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RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 30th April, 2010/10 Vaisakha, 1932 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Spending by Eastern Railway

*501. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Eastern Railway is spending Rs.215.00 for income Rs. 100.00;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Railways to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the question is related to the operating ratio of different zones of the Railways. In reply to my question, the hon. Minister said, "all are no." My question is, if we go through the operating ratio of different zones of the Railways, it reveals that the Eastern Railway is in the worse position now. After bifurcation, its position is deteriorating day by day. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether after bifurcating the Dhanbad and Mogulsarai divisions, the situation has become like this. According to the suggestion of the Railway Convention Committee, will the Minister consider merging the Dhanbad division with the Eastern Railway to save the Eastern Railway, the prestigious zone of our country and the Railways also?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it is a very sensitive question. Though I was not the Minister at the time when this bifurcation took place, you know, and you will appreciate that we had opposed this move. But bifurcation has been done 8 years ago, in 2002-03, and it is the expectation of every State that they want something more. We also want it. But we know that because of Dhanbad and Mogulsarai divisions, it has been cut off from the Eastern Railway. It is a fact that earlier the operating ratio was about 160. Before bifurcation, the operating ratio was

120, and after that, it is about 160. So, it is between 120 and 160. There are so many causes behind this and bifurcation is one of the main causes. The Eastern Railway, like the other Railways, is prestigious also. Now, so many zones have been set up. I would have been happy if my hon. friend had opposed it at that time.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: We opposed it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, you did not. Please excuse me. Otherwise, we would have worked on the situation. But I do not want to play with fire now because it is already with the Jharkhand State. It is also a neglected State. But I would be very happy if it comes to us. It is a Cabinet decision, the Government decision. I think, if my friend from West Bengal, moves a resolution, I will support it. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, everybody knows that many Committees have been formed by the Railways which do not have any direction relations with the Railways. But given the Committee members high salary, perks and infrastructural facilities, though it is an all India level Committee, it is actually working in the Eastern Railway area. The Eastern Railway is a small zone. Will the Minister say that this unwanted expenditure has an adverse effect on the operating ratio of the Eastern Railway at present?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it is a fact that we have 16 zones. In 8 zones, the operating ratio is very good. But in the other 8 zones, the operating ratio is less. It depends on the situation also. If you see the figures in respect of the Eastern Zone, you will find that it depends on the average carried load of freight also. If you see the average carried load, then you will find that the Eastern Railway is not the longest part. It is a small part. It is a very good area. Now, they have the port, they have the potential area, they have the economically viable area. But there are some areas which are neglected. Why is Jammu and Kashmir given special importance? It is because that is our heart, that is the neglected part. In the case of the North-Eastern Railway, the operating ratio is just above 233 though an Eastern Railway it is 190 which is above the average. So, if you see Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern Railway, it is above 2 points something. As Eastern Railway has the maintenance centres, the working expenses are more because...

जो इतने लम्बे distance हैं, वे सबसे कम हैं। It is 157 kms. in the Eastern Zone. If you see the others, in the Central Zone it is 325; in the East Coast it is 359; in the North Eastern zone, it is 341; in the South-Eastern, it is 249. The South Eastern Railway is headquartered at Kolkata. So, it depends on one group or the other group. In our country, in some States, there are neglected areas, there are some good areas, there are some potential areas and there are some socially desirable areas; that is why, more and more steps should be taken for development of these neglected areas, to give them more expansion projects, to give them more expanding augmented areas and all that, and to create more and more infrastructure. Sir, it is a fact that

