreme Court will say, it violates article 21 of the Constitution and therefore, we can haul you up and when an occasion arises you say 'okay, we have got privileges. Nobody can question us.' No, they will say, 'your privileges are not even codified. At least Section 6 is codified and they have interpreted differently. Privileges are not codified and therefore, each one of us can be hauled up under article 21 if this interpretation which Supreme Court is now coming forward is taken into consideration. Let us consider this aspect.

Secondly, Sir, we are doing a lot of development in various fields. Various State Governments are also doing, but, one problem arises in the course of development. The problem is, there is regional imbalance irrespective of political parties. Supposing there is a Minister with a particular portfolio. He will concentrate and give finances only to his constituency, whether he is in the ruling party or otherwise. Therefore, constitution should provide for balanced development compulsorily. Supposing 'X' amount is available, that amount is distributed properly in all regions. At present, there are no provisions in the Constitution and if a Minister wants, then, he can practically give 90 per cent in one constituency. There is no scope for others. So, therefore, this is a serious problem faced by many State Governments and perhaps in Central Government also. I won't name the Ministry but a question arises that we should look into this aspect so as to have a balanced growth.

Then, Sir, President of India has also spoken about natural calamities. Now, Sir, earthquakes takes place in various parts of the world. We are also not immune from that. In the first year, droughts are there and therefore, a machinery of disaster management is required to be tightened and we should have disaster management institution throughout the country. We have hardly got three or four institutions and they are also not functioning. If these institutions are there, the personnel will be trained properly to assess the damage, to assist people technically and in a professional manner. Therefore, this is required. Today, we are in an era of e-governance. If e-governance has to be successful then, websites of Governments — whether it is Central Government or State Governments — have to be perfect. In many States, websites are not updated. The gadgets of the Government are not put on-line. I doubt whether the Government of India's Gazette is available on-line immediately.

I think, it is not available most of the time. I am very proud to say that my State put on website immediately. Recently, a Gazette was published on Thursday and we have put it on website on the very same day evening. All notifications, orders and everything that the

Government passes will put on website immediately. So, every State Government should have these on-line.

Sir, the Right to Information has given the responsibility to departments to put all information on website. There is a clear-cut provision. Nobody respects the provision. Therefore, the RTI should be amended to haul up or to make the departmental head responsible if information pertaining to a particular department is not put on website. The RTI is a very good legislation. Somehow, the right to information is coming in our way. I am not saying our way. Sir, if I ask a question through the RTI, I get a better reply than I get, through you, from Parliament. Sir, three or four questions are clubbed and replies are not practically given, whereas under the RTI you get full answer. Whom you haul up here? You cannot question the Ministers. There is no punishment provided. But, punishment is provided under the RTI. Therefore, kindly look into this aspect also.

Sir, tourism is important not only for Goa but also for the country. We require a healthy tourism. The recent developments in Goa are worth mentioning here. Foreigners come to Goa and are mostly Russians. Sir, about 40,000-45,000 Russians come to Goa every year. They come on Tourist Visa and do business by violating the FEMA. They come, give money to some brokers, buy a food joint, sit on cash-counter and run business. If he is questioned, he will say, 'I am the Manager of this hotel.' The entire business is done by these people by violating the FEMA. Not only that, I am giving another example. There is a system of motorcycle taxi in Goa. Many hon. Members must have gone to Goa and found that poor people operating these motorcycle taxis or doing this business. One passenger sits as pillion rider and pays money for taking him to his desired destination to the motorcycle taxi driver. Now, Sir, Russians are driving motorcycle taxis in Goa! And, our poor local people are just watching helplessly. The local motorcycle owners prefer to give motorcycles to Russians as they, obviously, pay more. So, locals do not get motorcycles. And, in villages, they move in a scanty dress. And, on beaches, in remote areas, they move without any clothes. This is the scenario. In villages, they move with scanty dress. All school children pass by and see them. So, this is the situation there. They incite locals and pick up quarrels. Drugs is a regular business. There are certain mafia elements. I don't say that all of them are like that; there are some genuine cases also. Mafia and other elements do this drug business. Therefore, what I suggest is that the FEMA regulations have to be tightened. Those who do business unauthorisedly and violate the FEMA should be hauled up. The State Government has also the responsibility to perform in this.

Sir, in the President's Address, she said that we have zero tolerance as far as terrorism is concerned. But, at the same time, the machinery which will counter with terrorism has to be tightened. Our prosecution machinery in States is not updated. They don't have modern gadgets and modern amenities. In Goa, I had gone to the Prosecution Directorate and found that none of the Public Prosecutor has any computer. I offered laptops under the MPLADS to all

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the Assistant Prosecutors. But, this has to be done on a bigger scale so that they do not suffer in the matter of prosecution.

Then, Sir, as far as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is concerned, it is going on well. Possibly, there may be corruption, as you have stated. But the State Governments will take action. I would like to suggest one amendment in that. Today, it caters to the job-related needs of the lower strata of the society, that is, the labour class. But in many parts of the country, there are middle class people who cannot go to fields, who cannot do a labourer's job. They are also very poor people. In many such families there is nobody to earn. I would suggest if a boy or a girl from such families could get some sort of employment, under this scheme, which is clerical in nature, it would go a long way to help them. A very poor man to go to the fields and work as a labourer, but for these poor lower-middle-class people their prestige in the society comes in their way. So, an amendment should be brought forward in this respect.

Now, I come to micro financing. I very much appreciate that a lot of money has been given to finance the Self-Help Groups. The evolution of Self-Help Groups is a revolution in the country. But since more and more money would be coming in their hands, I have been saying, time and again, that Self-Help Groups have to be registered under the Societies Registration Act so that when finances go to them, they could be held responsible. If the Societies Registration Act is strict, then, a simple law can be enacted, but they must be registered.

So far as the National Highways are concerned, numbering of National Highways is going to be done. Their numbers have also been given on the department's website. In this regard, I would like to make a humble submission to the hon. Minister that two National Highways, out of these, should not be numbered — one, which is going from Srinagar to Kanyakumari, and the other one which is going from Porbandar to Silcher. These two National Highways should be named as the Mahatma Gandhi National Highway-1 and the Mahatma Gandhi National Highway-2 in order to unite the entire country from North to South and East to West. To symbolise this spirit, I would suggest that these two National Highways should be named after the name of Mahatma Gandhi and rest of them can be numbered.

Of late, another phenomenon has been noticed. We see on television that there are *sadhus* and *dhongi babas* throughout the country, who are indulged in rapes, murders and extortion. They extort money from the people befooling them that if they give them money in such and such *muhurat*, it will multiply four times, but if they would give money the next day, that would multiply only into double. In this manner, they loot people. (*Time-Bell*) Therefore, I would like to suggest that a country-wide survey should be conducted by the Government of India and should find out the *sadhus* who are involved in such acts. Such *sadhus* should be prosecuted in the strictest manner.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** आप दस मिनट में खत्म करेंगे?

**श्री वीर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश):** जी सर।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, try if you can.

**श्री वीर सिंह:** मान्यवर, आपने मुझे महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर बोलने का सुअवसर प्रदान किया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद अदा करता हूँ। मान्यवर, महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी का अभिभाषण दिशाहीन है, आम आदमी की उपेक्षा करने वाला है तथा आंकड़ों का पुलिन्दा है। महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने अपने अभिभाषण में आम आदमी को राहत देने की बात की है। वित्तीय वर्ष 2010-11 के दौरान विकास दर 8 प्रतिशत किए जाने की बात भी आंकड़ेबाजी के सिवाय कुछ नहीं है।

सच्चाई यह है कि UPA सरकार हर मोर्चे पर विफल रही है और आंकड़ों की जादूगरी के बल पर वह देश की जनता को गुमराह करने का काम कर रही है।

मान्यवर, महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने अपने अभिभाषण में देश से गरीबी दूर करने के लिए किसानों तथा आम आदमी के विकास की बात कही है। मान्यवर, देश को आजाद हुए 62 वर्ष हो चुके हैं, लेकिन इस देश में गरीब, गरीब होता चला गया, अमीर, अमीर होता चला गया। किसानों की बात कही गई है, इस देश में 70 प्रतिशत लोग खेती से जुड़े हैं, किन्तु केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से उन किसानों के प्रति कोई अच्छी पहल नहीं की गई है। आज देश में किसान सबसे ज्यादा त्रस्त है — समय पर उसको खाद नहीं मिलती, उसको उसकी फसल का वाजिब दाम नहीं मिलता है। जब खेत से अनाज कटता है तो उसकी फसल का दाम बहुत सस्ता होता है, लेकिन जब वह अनाज किसान के घर से चला जाता है तो उसका दाम दस गुना बढ़ जाता है और किसान हाथ मलता रह जाता है। उसको उसकी मेहनत का और उसने अपनी खेती में जो लागत लगाई होती है, वह लागत भी नहीं मिलती है। इसलिए, केन्द्र सरकार से मेरा निवेदन है कि उसे किसानों के बारे में सोचना चाहिए। कभी नारा दिया गया था - जय जवान जय किसान, सीमा पर जवान, खेत में किसान। किसान अन्नदाता होता है, सबको अनाज पैदा करके देता है और यदि किसान खुशहाल है तो पूरा देश खुशहाल है, क्योंकि देश की तरक्की किसान से जुड़ी है। यदि किसान के पास अच्छी फसल होगी, पैदावार अच्छी होगी, उसकी आमदनी अच्छी होगी तो उससे मजदूर भी सुखी होगा और व्यापारी भी खुशहाल होगा। क्यों होगा? क्योंकि, जब किसान के पास पैसा आएगा तो वह मकान बनाएगा, मकान बनाएगा तो सरिया खरीदकर, सीमेंट खरीदकर और मकान में लगने वाली सब वस्तुएं खरीदकर लाएगा। कहां से खरीदकर लाएगा? व्यापारी से खरीदकर लाएगा। शादी करेगा, अच्छी शादी करेगा, जेवर अच्छे बनाएगा। कहां से लाएगा? व्यापारी से लाएगा और इसलिए किसान यदि खुशहाल होगा तो देश खुशहाल होगा, किन्तु किसानों की तरफ नहीं देखा जाता।

आज किसान आत्महत्या कर रहा है। क्यों कर रहा है? मजबूर होकर कर रहा है। क्योंकि, किसानों को, जो मध्यम किसान हैं, सरकार ने उनको ऋण देने की कोई सही व्यवस्था नहीं की है। आज किसान, मध्यम किसान सेठसाहूकारों से ज्यादा ब्याज पर पैसा लेता है। जब पैसा नहीं बचता है, फसल सूख जाती है, सूखा पड़ जाता है तो विवश होकर आत्महत्या करता है। इन सबके रहते किसान आज महाराष्ट्र में आत्महत्या कर रहा है और दुख की बात यह है कि वहीं से हमारे देश के कृषि मंत्री, श्री शरद पवार जी हैं। वे पूरे देश के किसानों के बारे में क्या सोचेंगे, वे अपने महाराष्ट्र के किसानों के बारे में ही सोच लें। महाराष्ट्र में सबसे ज्यादा किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। वहां का किसान आत्महत्या करने पर विवश है। आज महाराष्ट्र में कोआपरेटिव की ऐसी व्यवस्था बनाई गई है कि वहां पर किसानों का गन्ना खेत में ही सूख जाता है। मैं महाराष्ट्र में घूम रहा था, मैंने अपने साथियों से पूछा कि यह गन्ना खेत में क्यों खड़ा रह गया है, मिल में क्यों नहीं गया है, तो वहां के लोगों ने मुझे बताया कि यहां पर कोआपरेटिव्स का कब्जा है और कोआपरेटिव्स शरद पवार जी के हाथ में है।



यहां पर पंचायत के चुनाव में जिसने मिल-मालिक के कहने पर सरपंच को चुनने के लिए वोट नहीं दिया, उस मिल-मालिक ने उस किसान का गन्ना नहीं खरीदा, इसलिए गन्ना सूख रहा है। खेतों में किसान का गन्ना सूख रहा है, जाकर देख लो, सर्वेक्षण कर लो, अभी भी गन्ना खेतों में सूख रहा होगा। ऐसी व्यवस्था है महाराष्ट्र के अंदर और आज महाराष्ट्र के 7-8 जिलों में पानी की भी समस्या है।

जो विदर्भ है या मराठवाड़ा है, जिधर पानी नहीं है, पानी गहराई में है, वहां पर पानी की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। इसके साथ-साथ जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश में बुंदेलखंड है, वहां पर भी जमीन के अंदर पानी बहुत कम है। उत्तर प्रदेश की मुख्य मंत्री, बहन मायावती जी ने केन्द्र सरकार को कई बार चिट्ठी लिखी कि किसानों के हित के लिए, वहां के गरीब लोगों के लिए, वहां के लोगों के लिए पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और इसके लिए उत्तर प्रदेश को 80 हजार करोड़ रुपए का पैकेज मिलना चाहिए। उन्होंने कई बार चिट्ठी लिखी, किन्तु केन्द्र सरकार ने आज तक उनकी बात नहीं सुनी। केन्द्र की सरकार, UPA की सरकार, जो कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व में चल रही है, वह एक ओर गरीबों की बात करती है और जब गरीबों की बात कही जाती है, तो उनकी अनदेखी की जाती है, यह सौतेला व्यवहार क्यों? उत्तर प्रदेश, देश का पांचवां हिस्सा है, सबसे बड़ा प्रदेश है, सबसे ज्यादा लोग वहां रहते हैं, 100 करोड़ की आबादी में से 20 करोड़ लोग अकेले उत्तर प्रदेश में रहते हैं। तो आबादी के हिसाब से केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से उत्तर प्रदेश को पैकेज क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है? यह सौतेला व्यवहार नहीं है, तो क्या है? इसलिए आपको किसानों की तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए, उनको जरूरी साधन मुहैया कराने चाहिए। यदि किसान खुशहाल होगा, तो देश खुशहाल होगा और गरीबी दूर होगी। जब गरीबी दूर होगी, तो उग्रवाद भी दूर होगा, नक्सलवाद भी दूर होगा और और लड़ने की भी क्षमता होगी।

**डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला:** गरीबी से उग्रवाद का क्या ताल्लुक है?

**श्री वीर सिंह:** गरीबी का ताल्लुक बेरोजगारी से है। जब बेरोजगारी दूर होगी, तो गरीबी भी दूर होगी और गरीबी दूर होगी, तो आदमी गलत काम करने के लिए विवश नहीं होगा, इसलिए इसका ताल्लुक है। जब देश में आम चुनाव हुआ था, जो कांग्रेस ने एक नारा दिया था — “कांग्रेस का हाथ, आम आदमी के साथ”, किन्तु इसका उलटा हुआ। जो नारा दिया था - “कांग्रेस का हाथ, आम आदमी के साथ,” अब वह नारा हो गया - “कांग्रेस का हाथ पूंजीपतियों के साथ”। कैसे? ...**(व्यवधान)**... कृपया आप लोग मेरी बात सुन लें, मैंने आप सबकी बात सुनी, मैं बीच में नहीं बोला, आप लोगों में सुनने की क्षमता होनी चाहिए, आप लोगों को सच्चाई कड़वी क्यों लग रही है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह नारा क्यों उलटा हुआ, यह मैं आपको बता रहा हूं। जब इन्होंने नारा दिया था, जब लोक सभा के आम चुनाव हुए थे, उस समय यह नारा दिया गया था, यह नारा देकर इन्होंने वोट लिए, ये सत्ता में आए। जब UPA की सरकार थी, तो डीज़ल के दाम तीन बार थोड़ा-थोड़ा करके कम किए। जैसे ही फिर सरकार बनी, तो बिना बजट का इंतजार किए, इसी UPA सरकार ने पहले सत्ता में आने पर जो डीज़ल और पेट्रोल का दाम तीन-चार बार में कम किया था, उसे एक ही झटके में तीन-चार बार से ज्यादा बढ़ा दिया है, क्यों बढ़ा दिया, पूंजीपतियों को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए बढ़ा दिया, क्योंकि जब डीज़ल की कीमतें बढ़ीं, तो भाड़ा बढ़ा, भाड़ा बढ़ा, तो महंगाई बढ़ी और इसकी मार सीधे गरीब पर पड़ी। एक तरफ UPA की सरकार किसानों के हित की बात करती है, गरीबों के हित की बात करती है और दूसरी तरफ गरीबों के हित पर कुठाराघात करती है। यही नहीं, पिछली बार जब भारत अमरीका के परमाणु करार को लेकर संसद में अविश्वास मत आया था, तो माननीय राहुल गांधी जी ने कलावती का नाम लिया था कि मैं महाराष्ट्र में गया था, यवतमाल गया था, यवतमाल में मैं कलावती के घर गया था और उन्होंने कहा कि “Kalawati is very poor.”

बोला, ताली क्यों नहीं बज रही है, ताली बजवाइए। कलावती का घर टूटा-फूटा है, कलावती के बच्चों के खाने के लिए रोटी नहीं है, कपड़ा नहीं है, कलावती के घर में करंट नहीं है।\* इस देश के अंदर एक

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

कलावती नहीं है, करोड़ों कलावती जैसी महिलाएं हैं, जिनके पास कपड़ा नहीं है ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं रिपीट कर रहा हूँ, जो बोला गया है ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं अपनी तरफ से नहीं बोल रहा हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, listen to me, Mr. Veer Singh. You cannot take the name of an hon. Member of the other House. That name may be removed from the proceedings.

**श्री वीर सिंह:** मान्यवर, इस देश में एक कलावती नहीं, ऐसी करोड़ों महिलाएं हैं, ऐसे करोड़ों लोग हैं, जिनके पास घर नहीं है, जिनको पहनने के लिए कपड़ा नहीं मिल रहा है, जिनके घर में करंट नहीं है। इस देश के अंदर करोड़ों लोगों की कलावती जैसी दयनीय हालत किसने की है? यह कांग्रेस ने की है। मैं सिद्धांत के आधार पर कह रहा हूँ। देश को आजाद हुए 62 साल हो गए। इन 62 साल के प्रजातंत्र काल में 50 साल शासन कांग्रेस का रहा है, तो यह देन किसकी है? अब यह नाटकबाजी कांग्रेस की नहीं चलेगी। क्या गरीब के घर में जाने से पूरे देश के गरीब को खाना मिल जाएगा? क्या गरीब के घर में जाने से पूरे देश के गरीब का घर पक्का हो जाएगा?...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, conclude. You have taken twelve minutes.

**श्री वीर सिंह:** मान्यवर, इसके साथ-साथ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्रीमती जयन्ती नटराजन** (तमिलनाडु): अब आप हाथी के बारे में कहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** हाथी पूरे देश में, तमाम मंदिरों पर और तमाम जगह खड़ा हुआ है ...**(व्यवधान)**... पार्लियामेंट के अंदर खड़ा हुआ है ...**(व्यवधान)**... हाथी सब जगह है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please, conclude. कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

**डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता** (उत्तर प्रदेश): आपको हाथी से क्या परेशानी है? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** अखिलेश जी, आप कृपया बैठिए।

**श्री वीर सिंह:** यह पावर का हाथी है ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप हाथी से क्यों घबरा रही हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

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

**श्रीमती जयन्ती नटराजन:** हाथी के बारे में स्पष्टीकरण ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude. (Interruptions) No, no. Do not disturb. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** महोदय, बीच में व्यवधान आया है, मेरा पांच-सात मिनट व्यवधान में निकल गया है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

**डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता:** सर, व्यवधान आया है, पांच-दस मिनट तो उसमें चला गया...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** मान्यवर, महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने अपने अभिभाषण में “राजीव गांधी ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण योजना” का भी जिक्र किया है। मैं पहले बोल चुका हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश देश का सबसे बड़ा प्रदेश है और सबसे अधिक आबादी वाला प्रदेश है। उत्तर प्रदेश में माननीय मुख्य मंत्री जी ने ultra mega powerhouse लगाने की बात कही, जिसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार को चिट्ठी लिखी **(समय की घंटी)** कि गरीब के घर में भी रोशनी जानी चाहिए, किन्तु अभी तक नहीं किया गया ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** ठीक है, हो गया; अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

**डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता:** सर, अभी पार्टी का समय बाकी है...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** महोदय, अभी 17 मिनट भी पूरे नहीं हुए हैं...(व्यवधान)... अभी हमारा समय बाकी है...(व्यवधान)...

**डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता:** सर, अभी हमारे पार्टी का समय बाकी है...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That is right. Since you have raised that point, let me explain. There is an understanding reached to reduce the time of every Party as the hon. Prime Minister would be replying at 4.30 P.M. Every Party's time, including the Congress Party's, has been reduced. I am only requesting you to keep that in mind and cooperate.

**श्री वीर सिंह:** महोदय, मैं दो मिनट में समाप्त करता हूँ। मान्यवर, सारे गरीब के लिए बुनियादी सुविधाएं एवं आवास मुहैया कराने के लिए समुचित व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है...(व्यवधान)... जब कि उत्तर प्रदेश में राज्य सरकार ने अपने संसाधनों से “मान्यवार कांसीराम शहरी गरीब योजना” तथा “सौजन्यहिताय शहरी गरीब मकान स्लम एरिया मालिकाना हक योजना” शुरू की है।

**उसी** प्रकार से इसके लिए भी अलग से व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। रही बात सर्व शिक्षा अभियान और मिड-डे मील की, तो शिक्षा के बारे में मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि देश के अंदर आज दोहरी शिक्षा प्रणाली है। गरीब का बच्चा प्राइमरी में पढ़ी पर बैठकर पढ़ रहा है, जबकि अमीर का बच्चा convent में पढ़ रहा है, तो बराबरी कहां है? सर, समान शिक्षा होनी चाहिए। सरकार की यह नीयत होनी चाहिए कि गरीबों के बच्चे अच्छी शिक्षा प्राप्त कर सकें। यदि आपकी नज़र गरीबों की तरफ है, तो गरीबों के बच्चों की शिक्षा अच्छी होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि रोटी, कपड़ा और मकान के बाद शिक्षा बहुत ज़रूरी है, इसलिए शिक्षा की तरफ भी आपका कदम उठाना चाहिए। आज जो technical colleges हैं, उनमें जो गरीबों के बच्चे पढ़ते हैं, उनको छात्रवृत्ति मिलनी चाहिए। आज पूरे देश के अंदर जो शिक्षण माफिया पैदा हो गए हैं, उन शिक्षण माफियाओं पर शिकंजा कसा जाना चाहिए। आज गरीबों का हित नहीं हो रहा है।...(समय की घंटी)... गरीबों के बच्चे पढ़ नहीं पा रहे हैं, उनके साथ भेदभाव हो रहा है, अन्याय हो रहा है, क्योंकि उनको शिक्षित नहीं कराया जा रहा है। अब रहा मिड-डे मील का मामला...(समय की घंटी)... सर, मैं दो मिनट और लूंगा।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** नहीं, नहीं.... प्लीज़....(व्यवधान)... Your time is going to exhaust, only one minute is left. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** सर, बी.पी.एल. राशन कार्ड के बारे में मैं थोड़ा प्रकाश डालना चाहूंगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please conclude. ...(Interruptions)... There is only one minute more. I will not allow more than that. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** मान्यवर, बी.पी.एल. राशन कार्ड बहुत पहले बने थे, जो पात्रता के आधार पर नहीं बने। तब केंद्र सरकार ने पुनः सर्वेक्षण कराकर पात्रता के आधार पर बी.पी.एल. कार्ड बनवाए। ये कार्ड कौन बनाता है? देश के हर ज़िले में जब बी.पी.एल. राशन कार्ड बनते हैं, तो सरकारी कर्मचारी कहां जाता है? वह सरपंच या प्रधान के घर जाता है और हर गांव में दो-तीन पार्टियां होती हैं। हर गांव में...(समय की घंटी)... सरपंच या प्रधान जिनके नाम बता देता है, उनके नाम बी.पी.एल. लिस्ट में आ जाते हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** उससे पांच व्यक्ति लिस्ट में आ जाते हैं...(समय की घंटी)... इसलिए हमारी मांग है कि केंद्र सरकार सर्वेक्षण कराकर...(समय की घंटी)...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Prof. Anil Kumar Sahani...(Interruptions)...

**श्री वीर सिंह:** इन व्यक्तियों के बी.पी.एल. कार्ड बनवाए, जिससे कि उनको फायदा मिल सके। मान्यवर, आपने मुझे पूरा समय ...(व्यवधान)...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** प्लीज़.... आप बैठिए....बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए।

**श्री वीर सिंह:** मान्यवर, हमारी पार्टी की जो मंशा थी ...(व्यवधान)... धन्यवाद।

**डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान):** सर, वीर सिंह जी बहुत अच्छा बोले, ज़ोर से बोले, वीरता से बोले, but he has used a word “आतंकवाद” कि आतंकवाद खत्म हो जाए, लेकिन आतंकवाद की अलग ही वजह है। अगर ये उसको उग्रवाद से replace कर दें तो अच्छा रहेगा।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन):** ठीक है। Now Prof. Sahani. Your time is 9 minutes. Please stick to that.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

**प्रो. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार):** उपसभापति महोदय, आदरणीय सभी सदस्यगण, संसदीय जीवन की यह मेरी सबसे पहली स्पीच है। महोदय, राष्ट्रपति महोदय द्वारा 22 फरवरी को संयुक्त अधिवेशन में दिए गए अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव के संबंध में बोलने के लिए मैं आज यहां खड़ा हुआ हूँ। साथियों, आज देश में जो दोहरी नीति की बात चल रही है, वह सरासर सही है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार के साथ भेदभाव किया जाता है। केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा जहां इनकी सरकार नहीं है, वहां हर समय भेदभाव किया जा रहा है, चाहे वह उत्तर प्रदेश हो, बिहार हो, झारखंड हो या पश्चिमी बंगाल हो, हर जगह इनका इस प्रकार का काम चल रहा है, जिस पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है।

महोदय, मैं कुछ ऐसे मुद्दे उठाना चाहूंगा, जिनकी राष्ट्रपति महोदय द्वारा अपने अभिभाषण में कोई चर्चा नहीं की गई है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में जो क्षेत्रवाद, जातिवाद, सम्प्रदायवाद, नस्लवाद चल रहा है, उनका राष्ट्रपति महोदय द्वारा कोई जिक्र नहीं किया गया है। महाराष्ट्र में हमारे बिहार के जो लोग जाते हैं, वे मज़दूरी करने जाते हैं, क्योंकि हमारे यहां उद्योग नहीं हैं। हमारे मज़दूर वहां काम करने जाते हैं। आज महाराष्ट्र में किस प्रकार से हमारे लोगों पर अत्याचार किया जा रहा है। वहां उत्तर पश्चिम के - उत्तर प्रदेश, झारखंड और बिहार के लोगों के साथ गुंडागर्दी की जाती है और उनको वहां से भगाया जाता है। वहां तो आपकी सरकार है, यू.पी.ए. की सरकार है।

इस यूपीए सरकार के अंतर्गत किस तरह से हमारे लोगों को जो वहां काम करने के लिए वहां जाते हैं, उन्हें परेशान किया जाता है। तो क्या यह क्षेत्रवाद और भाषावाद को बढ़ावा नहीं है? आपने किस प्रकार से कानून बनाया कि जो मराठी जानने वाले लोग हैं, उसी को महाराष्ट्र में कार चलाने की परमिशन दी जाएगी। उस कार चलाने वाले को, जो दूसरे प्रदेश का है, जो मराठी जानने वाला है, जो 15 वर्ष से वहां रहता है, उसी को ही कार चलाने की परमिशन दी जाएगी। महोदय, खासकर बिहार से, उत्तर प्रदेश से, झारखंड से, असम से लोग वहां कमाने के लिए जाते हैं क्योंकि इन राज्यों में रोजगार नहीं है। हम लोगों के यहां रोजगार की व्यवस्था नहीं है। इन सब जिलों में, उत्तर पश्चिम में किसी प्रकार के उद्योग नहीं हैं। वहां पर जो उद्योग नहीं चल रहे हैं, उन उद्योगों को चलाने के लिए भी राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण में आपने किसी प्रकार का कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया है। आज किसी भी राज्य में हजारों-सैकड़ों उद्योग खुले हुए हैं और किसी राज्य में एक-दो उद्योग भी नहीं हैं। इस उद्योग नीति में भी आपको समानता लाने पर विचार करना चाहिए ताकि आने वाले दिनों में समानता रहे। लोगों को अपने घरों में, अपने प्रदेश में रोजगार मिल सके और वे वहां पर काम कर सकें। महोदय, मछुआरों के संबंध में, फिशरमैन के संबंध में जो बात की गयी है, उनके संबंध में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि समुद्र के तट पर जो मछुआरे रहते हैं, उन मछुआरों को तो काम मिल जाता है, लेकिन हमारे बिहार में जब सुखाड़ आता है, जल सूख जाता है तो जो लोग मछली पर निर्भर हैं, जो जल श्रमिक हैं, जो जल में काम करने

वाले लोग हैं, उनकी परिस्थिति बहुत ही खराब हो जाती है। आज वे लोग भुखमरी के शिकार हो रहे हैं। जब आपदा आती है, हमारे बिहार में आपदा आती है, सुखाड़ आ जाता है तो वहां का जल सूख जाता है और जल के सूख जाने के कारण जो लोग पानी पर आश्रित हैं, जो पानी में काम करने वाले जल मजदूर हैं, वे बेरोजगार हो जाते हैं और उनको किसी प्रकार का रोजगार नहीं मिल पाता है। उस पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए। आपदाकाल में उसे सुरक्षा दी जानी चाहिए। यह सुरक्षा पेंशन के रूप में भी दी जा सकती है। उन गरीबों को और मछुआरों को राहत देनी चाहिए।

महोदय, यहां इस सदन पर आतंकवाद पर बहुत चर्चा हुई। आज नक्सलवाद पर, व्यवस्था परिवर्तन पर, सामंतवाद पर और सामंती विचारधारा पर भी बहुत सी बातें हुई। यह किसकी देन है? आज महंगाई के कारण ये सब चीजें पनप रही हैं। 1971 में इंदिरा गांधी ने नारा दिया था — “गरीबी हटाओ”... मगर आज कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोग, और कांग्रेस में जो लोग सत्ता में हैं, उन लोगों को इस पर विचार करना चाहिए कि किस प्रकार से जो लोग गरीबी हटाने की बात करते थे, जो “गरीबी हटाओ” का इंदिरा गांधी का नारा था, आज उसकी जगह यह हो रहा है कि गरीब को मरवाओ, भूखा मरवाओ। आज हमारे बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और झारखंड के लोगों ने दाल खाना छोड़ दिया है, चीनी खाना छोड़ दिया है। क्यों छोड़ दिया है? आपकी महंगाई की नीति के कारण छोड़ दिया है। आपने जो महंगाई बढ़ाई है, उस महंगाई के कारण गरीब मर रहा है। आज हमारे यहां जो माड़ होता है, जो उसका सूप होता है, जो उसका पानी होता है, उसको दाल में नमक और तेल मिलाया जाता है और फिर वह रोटी और चावल के साथ खायी जा रही है। इस तरह से यहां पर इतनी महंगाई है।

आज हमारे शान्ता कुमार जी बोल रहे थे कि 6 लाख करोड़ से 13 लाख करोड़ कमाने वाले एक सौ लोग इस देश में पड़े हुए हैं, उन पूंजीपतियों को पकड़ने का काम आपने क्यों नहीं किया। ऐसे पूंजीपति जो 6 लाख से 13 लाख करोड़ तक आपकी सरकार में चले गए, पिछले पांच साल से वे लोग कमा रहे हैं। दिन रात अमीर और अमीर होते जा रहे हैं और गरीब और गरीब होते जा रहे हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आपको इस बात पर विचार करना चाहिए कि आने वाले दिनों में देश आपको माफ नहीं करने वाला है। जो इस देश में हो रहा है, आप महंगाई बढ़ाकर जो गरीब को मारना चाहते हैं, गरीबों को जो सताना चाहते हैं, वह सारा देश देख रहा है। आपको इस बात को समझने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। इसमें किस प्रकार से परिवर्तन होगा, इस पर आपको विचार करना चाहिए। आने वाले समय में जनता आपसे इस पर हिसाब मांगेगी, इस पर भी आपको सोचना और समझना चाहिए। महोदय, सदन में महिला आरक्षण विधेयक पेश होने वाला है, राष्ट्रपति महोदय के द्वारा इस संबंध में बोला गया है। उस महिला आरक्षण विधेयक के संबंध में मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। अभी-अभी हमारे सदस्यों ने कहा कि इस देश में शिक्षा की दोहरी नीति है, इस देश में स्वास्थ्य की दोहरी नीति है।

इस देश में खानपान की दोहरी नीति है, इस देश में रहन-सहन की दोहरी नीति है। इस देश में कुछ लोगों को काम के आधार पर, जाति के आधार पर बांट दिया गया है। उनको जाति के आधार पर क्यों बांटा गया है? जाति के आधार पर कोई रिक्षा चलाने वाला है, कोई खेत में काम करने वाला है, कोई मछली मारने वाला है, कोई मोची का काम करने वाला है, कोई जूता साफ करने वाला है, कोई कपड़ा साफ करने वाला है, ऐसे लोगों को जाति के आधार पर, काम के आधार पर बांटा गया है। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जब तक जाति व्यवस्था रहेगी, तब तक आपको आरक्षण में आरक्षण करना पड़ेगा। आप महिला विधेयक लाने वाले हैं, इसमें भी दलित और अत्यंत पिछड़ा, महादलित है, इस पर भी आपको विचार करना होगा। हमारी एनडीए की सरकार बिहार में चल रही है, उसका एक फार्मूला है, नीतीश फार्मूला। आप 33 परसेंट आरक्षण की बात करते हो, मैं कहता हूं कि महिलाओं के लिए 50 परसेंट आरक्षण कीजिए। बिहार में जो एनडीए की सरकार चल रही है, नीतीश कुमार जी ने जो आरक्षण का फार्मूला लागू किया है, वहां पर 50 परसेंट आरक्षण दिया गया है, उसमें सारे वर्गों को, दलितों को, पिछड़ों को, अत्यंत पिछड़ों को, महादलित को आरक्षण दिया है। जो आरक्षण

का नीतीश फार्मूला है, जिसको पंचायत स्तर पर कांग्रेस पार्टी ने पूरे देश में चलाने का काम किया है और उसको मान लिया है। जो नीतीश जी का फार्मूला को मानकर आपने पूरे देश में किया है, उसी फार्मूले के अंतर्गत जब तक आप महिला आरक्षण बिल नहीं लायेंगे, तो एक क्रांति होगी। इस देश को क्रांति में जाने से कोई नहीं रोक सकता है। यह जो महंगाई की मार है, आतंकवाद की मार है, नक्सलवाद की मार है, गरीबों को ठगने का काम है, गरीब को मरवाने का काम है, महंगाई की आग में यदि आप आग में घी डालने का काम करेंगे, तो अच्छा नहीं होगा। आप को महिला आरक्षण में दलित और पिछड़ों के लिए आरक्षण की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। साथियों, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर इसमें कोई चुप बैठेगा, तो उसके लिए लोग यही कहेंगे:-

“समर शेष नहीं पाप का, भागी केवल व्याध है,  
जो तटस्थ है समय लिखेगा उसका भी अपराध।”

जो तटस्थ रहेगा, उसका भी अपराध लिखा जाएगा कि आने वाले दिनों में जो आरक्षण हो रहा है, उसमें दलित, महादलित, शोषित और उपेक्षितों की बात नहीं रखी गई, तो उस पर भी विचार किया जाएगा। मैं आप लोगों से कहना चाहता हूँ:-

“गंगा की कसम, जमुना की कसम,  
यह तानाबाँना बदलेगा,  
कुछ तुम बदलो, कुछ हम बदलें,  
तो सारा जमाना बदलेगा।”

जय हिन्द, जय भारत। मैं उपसभापति महोदय को हार्दिक धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि आपने समय से एक मिनट ज्यादा टाइम मुझे बोलने के लिए दिया। मैं तो अपनी बात नौ मिनट में ही खत्म करना चाहता था, मगर आपने जो ज्यादा समय दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री उपसभापति:** धन्यवाद।

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार):** सर, आप हमारे बिहार की आवाज देखते हैं, हर आवाज दब रही है।

**श्री उपसभापति:** देख रहे हैं। श्री खेकिहो झिमोमी, श्री अहमद सईद मलीहाबादी, श्री अवनि राय, श्री राजीव चन्द्रशेखर, श्री प्यारीमोहन महापात्र अनुपस्थित। श्री मंगल किसन।

**श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा):** उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपके पास बोलने के लिए सात मिनट का समय है।

**श्री मंगल किसन:** ठीक है। सर, हमारी पार्टी छोटी है और आप आखिरी में बोलने का मौका देते हैं।

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपकी पार्टी छोटी नहीं है, आपको भी ज्यादा समय मिलेगा। आप अदर्स में आते हैं, तो बड़ी पार्टी हैं।

**श्री मंगल किसन:** सर, राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने अपने अभिभाषण में सरकार का जो कार्यक्रम है, 74वें पैराग्राफ में सरकार की जो नीति है, सरकार की जो कार्यक्रम है, उसको सदन में रखा है। इसके साथ-साथ देश के अंदर जो समस्या है, उस समस्या को भी राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने सदन में रखा है। वह समस्या क्या है — internal security problem in the country; crossborder terrorism and naxalism in the country; the drought situation in the country; price-rise of essential commodities in the country, law and order problem in the country, and, increase in incursion of terrorists across the border in Jammu and Kashmir.

The steps to unearth the unaccounted money outside the country, the Government is having talks with the Switzerland Government to bring that back black money to the country. सर, विशेषकर यह जो नक्सली समस्या है, इसमें हिन्दुस्तान का 1/3 एरिया नक्सलिज्म के ऑपरेशन एरिया में

आ चुका है और सही ढंग से कहा जाए, तो एक तिहाई एरिया में करीब 160 से 170 जिलों में नक्सलिज्म और नक्सलियों का शासन चल रहा है। भारत सरकार का जो एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के एफेक्टिव एरिया में हैं, Police is completely inactive और दूसरी बात यह है कि यह नक्सलिज्म और टेररिज्म 15 साल से ज्यादा समय से चल रहा है। नक्सलिज्म को कंट्रोल करने के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के पास उतनी ताकत नहीं है, जो इसको अपनी ताकत से, अपनी शक्ति से, अपनी पावर से कंट्रोल कर सके। नक्सलिज्म को कंट्रोल करने के लिए भारत सरकार जो दुलमुल नीति अपना रही है, उसको क्लियर करना चाहिए। Whether the Naxalism is being controlled by the Government of India with the help of the State Governments, that should have complete thinking and decision of the Government. तब जाकर कुछ हो सकता है। कभी बोलते हैं कि हम फोर्स भेजते हैं, कभी बोलते हैं कि इसमें कुछ होने वाला नहीं है, इसीलिए इस डेमोक्रेसी को बचाने के लिए, देश के सिस्टम को बचाने के लिए, देश के समाज को बचाने के लिए सरकार को स्ट्रॉंग होना पड़ेगा और इसके खिलाफ स्ट्रॉंग एक्शन लेना पड़ेगा। हम सभी लोग बोलते हैं कि गरीब जनता का काम करने के लिए देश के पास, सरकार के पास धन नहीं है। इसके चलते 30 करोड़ से ज्यादा जो आम जनता गरीबी रेखा से नीचे है, उसके उत्थान के लिए आजादी के 63 साल बाद भी सरकार के पास कोई ऐसा कंप्रिहेंसिव प्रोग्राम नहीं है, जो पीछे वालों को आगे वालों के समान कर सके। Due to lack of funds सरकार लाचार है, मगर देश के अंदर जितनी भी ब्लैक मनी है, जितनी भी अन-एकाउंटेड मनी है, उसको निकालने के लिए 63 साल के अंदर ठोस कदम उठाकर आम जनता के काम में लाने के लिए, देश के काम में लाने के लिए, अभी तक सरकार नहीं सोच रही है। इसका मतलब यह है कि जो अन-एकाउंटेड मनी है, यह जहां पर है, सरकार को मालूम है, मगर इसको निकालकर देश के काम में लगाने के लिए सरकार की नीति और मन ठीक नहीं है। इसी हिसाब से एक रिपोर्ट आई है, Bank Association of Switzerland. वे रिपोर्ट में दे चुके हैं कि सबसे ज्यादा पैसा हिन्दुस्तान का स्विट्जरलैंड में है। यह सब अखबारों में आ चुका है। उस पैसे को, उस धन को देश के काम में लाने के लिए सरकार को स्ट्रॉंग होना पड़ेगा।

अपने मन को, अपनी नीति को ठीक करना पड़ेगा। खाली आम जनता को खुश करने के लिए, सिर्फ वे लोग जब बोलेंगे कि we will bring back the unaccounted money from abroad. ऐसा बोलने से कुछ काम चलने वाला नहीं है। सरकार की सही मंशा होनी चाहिए। सर, विशेषकर जो समाज की आखिरी लाइन में हैं, शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट एवं शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स, वह जो संप्रदाय है, वे लोग आज से नहीं, बल्कि आजादी के पहले से शोषण का शिकार होते आ रहे हैं। अभी भी आजादी के 63 साल बाद भी उनका इकॉनॉमिकली, एजुकेशनली, सोशलली कोई व्यापक चेंज नहीं हुआ है।...(समय की घंटी)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** समाप्त हो गया है। सात मिनट हो गए हैं, प्लीज कंक्लुड।

**श्री मंगल किसन:** सर, सरकार को इन गुप्स को, जो पिछड़े हैं, उनको साथ रखकर देश के समुन्नि विकास के लिए, उनके ऊपर ध्यान देना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

**श्री भगत सिंह कोश्यारी (उत्तराखंड):** आदरणीय उपसभापति जी, मैं जब पिछली बार राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ - जयंती जी यहां नहीं है, वे कुर्सी पर थीं, उनको थोड़ा एतराज था, इसका कारण एक ही था कि मैंने कहा कि मैं भी जानता हूं कि राष्ट्रपति का अभिभाषण सरकार का दस्तावेज होता है, लेकिन इसमें कहीं एक वाक्य तो ऐसा होना चाहिए, जिससे यह लगे कि यह राष्ट्रपति की ओर से देश को कोई संदेश जा रहा है। वह शायद हिंदी कम समझती हों, वे नहीं समझ पाईं, लेकिन मैंने बाद में इसको क्लियर किया था। आज मुझे थोड़ी सी खुशी होती है कि कम से कम आखिर के पेज में, हमारे दोनों वक्ताओं ने इसको पढ़ा है, हमारी नजमा जी और शांता कुमार जी ने 74वें पैरा के बारे में कहा, हमारा देश एक ऐतिहासिक मोड़ पर खड़ा है, मैं आगे पूरा नहीं पढ़ूंगा, लेकिन कहीं न कहीं थोड़ा सा लगता है कि शायद सोच में पिछली बार से परिवर्तन आया है, दृष्टि में कुछ परिवर्तन आया है। मैं पहले उसके आगे की पंक्तियों से कहूंगा, उसको

अंत में लूंगा, भारत के पं. नेहरु जी के 14 अगस्त, 1947 के कथन से उद्धृत करते हुए कहा गया है, “भारत की सेवा का अर्थ है, उन करोड़ों लोगों की सेवा, जो पीड़ित हैं।” इसका अर्थ है “गरीबी, अज्ञान और अवसर की असमानता को समाप्त करना।” हमारे पूरे सदन में सभी सदस्यों ने इस पर बोला है, मैं बहुत अधिक नहीं बोलूंगा, क्योंकि सदन में कल ही एक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की गई कि भारत में इस समय 30,17,00,000 लोग गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे हैं। मैंने अन्य संस्थाओं के सर्वे, आकलन पढ़े हैं, उनके हिसाब से दस मिलियन यानी पचास करोड़ लोग गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे हैं। हम बहुत बार कहते हैं कि हमने बहुत से लोगों को गरीबी की रेखा से ऊपर उठा दिया। अगर आप पूछें कि गरीबी की रेखा की परिभाषा क्या है, तो मैं नहीं सोचता कि आप बता पाएंगे या मैं बता पाऊंगा, लेकिन मैं एक अत्यंत ही गरीब के द्वारा, उसकी जो परिभाषा बताई गई है, वह इस सदन में बताना चाहता हूँ। आज से दो-तीन साल पहले मुझे एक अत्यंत ही गरीब मजदूर मिला। वह कहने लगा कोशियारी जी, आप सभी लोग गरीबी की रेखा से ऊपर उठाने की बात करते हो, क्या आप गरीबी की रेखा की परिभाषा दे सकते हो? मैंने कहा, मैं नहीं दे सकता। गरीब मैं भी था, पर अब मैं अच्छे कपड़े पहनने लग गया हूँ और अब पार्टी ने भी आगे बढ़ा दिया है, शायद मैं नहीं दे सकता, पर तू गरीब है, तू बता। वह कहने लगा कि देखिए, मेरे पड़ोस वाले ने मकान बनाने के लिए सरकार से दस-बारह हजार रुपए का कर्जा लिया था। वह सस्ते ब्याज पर था। वह कर्जा वह परिवार वाला दे नहीं पाया। एक दिन ऐसा आया कि निश्चित रूप से उसकी कुर्की हो गई, जब उसके जेल जाने की बात आई, तो वह हार्ट फेल से मर गया और वह गरीबी की रेखा से ऊपर, बहुत ही ऊपर चला गया। यह उस गरीब ने गरीबी की रेखा के बारे में कहा है। आज हम जिस गरीबी की रेखा की बात कर रहे हैं, वह गरीबी की रेखा वास्तव में क्या है? केवल इसलिए कि जिसको बीस रुपए मिल रहे हैं, अभी बता रहे थे कि रोज उससे ज्यादा मिलता नहीं है, वास्तव में आज देश के अंदर जो गरीबी की हालत है, मैं सोचता हूँ कि, हम सभी के लिए, मैं यह नहीं कहता कि केवल सरकार के लिए शोचनीय है।

नजमा जी कल बहुत अच्छी बात बोल रही थीं कि आखिर सरकार में जो हमारे लोग बैठे हैं, वे विपक्ष को बुलाते क्यों नहीं हैं, दूसरे लोगों को बुलाते क्यों नहीं हैं? सरकार चलाने का काम केवल सरकार का ठेका तो नहीं है। हम सब मिल कर उस गरीब के लिए, जिसने मुझे गरीबी की परिभाषा दी है, इस देश के गरीब आदमी ने इस प्रकार की परिभाषा दी है, क्या हम उसे दूर कर सकते हैं? क्या वास्तव में हम गरीबी दूर कर सकते हैं? मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आजादी के बाद देश के अन्दर prosperity नहीं बढ़ी है। मैं यह भी नहीं कहता कि देश के अन्दर विकास के काम नहीं हुए। मैं यह भी नहीं कहता कि हमारी सरकार कुछ भी नहीं कर रही है। लेकिन आज सवाल यह है कि क्या हम उस दिशा में वास्तव में एक प्रकार से नीचे जाकर सोच रहे हैं, क्या वास्तव में उनसे एकात्म होकर सोच रहे हैं? अभी हमारे एक भाई कह रहे थे कि हमारे कोई राजनेता कलावती के यहाँ एक दिन चले गए। जो कलावती के यहाँ चले गए, उनको तो सुनते हो, लेकिन जो कलावती के घर में पैदा होकर वीर सिंह जैसे यहाँ आए हैं, पले हैं, बढ़े हैं, जिन्होंने देखा है, उनको भी तो सुनो ना! उनकी ओर तो आप ध्यान ही नहीं देते हो। कोशिश यह करनी चाहिए कि वास्तव में इस देश के अन्दर जिन्होंने उसको नजदीक से भोगा है, देखा है, उनको भी सुना जाए कि इस देश को कौन सी दिशा देना चाहते हैं।

जब हम गरीबी पर विचार करते हैं, महंगाई पर विचार करते हैं, तो निश्चित रूप से इस देश के अन्दर जो विचार करने वाले हैं, मैं देखता हूँ कि यहाँ चाहे आपकी केन्द्र सरकार हो, चाहे हमारी प्रदेश सरकार हो, अगर आपको कोई जानकारी नहीं है, यदि आपने विस्तृत रूप से अध्ययन नहीं किया है, आप गहराई तक जनता के बीच गए नहीं हैं, तो निश्चित रूप से इस गरीबी की परिभाषा केवल वह करता है, जो इस हिन्दुस्तान की सबसे बड़ी परीक्षा पास करके आता है, जो इस हिन्दुस्तान को चलाता है। मुझे ध्यान है कि जिस समय 1977 में शान्ता कुमार जी हिमाचल प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री थे और भैरों सिंह शेखावत जी राजस्थान के मुख्य मंत्री थे, पहली बार इन्होंने अन्त्योदय की जो योजना चलाई, मैं आज भी जानता हूँ कि दुनिया के अखबारों ने उसकी प्रशंसा की थी कि अन्तिम छोर पर बैठे आदमी को उठाने के लिए काम किया गया है। मैंने इसकी कटिंग रखी है, अगर आप



कहें तो मैं इसे ला सकता हूँ। वास्तव में हमारा कोई साफ दृष्टिकोण तो हो। हम जो जीवन लिए हैं, क्या हम उसमें जाना चाहते हैं?