out of about 14 lakh employees, 1,27,000 are in the Eastern Railway, and in the Northern Railway, their staff strength is more. Sir, because of the Sixth Pay Commission, we have the burden also. So, due to the Sixth Pay Commission, Rs.55,000 crores are involved, and, now, in the Eastern Railway itself, due to the Sixth Pay Commission, our recurring expenditure for the staff also is about Rs. 2,000 crores.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the question is not about the staff strength. ...*(Interruptions)*... The answer is not related to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*... The answer is not related to my question, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Please protect us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, please protect us. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, may I repeat my question? Many Committees were formed by the Railways, which are not directly attached with the railway works. Many Committees have been formed.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question relates to the original question.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... And they are working in the Eastern Railway Zone areas. My question is... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, this is a first supplementary.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: No, no, no. It is my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. You have repeated your question. That is all right.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, with your kind permission, I want to reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... With your kind permission, Sir, I want to reply. Whatever Committees we have set up, it is according to our Constitution and our Railway rules and regulations. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have not done anything wrong, which is not related to the Railways. That is absolutely wrong, what you are quoting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. The income from higher classes of the Railways, particularly in Eastern Railway, is reducing year after year, whereas the income from the second classes and the lower classes is increasing. Is that the reason that you are giving more subsidies from the general revenue towards the dividend relief? If so, how much relief are you giving as a subsidy to the Eastern Zone only? And are you giving a similar relief to the other Zones? If not, why not?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I think, you will appreciate that Railways is a vast Ministry, and we have got different types of Departments. We have got approximately 14 lakhs employees. It includes everything. So, Sir, we need a separate question for that because we have the vast staff, we have the plans, we have the augmentation infrastructure, we have the passenger services, we have the freight services; we have so many things. If he wants an

answer to his specific question — it is not related to the main question — he should give notice for a separate question; we can reply to his separate question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Malaisamy.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am inclined to appreciate the performance of Railways, but I am told that there are wasteful and objectionable expenditures as per the audit report of CAG. If so, can it be elaborated a little and the action taken to correct those wasteful and objectionable expenditures?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Which year? I want to know the specific year.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Okay. In the last three years, Sir.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, whatever report we have received from CAG, we respect the CAG report, and, as you know, I have already submitted a white paper. As for our accounting system, we are trying to strengthen the accounting system, and the CAG Report has also appreciated that; you know that. So, Sir, whatever we do, according to our CAG report, we take all steps and care.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I am just rising in response to the Minister's reply to the first question that I just want to remind the hon. Minister that CPI(M) had always opposed the bifurcation of these zones. Number one. And the reason why we opposed is important, and that is related to my question, that Railways, apart from everything else, is the premier pan-Indian organization of ours, and it has an important role in giving a pan-Indian consciousness and promoting that consciousness in the country. Therefore, bifurcation of railways State-wise is something that goes against the spirit of this pan-Indian consciousness. Will the Minister assure the House that there will be no further bifurcation of these zones State-wise as and when the demand comes? That is eroding the role that the railways is playing.

Secondly, she said that it was done eight years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One question, please.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: She said that it was done eight years ago. Eight years ago the hon. Minister was a member of the Cabinet from the other side.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, I was not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not relevant.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Okay, that is not relevant. Answer the first question.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, in 2002 and 2003 I was not a Cabinet Minister. This is a wrong information. I think that anybody can ask me any question, but not politically motivated. *(Interruptions)*... I don't give the answer politically. I will appreciate the hon. Member, if he doesn't ask questions politically. *(Interruptions)*... It is a politically motivated question. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: How can it be politically motivated? *(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: At that time, we opposed it and now also. I will be happy if you bring a motion. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't intervene. *(Interruptions)*... No, Mr. Moinul Hassan, you had your time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You bring a motion, I will support you. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I want an assurance from you, Madam, that you will not further bifurcate the zones State-wise. It is a simple question. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: We want no further bifurcation. *(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I can't play with fire. I am interested in Dhanbad, Mugalsarai and other places all over the country when the zones have been bifurcated. I should have been happy, at that time, if anybody had supported us. But nobody supported us. This time I want to tell you very categorically that if you want it seriously, please bring a motion, and I will give you full support. Don't you think that I will give you support? *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: If you bring it, I will support it. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yechuriji, please. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: You bring it. You are the Minister. *(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I will support. *(Interruption)*... You know. *(Interruptions)*... Don't ask politically motivated questions. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't have discussion here. *(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, they should not insist on me ... *(Interruptions)*... We came to Delhi. We staged a dharna. At that time, they did not support us. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.502. *(Interruptions)*...

Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas

*502. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned and utilized by these Vidyalayas during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the facilities provided to the students and expenditure incurred per student by these Vidyalayas;

(d) the names of districts which have two Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas at present, State-wise;

(e) whether Government proposes to open two Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas in other districts of the country; and

(f) if so, the time by when these Vidyalayas are likely to be opened?

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

Statement

(a) There are 977 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 576 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the country. The State-wise break-up is given in the statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The Region-wise details of funds released to KVs and utilized by them during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the statement-II (*See below*). Similar State-wise details for JNVs are given in the statement-III (*See below*).

(c) Students of KVs and JNVs are provided with necessary class-rooms, library, computer room, laboratories, drinking water and sanitation facilities, sports facilities and other infrastructure and services that are required for scholastic and co-scholastic activities. JNVs being residential schools, the students of JNVs are also provided free boarding and lodging as well as uniform, text books and stationery for daily living.

The average recurring expenditure incurred per student by Government during 2008-09 for KVs was Rs.13242/- and the corresponding figure for JNVs was Rs.41763/-.

(d) The names of districts having 2 or more KVs or JNVs are given in the statement-IV (*See below*).

(e) and (f) In case of KVs, the location depends on the request of the sponsoring agency and the viability of the proposal including number of students of the priority category and commitment of the sponsoring agency to provide land free of cost. In case of JNVs, the present policy envisages one Vidyalaya per district. However, as a special case, 20 additional JNVs were approved in districts of large SC and ST concentration in the year 2008-09.

Statement-I

The state-wise number of functional JNVs and KVs in the country

Sl. No.	State-UT	No. of functional JNVs	No. of functional KVs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	02
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	50

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	13
4.	Assam	27	50
5.	Bihar	38	40
6.	Chandigarh	1	05
7.	Chhattisgarh	17	25
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	01
9.	Daman and Diu	2	01
10.	Delhi	2	41
11.	Goa	2	05
12.	Gujarat	20	42
13.	Haryana	20	27
14.	Himachal Pradesh	12	21
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	34
16.	Jharkhand	24	30
17.	Karnataka	28	36
18.	Kerala	14	29
19.	Lakshadweep	1	01
20.	Madhya Pradesh	50	81
21.	Maharashtra	32	53
22.	Manipur	9	07
23.	Meghalaya	8	07
24.	Mizoram	7	03
25.	Nagaland	11	05
26.	Orissa	30	36
27.	Puducherry	4	03
28.	Punjab	21	39
29.	Rajasthan	33	56
30.	Sikkim	4	02

1	2	3	4
31.	Tamil Nadu *	—	37
32.	Tripura	4	06
33.	Uttar Pradesh	68	97
34.	Uttarakhand	13	41
35.	West Bengal	17	51
	TOTAL	576	977

*Tamil Nadu State has not opted for the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme.

Statement-II

Details of funds released to KVs and utilized by them

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the RO	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Funds Released	Funds Utilised	Funds Released	Funds Utilised	Funds Released	Funds Utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ahmedabad	3110	3108	5657	5656	5644	
2.	Bangalore	5200	5199	7531	7530	9113	
3.	Bhopal	5432	5430	8300	8292	11778	
4.	Bhubneswar	6252	6252	8800	8742	10706	Accounts
5.	Chandigarh	6085	6083	7500	7446	11637	not yet
6.	Chennai	7640	7600	10912	10913	15271	compiled.
7.	Dehradun	5435	5400	7900	7888	10426	
8.	Delhi	10635	10632	15101	15100	21485	
9.	Guwahati	3978	3976	5748	5748	7421	
10.	Hyderabad	5003	5003	6509	6508	10144	
11.	Jabalpur	5638	5635	7132	7132	7811	
12.	Jaipur	4905	4904	8000	7995	11098	
13.	Jammu	4682	4698	6900	6878	9131	
14.	Kolkata	5955	5953	8036	8036	11008	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Lucknow	6805	6802	10399	10398	13077	
16.	Mumbai	5325	5324	7133	7132	10907	
17.	Patna	4770	4770	7900	7899	9762	
18.	Silchar	2982	2982	4482	4481	4482	
19.	KVS (HQ)	9300	9200	12515	12512	1852	
	TOTAL	109132	108951	156455	156286	192753	0