मेरे सामने माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी बैठे हैं। पिछले दिनों मैंने उनको नेपाल के बारे में कुछ बात कही, क्योंकि मैं उसके नजदीक रहता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि वे मुझसे बहुत विद्वान हैं, अच्छे हैं, लेकिन मैं चाहता था कि उनकी इसमें जिज्ञासा होती कि यह हमारे पड़ोस का देश है, तुम उसके नजदीक रहते हो। उनकी ओर से अगर हम लोगों को invitation आता, तो शायद उसका कोई अर्थ होता। आज ऐसा क्यों नहीं हो रहा है? मैं कोई आरोप नहीं लगा रहा हूँ, लेकिन मैं यह इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि हमारे अन्दर एक पीड़ा होती है, एक दर्द होता है, वह दर्द कम हो गया है। वह दर्द तब होता है, जब हम उसको जीते हैं, उसके साथ रहते हैं। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वास्तव में हमने पंडित नेहरू जी को याद करके आज जो कहा है और जो राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण में आया है, यह आगे के लिए एक प्रकार से हमारे लिए गाइडलाइन हो जानी चाहिए। आपने ऊपर जो आह्वान किया है, मैं उसे बाद में बोलूँगा। लेकिन अगर हम सब इसको नहीं करेंगे, तो कागज में उसे लिख लिया, कल उसे भूल गए, तो मैं नहीं सोचता कि इस देश से गरीबी हटेगी या हम इसकी समस्याओं का समाधान कर सकेंगे।

मान्यवर, अभी सुबह यहाँ कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे थे। मैं महंगाई पर ज्यादा नहीं बोलूँगा, क्योंकि सब लोग इस पर बोल चुके हैं। मैं केवल इतना निवेदन करता हूँ, लोग बहुत आँकड़े दे रहे थे, मैं आँकड़ों के मकड़जाल में नहीं पड़ना चाहता, मैं एक ही चीज कहता हूँ कि इस देश के अन्दर 50 रुपए में आप जितना चाहें, उतनी चीनी मिल सकती है, लेकिन ऐसा क्या कारण है कि यह 25 रुपए में नहीं मिलती है। मुझे ध्यान है कि जब 1977 में जनता पार्टी का शासन आया था, तब 9 रुपए या 10 रुपए किलो चीनी थी, वह घट कर 2 रुपए किलो हो गई थी। दुर्भाग्य से वह सरकार गिर गई, लेकिन जब तक वह सरकार रही, वही 2 रुपए किलो चीनी बिकती थी। पिछले एनडीए शासन में भी ऐसा ही था। कहीं-न-कहीं हमें सोचना चाहिए कि चीजें हैं, उस समय शरद जी कह रहे थे कि अन्न का भण्डार है, सब कुछ है, जब अन्न का भण्डार है, तो भई, तुम कैसे भण्डारी हो कि जैसे कल उत्तर प्रदेश में यह दुर्भाग्य रहा कि एक साधु लोगों को भण्डारे में 20 रुपए दे रहा था, उस 20 रुपए के लिए 65 लोगों की जान चली गई और आपका भण्डार भरा है।

लेकिन आज स्थिति यह है कि लोग यहां भूखे मर रहे हैं और 20 रुपये के पीछे अपनी जान दे रहे हैं। आखिर यह क्या स्थिति है? यहां पर सवाल आपका या मेरा नहीं है, सवाल बीजेपी या कांग्रेस का नहीं है। यह बड़ा ही वाइटल क्वेश्चन है। मैं सोचता हूँ कि हम सब लोगों को कहीं न कहीं इस पर विचार करना चाहिए कि मात्र 20 रुपये, एक लोटा और एक गिलास लेने के लिए 70-80 लोगों की जान चली जाती है और दूसरी तरफ हमारे मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि भंडार भरे हुए हैं। अब चूंकि शरद जी के तो सभी भंडार भरे ही हुए हैं, इसलिए वे तो बोलेंगे ही बोलेंगे। हमारे यहां पर कहते हैं कि जिसको दोनों आखें नहीं होती है, उसको सावन में सब हरा-हरा ही दिखता है, इसलिए लगता है कि उनको सब जगह हरा ही हरा दिख रहा होगा और भंडार ही भंडार दिख रहे होंगे। हमें इस विषय पर सोचना चाहिए। आप इस विषय के संबंध में उनके स्तर पर जाकर सोचें, जिससे आप गरीबी दूर कर सकें, इस महंगाई को दूर कर सकें, लेकिन उसके लिए आपको पहले उस स्तर पर जाना होगा।

मान्यवर, अभी हमारे शान्ता कुमार जी भ्रष्टाचार पर काफी बोले हैं, मैं इतना ही कहूँगा कि यह कैसा दुर्भाग्य है कि जीप कांड से लेकर मुद्रा कांड एवं कोडा कांड जैसे न जाने कितने ही कांड हो चुके हैं और न जाने कितने ही राजनेताओं से जुड़े हुए कितने ही कांड सुने जा चुके हैं। यह हमारा दुर्भाग्य है कि इस देश के अन्दर आज भ्रष्टाचार की बीमारी इतनी बुरी तरह फैल रही है कि इस देश के हाईकोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस पर भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप लग रहा है और देश के लैप्टिनेट जनरल पर भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप लग रहा है। आज ही मैं अखबार में पढ़ रहा था कि मिलिट्री के एक सैनिक अधिकारी को भी भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में जेल हो गई, और तो

और पोस्ट मास्टर जनरल को भी भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में जेल हो रही है। इस तरह आज यह एक बीमारी बन चुका है। इसके बारे में हमें अवश्य ही कुछ सोचना होगा, लेकिन यह काम केवल भाषण से नहीं होगा। यह काम न तो मेरे भाषण से होगा और न ही आपके भाषण से होगा। कहीं न कहीं कुछ मूलभूत चीजें और बीमारियां हैं, जो देश को बुरी तरह नष्ट कर रही हैं।

हमारे वीर सिंह जी के यहां अगर हाथी कम हो जाएंगे तो उससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ेगा, लेकिन फर्क इससे पड़ेगा कि कहीं न कहीं हम इस समस्या का निदान करें और असली बीमारी को डायग्नोज करें। हम बीमारी को तो डायग्नोज कर नहीं पा रहे हैं, तो उसका इलाज कहां से कर पाएंगे? इसका इलाज हम बस ऊपर ही ऊपर से करने जा रहे हैं। आजादी के समय हमारी जितनी आबादी भी नहीं थी, उतने तो आज हमारे यहां पर गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले, बीपीएल कैटेगरी वाले लोग हैं। आखिर यह स्थिति क्यों है? इस पर कभी हम सभी को बैठ करके अवश्य सोचना चाहिए। मुझे याद है, कुछ दिन पहले यहां पर जयराम जी थे, उन्होंने मुझसे कहा कि तुम वहां के विषय में जानते हो, इसलिए मैं तुमसे बात करना चाहता हूं। मुझे अच्छा लगा। अखिर हम पहाड़ के हैं, पेड़ों के नज़दीक रहते हैं, नदियों के नज़दीक रहते हैं, इसलिए हो सकता है कि उनको लगा हो कि इनसे बात करनी चाहिए। हम लोगों को एक-दूसरे से बात क्यों नहीं करनी चाहिए? क्यों न हम इस ढंग से काम करें, जिससे हम इस भ्रष्टाचार को यदि पूरी तरह से भले ही खत्म न कर सकें, ज़ीरो पर न ला सकें, लेकिन कम से कम इसमें कुछ कमी तो ला सकें। इसलिए आज मैं आपसे निवेदन कर रहा हूं, आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि हम सब लोगों को कहीं न कहीं इन चीजों पर दृढ़ता से निश्चय करने होंगे।

मान्यवर, अभिभाषण में आपने अपनी सरकार की ओर से बहुत सारी चीजें बोली हैं, यह रूटीन भी है, लेकिन मैं उन सब पर नहीं जाऊंगा। मैं आपसे एक निवेदन अवश्य करता हूं, आपने कहा है कि हम मिशन बनाएंगे। आपने राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन बनाया, राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा मिशन बनाया, यहां लोग मरते जा रहे हैं और आप खाद्य सुरक्षा मिशन बनाने की बात कर रहे हैं। आपने राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा मिशन बनाया, ऊर्जा पर तो आठ-आठ मिशन बनाए गए, सौर ऊर्जा के लिए भी जाने क्या-क्या हुआ। इतने मिशन बने हैं। बहुत अच्छी बात है, आप मिशन बनाइए, अच्छा लक्ष्य रखिए, लेकिन कितने भी मिशन आप बनाते जाओ, केवल मिशन बनाने से काम होने वाला नहीं है। मिशन के साथ-साथ you must have got missionaries.

महोदय, जब तक काम करने वाले मिशनरीज़ नहीं होंगे, सेवाभावी लोग नहीं होंगे, तब तक कैसे काम चलेगा? हमारे यहां पर क्रिश्चियन लोगों के लिए कहते हैं कि मिशनरी आ गए। कितनी सेवा भाव से काम करके उन्होंने यहां पर कन्वर्जन किया है। यह काम उन्होंने सेवा से किया है, जबरदस्ती तलवार से नहीं किया है। आखिर सेवा भाव वाले को ही मिशनरी कहते हैं, लेकिन हममें वह मिशनरी भाव कहां है? वह सेवा भाव कहां है? जब माननीय अटल जी प्रधान मंत्री थे, तब पहली बार उन्होंने कहा था कि हम हर गांव को सड़क से जोड़ेंगे और उस समय बनाई गई प्रधान मंत्री ग्रामीण सड़क योजना आज भी है। मैं आपकी सरकार को बधाई देता हूं कि आपने उस योजना को जारी रखा है। वे चाहते थे कि 2012 तक हर गांव को कच्ची सड़क से नहीं, पक्की सड़क से जोड़ें। मैंने 1971-72-73 की सड़कें देखीं हैं, वे आज कहां हैं, लेकिन आज तब की बनाई सड़कें बनी बाद में हैं और टूट पहले गई हैं। उन्होंने कहा था कि हम सड़क बनाएंगे, पक्की सड़क बनाएंगे। यह आश्वासन कौन दे सकता है? यह आश्वासन वही दे सकता है जिसने भारत के हर गांव को देखा हो। राहुल बजाज जी चले गए, यह आश्वासन वही दे सकता है जिसने भारत के गांव के छोटे से छोटे गरीब से लेकर राहुल बजाज जैसे लोगों तक, यानी नीचे से लेकर ऊपर तक सब कुछ देखा हो। ऐसा व्यक्ति ही तो अच्छी-अच्छी योजनाएं लाएगा।

नीचे से लेकर ऊपर तक, वही तो अच्छी योजनाएं लाएगा। मेरा जो विधान सभा क्षेत्र रहा है, वहाँ मैंने उस योजना के अंदर कम से कम 50 किलो मीटर सड़क एक ही साल में बनवायी है, क्योंकि उसके लिए पैसा था, उसके लिए व्यवस्था थी। यह योजना क्यों नहीं पूरी हो रही है? वह कोई अटल जी की या एन.डी.ए. की

योजना नहीं है, वह आपने भी चला रखी है। हम 2012 तक हर घर को बिजली देंगे, हर घर में एक बल्ब लगाएँगे, वह क्यों पूरा नहीं हो रहा है? मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि हम सब लोग कहीं न कहीं उस ओर इतने गम्भीर नहीं हैं। हमको ऐसा लगता है कि अगर काम चल रहा है तो क्या करना है, काम तो चल ही जाएगा। काम चलाने के हम नये-नये रास्ते ढूँढ़ लेते हैं। हम सोचते हैं कि अगर हम “गरीबी हटाओ” का नारा लगाएँगे तो यह हो जाएगा। अगर हम “आम आदमी के साथ, कांग्रेस का हाथ” बोल देंगे तो काम चल जाएगा। यह थोड़े दिनों तक तो चलेगा, लेकिन ऐसा कितने दिनों तक चलेगा?

उपसभापति जी, यहाँ परसों कुरियन साहब का भाषण हो रहा था। अपने कक्ष में बैठ कर मैंने पूरा एक घंटा उनका भाषण सुना। उन्होंने अपने भाषण में एक बहुत अच्छी बात कही कि यह जो हिन्दू है, इसको मैं केवल religion नहीं मानता, बल्कि इसको मैं एक culture मानता हूँ। ये रवि शंकर प्रसाद सुप्रीम कोर्ट के वकील हैं, इन्होंने इसे way of life कहा है और उन्होंने इसको culture कहा है। मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है, लेकिन उन्होंने जो बात कही, वह मैं आपको बता रहा हूँ। कुरियन साहब ने बहुत ही सुन्दर बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि आज से सैकड़ों साल पहले, जब भारत में ईसाई आये तो उस समय उनके गांव के बगल में कुछ ईसाई किसी अपने के मृत शव को लेकर अंतिम संस्कार के लिए कहीं दूर कब्रिस्तान ले जा रहे थे, क्योंकि वहाँ कब्रिस्तान की जगह नहीं थी। उसे वहाँ के राजा ने देखा। उस राजा ने पूछा कि इसे कहाँ ले जा रहे हो तो उसने कहा कि हम इसे यहाँ से 20 मील दूर ले जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि यहाँ इसे दफनाने के लिए हमें जगह नहीं मिली है। इसी सदन में कुरियन साहब ने यह बयान दिया है। उस राजा ने कहा कि अरे, इसे कहाँ ले जा रहे हो? यह जो गांव है, इसी के बगल में मैं तुम्हें जमीन दे देता हूँ। वहाँ मन्दिर के बगल में उसे जमीन दे दी गयी। वहाँ आज भी यह सब चल रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि इसी प्रकार जब Jews आये तो हिन्दू राजा ने उन्हें जगह दी और जब मुस्लिम आये, इस्लाम आया तो उन्हें भी हिन्दू राजा ने वहाँ जगह दी। यह कुरियन साहब का बयान है। यह मेरा बयान नहीं है। यह इसी सदन में दिया गया है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि Christianity यूरोप से पहले हिन्दुस्तान में आयी। उनको भी हिन्दू राजा ने जगह दी - रिबैलो जी, आपको खुश होना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें हिन्दू राजा ने जगह दी।

माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपसे और इस पूरे सदन से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कुरियन साहब ने बहुत अच्छी बात कही। मैं उनकी बात से अपनी पूरी सहमति व्यक्त करता हूँ, लेकिन क्या यह one-way traffic नहीं है? एक पंथ के मानने वाले ने तो सब लोगों को आने की इजाजत दी और दूसरे पंथ के मानने वाले केवल एक मन्दिर के लिए जगह नहीं देंगे, तो इस देश के अंदर कौन-सा भाव पैदा होगा, यह आप लोग सोच लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप सभी सम्मानित सदस्य हैं, सभी देशभक्त और राष्ट्रभक्त हैं। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि एक तो सभी के लिए जगह दे रहा है और आप क्या एक मन्दिर के लिए भी जगह नहीं दे सकते, एक मन्दिर के लिए अपने को उदार नहीं बना सकते? तो ये उदारता, ये one-way traffic may go wrong. आप लोग यह बात ध्यान में रखिएगा। इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि इस पर आप अवश्य सोचेंगे और इस पर आपका ध्यान जाएगा।

दूसरा, मेरा आपसे यह भी निवेदन है कि कम से कम कुरियन साहब जिस भाव से बोल रहे थे, मैं चाहूँगा कि हमारे संविधान के जो निर्माता थे, उनका जो लक्ष्य था और उन्होंने जो इसकी प्रस्तावना में लिखा, अगर हम उससे हट कर इस देश के अंदर धर्म के नाम पर आरक्षण देने के पक्ष में हैं तो निश्चित रूप से यह सही नहीं है। मैं किसी वर्ग का द्रोही नहीं हूँ, मेरी दृष्टि में सब में परमात्मा है। अगर कोई भी गरीब है, अगर कोई भी अशिक्षित है, चाहे वह किसी भी वर्ग का हो या वह किसी भी पंथ का हो, उसका उत्थान होना चाहिए, उसको सहायता मिलनी चाहिए। अगर आप केवल और केवल वोट पर नजर रख कर, केवल और केवल कुर्सी पर नजर रख कर - आपने यहाँ नेहरू जी का उदाहरण दिया, हम बार-बार डा0 भीमराव अम्बेडकर जी का नाम लेते हैं - अगर आप नेहरू और डा0 भीमराव अम्बेडकर का नाम लें, लेकिन जिस आत्मा के साथ, जिस ध्येय के साथ

4.00 P.M.

उन्होंने संविधान को बनाया और जो बातें उन्होंने संविधान सभा में कही थीं, उनके विरुद्ध अगर आपने निर्णय लिया तो आप यह निश्चित रूप से मानिए कि उनकी आत्मा जहाँ होगी, वह आपको कभी माफ नहीं करेगी, मैं यह गारंटी के साथ कह सकता हूँ। इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि इन सब मामलों में आप जरा वोट से ऊपर उठ कर देखिए। इस देश को जोड़िए। इस देश को एक बनाइए। आप केवल वोट को मत देखिए। अब बहुत हो गया।...(व्यवधान)...

**मान्यवर,** मेरा आपसे एक और निवेदन है कि यह हमारा कितना बड़ा दुर्भाग्य है, अभी कुछ लोगों ने इस पर बोला भी है कि हमने इस संसद के अंदर एक प्रतिज्ञा की थी, संकल्प लिया था कि हम इस देश की एक-एक इंच भूमि को विदेशी आक्रमणकर्ताओं से, चाहे उत्तर की ओर से चीन हो या पश्चिम की ओर से पाकिस्तान हो, मुक्त कराएंगे, लेकिन कहां है वह प्रतिज्ञा? आप क्यों उस संकल्प को याद नहीं करते हो? हमने कहा, सारे मीडिया में आ गया, सब जगह आ गया। हमारे पास रिपोर्ट बोलती है, वहां के अधिकारी भी अनऑफिशली बोलते हैं, हां-हां उधर से लोग आए और सारा पत्थर लगाकर उन पर लाल निशान लगा गए, लेकिन हम क्या कहते हैं? हम कहते हैं कि नहीं-नहीं, ऐसा कुछ नहीं हुआ, हमारे विदेशी मंत्री, रक्षा मंत्री और न जाने किन-किन के बयान आते हैं। आप सावधान रहिए, ऐसे बयान हमने 1950 से 1960 के बीच में, जब हिन्दुस्तान पर आक्रमण हुआ था, तब सुने थे। तब हमारे देश के स्वनामधन्य प्रधान मंत्री कहते थे कि *There does not grow a blade of grass*. वहां पर घास का एक तिनका भी नहीं उगता है और आज आप ऐसा ही बयान दे रहे हैं। आप तैयार रहिए। जो 1962 की स्थिति थी, भगवान करे वह न आए, परन्तु यह सुनिश्चित है कि आखिर चीन आपकी सीमा पर लाखों की सेना इसलिए खड़ी नहीं कर रहा कि उसने फिर से आपसे भाई-भाई के नारे लगाने हैं, आपके हाथ से अपना हाथ मिलाना है, बल्कि वह इसलिए कर रहा है कि उसका लक्ष्य इस दुनिया के अंदर अपना राज स्थापित करना है, शासन स्थापित करना है और वह भारत को एक *stepping stone* के रूप में बनाना चाहता है, इस पर हम सबको अच्छी तरह से ध्यान रखना चाहिए। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि आज इस सदन के माध्यम से निश्चित रूप से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, रक्षा मंत्री जी और विदेश मंत्री जी को इस पर अवश्य ध्यान देना चाहिए कि आखिर चीन इतना आगे बढ़ गया और हमारे यहां क्या हो रहा है।

उपसभापति जी, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि मेरा जिला पिथौरागढ़ भी पड़ता है, जो नेपाल से लगा है। आप ताज्जुब करेंगे कि हमारे यहां बार्डर रोड जो सेना के अंदर है, मैंने उस दिन रक्षा मंत्री जी को बताया भी था, यानी चाइना की सीमा की तरफ से सड़क आ गई, वहां से नीचे सड़क बना रहे हैं। शान्ता कुमार जी को अभी पता हैं या नहीं हमारे यहां हेलिकॉप्टर से जे.सी.बी. उतार कर ऊपर से नीचे की ओर सड़क बनाई जा रही है नीचे 50 किलोमीटर सड़क बननी है, पर चीन की सीमा से नीचे की ओर सड़क बनाई जा रही हैं यानि उल्टे बांस बरेली। ताकि चाइना वालो जब तुमको जरूरत हो सीधे आ जाओ, मानो हमारा हाथ इसी वजह से तुम्हारे हाथ में आने के लिए तैयार है। इसीलिए क्या सड़क वहां ऊपर से नीचे बन रही है? मैंने बोला कि ऐसे लगता है कि नक्काशखाने में तूते की आवाज। एक मैम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट बोल रहा है, लेकिन ध्यान ही नहीं दिया जा रहा है, जो पूर्व मुख्य मंत्री रहा हो, लेकिन उसकी बात पर कोई कार्रवाई ही नहीं होती है! इसका सीधा अर्थ है कि हम निश्चित रूप से गंभीर नहीं हैं। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि यह शत्रुमुर्गी चाल बंद करनी चाहिए। शत्रुमुर्ग की तरह से अगर सिर नीचे बालू में छिपाओगे तो फिर वही हाल होगा जो 1962 में हुआ। आपका जो होगा सो होगा, लेकिन सारे देश का क्या होगा। इसलिए मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि जो प्रस्ताव संसद ने पास किया है कि हम एक-एक इंच भूमि वापिस लेंगे, मैं सोचता हूँ कि हम हर साल जो राष्ट्रपति जी का अभिभाषण पढ़ते हैं, मैं तो कहता हूँ कि हर साल सदन शुरू होते ही पहले दिन आप उस संकल्प को पढ़िए, जो संकल्प इस सदन ने किया था, ताकि हमको याद रहे कि हमारा लक्ष्य क्या है। अभी मैं अखबार में पढ़ रहा

था कि चीन का रक्षा बजट हमसे दुगुना हो गया है। वह हमसे दुगुना रक्षा बजट रख रहा है, पहले ही वह इतना आगे बढ़ गया है, लेकिन हम क्या कर रहे हैं उस बारे में, हमारी उस बारे में क्या पॉलिसी है? क्या शार्ट टर्म पॉलिसी है, क्या लॉग टर्म पॉलिसी है?

मैं आपसे एक बात और निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश के चारों ओर की स्थितियाँ, चाहे वह नेपाल हो, बंगला देश हो या दूसरे देश हों और यहाँ तक कि पाकिस्तान, मैं पिछली बार UNO में गया था, वहाँ हमारे साथी ने, वहाँ के permanent representative से अंग्रेजी में परिचय कराया। मैंने कहा आप थोड़ा हिन्दी तो समझते हो न? ऐसा नहीं है, कपिल जी, I also know a little bit of English. When you speak in English I can also understand it. मैंने कहा कि साहब आप तो हिन्दी जानते होंगे। उसने कहा कि क्यों नहीं, आप तो पढ़ोसी हो, आओ, गले मिलो।

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** उपसभापति जी, कोश्यारी जी अंग्रेजी के शिक्षक रहे हैं, वे बोल नहीं रहे हैं। यह उनकी humility है।

**श्री भगत सिंह कोश्यारी :** वे मेरे गले मिल गए और मेरे साथ throughout हिन्दी में बोले, उनकी उर्दू मिश्रित हिन्दी भाषा इतनी सरल थी कि मुझे लगा कि वे मेरे ही देश के हैं। सवाल यह है कि आखिर हम सब एक थे। आज हम इस स्थिति में हैं कि वे हमारी ओर देख रहे हैं, लेकिन हमारी दिक्कत यह है कि हम अपनी ही चिंता नहीं कर रहे हैं, हम अपने को ही संभाल नहीं पा रहे हैं, तो उनको क्या संभालेंगे? मैं सोचता हूँ कि इस पर तत्काल बड़ी गंभीरता से विचार होना चाहिए।

उपसभापति जी, मैं आपसे एक और निवेदन उत्तराखंड के बारे में करना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि मैं उत्तराखंड से आता हूँ और उत्तराखंड के बारे में यदि मैं नहीं बोलूंगा, तो अच्छा नहीं लगेगा। अभी हमारे सामने बजट पेश किया गया, बजट पर शायद मैं न बोलूँ, इसलिए यहाँ पर बोल रहा हूँ। हमारी सरकार की कैसी सोच है, वैसे कैबिनेट में आप एक साथ मिलकर सोचते हो, पहले कहा गया कि सिक्किम, उत्तराखंड और आसाम, इन तीनों ने, “they graduated ....”, अंग्रेजी में एक शब्द है - graduated, I don't know what does this mean. वैसे ग्रेजुएट तो शिक्षा में पैदा होते हैं। खैर, नए-नए शब्द आते रहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इन तीनों राज्यों ने बहुत अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है, इसलिए उत्तराखंड को अगले 3 साल के लिए एक हजार करोड़ रुपए दे दो, आसाम और सिक्किम को भी 300-300 करोड़ रुपए दे दिए जाएँ, लेकिन आप ताज्जुब करेंगे कि एक हजार करोड़ रुपया तो अच्छे प्रदर्शन के लिए दिया और उससे पहले जो 5,000 करोड़ रुपया हमें राजस्व घाटे में मिलता था, उसे वे खा गए, खत्म कर गए, पता नहीं कहां ले गए? यही हाल हिमाचल प्रदेश का है।

मैं शान्ता कुमार जी से पूछ रहा था, उनको भी राजस्व घाटे का जो पैसा मिलना चाहिए था, वह नहीं मिला, आखिर क्यों नहीं मिला, इस पर भी आपको विचार करना चाहिए। उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल यह मध्य हिमालय है क्यों नहीं इनके साथ पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों और जम्मू-कश्मीर की तरह से बर्ताव किया जाता है, क्यों नहीं इन राज्यों को भी उनके समान सहायता दी जाती है? तब उत्तराखंड में BJP की सरकार नहीं थी, कांग्रेस की सरकार थी, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी आए, नारायण दत्त तिवारी जी ने भी कहा, हम लोगों ने भी कहा कि उत्तराखंड को स्पेशल औद्योगिक पैकेज दीजिए, उन्होंने स्पेशल औद्योगिक पैकेज दिया, लेकिन हुआ यह है कि हमारी वर्तमान सरकार ने पहले तो उस स्पेशल औद्योगिक पैकेज को 2007 तक खत्म कर दिया, जब कि वह पैकेज हमें 2013 तक के लिए मिला था। हम लड़ें, कांग्रेस के लोग भी लड़ें कि जब हमें यह पैकेज 2013 तक के लिए दिया गया था, तो आप दिया हुआ वापस क्यों ले रहे हैं? जब आप पहले दिया हुआ वापस ले रहे हैं, तो फिर आप हमारा क्या भला करेंगे? इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड को फिर से औद्योगिक पैकेज दिया जाना चाहिए। जो पैकेज पहले भाजपा के समय में दिया गया था, उसे फिर से दिया जाना चाहिए।

उपसभापति जी, मैं अंत में एक बात और आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। राष्ट्रपति महोदया के अभिभाषण के अंतिम पैरा में लिखा है कि — “हमारा देश एक ऐतिहासिक मोड़ पर खड़ा है। हमारे राष्ट्र

निर्माताओं ने राष्ट्र की आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करने का जो सपना संजोया था, उसे साकार करने के हम इतने करीब पहले कभी नहीं थे। मैं आपके इस आह्वान का स्वागत करता हूँ। मेरे सामने वेंकैया जी बैठे हुए हैं, दूसरे बड़े नेता भी हैं, मैं भारतीय जनता पार्टी के बहुत छोटे कार्यकर्ता के रूप में आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि मेरी पार्टी मेरी बात से कहीं भी असहमत नहीं होगी। मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री बहुत अच्छे, ईमानदार आदमी हैं, बहुत विद्वान आदमी हैं, लेकिन परसों जब आडवाणी जी बोल रहे थे, तो मैं संयोगवश टी.वी. पर देख रहा था, मुझे बहुत दुःख हुआ कि प्रधान मंत्री जी जैसे धैर्यवान और शांत आदमी, जिनकी हम दूसरी जगह प्रशंसा करते हैं कि वे कितने शांत हैं, कितने गंभीर हैं, लेकिन परसों ऐसा लगा कि वे अपनी serenity and gravity, सब कुछ खो बैठे और आडवाणी जी के बोलने पर वे अत्यंत उद्वेलित हो उठे। मुझे ऐसा लगा कि कहीं उनकी पार्टी के अंदर कुछ गड़बड़ तो नहीं हो रही है, कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि उनको कुछ खतरा लग रहा हो ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर ऐसा नहीं है, तो बहुत अच्छी बात है, मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा न हो, लेकिन हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी तो इतने गंभीर हैं, फिर उस दिन ऐसा कैसे हो गया? इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मैं अभी भारतीय जनता पार्टी के कार्यालय से आ रहा था। बाहर ही हमारे अध्यक्ष जी ने लिखा है, वैसे यह नारा हम सबका है, कार्यालय के अंदर घुसते ही मोटे-मोटे अक्षरों में यह लिखा है कि — “देश पहले, पार्टी उसके बाद, मैं सबके बाद मैं।” जब तक हम इस विचारधारा पर नहीं चलेंगे कि सबसे पहले देश है, उसके बाद पार्टी है, उसके बाद मैं हूँ, मैं पूरे विश्वास के साथ कहता हूँ कि निश्चित रूप से इस देश के लिए आपने जो सपना देखा है, आपने अभिभाषण में जो कहा है कि देश इस मोड़ पर खड़ा है, जो आपने बोला है, यह कभी पूरा होने वाला नहीं है। इसको जैसा लिखा है, जैसा बोला है, वैसे ही करने के लिए फिर उतना ही त्याग करना पड़ेगा।

जो 1947 से पहले हमारे नेता करते थे, उस त्याग को आपको दिखाना होगा। And Charity begins at home. अगर आपको उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करना है, तो उदाहरण आपकी ओर से आना चाहिए ...**(समय की घंटी)**...। मैं आपको पूरा विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि यदि आपने उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया, तो निश्चित रूप से इस देश को महान बनाने के लिए, इस देश को जगत गुरु बनाने के लिए हम सब आपके साथ होंगे। आपने समय दिया, इसके लिए आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री उपसभापति :** श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया। आपके पन्द्रह मिनट हैं।

**श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान):** माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ। सदन में यह मेरा पहला भाषण है। महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन साहब ने जो मोशन किया है, उसका मैं हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ और समर्थन करता हूँ। सर, महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी ने हम सबसे उम्मीद जताई है कि हम सब मिलकर काम करें। इस देश के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए सब एक साथ बैठकर सौंचें। हमारे इस देश के गौरव को बढ़ाएं और विश्व समुदाय में भारत को उचित स्थान दिलाएं। यह पूरा विश्व जानता है कि जो पिछला वर्ष निकला है, वह एक बहुत ही संकट का वर्ष था। पूरे विश्व में आर्थिक मंदी का दौर था और पूरे विश्व में हाहाकार मचा था। आर्थिक हालात चरमरा गए थे। ऐसा लग रहा था कि संसार के अंदर क्या होगा? बड़े-बड़े देश, यहां तक कि शक्तिशाली देश भी इस मंदी के दौर से बच नहीं पाए। अमेरिका जैसे शक्तिशाली राष्ट्र में भी वहां के बैंक फेल हो गए, वहां की बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियां फेल हो गईं और यहां तक कि बहुत से नौजवान, जो बहुत ही अच्छे काम पर लगे हुए थे, को काम से छुट्टी कर दी गई। इस मंदी के दौर से भारत कैसे बचेगा, इसके लिए भी हम सब बहुत चिंतित थे। लेकिन मैं हमारे नेता और यूपीए के चेयरमैन श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी को बहुत ही दिल से धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, जिनके शानदार मार्गदर्शन में और हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी को और वित्त मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, जिनकी नीतियों के कारण यह मंदी के दौर से भारत दूर रहा। भारत के अंदर ऐसी कोई परिस्थिति पैदा नहीं हुई, जिससे हमारे बैंक बंद हों। ऐसी कोई परिस्थिति पैदा नहीं हुई कि कोई कंपनी बंद हो।

ऐसी कोई परिस्थिति पैदा नहीं हुई कि किसी कंपनी में छंटनी हो। यह सब बहुत ही सूझबूझ के कारण हुआ है। आज हमारे देश की आर्थिक नीति इस प्रकार से बनी कि हम इन सब चीजों से बच सके। महोदय, चूंकि हमारे देश के अंदर मानसून बहुत खराब रहा, हमारे देश के अंदर पर्याप्त मात्रा में बरसात नहीं हुई ..

**जगह-जगह** अकाल पड़ा हुआ था, कहीं बाढ़ आई हुई थी। ऐसे हालात में भी, इन सब चुनौतियों का मुकाबला करते हुए हमारे देश की विकास दर 2008-09 में 6.7 प्रतिशत रही, लेकिन पिछले साल 2009-10 में यह 7.5 प्रतिशत रही। महोदय, यह विकास दर इस बात की सूचक है कि हमारी सरकार ने बहुत ही सूझबूझ से काम लिया और अपने कार्यक्रमों को, अपनी नीतियों को सही ढंग से लागू किया।

महोदय, हमारे सामने महंगाई ज़रूर एक बहुत बड़ा विषय है और हम सब इसके लिए बहुत चिंतित हैं। मैंने सबके भाषण सुने हैं। सभी लोग महंगाई से चिंतित हैं, हम लोग भी चिंतित हैं, लेकिन महंगाई कोई अचानक नहीं बढ़ी, महंगाई बढ़ने के कई कारण हैं और उन कारणों पर हमें चिंतन करना चाहिए। सिर्फ यह कहना कि महंगाई बढ़ रही है और उसके लिए सरकार को दोष देना और सरकार पर इस प्रकार के इल्जाम लगाना, यह ठीक नहीं है। महंगाई एक ऐसा मुद्दा है, जिसके लिए सब बातों को छोड़कर सरकार के साथ बातचीत करके हमें उससे निपटना होगा। महोदय, यह नहीं है कि हमारी खाद्य वस्तुओं के ही भाव बढ़े हैं, अभी हाल ही में पेट्रोल व डीज़ल के मूल्य बढ़ाने का हमारे विपक्ष के साथियों ने बहुत ज़ोरदार विरोध किया। महोदय, मैं सन् 1985 से लगातार देख रहा हूं और मैंने सभी बजट देखे हैं, लेकिन कभी भी किसी विपक्षी पार्टी ने बजट पर वॉकआउट नहीं किया। यह इतिहास में पहली बार है कि जब बजट में वॉकआउट किया गया। महोदय, बजट एक ऐसी चीज़ है, जिसमें सरकार द्वारा साल भर में देश में जो काम करना है, जो योजनाएं बनानी हैं, उनका किस प्रकार से क्रियान्वयन करना है, उस पर discussion होता है, विचार होता है और वह हम करते हैं। इसलिए उन्हें वॉकआउट न करके बजट के जो प्रस्ताव हैं, उन पर विचार करना चाहिए।

महोदय, हमारे विपक्ष में बैठे हुए जो साथी हैं, उनकी भी सरकार रही है, एन.डी.ए. की सरकार रही है। उनकी सरकार के कार्यकाल में, पांच-छः साल में कभी मूल्य नहीं बढ़े या भाव नहीं बढ़े, ऐसा नहीं है। उनके ज़माने में भी भाव बढ़े थे - पेट्रोल व डीज़ल के भाव बढ़े और एक बार नहीं, बल्कि 33 बार भाव बढ़े। महोदय, 33 बार पेट्रोल व डीज़ल के भाव बढ़े और मेरे पास आंकड़े भी हैं। मार्च, 1996 में पेट्रोल के भाव 48 प्रतिशत बढ़े, डीज़ल के भाव 112 प्रतिशत बढ़े, केरोसिन के भाव 258 प्रतिशत बढ़े और एल.पी.जी. के भाव 78 प्रतिशत बढ़े। महोदय, यू.पी.ए. के शासन में 2004 से अब तक पेट्रोल में 41 प्रतिशत, डीज़ल में 63 प्रतिशत और पी.डी.एस. केरोसिन में सिर्फ 2 प्रतिशत भाव बढ़े। ये सारी बातें दर्शाती हैं कि सरकार किसी की भी हो, उसको चुनौतियों का मुकाबला करना पड़ता है और जब चुनौतियों का मुकाबला करना पड़ता है, तो इस प्रकार के कठिन और कठोर निर्णय लेने पड़ते हैं।

महोदय, मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने ...(व्यवधान)... यह मेरा पहला भाषण है, ज़रा बोलने दीजिए। अभी तो मैं अपनी बात पर आया ही नहीं हूं। डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, इस अभिभाषण के अंदर ग्रामीण विकास पर विशेष ज़ोर दिया गया है और ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सरकार ने अनेक योजनाएं बनाई हैं।

ये योजनाएं हमारे सामने हैं। महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी एक्ट, ग्रामीण आवास योजना, ग्रामीण सड़क योजना, राजीव गांधी ग्रामीण विद्युत योजना, जवाहरलाल नेहरू राष्ट्रीय शहरी नवीनीकरण मिशन, राजीव गांधी आवास योजना - ये योजनाएं हमारे सामने हैं। महोदय, मैं आज सबका भाषण सुन रहा था। नरेगा के ऊपर बात चल रही थी। नरेगा के अंदर जो कमियां हैं, भ्रष्टाचार है, उनकी बात की जा रही थी। महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यह नरेगा नहीं है, यह रोजगार की क्रांति है। मैं अपने साथियों से कहना चाहता हूं कि आप लोग मेरे साथ चलकर गांव के अंदर देखिए। जिन गरीबों के चूल्हे नहीं जल रहे थे, इस नरेगा के कारण उन गरीबों के घरों में चूल्हे जलने लगे। नरेगा ने गरीब की पीठ थपथपाई है। इसमें कमियां हो

सकती हैं। जब कोई योजना लागू होती है, किसी योजना की शुरुआत होती है तो उसमें कमियां होती हैं, लेकिन उन कमियों को मिल-बैठकर हमें पूरा करना चाहिए। महोदय, मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी को और हमारे युवा नेता राहुल गांधी जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, जिन्होंने पूरे देश के अंदर इस नरेगा को लागू किया है। नरेगा जैसी योजना के लिए 39 हजार करोड़ रुपए से बढ़ाकर 40 हजार 500 करोड़ रुपए किए हैं। महोदय, इस योजना से 4.5 करोड़ परिवारों को लाभ मिला और 203 करोड़ person-days पैदा हुए। इस रोजगार क्रांति के ऊपर विशेष ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। हम सभी साथी मिलकर इस योजना को सफल बनाएं, यह हम सबका दायित्व बनता है। महोदय, मैं इसमें एक-दो बातें और जोड़ना चाहता हूं। आज यह योजना किसान के खेत में पहुंची है। आज किसान आपको धन्यवाद दे रहा है कि यह योजना उस तक पहुंची। इस योजना को आज पक्के कामों में बदलने की आवश्यकता है। पक्के कामों में बदलने के लिए इस योजना में 40 प्रतिशत मेटिरियल कम्पोनेंट का प्रावधान है। पक्के काम में बदलने के लिए 70 परसेंट मेटिरियल कम्पोनेंट की आवश्यकता होती है। इसमें जो 30-32 परसेंट का बीच का रेश्यो है, यह हमें किसी अन्य योजना से देना चाहिए। महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया।

मैं बहुत सी बातों पर बोलना चाहता था। शिक्षा के मामले में, स्वास्थ्य के मामले में आज हमारे सामने बहुत अधिक चुनौतियां खड़ी हैं। आज हमें इस प्रकार की बातों का बहिष्कार करके वक्त बर्बाद नहीं करना चाहिए। इस देश के अंदर आज बहुत सी ऐसी चीजें हैं जो हमारी कमियां हैं, उन पर हम सबको विचार करना चाहिए। आज हमारे पास डॉक्टर्स नहीं हैं, इंजीनियर्स नहीं हैं, एमबीएज नहीं हैं, आज हमारे पास अधिकारी नहीं हैं - ऐसी चीजों के ऊपर हमें विचार करके देश को आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए। इन्हीं बातों को कहते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं और आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने मुझे समय दिया।

**श्री उपसभापति:** सरदार तरलोचन सिंह। आपके पास 6 मिनट हैं।

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा):** धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, राष्ट्रपति जी के भाषण पर हम सब धन्यवाद देते हैं कि उन्होंने कष्ट उठाया और वे यहां आयीं। लेकिन उनके भाषण में कई बातें जो बहुत जरूरी हैं, वह मैं इस समय यहां पर कहना चाहता हूं। पिछले साल जब राष्ट्रपति जी ने भाषण दिया तो वन रैंक वन पेंशन आर्मी के लिए ऐलान किया था। मुझे बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि हर रोज हम अखबार में पढ़ते हैं कि कश्मीर में वह कैप्टन मर गया, वे फौजी मर गए लेकिन यह सरकार आज तक, जो लाखों पेंशनर्स फौज के बैठे हैं, उनके लिए जो वायदा किया, उस वायदे को पूरा नहीं कर पायी और जो ऐलान आपने फौजियों के लिए किया, उन्होंने उसे रिजेक्ट कर दिया।

क्योंकि उनकी मांग बिल्कुल clear है। जो जवान रिटायर होकर घर में बैठा है, उसकी पेंशन जो अब रिटायर होता है, उससे बहुत कम है। आप इतनी छोटी-सी बात फौजियों के लिए नहीं कर पाए और हर वक्त कहते हैं कि देश तैयार है, हर खतरे का सामना करने के लिए तैयार है, अगर हमारा फौजी खुश नहीं है, फौजी हर गांवगांव में यह कहता फिर रहा है कि हमें कुछ नहीं मिला, तो हमारी समझ में नहीं आता है कि जो serving defence services में हैं, उनका क्या हाल होगा। सरकार ने उनको कहा था कि जो हम कमीशन बना रहे हैं, इसमें 1996 के पहले जो रिटायर हुए हैं, उनको भी वही हक मिलेगा, लेकिन अभी तक आपने नहीं दिया है। यह बहुत बड़ा इश्यु है। आप पार्टी लाइन से ऊपर उठकर इसका हल निकालें क्योंकि पंजाब और हरियाणा दो स्टेट ऐसी हैं, जहां मैक्सिमम एक्स सोलजर्स बैठे हैं। हमारे हर गांव में एक्स सर्विस मैन हैं। इसलिए उनको ध्यान में रखकर इस कार्य को किया जाए।

अभी हमारे होम मिनिस्टर साहब कश्मीर गए थे और उन्होंने एक ऐलान किया है कि जो मिस गाइडिड यूथ कश्मीर से पाकिस्तान चले गए, हम उनको वापिस लेकर रिहेबिलेट करने के लिए तैयार हैं। मैं इसका वेलकम करता हूं। यह बहुत अच्छा सुझाव है। अगर कश्मीर का मसला इस बात से हल होता हो, तो हम सब को वेलकम करना चाहिए।



डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, इसके साथ ही दो बातें बहुत जरूरी हैं। जब पाकिस्तान बना था, तो एक हिस्सा कश्मीर का पाकिस्तान में गया था, जो दो लाख लोग उस इलाके से कश्मीर में आए हैं, आज 61 साल हो गए, आपने उनको हिन्दुस्तान का शहरी नहीं माना।

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी** (जम्मू और कश्मीर): सर, मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर है।

† [شری محمد شفیع: سر، میرا پوائنٹ آف آرڈر ہے۔]

**श्री उपसभापति:** इसमें आपका प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर क्या है ?

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** सर, ये बात दुरुस्त नहीं कह रहे हैं। उनको वही शहरी हुकूम हासिल हैं, जो पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर से आए लोगों को और यहां के लोगों को हासिल हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

† [شری محمد شفیع: سر، یہ بات درست نہیں کہہ رہے ہیں، ان کو وہی شہری حقوق حاصل ہیں، جو پاکستان ادھیکرت کشمیر سے آنے لوگوں کو اور یہاں کے لوگوں کو حاصل ہیں۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔]

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपको भी बोलना है, आप उस वक्त बोलिएगा।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** सर, इसमें कोई प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर नहीं बनता है।...(व्यवधान)...

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह:** सर, आज भी जाकर जम्मू में देखिए, वे लोग कैसे मारे-मारे फिर रहे हैं और क्या मांगते हैं?...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** शफ़ी साहब, जब आपका नम्बर आएगा, उस समय बोलिएगा।...(व्यवधान)...

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह:** मैं वही कह रहा हूँ कि वे कश्मीरी हैं, वे हिन्दुस्तानी हैं। जो लोग पाकिस्तान से इंडिया में आए, उनको वही हक मिलें, जो हमारे शहरी को हैं। लेकिन जो हिन्दू सिख कश्मीर से कश्मीर में आए, उनको हक नहीं मिल रहा है, इससे बड़ा अन्याय भी कहीं होगा?

सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि जब आप कश्मीरियों को दे रहे हो, तो सिखों को देते वक्त क्या हो जाता है? जो हमारे लोग 25 वर्ष पहले मिस गाइडिड हो गए, जो चले गए, उनको बुलाना आपको याद ही नहीं रहता। क्या हम हिन्दुस्तानी नहीं हैं? क्या उन्होंने देश के लिए कुर्बानी नहीं दी? मेरी सलाह यह है कि आप कोई भी ऐसा एग्रीमेंट करो, तो उसको मजहब के नाम पर मत करो, सबको इनवाइट करो, जो मिस गाइडिड हैं, हिन्दुस्तान में बिलीव करते हैं, उन सबको बुलाओ।

सर, 25 साल पहले दरबार साहिब अमृतसर पर हमला हुआ था, दिल्ली में सिखों का कत्लेआम हुआ था, तो बहुत से सिख जो बाहर रहते हैं, उन्होंने जाकर डेमन्स्ट्रेशन किये इंडियन एम्बेसी के खिलाफ। आज 25 साल हो गए, उन लोगों के नाम ब्लैक लिस्ट में पड़े हैं इंडिया उनको वीजा नहीं देता है। आज 25 साल हो गए, उनका कसूर सिर्फ यह है कि उन्होंने डेमन्स्ट्रेशन किया और आप इसलिए उनको वीजा नहीं दे रहे हैं। हम उनके लिए वीजा मांगते हैं। हर सिख चाहे वह कहीं रहता है, वह रोज अरदास करता है कि मुझे अमृतसर जाकर दर्शन मिले, क्या आप यह छोटी सी बात भी करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं, इससे बड़ी डिसक्रिमिनेशन आपकी हमारे साथ और क्या होगी? मैं माइनारिटी कमीशन का चेयरमैन था। होम मिनिस्टर को हर जगह, हर रोज, सारे कांग्रेस एम0पी0 भी लिखकर देते हैं कि ब्लैक लिस्ट खत्म करो, हम भी कहते हैं। मैं तो यह भी कहता हूँ कि आप एक कमेटी बनाओ, चाहे कांग्रेस के एम0पी0 की ही बना दो, अगर हमारे ऊपर विश्वास नहीं है, वह इस ब्लैक लिस्ट को रिव्यू करे। अगर उनमें कोई ऐसा हो, जिसने कत्ल किया हो,

† [ ] Transliteration in Urdu Script.

डाका डाला हो, उसको न लाओ, लेकिन बाकी हजारों लोगों के नाम ब्लैक लिस्ट से काटे जाएं और उनको वीजा दिया जाए। हम तो वीजा मांगते हैं, rehabilitation नहीं। जो सिख बाहर बसा है, वह अपने गांव जाना चाहता है, वह दरबार अमृतसर में मत्था टेकना चाहता है, उसके लिए आप वीजा अलाऊ कर दो। अगर आपको शक है, तो उसके साथ पुलिस लगाओ, जब वह आएगा, तो वापिस जा सके। ऐसा करने से उसकी निगरानी भी रहेगी और आपको कोई ऐतराज भी नहीं होगा। ऐसा करने से आपको भी फायदा होगा, क्योंकि लाखों सिख, जो बाहर जा रहे हैं, वे आपका झंडा लेकर जाते हैं। अगर कोई सिख चलता है, तो लोग उसको इंडियन कहते हैं। आप उसको तो खुश रखो।

एक छोटी-सी बात और है। हमने फॉरेन मिनिस्टर साहब को सवाल लिखकर दिया, उसका आज जवाब मिला। मैंने इतना ही पूछा कि जो एनआरआई बाहर हैं, अगर उन एनआरआईज़ में मैक्सिमम पंजाबी हैं, तो कम से कम इंडियन एम्बेसी में एक पंजाबी Punjabi knowing officer ही लगा दो, लेकिन वह भी रिजेक्ट हो गया।

अब कनाडा में कनेडियन गवर्नमेंट ने पंजाबी लैंग्वेज को एडॉप्ट किया है। हमारी गवर्नमेंट कनेडियन एम्बेसी में पंजाबी आफिसर लगाने को तैयार नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)... इस समय कनाडा में 6 लाख सिख रहते हैं और वहां पर हमारे हिन्दुस्तानी भाई 9 मैम्बर पार्लियामेंट हैं, फिर भी हम यहां पर एक पंजाबी आफिसर लगाने को तैयार नहीं हैं। सर, बहुत सी छोटी-छोटी बातें हैं,....(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपके 6 मिनट हो गए हैं।

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह:** सर, मैं सिर्फ दो मिनट लूंगा। भाइयो, हम हर साल लीडरों के लिए स्टेम्प जारी करते हैं। मैंने एक सवाल किया था, जिसमें बताया गया कि आज तक 56 स्टेम्प सैन्ट्रल मिनिस्टर्स और चीफ मिनिस्टर्स में जारी किए हैं, लेकिन उनमें सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह जी का नाम नहीं है। वे यहां पर 25 सालों तक मंत्री रहे हैं, फिर भी उनके नाम का स्टेम्प नहीं है। सरदार हुकम सिंह जी, पहले डिप्टी स्पीकर और फिर बाद में स्पीकर बने, उनके नाम का भी स्टेम्प नहीं है। सरदार गुरदयाल सिंह ढिलों के नाम का स्टेम्प नहीं है तथा सरदार बलदेव सिंह ने पं० जवाहरलाल नेहरू के साथ लंदन जाकर इंडिया की आजादी के साइन किए थे और वे इंडिया के 6 साल कि डिफेंस मिनिस्टर भी रहे हैं, उनके नाम का भी स्टेम्प नहीं है। इससे बड़ी डिस्क्रिमिनेशन और क्या होगी। हम छोटी-छोटी बातों पर दरखास्त दें ...**(समय की घंटी)**... कि हमारे साथ यह किया जाए। सर, एक बात और है कि राजीव गांधी जी, जो एंटी डिफेक्शन दे गए हैं, इसमें लूपहोल्स हैं। मैंने पहले भी कहा था कि उसका क्या हाल है? हरियाणा में एक पार्टी डिफेक्ट कर जाती है, लेकिन स्पीकर साहब यह करें कि जो डिफेक्शन लॉ में लूपहोल्स हैं, उनको बंद करो, या तो इसको विदंडा करो या फिर इसको पूरी तरह से लागू करो। सर, एक डिस्क्रिमिनेशन की और बात कहता हूं।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** बस हो गया।

**सरदार तरलोचन सिंह:** सर, जितने कांग्रेस के लीडर हैं, चाहे वे कांग्रेस में हैं या नहीं हैं, उन सबका सम्मान हो। मैंने कई बार लिखा है, चौधरी देवीलाल यहां पर डिप्टी प्राइममिनिस्टर बने और वे अपनी जवानी में आजादी के लिए 6 साल तक जेल में रहे। हमने कहा कि वे जिस कोठी में रहे और जिस कोठी में उनकी डेथ हुई उनके ट्रस्ट के नाम पर उसको कर दिया जाए। बाकी सभी के नाम पर कर दिए हैं, लेकिन चौ. देवीलाल के नाम पर कोई करने को तैयार नहीं है। यह डिस्क्रिमिनेशन नहीं तो और क्या है? ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, आपने टाइम कम दिया है, लेकिन मेरी एक ही बेनती है कि यह मजबूत सरकार है और इसके पांच साल पूरे होंगे। अब यह दिन-ब-दिन मजबूती की ओर बढ़े तथा वोट बैंक व छोटी छोटी बातों से निकले। देश ने आपको यह मौका दिया है। ऐसी बातें करें कि सबका विश्वास प्राप्त हो तथा एक कंसेन्सस हो तथा सभी कार्य किए जाएं।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support the Motion moved by Prof. Kurien and supported by hon. Santosh Bagrodia. The

President's speech promises lower price and higher growth. Never before we have been so close as we are today to realize our national aspiration as dreamt by our founding father Mahatma Gandhi. Of course, in view of this globalization and the economic slowdown, the finance sector has collapsed in most of the developed countries like the US, Japan, Europe, etc. The GDP of a fast growing nation like China came to 13 from 8 point. So, India also came down to 6.7. The stimulus package provided by our Government has improved the condition to 7.5 and we are expecting growth in this year, that is, 2010-11 to be 8 per cent and we are also expecting to achieve growth of 9 per cent in 2011-12. I think this is a commendable job done by our Government, the Prime Minister and Finance Minister. The opposition should also appreciate the management done by the Government. The Government also promises to curb the price and everybody admits that there are many causes for food price rise. The shortfall of domestic production, impact of various schemes, salary rise, etc. are responsible for the upward movement of the price rise. But hoarding and middlemen are the main causes. We all also have to agree that although the Central Government should have the systematic plan and strategy to increase domestic production by strong action but the State Governments are really required to take action against the hoarders and the persons who are responsible for creating artificial scarcity and responsible for price rise. Sir, I want to mention here that this has been reflected here in the Budget also which has been placed here. If you look at the Budget, it has reflected the intention of the Presidential Address that 1,73,552 has been provided for infrastructure.

That is 46 per cent of the total Plan allocation and, also likewise if you look at NREGA programme, around Rs. 40 crores has been given and in social sector also 25 per cent of the total plan outlay has been given and Rs. 1,37,674 crores has also been given for the social sector. That is 37 per cent of the Plan outlay. Sir, I want to mention this because the intention of the Government is to develop the infrastructure which will be helpful for building of our nation and also increase our GDP growth and on the other hand the Government has not overlooked the social sector also. Sir, I want to say, there were many discussions on NREGA programme also which has been named after our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. This is a unique programme which is also being discussed and research work is being done in Harvard University, in Cambridge University and many other universities. What is this scheme and how can it be implemented in other countries? This is a very important scheme but the question is: we are talking about corruption in NREGA programme but who is implementing the NREGA programme? The Central Government is not implementing the NREGA programme. NREGA programme's management is with the State Government. It depends upon the State Government how they will implement in their respective States. If there is corruption, if there are any misgivings, then State Governments should be responsible. I think, if all State Governments will take initiative for the implementation of this programme this can change the face of our country in future also. I want to say and somebody has said in this House that some States

which have been supporting the minority community have been criticised in this House. Sir, I want to mention here that our Constitution itself says that our country is a secular, democratic country. We have to give protection, equal facilities to all the persons living here. We are also giving reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes. They also belong to a particular religion. If the poor man of a minority community is also given reservation I think, there should not be any concern because everybody has got equal rights. I want to make it clear, Congress has given a principle. Neither build any temple nor break any temple; neither build any girja or masjid, nor break any girja or Masjid. कांग्रेस का काम मंदिर बनाना है, मंदिर तोड़ना नहीं है। कांग्रेस का काम देश बनाना है, जिनको मंदिर बनाना नहीं है, जिसको मस्जिद तोड़ना है, उनका काम वह कर सकता है। That is not the principle of the Congress to do that. Sir, I want to make it clear. Something was said about corruption.

An Anti-Corruption Convention was passed in 2002. Why has it not been ratified in this country? Sir, I want to make it clear that Government has never refused to ratify it. But we must also be thankful to the UPA Government who has brought the Right to Information Act. This Right to Information Act, I think, is the strongest arm to fight against corruption. Any Indian citizen can use in their respective work, in their respective district, in their respective State. What about the ratification of the Anti-Corruption Bill? That can also be discussed and there is enough time. Government can think and Government can also consider to ratify it. Sometimes we say that development is not up to the standard. Those who are saying that development is not up to the standard must not forget. This is a country where before 1947, where we had to depend on the gift of some countries for milk powder to feed our country's people, in our own country. But, after 62 years, here is a country where we have foodgrains to feed our people continuously for three years even if there is no production in our country. This is also the achievement of the Government whoever it is. It may be the Congress, it may be the BJP, it may be anybody else. It is very easy to say that there is no development. We may say that development is not up to our expectation. We may say that whatever money has been given has not reached the people. But saying that nothing has reached them is a negative approach. I think, it is not correct and it has been said by some of the people.

Sir, it has been stated in this House that during the Congress Government the difference between rich and poor has been increased. It is not a fact. Should we also analyze the six-year period when NDA Government was in power? What was the difference between rich and poor at that time? So, telling something and doing something is not good and does not make any sense. We must also realize and I fully agree with you that the difference between rich and poor should not be more. The Government should also make its policy framework to reduce the gap between rich and poor. But, in view of the situation that is prevailing worldwide/internationally and in an open market economy, it is very difficult to keep tab on that which we all understand very clearly.

Sir, if you look at the achievements of this Government, be it the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana or the Rural Water Supply Scheme or the Indira Awas Yojana or the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana or the Golden Quadrilateral or the North-South-East-West Corridor, everywhere this Government has done a very good work and the same has been appreciated by one and all.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Sir, some hon. Members have mentioned about the schemes for SC/ST here. They have said that SC/ST people are living in this country. But, the Government has done nothing for them. I will be very happy if anybody or any political party come forward and give information that any Government — other than the Congress Government — has done more than what the Congress Government has done for SC/ST. Sir, whether it is reservation for SC/ST in Legislatures, Panchayats or scholarships or other benefits in education or reservation in employment, all this is done by the Congress Government. The Congress Government is equally concerned about the upliftment of Dalits and Advasis. I believe, our hon. Prime Minister and the UPA Government take appropriate steps to further redress the problems and grievances of the SC/ST.

Sir, I now come to women empowerment. Sir, now, this Government has decided to give 50 per cent reservation for women in Gram Panchayats and Zilla Parishads. The Bill is coming. Sir, the Government and our leader, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, are equally interested and have an agenda that the Women Reservation Bill will come before Parliament during the current Session. I believe, this will also get support from all the parties. I want to mention a point here. Sir, some people are making *halla-gulla* that OBC women should also get reservation. I wish to pose a simple question to them. If they are so sincere, they should be aware of the fact that there is no reservation for male OBCs. When the leaders were Chief Ministers in their respective States, they never tried to bring legislation for reservation of OBCs in Parliament or Assemblies. If there is no reservation in Parliament for male OBCs, how can you expect reservation for women OBCs in Parliament? So, it is nothing but preventing women to get their legitimate right which the UPA Government wants to give.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

This is only a political approach not to pass the Women Reservation Bill. And, Sir, I think, 50 per cent women in this country are taken care of by this Government through reservation...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down...*(Interruptions)*...You are not speaking from your chair...*(Interruptions)*...Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, this Government is determined to bring the Bill and women in this country would be given their due share. Sir, our President is a woman, our hon. Speaker is a woman and 33 per cent members in Assemblies and Parliament would also become women...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, this credit goes to the UPA Government...*(Interruptions)*... This credit goes to the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this credit goes to our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi who is the supreme leader in our country. I think, anybody can protest or anybody can say anything. But, truth and just will always prevail and nobody can prevent it. Sir, long-time has already been passed. The time has come and nobody should oppose it if they are really interested for empowering women.

Sir, I would like to dwell on one more point. This is regarding the agricultural workers because I myself come from this working class. In the Budget, rupees one thousand crores have been allocated for the social security of unorganised workers. I congratulate the Government that, at least, Rs. 1,000 crores have been allocated for this purpose. These workers are 400 millions in number. And, the Arjinkumar Sengupta Committee has recommended to allocate Rs. 22,000 crores for the agricultural workers alone. But this could not be implemented because of the shortage of money. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister that when this is the issue of four hundred million workers, instead of one thousand crores of rupees, at least, twenty-thousand crores of rupees should be allocated for the social security of the unorganised sector workers.

The Government has taken a very good decision by extending the Rashtriya Swasthya Beema Yojana to all the 4.5 crores workers, who are working in the NREGA; and also by extending the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and the Rajiv Gandhi Swasthya Chikitsa Yojana to the ESI Corporation. I also congratulate the Government that the ESI Corporation is planning to have 27 medical colleges in the country. The Railways are also planning to have their own medical colleges. All these are very laudable schemes. The Railway Budget is also a very good Budget. I do believe that the UPA Government, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, is going to do many more good works in this country. I also appeal all Opposition parties to support the UPA Programmes. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. Barun Mukherji. You have six minutes.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (West Bengal): Sir, while supporting the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I would like to highlight a few points of my disagreement on the issue.

I am happy to note that the hon. President has expressed her heartfelt condolences for the victims of the terrorist acts in Pune. She has also expressed her concern on the Left Wing Extremists' violence in West Bengal; but, unfortunately, refrained from naming recent Maoist attack at Silda in the West Midnapore District of West Bengal, killing 24 EFR Jawans. It was reported in the media, immediately before the President's Address, that omission of 'condemnation of Maoists attack at Silda' was due to pressure on the Government from one of its allies. If that is the fact, the matter is really very unfortunate. Moreover, it is noted that the

hon. President has herself admitted that the Left Wing Extremism continues to be a significant cause of concern. The UPA Government has failed to contain the Ultra Left activities in the country. Also, it has failed to protect the poor tribal people.

Of late, the common people of our country are plagued with two most burning issues viz., price rise and unemployment.

But these issues have not been adequately dealt with in her Address. And, also, no new hope is given to her countrymen. When she mentions about “unhappy pressure on the prices of foodgrains and food products”, it appears that the gravity of unprecedented price-rise situation is underestimated and the solutions suggested are also neither convincing nor very effective. People were, therefore, disappointed when she expressed the Government’s view that “higher prices were inevitable”. In such a case, her assertion “that the Government continues to accord the highest importance to ensuring relief to the *aam aadmi* on food prices” is far from reality. Prices are steadily rising, with food articles’ inflation almost touching 20.

The hon. President was perfectly right when she said, “our food security can be ensured only through sustained efforts at increasing agricultural productivity combined with a comprehensive reform of the Public Distribution System.” Unfortunately, both the propositions made by her could not be fulfilled by the Government. Then the question comes: Is our food security at stake? The Government should answer it categorically.

As regards price rise, it should be noted further that prices of petrol and diesel have been hiked through Budget announcement, which, of course, came after President’s speech. We wonder whether hon. President could have anticipated it, and, in that case, what could have been her reaction? But the fact remains. This hike in prices of petro products would further aggravate the already critical price-rise situation.

As far as the second burning issue of unemployment is concerned, the President’s Address fails to convey to us any message regarding any new positive measures taken by the Government for increasing employment opportunities. The Government continues to harp only on its earlier NREGA measures, which has its own limitations, particularly, when in the new Budget for 2010-11, only a little increase in monetary provision has been made for it. Moreover, the Government continues to maintain its silence in case of urban employment guarantee for millions of growing unemployed youths in the urban sector. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... We may now refer to a few other aspects of her speech. We do not find in hon. President’s Address any positive assurance of early passage of Women Reservation Bill in the current Session of Parliament. It is regrettable that the Bill has been pending since May, 2008.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mukherjee, please conclude.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: It must be passed immediately. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... The hon. President in her Address had tried to impress on us that there has been an increase in credit

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flows and recruitment of minorities. But there was no mention of UPA Government's views about Rangnath Mishra Commission's report which has clearly recommended 15 per cent reservation for the minorities, and, particularly, 10 per cent for the Muslims. This omission is a great disappointment for the minorities. The UPA Government is boasting of the enactment of the right of children to free and compulsory education. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: Just one minute, Sir. But no budgetary provision has been made for necessary infrastructure, for proper implementation of the Act, particularly, for ensuring quality education. There may be free and compulsory education but how to ensure quality education. The hon. President's Address has failed to highlight it.

With these words of my reservation, Sir, I conclude my speech.

**श्री मोहम्मद शफी:** जनाब डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, दो दिन से इस ऐवान में सदर के खुतबे पर बहस-ओ-मुबाहिसा हो रहा है। हिज्बे इत्तिदार में बजा-तो सदर के खुतबे में बयान की गई कामयाबियों का तफसील के साथ जिक्र है और हिज्बे इत्तिलाफ में अपनी रिवायत को कायम रखते हुए मुखालफत बराए मुखालफत को ही अपना उसूल बनाए रखा। हम भी तवक्को रखते थे, यह मुल्क जिन हालात से गुजरा, आलमी सतह पर एक माशी बोहरान था और उस बोहरान के असरात सारी दुनिया पर पड़े। हम यह तवक्को रखते थे कि हिज्बे इत्तिलाफ इस बात को कुबूल करेगा कि जनाब मनमोहन सिंह जी की कयादत में कायम सरकार ने इस आलमी बोहरान के असरात से मुल्क को बचाए रखा और तामीर-ओ-तरक्की के अमल को किसी तरह से भी इस आलमी बोहरान के असरात से महफूज रखा। यह कोई छोटी बात नहीं है। सारी दुनिया यह मानती है कि इतने बड़े आलमी बोहरान के बावजूद इस मुल्क की माशियत को बड़े ही तदब्बुर के साथ इस्तहकाम दिया और आज यह खुशखबरी हमें मिलती है, इस खुतबे सदारत में, कि आइंदा दो साल में हमारी तरक्की की रफ्तार दस फीसदी तक बढ़ेगी और जो रियायतें दी गई हैं, सरमाएदार तबका हो, उसको कह दीजिए या इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट कह दीजिए, ताकि वे एक आलमी बोहरान के मनफ्री असरात से महफूज रहें, उनको भी आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता वापिस लिया जाएगा।

मैं अपनी जमात जम्मू कश्मीर नेशनल कांफ्रेंस की तरफ से यू0पी0ए0 की चेयरपरसन सोनिया जी को और वजीरे आजम श्री मनमोहन सिंह जी को मुबारकबाद पेश करता हूँ।

जो हम यह समझते थे कि खुतबे सदारत में दो-तीन गुजारिशात का जिक्र होना चाहिए था, उनके बारे में मैं दो-तीन गुजारिशात रखना चाहता हूँ। वजीरे-आजम ने चंद साल पहले रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर में सियासी मामलात को हल करने के लिए एक गोलमेज कान्फ्रेंस बिठाई। उस गोलमेज कान्फ्रेंस में मुख्तलिफ शोबों के लिए मुख्तलिफ working groups बने और उन्होंने अपनी-अपनी रिपोर्टें मरकज़ी हुकूमत के सामने पेश कीं। उन रिपोर्टों की रोशनी में कई मामलात पर अमल हुआ, लेकिन हाल ही में जो बड़ी अहम रिपोर्ट Justice Saghir ने पेश की, रियासती हुकूमत के वजीरे-आला को पेश की और उन्होंने वह रिपोर्ट मरकज़ी हुकूमत को दी, क्योंकि वजीरे-आजम के फैसले के मुताबिक यह कमेटी बनी थी। इस कमेटी में कुछ अहम सिफारिशात की गई थीं। कई तरह की आवाजें यहां पर सुनी जाती रहीं कि autonomy के नाम की कोई चीज बाकी मत रखिए। पहली बार इन सब बातों का जवाब Justice Saghir की रिपोर्ट में दिया गया और उन्होंने यह तस्लीम किया है कि इस रियासत को दफा 370 के तहत जो खुदमुख्तारी अंदरूनी तौर पर हासिल है, उसे न सिर्फ



बरकरार रखा जाना चाहिए, बल्कि इसमें जो erosion हुआ है, उस erosion को दूर करने के लिए ऐकदामात उठाने की जरूरत है। मुझे मालूम है कि हमारे BJP के दोस्तों ने इस पर टिप्पणी की, लेकिन मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब वाजपेयी जी, वज़ीरे-आज़म थे, उनके ज़माने में भी जब जेटली जी, वज़ीरे-कानून थे, उनके साथ भी इन मामलों पर बातचीत हुई। आज वे कैसे यह बात कहते हैं कि इस रिपोर्ट की रोशनी में कोई मुबाहि़सा हो न गया हो...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि:** तब तो नैशनल कॉन्फरेंस NDA में था ...(व्यवधान)... आप यह बताइए कि नैशनल कॉन्फरेंस को क्यों ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** हम क्या थे, क्या नहीं थे, यहां पर जेटली साहब तशरीफ़ फरमां हैं, ये उस कमेटी की सरबराही मरकज़ी हुकूमत की तरफ से कर रहे थे, उस वक्त हमारे सीनियर वज़ीर की सरबराही में जो कमेटी बनी थी, उसमें यह बातचीत हुई थी, महीयुद्दीन-शाह साहब की सरबराही में। हमने तब भी यह बात इनसे कही थी और आज भी इनसे इस ऐवान में यह बात कहना चाहते हैं कि आप बताइए कि इस कमेटी में जो रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर की खुदमुख्तारी की बहाली की बात हुई, इसमें कौन सी ऐसी बात है, जिससे मुल्क की सलामती को खतरा हो सकता है या मुल्क के इस्तहकाम पर या इतिहाद पर कोई ज़र्ब लग सकती है? हमने तब भी इनसे यह बात कही थी, जेटली जी से यह बात कही थी...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** शफ़ी साहब, अब आप खत्म कीजिए, वक्त पूरा हो गया है।

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** सर, दो-तीन मिनट दे दीजिए, कुछ अहम मुद्दे बाकी हैं।

**श्री उपसभापति:** आपको 6 मिनट का समय दिया गया था, आपने 8 मिनट ले लिए हैं।

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** सर, मुझे दो-तीन बातें तो कहने दीजिए।

**श्री उपसभापति:** जब समय फिक्स हो जाता है, तो जो बोलना है ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** जनाब, आपने बड़ी दरियादिली दिखाई है ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** मैंने किसी पर दरियादिली नहीं दिखाई है ...(व्यवधान)... आपको चाहिए कि आप समय के अंदर बोलें।

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** आप मुझे दो-तीन मिनट और दे दीजिए। मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि वज़ीरे-आज़म जब इस मुबाहि़से का जवाब दें, तो वे जरूर इस बात का जिक्र करें कि ये जो Justice Saghir Committee की सिफारिशात हैं, इन पर वे क्या करने जा रहे हैं? दूसरी अहम बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आजकल यह बड़ा शोर मचा हुआ है कि बातचीत मत कीजिए।

**बातचीत** तो पहले भी अलेहदगी-पसंदी से जम्मू-कश्मीर में होती रही, जब एनडीए की सरकार भी थी। मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि यह जो बातचीत के अमल में आप कहते हैं कि नहीं, हम खामोशी से बातचीत करेंगे। खामोशी से तो कोई बातचीत होती नहीं है। जब आपने जिक्र किया कि हम खामोशी से बातचीत करने जा रहे हैं, खामोशी से क्या बात करनी है? टेबल पर बात कीजिए। बातचीत पहले भी होती रही है और अब भी होगी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी:** जो main stream parties हैं, उनसे भी बातचीत हुई है, तब यह जस्टिस सगीर कमिटी की रिपोर्ट बनी है। अलेहदगी-पसंदी से भी बातचीत होनी चाहिए, ताकि इस सारे मसले का हल निकालने के लिए एक अच्छा माहौल बने।

**श्री उपसभापति:** ठीक है, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी: मुझे एक बात और कहने दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: आप कितनी बात कहेंगे, कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी: हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के दरम्यान “इंडस वाटर ट्रीटी” का बड़ा ही मुआहिदा हुआ। सारे मुल्क को उसका बड़ा फायदा हुआ, क्योंकि हमें कुछ दरियाओं का फायदा मिला और उस पानी की वजह से हमने आबपाशी की स्कीमें भी बनाई, बिजली की स्कीमें भी बनाईं और इससे मुल्क को फायदा हुआ। लेकिन इस “इंडस वाटर ट्रीटी” की रोशनी में जो हमारे दरिया, रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर के दरियाओं से गुजरते हैं, (समय की घंटी) उनमें हम कोई पानी जमा नहीं कर सकते हैं, जिसके कारण हमें हर साल करोड़ों रुपए का नुकसान होता है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी: मेरी यह गुजारिश होगी, हमारी riparian rights को मद्देनजर रखते हुए मरकजी हुकूमत को यह एक बड़ी grievance है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: वह खड़े हो गए हैं, मैंने उनको बुला लिया है, कृपया आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी: उस पर तवज्जो देकर हमारे साथ यह जो नाइंसाफी हुई है, इसको compensate किया जाए। शुक्रिया।

† شری محمد شفیع (جموں و کشمیر): جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین صاحب، ہم دو دن

سے اس ایوان میں صدر کے خطبے پر بحث و مباحثہ ہو رہا ہے۔ حزب اقتدار میں بجائو صدر کے خطبے میں بیان کی گئی کامیابیوں کا تفصیل کے ساتھ ذکر ہے، حزب اختلاف نے اپنی روایت کو قائم رکھتے ہوئے مخالف برائے مخالفت کو ہی اپنی اصول بنائے رکھا۔ ہم بھی توقع رکھتے تھے، یہ ملک جن حالات سے گزرا، عالمی سطح پر ایک معاشی بحران تھا اور بحران کے اثرات ساری دنیا پر پڑے۔ ہم یہ توقع رکھتے تھے کہ حزب اختلاف اس بات کو قبول کرے گا کہ جناب منموہن سنگھ جی کی قیادت میں قائم سرکار نے اس عالمی بحران کے اثرات سے ملک کو بچائے رکھا اور تعمیر و ترقی کے عمل کو کسی طرح سے بھی اس عالمی بحران کے اثرات سے محفوظ رکھا۔ یہ کوئی چھوٹی بات نہیں ہے۔ ساری دنیا یہ مانتی ہے کہ اتنے بڑے

† [ ] Transliteration in Urdu Script.

عالمی بحران کے باوجود اس ملک کی معیشت کو بڑے ہی تدبیر کے ساتھ استحکام دیا اور آج یہ خوشخبری ہمیں ملتی ہے، اس خطبہ صدارت میں، کہ آئندہ دو سال میں ہماری ترقی کی رفتار دس فیصد تک بڑھے گی اور جو رعایتیں دی گئی ہیں، سرمائے دار طبقہ ہو، اس کو کہہ دیجئے یا انڈسٹریلسٹ کہہ دیجئے، تاکہ وہ ایک عالمی بحران کے منفی اثرات سے محفوظ رہیں، ان کو بھی آہستہ آہستہ واپس لیا جائے گا۔

میں اپنی جماعت، جموں کشمیر نیشنل کانفرنس کی طرف سے یو۔پی۔اے۔ کی چیئرپرسن سونیا جی کو اور وزیر اعظم شری منموہن سنگھ جی کو مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں۔ جو ہم یہ سمجھتے تھے کہ خطبہ صدارت میں دو تین گزارشات کا ذکر ہونا چاہئے تھا، ان کے بارے میں، میں دو تین گزارشات رکھنا چاہتا ہوں۔ وزیر اعظم نے چند سال پہلے ریاست جموں کشمیر میں سیاسی معاملات کو حل کرنے کے لئے ایک گول میز کانفرنس بٹھائی۔ اس گول میز کانفرنس میں مختلف شعبوں کے لئے مختلف ورکنگ گروپس بنے اور انہوں نے اپنی اپنی رپورٹیں مرکزی حکومت کے سامنے پیش کیں۔ ان رپورٹوں کی روشنی میں کئی معاملات پر عمل ہوا، لیکن حال ہی میں جو بڑی اہم رپورٹ جسٹس صغیر نے پیش کی، ریاستی حکومت کے وزیر اعلیٰ کو پیش کی اور انہوں نے وہ رپورٹ مرکزی حکومت کو دی، کیوں وزیر اعظم کے فیصلے کے مطابق یہ کمیٹی بنی تھی۔ اس کمیٹی میں کچھ اہم سفارشات کی گئی تھیں۔ کئی طرح کی آوازیں یہاں پر سنی جاتی رہیں کہ autonomy کے نام کی کوئی چیز باقی مت رکھئے۔ پہلی بار ان سب باتوں کا جواب جسٹس صغیر کی رپورٹ میں دیا گیا اور انہوں نے یہ تسلیم کیا ہے کہ اس ریاست کا دفعہ 370 کے تحت جو خودمختاری اندرونی طور پر حاصل ہے، اسے نہ صرف برقرار رکھا جانا چاہئے، بلکہ اس میں جو erosion ہوا ہے، اس erosion کو دور کرنے کے لئے اقدامات اٹھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ مجھے معلوم ہے کہ ہمارے بی۔جے۔پی۔ کے دوستوں نے اس

پر ٹپتی کی، لیکن میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جب واجپئی جی وزیر اعظم تھے، ان کے زمانے میں بھی جب جیٹلی جی، وزیر قانون تھے، ان کے ساتھ بھی ان معاملوں پر بات چیت ہوئی۔ آج وہ کیسے یہ بات کہتے ہیں کہ اس رپورٹ کی روشنی میں کوئی مباحثہ ہو نہ گیا ہو۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

شری رودرنارائن پانی : تب تو نیشنل کانفرنس اینڈی۔اے۔ میں تھا۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔ آپ یہ بتائیے کہ نیشنل کانفرنس کو کیوں۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

شری محمد شفیع : ہم کیا تھے، کیا نہیں تھے، یہاں پر جیٹلی صاحب تشریف فرما ہیں، یہ اس کمیٹی کی سربراہی مرکزی حکومت کی طرف سے کر رہے تھے، اس وقت ہمارے سینئر وزیر کی سربراہی میں جو کمیٹی بنی تھی، اس میں یہ بات چیت ہوئی تھی، محی الدین شاہ صاحب کی سربراہی میں۔ ہم نے تب بھی یہ بات ان سے کہی تھی اور آج بھی ان سے اس ایوان میں یہ بات کہنا چاہتے ہیں کہ آپ بتائیے کہ اس کمیٹی میں جو ریاست جموں کشمیر کی خودمختاری کی بحالی کی بات ہوئی، اس میں کون سی ایسی بات ہے، جس سے ملک کی سلامتی کو خطرہ ہو سکتا ہے یا ملک کے استحکام پر یا اتحاد پر کوئی ضرب لگ سکتی ہے؟ ہم نے تب بھی ان سے یہ بات کہی تھی، جیٹلی جی سے یہ بات کہی تھی۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی : شفیع صاحب، اب آپ ختم کیجئے۔

شری محمد شفیع : سر، دو تین منٹ دے دیجئے، کچھ اہم مدعے باقی ہیں۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی : آپ کو 6 منٹ کا وقت دیا گیا تھا، آپ نے 8 منٹ لے لئے ہیں۔

شری محمد شفیع : سر، مجھے دو تین باتیں تو کہنے دیجئے۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی : جب وقت فکس ہو جاتا ہے، تو جو بولنا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

شری محمد شفیع : جناب، آپ نے بڑی دریادلی دکھائی ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی : میں نے کسی پر دریا دلی نہیں دکھائی ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔  
آپ کو چاہئے کہ آپ وقت کے اندر بولیں۔

شری محمد شفیع : آپ مجھے دو تین منٹ اور دے دیجئے۔ میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ وزیر اعظم صاحب جب اس مباحثے پر جواب دیں، تو وہ ضرور اس بات کا ذکر کریں کہ یہ جو جسٹس صغیر کمیٹی کی سفارشات ہیں، ان پر وہ کیا کرنے جا رہے ہیں؟ دوسری اہم بات میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آج کل یہ بڑا شور مچا ہوا ہے کہ بات چیت مت کیجئے۔ بات چیت تو پہلے بھی علیحدگی پسندی سے جموں کشمیر میں ہوتی رہی، جب این۔ڈی۔اے۔ کی سرکار بھی تھی۔ میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ یہ جو بات چیت کے عمل میں آپ کہتے ہیں کہ نہیں، ہم خاموشی سے بات چیت کریں گے۔ خاموشی سے تو کوئی بات چیت ہوتی نہیں ہے۔ جب آپ نے ذکر کیا کہ ہم خاموشی سے بات چیت کرنے جا رہے ہیں۔ خاموشی سے کیا بات کرنی ہے؟ ٹیبل پر بات کیجئے۔ بات چیت پہلے بھی ہوتی رہی ہے اور اب بھی ہوگی۔†

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude ...(Interruptions)...

†(شری محمد شفیع : جو main stream parties ہیں، ان سے بھی بات چیت ہونی ہے، تب یہ جسٹس صغیر کمیٹی کی رپورٹ بنی ہے۔ علیحدگی پسندی سے بھی بات چیت ہونی چاہئے، تاکہ اس سارے مسئلے کا حل نکالنے کے لئے ایک اچھا ماحول بنے۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی : ٹھیک ہے، اب آپ سماپت کیجئے۔

شری محمد شفیع : مجھے ایک بات اور کہنے دیجئے۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی : آپ کتنی بات کہیں گے، کرپیہ آپ سماپت کیجئے۔

شری محمد شفیع : ہندوستان اور پاکستان کے درمیان "انڈس واٹر ٹریٹی" کا بڑا ہی معاہدہ ہوا۔ سارے ملک کو اس کا بڑا فائدہ ہوا، کیوں کہ ہمیں کچھ دریاؤں کا فائدہ ملا اور ان پانی کی وجہ سے ہم نے آبپاشی کی اسکیمیں بھی بنائی، بجلی کی اسکیمیں بھی بنائی اور اس سے ملک کو فائدہ ہوا۔ لیکن اس

†[ Transliteration in Urdu Script.]

"انڈس واٹر ٹریٹی" کی روشنی میں جو ہمارے دریا، ریاست جموں کشمیر کے دریاؤں سے گزرتے ہیں

....(وقت کی گھنٹی)....

ان میں ہم کوئی پانی جمع نہیں کر سکتے ہیں جس کے کارن ہمیں ہر سال کروڑوں روپے کا نقصان ہوتا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta ...(Interruptions)..

شری محمد شفیع : میری یہ گزارش ہوگی، ہماری riparian rights کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے مرکزی حکومت کو یہ ایک بڑی grievance ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔  
شری اپ سبھا پتی : وہ کھڑے ہو گئے ہیں، میں نے ان کو بلا لیا ہے، کریپہ آپ بیٹھ جائیے۔

شری محمد شفیع : اس پر توجہ دے کر ہمارے ساتھ یہ جو ناانصافی ہوئی ہے، اس کو compensate کیا جائے۔ شکریہ۔

(ختم شد)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to complete in six minutes. Reply is already delayed by ten minutes. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: You have earlier told me ten minutes. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have to adhere to time.

[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: I will try to complete within time. The point I want to put forward on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address is something which should be non-controversial and should be adopted unanimously. So, there is not much to talk about, to

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†[ ] Transliteration in Urdu Script.

support and all that. But this gives us an opportunity to raise issues which are essential to the character and the nature of the Government and its programmes. Sir, as the President's Address points out, this Government has been elected to govern the country, for helping and redressing the grievances, welfare and improvement of *Aam Aadmi*, the common people. Sir, two years back a Commission, of which I happened to be the Chairman, identified what is this *Aam Aadmi*, who are these people we can call *Aam Aadmi*. There is a lot of misunderstanding on that Report and I am very happy yesterday Mr. Raja presented the main conclusions very correctly. In that Report, we did not talk about what is the poverty line, what should be the poverty line and anything of that kind. We accepted the poverty line given by the Planning Commission which is Rs. 12 per day per capita. But we divided the whole country in terms of per capita consumption. We did find that people below the poverty line have definitely come down between 1993 and 2004-05. But 77 per cent of the people are stuck at the level of consumption of Rs. 20. We did not say Rs. 20 should be the poverty line. We just got representation. But this is the distribution of population. What is very significant is that these Rs. 20 below people also contain most of our deprived people — the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the OBCs and the Muslim population.

Most of them are very poor. Most of them are also suffering from illiteracy, bad health, bad nutrition — all the things that are actually creating problems for everybody. That is the nature of our *aam admi*. There are 224 million people who are above them, who are doing very well. But, if you are concerned about rest of the 77 per cent, who are *aam admi*, we have to provide them some of the minimal things, like not only the right to food, but also health, education and livelihood. Most important point is that we have also found that the main problem of these people is that they do not have employment. Either they are unemployed or they are employed in the informal sector which does not have any job security, any income security and any kind of social security. So, this is the nature of our *aam admi*. That is all that we have pointed out in our report. And, I am very happy to point out that this report gave us the numbers only up to 2003-04 because that was the maximum period we could go to. Between that period and the current one, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, this Government has done enormous amount of things, particularly because it has been able to raise the expenditure on social services programme much faster than any other Government could do. If you take a graph, you will find from 2003-04, the graph shoots up on the social expenditure. The result of that must be that the poverty has come down even further. I have no doubt about that.

Still, poverty is a big question. Even if the number of people, who are now consuming Rs. 20 per day, comes down from 77 per cent to 70 per cent, there will still be a large number of our *aam admi* who are deprived, who do not have proper livelihood. So, they have to be looked at. Sir, in this connection, I would submit to the Prime Minister — I am glad that he is here today —

that it is not just increasing the expenditure, he has to ensure that the expenditure is properly utilized, properly delivered. In the last year's Address of the President, there was a mention of an arm's length relation programme which will monitor, which will look into the way the things are done and ensure proper monitoring, proper social auditing and all that. This year's Budget document mentions that something of this nature will be created, but not outside the Government; it will be inside the Government. That is a little bit of a comedown because this particular thing should be outside the Government by independent people. Sir, this is the first point that I wanted to raise.

Secondly, the President's Address mentions about the prices. There is a statement there that if the oil prices are rising, it is inevitable that prices will also rise here. Sir, this is correct. I believe, in a modern world, where it is an open economy, we can't change the law of supply and demand. If the law of supply and demand creates a situation where the prices are going up, and if you try to interfere with it, it will only disturb the system. What we have to do, again from the point of view of *aam admi*, is to see whether we can contain the effects of price rise on *aam admi*. That is the point about which we should all be concerned. I am afraid my friends from the CPM do not appreciate this point because when I see that they are shouting, they are saying that petrol price increase is going to create a huge problem. It is going to create problem for whom? Of course, it will create problem for me, for Shri Sitaram Yechuryji, for Brindaji and others because we travel in cars and our expenditure will go up. But, this will not affect the *aam admi*. The only thing that will affect the *aam admi*...*(Interruptions)*... I have given you the definition of *aam admi*, which is below Rs. 20...*(interruptions)*... We are not a part of that. We must accept that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sengupta, you are running out of time. Please hurry up.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: We are not the poorest of the poor.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Will you yield for a minute? ...*(interruptions)*... Even the tomatoes and potatoes are not consumed by them...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: No, let me complete. What I am saying here is if there is a price rise of diesel, it will affect many people.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: At least, roll that back.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Rolling back will not help...*(Interruptions)*... Would you listen to me please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, you are running out of time.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: What I am saying is a hundred per cent increase in the diesel prices will affect the price of vegetables, price of onions, price of other things which are carried by trucks only by a very small .01 per cent.



That is what is going to affect the poor people. The point which I am trying to put forward to you is that you cannot protect everybody. You have to protect the *aam aadmi*, and, therefore, do not fritter away the energy on that kind of a situation.

Sir, let me come to my third point, which is very important point. Mr. Prime Minister has been able to explain the price increase in petroleum, and, the Budget will accept this. But the Kirit Parikh Committee Report asked for a more substantial increase. The Prime Minister must take the country into confidence, and, get its report implemented. It may be implemented by Shri Murli Deora in the Ministry of Petroleum. But the point which I am trying to say is that if you are talking about reforms, if you are trying about the economic fundamentals, the price of petroleum must be allowed to increase according to the report of the Kirit Parikh Committee. Sir, I come to my final point.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, it means, one more round is assured. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make your final point.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Sir, the final point is that the only way to protect...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, is it a pointer, a trial balloon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Sir, the final point is about the only way we can control the effects of the food prices increase on the common people. I spoke to Sharad Pawar ji and said that we can think of all kinds of long-term solutions but today's problem is today's problem. There is a huge increase in prices of foodgrains which is affecting the *aam aadmi*, and, what is the Government trying to do for that? It is very difficult to do much, but, at least, the Government should be able to convince the people that they are trying to do it, and, the only way to do that is to have a massive scale Public Distribution System for the poorest of the poor. This would mean increase in subsidies and that subsidy will have to be absorbed in the system. But there is something more important than that. I also heard Shri N.K. Singh pointing out, at the micro level, there is so much problem going on in the Public Distribution System; there are no shops, and, there are no proper methods of distribution, and, these things are creating problem on the ground, and, that has to be looked into.

Sir, I would submit that you might consider having a separate authority for Public Distribution System because here you have to bring in not only the Food Corporation but also NAFED and others who import pulses over a period of time, and, they should be considered together. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... One minute, Sir. I would like to speak on one more subject, which is very close to my heart, and, that is foreign relations, the Indo-Pak talks. I have been dealing with foreign policy...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sengupta, I am afraid, you are running out of time.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Just one minute, Sir. I am quite appalled by this statement that talking to Pakistan is a great, you know, something, which is very much upsetting us. Why? We can talk to Pakistan on anything so long as we do not give in, and, only by talking, we can engage them. We cannot have the option of war; we cannot have the option of fighting Israeli kind of war in Pakistan. We do not have that. Sir, it is surprising to note that some of our very good friends, when they were in power, they did these things but now they think that any kind of talk is something under pressure of the United States. I don't see any change in our Government's policy because of any pressure of the United States. So, I wanted to make this particular point clear, which has something which is connected with the President's Speech, connected with our general future, and, it should be noticed, Sir. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to join all Members of this august House in conveying our sincere thanks to the hon. President of India for her enlightened Address. For the past two days, we have had a very constructive debate on the issues covered in Rashtrapati ji's Address. While several Members have expressed satisfaction at the working of the Governments, others have criticized it. This is as it should. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have listened with great respect yesterday to Mr. Venkaiah Naidu and also to Mr. Yechury. I was not present here all the time but I have taken note of various points which have been expressed in this august House and I will try to respond to the main points which emerged from this debate. Let me say that I listened with great regard and respect to my old friend and colleague, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, and his is a voice of sanity which, I think, I greatly endorse.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, while initiating the debate, Shri Venkaiah Naidu asked what are the challenges and how are we going to face those challenges. I think, that question was answered by Shri Yechury very well when he quoted from the last paragraph of the Rashtrapati ji's Address in which she quoted Jawaharlal Nehru's famous statement on the midnight of 14th August 1947 and if we identify the challenge, the challenge is, the service of India. What is the meaning of the service of India? It means the service of the millions who suffer; it means ending poverty, ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. That challenge has remained with us. Poverty, ignorance and disease and their eradication is the most important challenge before our country and before our polity. A lot has been done to soften the harsh edges of extreme poverty. But much remains to be done. Therefore, it is our collective responsibility to reflect as to how best we can get rid of this massive burden of crying poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflict millions and millions of people in our country. There are differences about measuring poverty, and I am not going into that. It is the general consensus that during the first three decades of our independence, despite major achievements, the

proportion of people below the poverty line declined very little. Since then, there has been a decline though people differ as to the precise number of people who are below the poverty line. I accept that the people below the poverty line are our primary concerns and, therefore, the identification problem is important but it is only the beginning of finding a solution.

Therefore, the effort must be how we can ensure that the poor are brought into the mainstream of the national scheme of things. The more I reflect on this, the more I am convinced that the only way in which we can find meaningful solutions to the problems of mass poverty is through a rapidly expanding economy. If our economy is not expanding, the problems of re-distribution, even if you can manage them, become formidable obstacles to national cohesion, because if the economy is not growing and you want to re-distribute the income or wealth, then, the process becomes a zero-sum game and if the process of re-distribution becomes a zero-sum game, it will arouse resistance, some time successful, some time unsuccessful. But in a parliamentary democracy, wedded to peaceful means of resolving social conflicts, I think, this will be a bit tragic.

However, if the economy is growing at a rapid rate, you can redistribute also without too much social tensions, because in the process of redistribution what people lose, in an expanding economy, is not an absolute loss, but a relative loss. Therefore, I do submit that for the management of a polity as diverse, as complex, as India's is, unless and until our economy is growing fast enough, we will not be able to deal with the problems of poverty. This is not to say that growth is an end in itself; growth is only a means to an end. We can help some people, who are poor, through social security measures. But there are limitations, and these limitations are all the more severe if the economy is not growing. But if the economy is growing and we marry it with an employment intensive pattern of development, you lift people above the poverty line much more effectively than through other means of public services important though that means may also be. Therefore, if you want more growth, we have to work for it. Antigrowth rhetoric has no substance; it has no meaning. All that we can say is that growth must be accompanied by a social commitment, to see that this is inclusive. This is a process which will lift the millions and millions who are at the lowest rung of the ladder. Therefore, along with growth, we need strategies for employment generation; we need strategy for social empowerment through education, through health. We need to go for social security measures, for the truly deprived and backward, of the type which we have been trying to attempt in recent years. They need to be implemented much more vigorously, much more effectively. I will be the last one I think to deny that.

I would say that India faces enormous challenges. But we are also on the cusp of great opportunities. Ten years ago, if you had asked me whether India would be able to have a savings rate of 35 per cent or an investment rate of 37 per cent, everybody would have laughed it away.

But structural changes have come about in this economy. Today, we have savings at 35 per cent of our GDP, and our investment rates are 37 per cent of our GDP. These are the miracle rates of savings and investments which one used to associate hitherto only with the East Asian or South East Asian countries, including China. We are, I think, therefore, on the verge of that opportunity where, with this rate of investment of 35 or 36 or 37 per cent, with a capital output ratio of 4:1, a growth rate of 9-10 per cent is eminently obtainable.

I submit to this august House that on the challenge of mass poverty, let us work together, convert it into an opportunity for building an India free from the fear of war, want, and exploitation.

It is in this context that I look at the achievements of the last four or five years. Not that we have solved all the problems, but the fact is that until the beginning of the global economic crisis of September 2008, in the previous three years, the economy had grown at the rate of over nine per cent per annum.

It's a remarkable development. In the face of an acute global crisis which led to negative rate of growth in countries as advanced as the United States, as advanced as countries of the European Union, India still was able to sustain in 2008-09, a growth rate of 6.7 per cent, rising to a growth rate of, at least, 7.2 per cent and hopefully, 7.5 per cent this year, which is an achievement. And, I am confident, if we manage our affairs well and if we deal with the social tensions that bedevil our polity well, we are in the realm of a double-digit growth era. If that comes about, if by the year 2011-12 we return to the growth path of nine per cent per annum and if in addition, we take note of the demographic changes which are taking place, I think, you must recognise that our working labour force as a proportion of the total work force is going to rise sharply in the next two decades. Everywhere that process of demographic change has been associated with a sharp increase in the savings rate. So, I am confident, if we manage this process well, the savings rate in India would rise to 40 per cent or more. And with that, we can look forward to an era of double-digit growth, perhaps the fastest growing economy of the world. That is something which is within reach. If we manage our affairs well, if we ensure that along with the raising of savings and investment rates, we manage our social and economic infrastructure well and if our processes of governance are reformed so as to minimise the scope for corruption, so as to minimise the transaction cost of doing business in our country, I think, great opportunities are now on the horizon. And, whatever be our differences, I think, Jawahar Lal Nehru's dictum that the service of India means the service of the poor and the millions who suffer, should unite this House so that the Government and the Opposition of all shades of opinion working together can push the growth process in a manner that it will become the servant of social change. That is the approach our Government has adopted for the management of the economic and social policies. It will be far too presumptuous on my part to

say that there are no pitfalls, that there are no leakages. I do recognise that. It is in that spirit, that I take the criticism that emanates from the Opposition Benches or from the Treasury Benches. I think, that's a healthy part of the functioning of Parliamentary democracy. I welcome this opportunity given to me to respond to some of the specific issues which have been raised in the course of the debate.

The first and the foremost issue that concerns the Members on this side as well as on that side is the issue of food inflation. I do recognise, food inflation is a major problem and that every effort should be made to bring it down to lower, normal levels. But, I would like the House to appreciate that until 2007, things were moving broadly in the right direction. Then, in the first half of 2008, there was a sharp upsurge in international commodity prices and whether we like it or not, we are today integrated in the world economy, in a manner, which was not the case some 10 or 20 years ago.

We are dependent on petroleum products to the extent of 70 per cent of our imports, we are dependent on fertilizer supplies to a very substantial part of our requirement, we are dependent on vegetable oils and oil seeds for a substantial part, we are dependent on pulses the production of which is stagnant at 14, 15 million tons for a decade, and we are dependent in times of shortage of sugar on imports. And when we talk of sugar, I think, any text book on Indian Economics will tell you that there is a 2 to 3 years cycle in the operations of the sugarcane economy of our country. There are two or three years when prices go up. That induces farmers then to switch more the area under sugarcane cultivation that leads to a glut that lasts another 2 or 3 years. So, this cycle has prevailed, and if there is a failure of the economic policy, it is with regard to the management of the sugar economy. It is this that when a cycle does exit, we have not been able to find practical, pragmatic means of dealing with this cyclical behaviour without too much pressure on prices. That I do admit is a weakness. But I think that is a weakness which is basically the result of the nature of the cyclical pattern of sugarcane production, I exhibited for the last 50 or 60 years that I know of even before Independence times. Therefore, in the background of steep rise in imported prices, some pressure on domestic prices was inevitable. And then comes the drought, associated with the failure of the south-west monsoons that compounded the problem on the price front. There was a steep fall in the production of kharif rice; there was a steep fall in the production of pulses in the kharif season; there was a steep fall in the production of sugarcane. These are the 3 or 4 commodities which dominate the food recession, and if you did not have this phenomenon of drought, followed by floods in Andhra Pradesh, floods in Karnataka, I think the situation might have been different. But these were circumstances beyond the Government's control. That food price rise did cause worries, that it brought hardships to the poorer sections of the community, it is undeniable. But I think this was the situation where there was very little option for the Government except to cushion the

poor to the extent it could against the rise in prices, and I take some credit for this Government that since 2002, there has been no increase in the prices of Public Distribution supplies to below the poverty line people as well as to that category which is technically characterised as above the poverty line. So, the Public Distribution System in this country may be mismatched, but we distribute annually through the Public Distribution System about 40 million tons of foodgrains, mostly rice and wheat, meant for the poorer sections of our population. The total production of foodgrains in the best of times has been about up to 33 million tons. So, 14 million tons available for Public Distribution to the poorer sections of the society... if the system is well managed, is a powerful source of intervention and the challenge is not, I think, to say that the Public Distribution System should be dismantled, but that the Public Distribution System should be so strengthened that it can really reach out to the poor is the challenge. A large number of bogus cards that exist in all States of the Union, I think, become a thing of the past. That traders who supply foodgrains do not mismanage, this is the challenge before the Centre, before the States. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the State Government to manage the Public Distribution System. But I do submit to you, Sir, that the responsibility of the Central Government to provide about 40 million tonnes of foodgrains at fixed prices, which have not been changed since 2002, is an act which, I think, needs some appreciation even if you are in the Opposition. This is the background of the inflationary rise. But I do agree that inflation is a concern which cannot be wished away.

The question is: how do you deal with the inflation? If inflation was the only concern, I think, I could have instructed the Reserve Bank to control the money supply expansion in a manner that inflationary expectations would have been do used. That was an option. But if we had done that, and the way the world was facing a global recession, the problem of unemployment, a large scale unemployment, in India, would have become a mass problem. In fact, as I said, the whole world was experiencing a recession, but our country still managed to stay afloat though with reduced growth rates. The figures that have been given of employment in our country, the behaviour of employment, there are no compilation of statistics of employment generation of all sectors. The Economic Survey of this year has used its data, a sample survey data, to take a look at the employment situation and it emerges that whatever may have happened in the world outside, the unemployment situation in India was not allowed to be aggravated as a result of the measures that we had adopted as fiscal stimuli. If we had used the harsher monetary policy, that would have hurt more people than it has done today. It would have caused more worry to the poor, to the people, to those who would have become unemployed. So, if you have a choice to make inflation or unemployment, I submit that if you can curb the effects of inflation through the Public Distribution System, the employment aspect can best be dealt with in the manner in which our Government dealt with it through a fiscal stimulus. Any other course, tightening of our fiscal and monetary policies would have hurt the poor a lot more. And this is the explanation that

I have to offer to this House when you review the inflation, the factors behind it, and the consequences of it. But having said that, I do agree that in the months to come, we should, I think, look at more effective means to curb the inflation. Fortunately, the *rabi* crop prospects are quite good; prices of some commodities have also started declining. My own feeling is that the worst is over. That is what I said to the Conference of Chief Ministers. I stand, I think, by that statement.

Mr. Chairman, there has been some discussion on the export of sugar. I think, Shri Venkaiah Naidu has talked of a scam. Now, I think, the Opposition smells a scam everywhere. I can't help it. But the plain facts are as I will describe in a moment.

The first thing I do wish to point out is that when you are in an international trading environment, you have to honour the international commitments. If you don't honour your commitments, I think, next time you may not be able to retain that market. This was the case. The amount of sugar that India has exported has to be viewed in relation to imports, and in relation to imports the exports that we made to honour the contractual commitments are so small that it is surprising that so much is being made of these exports. In November, 2009, India exported sugar worth Rs. 7.94 crores, whereas it imported sugar worth Rs. 611.40 crores. In December, 2009, the exports of sugar were worth Rs. 12.34 crores, whereas the imports were worth Rs. 216.90 crores. Therefore, I think, the conclusion to which I am led is that even if you were able to prevent these small exports, they would have made very little difference to the price situation. In any case, the imports far exceeded the exports.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, an economy, with all its potential, does not grow in isolation. I would say that the economy does not grow in a vacuum.

Rightly, several Members have made a reference to the internal security situation in our country. There is no doubt that terrorism and naxalism are causes of serious concern. Our country has to grapple with these menaces and can grapple with it with all its force and with all its might. That is the assurance that I wish to give to this House and this is an area where there will be zero tolerance for terrorism or for naxalism or for such other things. I would also say that in dealing with naxalism we are dealing with our own people. These are some of the misguided people. If they abjure the path of violence, if they give up this approach to solving the problems, we are willing to talk to anyone who has any concrete, constructive solution to deal with the problems of the Tribal belt, which, I do agree, has not received the attention thus far of development planners to the extent that it should have.

I was saying that we are taking firm action to curb naxalite violence. It is unfortunate that the naxalites are targeting the innocent people and destroying roads, power-lines and other essential infrastructure. In some places we have received reports of the use of children. A high-level meeting was recently held with all the Chief Ministers where we reviewed the entire situation. We have drawn up an integrated action plan to tackle the naxalite problem in

consultation with the States. The security forces have achieved several notable successes of late.

While, as I said, we are determined to take firm action, we are ready to talk to any group that abjures violence unconditionally and agrees to abide by the due constitutional process.

Sir, as regards terrorism, the National Investigation Agency has commenced its work. Four Regional Hubs of National Security Guards have been set up. We are in the process of setting up a National Counter Terrorism Centre. A National Committee on Coastal Security has been set up which has adopted an integrated approach to coastal security and has taken major initiatives and decisions for registration of vessels, issue of identity cards to fishermen, installation of transponders on boats and setting up of four Joint Operation Centres. Coastal Police Stations and interceptor boats have become operational under the coastal security scheme. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in modernising their police forces, we have provided Rs. 1,250 crores during the current year, of which Rs. 955.53 crores have been released to States up to 28th January this year. This has helped States in augmenting the resources available to police forces in terms of vehicles, weaponry, communication, training, forensic facilities, intelligence capabilities, security equipment and buildings. The Bureau of Police Research and Development is engaged in an in-depth assessment study of the scheme so that the scheme could be improved upon.

Yesterday, Shri Naidu and also some other Members referred to the agricultural situation in our country and the neglect of agriculture. It is certainly true that agricultural output in the current year, according to the latest estimates of the CSO, will show a decline of 0.2 per cent. But looking at the background of the developments in the current year, the effect of a bad monsoon followed by drought, I think, this is a measure of the success of Indian agriculture that even a severe drought, the worst since 1972, has brought about a decline of only 0.2 per cent in agricultural output during the current fiscal year.

A drought, after all, is beyond anybody's control. A severe drought does result in negative growth in agriculture and it is no surprise that agriculture is expected to grow at -0.2 per cent in 2009-10. We should not, however, forget that in 2002-03, following the drought of 2002, agricultural growth went down by a good 7 per cent; food production went down from 202 million tonnes in 1998-99 to 174 million tonnes in 2002-03. I would also like to humbly remind the Members that the agricultural sector has been growing at an average rate of 4 per cent during the period 2005 to 2008, compared to the growth rate of around 2 per cent from 1997 to 2002. Our pro-farmer policies have borne fruits. For the first time in the recent past — the figures are there in the Economic Survey — we have reversed the longterm trend of decline in investment in agriculture and stepped up investment in agriculture through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit



Programme, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the National Food Security Mission, the National Horticultural Mission and other such schemes. We should also not forget the investment in water conservation structures that is being made through millions of works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Food production had increased from 174 million tonnes in 2002-03 to 233 million tonnes in 2008-09, which represents a growth rate of around six per cent per year. But I am conscious that a lot more needs to be done to improve agricultural productivity, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to increase both public and private investment in agriculture and to diversify agriculture so that higher farm incomes provide stability to the lives of millions of our farmers. The decision to pay remunerative prices by way of increased Minimum Support Prices is a part of our effort to incentives growth of agricultural production and productivity. I should also say that one of the weaknesses of the agricultural system in our country is the decline in the effectiveness of agricultural extension services in a large number of States. I think that is weakness which has to be plugged. The State Governments have to be mobilised to go back to the old system of extension under which India began the Green Revolution. In ushering in of the Green Revolution, the extension services in our States played a very important role. But, in many States, I think, the extension machinery has become very lethargic. Unless it is activated I think, we will be talking in the air when we are talking of increasing agricultural productivity or agricultural production.

I think it was Shri Naidu who raised the issue of rights of tribals over forests. We are making all possible efforts together with the State Governments to ensure early disposal of claims and distribution of titles under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act. I have also requested the Chief Ministers of concerned States, on three occasions, to take all possible measures necessary to accelerate the process of implementation of the Act and ensure expeditious distribution of title deeds to all eligible claimants. It was reiterated through the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers, held in November, 2009, to review implementation of the Act. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is closely monitoring the progress in this regard.

I think it was Shri Ram Gopal Yadav who expressed concern over the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Let me say that this is a scheme which has the potential to change the phase of rural India. To increase its impact, we have initiated measures to bring in greater transparency and accountability. An ombudsman scheme for setting up an independent Grievance Redressal Mechanism at the district level has been formulated, and States are in the process of setting up District Ombudsman. Social audits by Gram Sabhas have also been taken up. Details of job cards, master roll and works undertaken have also been placed in the public domain. The scheme for an independent

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monitoring by eminent citizens has been formulated. Efforts will continue to be made to improve the implementation of this scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Naidu brought out the issue of the State of Telangana and I would, therefore, like to state the position as I see it. The issue of statehood to Telangana has been raised by some hon. Members. Please allow me to say that it was only after considering the minutes of the meeting of the floor leaders of political parties in the State Legislature called by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh that the Central Government announced its decision to initiate the process of forming the State of Telangana. It was also announced that an appropriate resolution would be moved in the State Assembly. However, in view of the subsequent developments in Andhra Pradesh, we are of the view that the matter requires wide-ranging consultation with the aim of forging a consensus amongst all concerned. A committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Justice B.M. Srikrishna to take things forward. The committee is expected to consult all sections of the people, especially the political parties, on the aforesaid matter and elicit their views to seek from the political parties and other organisations a range of solutions that would resolve the present difficult situation and promote the welfare of all sections of the people to identify optimal solution for this purpose and to recommend a plan of action and a roadmap. It is also expected to consult other organisations such as industry, trade unions, farmers organisations, women's organisations and students organisations on the aforesaid matter and elicit their views with specific reference to the all round development of the different regions of the State and give a report by December 31, 2010.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think it was Mr. Naidu who referred to the creation of the three States when his Party was in power at the Centre. That is correct. But those were the cases where there was no difference of opinion between all the stakeholders. It was easy to take that decision. But, in the present situation, I think things have worked out differently and I, therefore, appeal to the Members to bear this in mind.

Shri Naidu referred to the issue of black money. I would like to inform the House of the steps we have taken on this matter. Twenty countries and jurisdictions have been prioritised for entering into agreements regarding exchange of information and assistance in the collection of taxes. Negotiations have been completed with the Bahamas and Bermuda and steps are being taken for signing of agreements. We have also approached Switzerland for renegotiation of our tax treaty, so that we can have access to bank information. Negotiations were held in November, 2009 and the matter is being pursued for finalising a new protocol through which we will be able to obtain information in specific cases. India is an active participant in global fora for improving transparency and exchange of information on tax matters.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Yechury raised the issue of one rank-one pension to the ex-servicemen. The factual position in this regard is that we had constituted a committee under

the Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of one rank-one pension and other related matters. The Committee did not recommend one rank-one pension but whatever recommendations the Committee made to substantially enhance the pensionary benefits of personnel below officer rank and of commissioned officers were accepted by the Government, and this is what I had stated in my Independence Day speech. The recommendations which have been accepted cover what the Finance Minister had promised in his Budget Speech of 2009. Of the seven recommendations that the Committee made, five have been implemented. The two recommendations which have not been implemented will be implemented very soon.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to the Women's Reservation Bill, we introduced the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha in May, 2008. We have already considered the Report of the Standing Committee of Parliament on this Bill. It will be our endeavour to bring the Bill before Parliament in this very Session. I sincerely hope that hon. Members will support the Bill as it would be the strongest affirmation of our commitment to the empowerment of our women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should say a few words about Foreign Policy. The Government's Foreign Policy has been based on national consensus and full adherence to the principles and objectives laid down by the founding fathers of our Republic. The Foreign Policy that we pursued in the first term of our Government, around which we have built upon in the second term, has yielded solid results. India's standing in the comity of nations has never been higher! In the troubled world that we live in, there is respect for India's role as a force of moderation, reason and stability. The resilience of our democracy, our commitment to pluralism and secularism and the strength of our economy have greatly enhanced our standing in the world.

Sir, several Members have voiced their concerns over the situation in Pakistan and the terrorism that is emanating from there against India. The Government fully shares these concerns. We are taking all necessary steps to strengthen our internal security and defence capability. The Government has kept Parliament fully informed at every stage of our policy towards Pakistan. I had made a detailed statement on our approach towards Pakistan in this august House on 29th July, 2009. The External Affairs Minister briefed the House on the last round of Foreign Secretary level talks in February. Our policy towards Pakistan is consistent, cautious and realistic. I have never believed that the channels of communication with Pakistan should break down. Even at the height of the Cold War, the Americans and the Soviets used to speak to each other. The chances of mis-calculation can only increase in an environment of 'no contact.' I, therefore, personally conveyed our concerns to President Zardari when I met him in Russia and later to Prime Minister Gilani at the NAM Summit last year. I had made an offer of talks on humanitarian and other issues in October last year during my visit to Anantnag. The decision to resume talks at the Foreign Secretary level is not a sudden decision but a calculated

one, based on weighing all the costs and benefits. The fact of the matter is that the rest of the international community, despite Pakistan's role in terrorism, is talking to Pakistan. So, our not talking to them is not going to isolate them. We have made our points strongly, but we cannot wish away the problem by not talking to them. Dialogue is the only way forward for civilised countries to resolve their problem. But, it is equally true that for any meaningful dialogue to proceed the terror machine has to be controlled by Pakistan even if non-State actors are at work. I have had many discussions in this regard. Pakistan must fulfil its assurances that it will not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner directed against India. I have said so in Parliament a number of times and that remains our consistent position.

Some hon. Members — I think, it was Mr. Yadav — have referred to my discussions in Saudi Arabia on Pakistan. Saudi Arabia is also affected by terrorism and this was one of the subjects that came up in our discussions.

I discussed India-Pakistan ties in this context. I mentioned to the Saudi leadership as I had to other world leaders as well that all problems between India and Pakistan can be resolved through meaningful, bilateral dialogue if only Pakistan were to take a reasonable attitude in dealing with those terrorist elements who target our country. I wish to reaffirm that no offer was made seeking mediation. We do not need any mediation. We are talking directly to Pakistan.

Some Members have said, I think, Mr. Naidu hinted, that we acted under U.S. pressure. I think, we do a disservice to any Government and Prime Minister of this proud country if we say that such fundamental matters of national security and foreign policy were decided based on anything but our supreme national interest.

I have had by now many discussions with President Obama since he took office. I categorically state that not once has he sought to pressurize India into taking one position or the other. On the contrary, he has always expressed understanding of the positions we have taken from time to time. I would urge the Opposition not to spread disinformation on sensitive aspect of our foreign policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me say that we do not wish to see the involvement of foreign powers in the affairs of South Asia. Whatever our problems, we must learn to talk to each other and resolve our problems in a peaceful manner using our own creative genius. In Afghanistan, our assistance has received widespread support among the people of Afghanistan. The entire nation was outraged by the most recent brutal attack in Kabul on February 26, which led to the loss of seven innocent Indian lives. These Indian nationals were in Afghanistan on a mission of peace, of goodwill and friendship helping to construct the peaceful and democratic Afghanistan that our Afghan friends desire. We condemn this dastardly act. I wish to assure this House that such attacks will not bend the will of the people of India.

Sir, Mr. Naidu also brought in the issue of India China relationship and I should like to state that China is our neighbour with whom we have a comprehensive and multi-sectoral

relationship. We wish to build upon the achievements so far to create a partnership that is mutually beneficial. We are convinced that good relations with China are in the interest of both countries and will contribute to peace, security and stability not only of the Asia Pacific region, but also of the world. We are both committed at the highest level to maintain peace and tranquility on the border, pending the resolution of the border question. This is a complex matter which will take time to resolve. I had an excellent interaction with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in Copenhagen, and our cooperation in the area of climate change is a shining example of how our two countries can work together on issues of global importance and those which impinge on the future of our two peoples.

Some Members raised the Tamil issue in Sri Lanka. The conclusion of military operations against the LTTE has opened opportunities for finding a lasting political settlement acceptable to all communities, particularly the Tamil community, with a united Sri Lanka. We have and we will continue to contribute to the humanitarian and rehabilitation efforts of the Sri Lankan Government and to the long-term reconstruction of areas that have been affected by the military conflict.

Our assistance package of Rs. 500 crores for immediate relief, resettlement and reconstruction is under implementation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country is passing through a difficult phase. Security and stability are the need of the hour. Political parties can differ on various issues but I do believe it is important for us to face challenges in a united manner. I seek the cooperation and support of all sections of this august House. Let us not allow narrow partisan considerations to come in the way of effective governance of this great country. The people of India expect both the Treasury and Opposition Benches to engage constructively and work together for the safety, security and prosperity of our citizens. I thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. I shall now put the amendments to vote.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 1 to 36 and 334 to 348 are by Shri Moinul Hassan. He is not present.

*Amendment Nos. 1 to 36 and 334 to 348 were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 37 to 81 by Shrimati Maya Singh. Are you withdrawing your amendments or do you want them to be put to vote?

**श्रीमती माया सिंह** (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मेरे द्वारा जो संशोधन रखे गए हैं, वे अपने आप में गलत नहीं हैं, लेकिन सरकार के आश्वासन में जो बातें कही गई हैं, उनको देखते हुए कि सरकार उनको हल करने के लिए गंभीरता से विचार करेगी, मैं अपने अमेंडमेंट्स वापिस लेती हूँ।

*Amendments (Nos. 37 to 81), were, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 82 to 103 and Amendment No. 612 by Shrimati Brinda Karat. She is not present.

*Amendment Nos. 82 to 103 and Amendment No. 612 were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 253 to 297 and 306 to 333 are by Shri Matilal Sarkar. Are you pressing your amendments?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Mnipura): Yes, Sir.

*Amendment Nos. 253 to 297 and 306 to 333 were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 349 to 435 by Shri Prabhat Jha. He is not present.

*Amendment Nos. 349 to 435 were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 436 to 454 by Shri Shreegopal Vyas. He is not present.

*Amendment Nos. 436 to 454 were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 490 to 501 by Shri A. Vijayaraghavan. He is not present.

*Amendment Nos. 490 to 501 were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 502 to 512 are by Shri N.K. Singh. Are you pressing your amendments?

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, having heard the persuasive speech of the Prime Minister, I beg the leave of this House to withdraw the amendments.

*Amendments Nos. 502 to 512, were, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendments 513 to 521 by Shri Raghunandan Sharma. Are you withdrawing the amendment or should I put them to vote?

**श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा** (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, 513 से 521 तक जो मेरे संशोधन हैं, मैं उनमें से एक संशोधन 516 को छोड़कर बाकी सब वापस लेना चाहता हूँ। मैंने 516 संशोधन में आस्ट्रेलिया में भारतीय छात्रों के साथ किए जा रहे दुर्यवहार के बारे में उल्लेख किया था। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने इसके ऊपर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि भविष्य में वे इस संबंध में आगे जाकर आश्वासन देंगे, इस आशा के साथ मैं सभी संशोधन वापस लेता हूँ।

*Amendments (Nos. 513 to 521), were, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendment Nos. 522 to 541 by Shri D. Raja. Are you pressing your amendments?

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Amendments (Nos. 522 to 541) to vote.

*Amendments (Nos. 522 to 541) were negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Amendments Nos. 542 to 611 by Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta. Are you pressing?

**डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता**: उपसभापति महोदय, हम लोगों ने माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के भाषण को सुना है

और हमारे बहुत सारे अमेंडमेंट्स सही थे, लेकिन जो उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया है, उसके आधार पर मैं अपने सभी अमेंडमेंट्स विद्वृत्त करता हूँ।

*Amendments (Nos. 542 to 611) were, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I put to vote the Motion of Thanks to vote.

The question is:

“That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms- That the Members of the Rajya Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which she has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 22, 2010.”

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Special Mentions.

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#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

##### **Demand to give approval to Indira Sagar Project across the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Polavaram project creates irrigation facility to an extent of 7.2 lakhs acres (about 2,91,262 ha) under its left and right canals in the upland areas of West Godavari, Krishna, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam district by diversion of 80 TMC of Godavari water to Krishna river.

The project will provide 23.44 TMC of water supply to industries in and around Vizag city and steel plant and drinking water supply to 28 lakhs people in 540 villages *en route* of the left and right main canal.

There will be generation of 960 MW of Hydro electricity and development of pisciculture and tourism apart from stabilisation of 10.5 lakhs acres (about 4,24,757 ha) under Godavari Delta.

There will be 171 lakhs of beneficiaries from this project. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to give final approval to the project.

##### **Demand to take effective steps to get rid of the horrendous scenario of anaemia among children and women in rural India**

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): The latest report of the Food Insecurity Situation in Rural India released on 20.02.2009, has revealed that calorie intake has remained stagnant in the last decade with about 13 per cent of the rural population consuming less than 1,890 Kcal/day. According to the composite index, prepared using indicators from the Census and National Family Health Survey, 2005- 06, Jharkhand has the highest level of food insecurity, followed by Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat.

The Report also pointed out that the prevalence of anaemia has worsened in rural India. The proportion of anaemic children went up by about six per cent to 81.20. According to the Report, the situation has worsened in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, all of which slipped from 'high' to 'very high' levels.

The proportion of anaemic women aged between 15 and 49 has also gone up by about four per cent from the 53.90 per cent as the situation worsened in Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, all of which slipped from 'moderate' (43.4-53.5 per cent) to 'high' (53.6-63.8 per cent) levels.

From the above horrendous scenario, it is obvious that situation of calorie intake and anaemia amongst children and women in rural India is a matter of grave concern. Hence, I would urge upon the hon. Minister for Women and Child Development to take urgent steps to save the 'childhood' and 'motherhood' of India.

**Demand to impress upon the State Government to provide remunerative prices to sugarcane farmers in the country**

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, through this august House, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the problems of the sugarcane farmers. The plight of sugarcane farmers have already been brought to the notice of the Government through our dynamic party leader demanding Rs. 2,500 per tonne of sugarcane. In many Districts, the standing crops of sugarcane were burnt down specifically because of the reason that farmers could not get remunerative prices. Because of poor remunerative prices, the sugarcane production in Tamil Nadu came down from 21.38 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 to 16.16 lakh tonnes during the current year. It is not advisable to import large amount of sugar instead of taking steps to increase the sugarcane cultivation. Sir, importing sugar in large quantities will also force the farmers to quit sugarcane cultivation in future, and, this move will pave way for black marketers to enter into malpractices as well as cause price rise of consumable sugar in the open market.

Presently, the market price for sugar is Rs. 4,000 per quintal whereas the sugarcane farmers get only Rs. 1,437 per tonne which is very much meagre if you compare their investment for cultivation and is quite contradictory with the market price of sugar.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to impress upon the State Government to provide remunerative price of Rs. 2,500 per tonne to sugarcane farmers lest the cultivation of sugarcane in the State of Tamil Nadu would diminish in future, and, continuous increase in the retail price of consumable sugar would not be averted.

**Demand to give benefits of 'NREGA' to the marginal farmers in the country**

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE (Maharashtra): Sir, today, the small dry land farmers are in great distress because they cannot make even a minimal investment in their land. The holding of



81 per cent farmers in the country is not more than two-and-a-half acres. These days, it is very difficult for the farmers to get labour. Nor can they afford to pay wages of the labourers.

The debt waver has given some relief and respite to them. But that is not a permanent solution. To cultivate or not to cultivate the land is the problem before them. They are themselves the labourers, toiling in their own farms, without wages and without any guarantee of livelihood. We have guaranteed employment, at least, for hundred days in a year to the labourers in the rural areas by enacting the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. But, what about the marginal dry land farmers whose plight is more awful than the labourers? They cannot pay wages of the labourers. They knock on the doors of the private moneylenders who ultimately oppress them. Perpetual indebtedness leads them to suicides. Instead of periodically waiving the debt of the farmers, why not implement the NREGA in their farms? This is how we can kill two birds with one stone: employment guarantee to the rural labourers and livelihood guarantee to the marginal farmers. Implementing the NREGA will not only give relief to the marginal farmers, but it will also ensure the productivity of agriculture.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take a positive step in this direction immediately.

**Request to declare the Madurai Airport as Customs Airport  
with international connectivity**

SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to request the Government to consider the long-pending demand of the people of Madurai and its adjacent districts for declaring Madurai Airport as Customs Airport to facilitate international connectivity. Many people from southern districts are working abroad, especially in Gulf countries. The number of passengers from Madurai and neighbouring districts like Sivagangai, Theni and Dindigal are enormous and are as equal as to Chennai Airport. As there is no international connectivity, many passengers from southern districts have to use Chennai, Tiruchi or Thiruvananthapuram airports to take their international flights after a long road journey which causes wastage of additional time and money. With establishment of many IT Parks and SEZs in southern districts, the air traffic round the year is expected to increase manifold in future. Also, with Sri Meenakshi Sundereswarar Temple and having Kodaikanal and Rameswaram as its nearest tourist places, Madurai is visited by several foreign and domestic tourists throughout the year. Even though these southern districts are on leeway with establishment of new industries, technological park, the absence of international connectivity at Madurai has become a reason for minimizing the gradual economic growth.

Therefore, I request the Government to take initiatives immediately to declare Madurai Airport as customs airport with international connectivity. Declaration of this airport as custom-connected with international destinations will also increase employment opportunities in the field

of tourism and the tourism industry in the southern district would be greatly benefited. Thank you.

**Demand to take effective steps for beautification and  
preservation of an Ashoka Pillar in Bihar**

**श्री कलराज मिश्र** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, देश के विभिन्न भागों में स्थिति प्राचीन ऐतिहासिक धरोहर के अस्तित्व पर खतरा मडराने लगा है। इसमें एक मौर्य कालीन अशोक स्तम्भ में दरार पड़ने लगी है। बिहार के मुजफ्फरपुर जिले के प्राचीन वैशाली परिक्षेत्र कोल्हुआ गांव में स्तम्भ को प्रसिद्ध सम्राट अशोक ने बौद्ध धर्म स्वीकार करने के बाद बनवाया था। अशोक ने बौद्ध धर्म के प्रचार-प्रसार के साथ अनेक स्तूपों और स्तम्भों का निर्माण कार्य कराया था। ग्यारह मीटर ऊंचे व लगभग पांच फुट व्यास के इस स्तम्भ में ब्राह्मी लिपि में कुछ अंकित है, जो समय के साथ धुंधला पड़ रहा है। यह स्तम्भ नीचे से ऊपर पतला होता गया है तथा इसके शीर्ष पर कमल फलक है जिस पर उत्तराभिमुखी सिंह सुशोभित है। इसके निर्माण के समय की पालिस कमजोर पड़ने लगी है। यह लगभग 23सौ वर्षों के इतिहास की गौरवशाली मौर्य कालीन निर्माण परम्परा की याद दिलाता है। यह स्तम्भ सरकार की उपेक्षा का शिकार हो रहा है, उसका प्लास्टर टूट कर गिर रहा है और स्तम्भ में दरार पड़ गई है।

मैं सदन के माध्यम से मांग करता हूँ कि सरकार शीघ्र ही इस ऐतिहासिक अशोक स्तम्भ के सुन्दरीकरण व सुरक्षा के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाये।

**Demand to take steps to leave regulation of price of  
Bt. cotton seeds to States**

**SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA** (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, there is no fixed policy for regulation of cotton seed production and marketing with the Government of India, which is leading to a total confusion and disturbance for the State Governments to regulate quality and sale price of the cotton seed sold in the market for agricultural purpose.

Sale of cotton seed as an essential commodity under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was regulated through Seeds (Control) Order 1983 till 2006. Subsequent to deletion of cotton seeds from the list of essential commodities in 2006, the State Governments lost the authority under Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to regulate the sale of cotton seeds.

Under such a situation, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat have come up with their legislations to regulate supply, distribution and sale and also for fixation of sale price. This novel move of the State Governments has greatly helped the Indian farmers in getting the Bt. Hybrid cotton seeds at a lower price.

Hence, I demand that the Government of India leave the matter to the State Governments to regulate Bt. cotton seed prices. This appears to be a more plausible option as agriculture happens to be State subject and more so, the State Governments had already taken a lead and were effectively regulating the Bt. cotton seed prices in the last four years and furthermore, the State Governments are always seized of the local problems of the farmers.

**Demand to take steps to check the unauthorized trade  
practices in the domestic LPG**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to commend the attention of this House to an alarming situation of unauthorized trade in LPG that has been proliferating in different parts of the country. The theft of subsidized cooking gas is flourishing in almost every city in connivance with local LPG distributor or their employees. Smaller size of cylinders with questionable quality, are filled up from cylinders supplied by oil marketing companies. Such cylinders are being sold openly in the market at a premium by unscrupulous profiteers. This thriving unauthorized business on the one hand, deprives the oil companies of their revenue, on the other hand, it adds to the subsidy bill of the Government. But most importantly it causes grave hazard to the public safety as the transfer of gas is done in most unscientific and hazardous manner with primitive tools and techniques in the backyards of small shops in any locality of a mofussil town and has often caused fatal accidents. There are necessary laws and rules available to take action against such practices. But the field officers of the marketing companies, particularly, those in the public sector, and who avail Government's subsidy, have acted indifferently against such practices. I demand that the Government should trace the unauthorized gas cylinder manufacturers and take stern action against them. I also call upon the Government to direct the public sector oil marketing companies to take resolute steps through their field marketing networks. The Government should ask the State Governments to assist the oil companies in this regard.

**Demand for finding a remedy to the situation arising out of a recent  
ruling by Supreme Court regarding directions to CBI**

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, the Supreme Court has ruled that a direction by the High Court in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution or by the Supreme Court under Article 32, to the CBI without the consent of the State to investigate a cognizable offence, committed within the territory of a State, is valid.

Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 clearly provides that the consent of the State Government is required for investigating any case in the jurisdiction of the State Government, then how the Supreme Court or High Courts can overlook this provision of law and direct CBI to investigate any case without the consent of the concerned State?

General powers of the High Courts and the Supreme Court to protect the fundamental rights of the citizens cannot be the basis of ignoring statutory provisions which are clear and unambiguous and duly passed by the competent legislature.

I fear that if statutory provisions are overlooked by the higher judiciary, what will be the fate of parliamentary privileges which provide us an opportunity to discharge our functions in Parliament without fear and favour but have not been codified so far.

I, therefore, appeal to the Central Government to get the situation remedied.

**Demand to take effective measures to check the adulteration and  
production of synthetic milk in the country**

**श्रीमती माया सिंह** (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, मानव के शारीरिक विकास में दूध की महत्ता अत्यंत उपयोगी है। गांवों, शहरों व महानगरों में दूध की मांग के अनुरूप दूध की उपलब्धता में काफी कमी है। यही कारण है कि मांग और उपलब्धता में कमी के अंतर को भाप कर सारे नियमों को दरकिनार कर, आज बड़े पैमाने पर मिलावटी दूध का धंधा पूरे देश में हो रहा है।

यह अत्यंत खेदजनक बात है कि प्रतिदिन लगभग देश में दस करोड़ लीटर संश्लेषित दूध बनाया जा रहा है, जिससे 80 से 100 करोड़ रुपए का यह धंधा बेरोकटोक जारी है। संश्लेषित दूध बनाने में जिन पदार्थों व द्रवों का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है, वह मानव स्वास्थ्य के लिए सफेद धीमे जहर से कम नहीं है।

संश्लेषित दूध बनाने में द्रव डिटरजेंट, कॉस्टिक सोडा, शैंपू, यूरिया खाद, सफेद पेंट, रिफाइनड तेल, फार्मेलिन, हाइड्रोजन परॉक्साइड एवं सोडियम सल्फेट जैसे पदार्थों का मिश्रण कर मिलावटी दूध बनाया जा रहा है। जानकारों के अनुसार इन पदार्थों के निरंतर सेवन से मानव स्वास्थ्य पर अत्यंत घातक प्रभाव पड़ता है और स्वास्थ्य व्यापक स्तर पर क्षतिग्रस्त होता है। यहां तक कि ऐसे मिलावटी दूध व उससे बनी खाद्य वस्तु से उपभोक्ता की मृत्यु तक हो सकती है।

मेरा आग्रह है कि ऐसे घातक मिलावटी व संश्लेषित दूध और इस दूध से बनने वाली खाद्य वस्तुओं की रोकथाम हेतु सरकार अविलम्ब ठोस व कठोर कदम उठाए और मिलावट कर मनाव जीवन से खेलने वाले दोषियों को सख्त से सख्त सजा दिलवाए।

**Demand to take steps to rehabilitate the fishermen migrated to  
Rameswaram Island in Tamil Nadu**

**DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN** (Tamil Nadu): Sir, in the State of Tamil Nadu, the Mookkaiyur seashore village in Ramanathapuram District was used as a Fishing Harbour within seven nautical miles from the beginning of Independence and deep-sea fishing was available in plenty within Indian territorial waters. Due to the cyclones in 1957 and 1978 the basic naturally formed structures harbouring fishing boats from rough waves during seasons in “Malattaru” were destroyed by waves and cyclone. The State Government at that time could not do rehabilitation of the fishermen. Hence they migrated to Rameswaram Island and went to fishing where deep sea starts from more than 25 nautical miles. Since India and Sri Lanka could not be definite about the territorial waters in the narrow Palk Strait boundary, every day fishermen from both countries and Coast Guards are facing problems of clash and damages resulting in loss to the fishing industry. To settle this problem the Government of India should take “Mookkaiyur Fishing Harbour” as a special project with initial cost of Rs. 38 crores. Ten thousand families are ready to go back to their own village from Rameswaram Island. I request the Government to take the project on a war-footing to solve the perennial problem with the neighbouring country.

**Demand to bring in a legislation to give reservation to  
people of OBC category in Tripura**

**SHRI MATILAL SARKAR** (Tripura) : Sir, there is no reservation for OBCs in the State of Tripura in State level services. The reason is that the total reservation of SC and ST in the State

has gone up to 48 per cent, which is very close to 50 per cent. As the upper limit of reservation is 50 per cent in States, there is little scope to provide further reservation to any other section of the people. The OBC people comprise more than 24 per cent of the population in Tripura. Besides this, the Muslims comprise 7.9 per cent. Over and above, there are other religious minorities also. The Ranganath Mishra Commission has extended the provision of reservation to other religious minorities in unison with OBC. But all these deserving sections of the people including OBCs in Tripura and few other States are unable to enjoy the reservation benefits owing to the upper limit bar of 50 per cent of reservation in a State. It is a situation now when the Government must have to incorporate some provision in the Constitution to overcome this legal barrier. The OBC people are getting reservation benefits in other States, but those in the State of Tripura are remaining out of the purview of reservation. Along with them, the religious minorities have now emerged another genuine section as the excluded ones. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring an amendment as early as possible.

**Demand to abolish the facility of reservation given to people belonging to  
Scheduled Tribe category after their conversion to other religion**

**सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके** (मध्य प्रदेश): मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से केंद्र सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि जिन आदिवासियों ने अपना जनजाति धर्म का त्याग करते हुए अन्य धर्म स्वीकार कर लिया है, उनका आरक्षण समाप्त किया जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि जनजाति वर्ग के जिस व्यक्ति द्वारा अपनी परम्परागत संस्कृति, आस्था, अनुष्ठानों एवं रीति-रिवाजों का पालन नहीं किया जाता, वह जनजाति वर्ग का सदस्य नहीं हो सकता है।

इस संबंध में संयुक्त संसदीय समिति ने अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति (संशोधन) विधेयक, 1967 पर 17 नवंबर, 1969 को सर्वसम्मति से सिफारिश की थी कि “2 ए पैरा 2” में किसी बात के होते हुए भी जिस व्यक्ति ने अपना आदिम धर्म छोड़ दिया है और ईसाईयत या इस्लाम ग्रहण कर लिया है, वह किसी अनुसूचित जनजाति का सदस्य नहीं माना जाएगा। इस संबंध में 348 सांसदों के हस्ताक्षर युक्त एक ज्ञापन पत्र भी दिसम्बर, 1970 में सरकार को दिया गया था, जो कि लंबित है।

यह उल्लेखनीय है कि आरक्षण का 70 प्रतिशत लाभ ऐसे 18 प्रतिशत धर्मांतरित उठा रहे हैं। ऐसे व्यक्ति आदिवासी और अल्पसंख्यक दोनों का लाभ ले रहे हैं। इस संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय ने भी दो निर्णय दिए हैं, जिसके अनुसार धर्मांतरित आदिवासी अपनी मूल जनजाति की परम्पराओं, रीति-रिवाजों और अनुष्ठानों का पालन नहीं करते, इसलिए उन्हें जनजाति वर्ग का नहीं माना जा सकता है। इस संबंध में महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी एवं सरकार को 26 राज्यों के 293 जिलों के 1268 विकासखण्डों के 26253 ग्रामों के करीब 27.67 लाख वयस्क जनजाति वर्ग के व्यक्तियों द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एक ज्ञापन भी सौंपा गया है।

अतएव मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से अनुरोध करना चाहती हूँ कि जनजाति वर्ग की भावना एवं जनमत का सम्मान करते हुए आदिवासियों के अधिकारों की रक्षा हेतु कानून में शीघ्र आवश्यक संशोधन करें।

**Demand to institute a CBI inquiry into illegal mining in Orissa**

**श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि** (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, उड़ीसा में लगातार अवैध खनन चल रहा है। माननीय उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा लिक्विडेटेड घाषित कंपनी को भी खनन का काम दिया जाता है। वन और पर्यावरण मंत्रालय से कोई स्वीकृति बिना इस प्रकार का अवैध कार्य किया जा रहा है। राज्य सरकार के पदासीन लोगों के परोक्ष

समर्थन से यह सब हो रहा है, इस प्रकार का एक आम वातावरण बन गया है। माननीय वन और पर्यावरण मंत्री ने अतारांकित प्रश्न के उत्तर में स्वयं बताया हुआ है कि सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा उसे यथासमय सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा। खान मंत्रालय की ओर से इंडियन ब्यूरो ऑफ माइंस (आई.बी.एम.) द्वारा जो जाँच का आदेश दिया गया है, उसकी रिपोर्ट पर गम्भीर कार्यवाही की नितान्त आवश्यकता है। आई.बी.एम. की प्राथमिक रिपोर्ट में अनियमितता की सूचना दी गई है। आयरन ओर एवं मैंगनीज ओर के खनन में यह घपला हुआ है। इस भ्रष्टाचार का आकलन कई लाख करोड़ रुपये का बताया जा रहा है। पूरे देश भर के समाचार पत्रों में पिछली जुलाई से इस मामले को लेकर प्रमुख समाचार हैं। अवैध खनन पर समूचा राज्य आन्दोलित है। राज्य विधान सभा कई बार इस मुद्दे पर बाधित हो चुकी है। खान मंत्रालय की परामर्शदात्री समिति में भी इस पर गम्भीर चर्चा हो चुकी है। महोदय, इसी खान भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप के चलते अब जब खनन का कार्य बंद है, तो हजारों की संख्या में लोग बेरोजगार होकर बैठे हुए हैं। यह इसका एक दूसरा पहलू है। अवैध खनन के दोषी को तुरंत पकड़ कर सजा की ओर ले जाने से पुनः खनन का कार्य चालू हो सकता है और उसके साथ-साथ स्वाभाविक प्रक्रिया से लोगों को जो रोजगार मिलना चाहिए, वह फिर मिल सकता है। जाँच की प्रक्रिया शीघ्रता से और अधिक पारदर्शिता से तब हो सकती है, जब इस कार्य को केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो द्वारा कराया जाए।

अतः मेरी इस सदन से विनम्र प्रार्थना है और केंद्र सरकार के सामने पुरजोर मांग है कि उड़ीसा में चल रहे अवैध खनन के मामले को तुरंत सीबीआई को दिया जाए। राज्य सरकार को भी इस दृष्टि से स्वयं सामने आ कर सिफारिश करनी चाहिए।

#### **Demand to ban sale of tobacco products near educational institutions**

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, I want to raise an important matter relating to the health of youth of our country. India is among the youngest nations of the world with youth constituting 41 per cent (census 2001) of the population. Our young generation has a vital role in giving shape and direction to the future socio-political and economic development of the country. However, it is unfortunate that our children and youth are most vulnerable to tobacco addiction. A survey undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2006 revealed that nearly 37 per cent children in India initiate smoking before the age of 10, and each day, around 5500 children begin tobacco use; 72.5 per cent underage children, who bought cigarettes in a store, were not refused by the vendor.

Parliament passed the COTPA in 2003. Section 6 of this Act bans sale of tobacco to and by minors and prohibits sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions. Still we see numerous vendors selling tobacco products well within 100 yards of educational institutions.

According to an estimate, 10 lakh people die due to tobacco use every year, and over Rs. 30,000 crores are spent to treat major tobacco-related diseases in India, which is four times the revenue generated from the tobacco industry as tax.

I appeal to the Government to make conscious efforts to implement the law strictly, especially, Section 6 of the COTPA to stifle the sophisticated proxy marketing methods of tobacco industry which is enticing young consumers every day to use tobacco. It will not only

save millions of young lives, but also a huge Government revenue being spent on tobacco related ailments and, most importantly, future of India.

**Demand to institute a Judicial enquiry to probe the death of  
labourers in Mine accident in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the mining accident on 26th March, 2010, at Chimakurthy Granite Quarry in Andhra Pradesh buried alive more than 20 people when a 400 feet-high landslip, weighing more than 2000 tonnes, slipped and fell and crushed the workers. It is just another example of how blatantly safety regulations are being violated by mining contractors. It is very unfortunate that even after one week, only 13 bodies could be recovered from the debris. Alarming, such flouting of rules appears to be rampant in quarries across the region. Even experts, on preliminary enquiry, say that the accident took place due to blatant violation of safety regulations by the management, and failure of officials to implement safety norms in mines has added fuel to fire. It is shocking to learn that labourers are not provided with helmets, shoes and other basic safety equipment. Mandatory requirements such as presence of a Mining Engineer at site, adoption of bench-cut in opencast mining, since there is every possibility of a landslip, construction of safety walls to avoid fall of sand, stones, etc., logbook for security in mines, mandatory training once in a year to the labourers, are all not being maintained. It is precisely because of this that nearly 150 workers have died in the various quarries of this region in the last ten years.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to immediately institute a judicial enquiry to find out the culprits and punish them. I would also request that Rs. 15 lakhs be paid as compensation to the next of kin of the victims and a Government job be given to every family which lost its breadwinner.

**Need to take initiative for setting up Kendriya Vidyalaya at  
Erode in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government about the long-pending demand of people of Erode in Tamil Nadu to set up Kendriya Vidyalaya. Erode is the district headquarters being thronged with a number of industries, especially medium and small-scale enterprises. Also, Erode has some State and Central Government offices comprised with a large number of staff. Officers and staff who may be transferred to any other place in the country some times suffer in getting admission in schools in other States for their children to enable them to continue their study. More or less, all district headquarters in Tamil Nadu as well as in other States have a Kendriya Vidyalaya. But, Erode being a district headquarters and well known for its industrial activities in the country could not get such a school. The Central Government has announced in its recent Railway Budget that the Government has proposed to set up 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the land belonging to Railway

Department. As far as Erode is concerned, it is the central place in the Salem Division. Also, considerable land areas belonging to Railways are lying in Erode. Nearly 5000 employees from various States are working in Railways and its allied workshops in Erode. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take initiative for setting up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Erode so that children of Central Government as well as Railway staff can have access to such kind of effective education and may not suffer during transfer across the country.

**Demand to take steps to give relief to the handicapped telephone booth operators, operating from Indian Railway platforms**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, there are thousands of persons with disability (handicapped persons) running telephone booths (STD/ISD/PCO booths) in the platforms of Indian Railways. These telephone booths are making heavy losses due to the decreased use of telephone booths by the general public as a result of the mobile revolution taking place in the country. Several booths have been closed down as the operators are not able to do enough business even to cover their operating expenditure. Operators of these booths have also invested large sums of money, often obtained on loan from banks to continue with the business. On the other hand, the licence fee and ground rent being collected by the Railways have also been increased periodically.

Chapter-VII, Section 43 of the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides that 'appropriate Government and local authorities shall by notification frame scheme in favour of persons with disabilities for the preferential allotment of land at concessional rates for setting up business'. Thus, the Central Government, that is, the Indian Railways have a responsibility to ensure proper rehabilitation of such handicapped telephone booth operators, to save them and their families from acute penury.

Since the licence for these telephone booths is to expire in October, 2010, the Indian Railways can provide immediate relief to the handicapped telephone booth operators by the following steps—

- (3) To convert the existing licence to run telephone booths, which is expiring in October, 2010, into licence for running multi-purpose stalls in respective railway stations.
- (4) To give concession in the licence fee and ground rent, being levied by the Railways, for the booths/stalls, in view of their physical disability.
- (5) To consider giving them permanent jobs in the Railways, according to their eligibility, similar to the scheme floated for Railway Porters.
- (6) To authorize them to issue current tickets/platform tickets at major stations.

**Demand to provide basic amenities to the tea plantation workers**

**श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल):** महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान चाय बागानों के श्रमिकों की समस्याओं की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा। आज देश भर में चाय बागानों में काम करने वाले श्रमिक



और उन पर आश्रित परिवारों की हालत बहुत ही कष्टदायी है। वे गरीबी एवं आर्थिक समस्याओं से जूझते रहते हैं एवं बुनियादी सुविधाओं से भी वंचित रहते हैं।

1951 में श्रमिकों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए प्लान्टेशन लेबर एक्ट बना था, पर सही मायने में यह लेबर ऐक्ट श्रमिकों को सुरक्षा प्रदान नहीं कर पाया है। आज भी चाय बागानों के मजदूरों की हालत बंधुआ मजदूरों की तरह है। उन्हें एक-एक अर्जित अधिकारों से भी वंचित कराया जा रहा है।

महोदय, मैं दार्जिलिंग से आता हूँ। उत्तरी बंगाल एवं दार्जिलिंग में ज्यादातर चाय की खेती की जाती है। यहां भी श्रमिकों की हालत में कोई सुधार नहीं है। व्यक्तिगत मालिकाना एवं कंपनी द्वारा संचालित बागानों में राज्य सरकारों के प्रयास के बावजूद भी श्रमिकों तक सरकारी सहूलियत मुहैया नहीं हो पाती है।

चाय बागानों के अन्दर भी सरकारी योजनाएं लागू करने के बारे में जो कानूनी अड़चन है, उनको हटाया जाना जरूरी है, ताकि तमाम गरीब मजदूरों को सरकारी सहूलियत मुहैया कराई जा सके।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि सम्पूर्ण चाय बागानों के श्रमिक एवं उनके आश्रित परिवार वालों को बीपीएल में शामिल किया जाए और चाय बागानों के लिए अलग से देश भर में पीडीएस, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली चालू की जाए। साथ ही साथ केन्द्र सरकार से यह भी अनुरोध है कि प्रत्येक चाय बागानों के मजदूरों को एलपीजी कनेक्शन सब्सिडी रेट में प्रदान किया जाए, ताकि उनकी हालत में कुछ सुधार आ जाए।

**Demand for central intervention and to give compensation to the opium  
growers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh whose licences were  
cancelled due to departmental mistakes**

**श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा** (मध्य प्रदेश): राजस्थान एवं मध्य प्रदेश के कुछ जिलों में अफीम की खेती की जाती है। भारत सरकार की पूर्वानुमति से यह फसल बोई जाती है। नॉरकोटिक्स कमिश्नर इसका लाइसेंस देते हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के मन्दसौर, नीमच जिले में लगभग 329 किसानों को लाइसेंस दिए गए। फसल बड़ी हो जाने पर इसी विभाग ने लाइसेंस निरस्त कर दिए। अफीम उत्पादक किसान इस फसल के लिए अत्यधिक मेहनत करते हैं, बहुत पैसा खर्च करते हैं तथा बच्चों की तरह इसका लालन-पालन करते हैं। लगभग साढ़े तीन माह की फसल होने के बाद विभाग ने नोटिस देकर लहलहाती फसल उखाड़ने की सूचना दी कि गलती से लाइसेंस दे दिए गए हैं।

महोदय, इसमें विभाग का दोष है, किसानों का कोई दोष नहीं है। 25 फरवरी को ग्राम दोरवाड़ा, तहसील मल्हारगढ़, मन्दसौर, मध्य प्रदेश के राधेश्याम नायक, अनुसूचित जाति का एक किसान खेत पर गया, वहाँ नॉरकोटिक्स विभाग उसकी अफीम की फसल उखाड़ रहा था। यह देखकर वह बेहोश होकर गिर गया। अस्पताल में उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया गया। कुछ किसान न्यायालय गये। उन्हें स्थगन मिल गया कि उनकी फसल नहीं उखाड़ी जाएगी, किन्तु नॉरकोटिक्स विभाग को अपील करके न्याय की आशा करने वाले किसान स्थगन नहीं ला सके। उनकी अफीम की फसल उखाड़ी जा रही है। लाखों रुपये लागत से उगाई गयी फसल नष्ट हो रही है। किसान बर्बाद हो रहा है। वित्त मंत्री तुरन्त हस्तक्षेप करें, विभागीय त्रुटि से किसानों की अकाल मृत्यु से रक्षा करें और उन्हें आर्थिक बर्बादी से बचाएँ। मैं पुरजोर मांग करता हूँ कि वे किसानों को भरपूर मुआवजा दें और दोषी अधिकारियों पर कार्रवाई करें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 8th March, 2010.

The House then adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past six of the clock till  
eleven of the clock on Monday, the 8th March, 2010.