Statement-III

Details of funds released to JNVs and utilized by them

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Financial Year(s)					
		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Funds Released	Funds Utilised	Funds Released	Funds Utilised	Funds Released	Funds Utilised
							(Anticipated)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	347.93	347.75	683.70	679.01	323.93	323.93
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3777.93	3773.48	4225.41	4181.50	5478.05	5478.05
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2016.00	1990.00	3747.56	3722.28	6373.55	6373.55
4.	Assam	3904.00	3867.00	6891.23	6841.75	6730.81	6730.81
5.	Bihar	7354.30	7251.55	8685.52	8555.18	9583.03	9583.03
6.	Chandigarh	156.32	153.95	203.50	201.25	240.71	240.71
7.	Chhattisgarh	3385.84	3385.06	4523.72	4308.17	4979.14	4979.14
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	77.85	75.64	141.97	141.72	133.29	133.29
9.	Daman and Diu	242.43	236.01	259.53	252.05	324.88	324.88
10.	Delhi	465.05	440.80	454.78	445.60	636.30	636.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Goa	369.14	386.02	380.61	376.35	396.10	396.10
12.	Gujarat	2927.38	2878.89	4723.76	4709.84	5501.77	5501.77
13.	Haryana	4333.61	4209.61	5353.03	5307.15	5759.27	5759.27
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1498.84	1487.69	2842.15	2839.81	2816.47	2816.47
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1931.51	1874.41	3571.61	3358.72	4961.37	4961.37
16.	Jharkhand	5174.04	5130.60	6076.33	6028.36	5850.54	5850.54
17.	Karnataka	4339.77	4316.27	5280.71	5163.72	6499.19	6499.19
18.	Kerala	2865.16	2859.11	3455.48	3425.42	3788.05	3788.05
19.	Lakshadweep	97.71	97.68	188.48	182.67	181.68	181.68
20.	Madhya Pradesh	8603.01	8402.03	10787.50	10025.51	12693.95	12693.95
21.	Maharashtra	5543.81	5508.47	6768.13	6431.45	8003.65	8003.65
22.	Manipur	2545.00	2528.00	3329.64	3323.26	3878.59	3878.59
23.	Meghalaya	2779.10	2104.50	3254.10	3247.57	2303.42	2303.42
24.	Mizoram	2093.00	2082.00	2594.94	2584.22	1730.33	1730.33
25.	Nagaland	1097.00	1065.00	2670.09	2654.33	4463.05	4463.05
26.	Orissa	5130.95	5070.50	9056.01	8673.80	4079.75	4079.75
27.	Puducherry	902.11	898.66	925.28	917.87	1155.80	1155.80
28.	Punjab	2239.12	2238.12	3573.77	3572.97	5011.85	5011.85
29.	Rajasthan	6092.20	5825.88	7043.50	6989.42	7831.05	7831.05
30.	Sikkim	1174.00	1169.00	1720.01	1716.42	714.91	714.91
31.	Tripura	458.00	451.00	1205.25	1194.61	2142.83	2142.83
32.	Uttar Pradesh	11879.99	11699.14	13999.12	13840.25	17195.61	17195.61
33.	Uttarakhand	2570.22	2550.75	3046.76	3014.01	4494.77	4494.77
34.	West Bengal	2509.65	2486.56	5510.52	5475.00	7068.73	7068.73
TOTAL		100881.97	98823.13	137173.70	134381.24	153326.40	153326.40

Statement-IV

(A) Names of Districts having two JNVs

S.No.	State/UT	District
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam
3.	Assam	Karbi Anglong
4.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewara
5.	Jharkhand	Pakur
6.	Jharkhand	Palmau
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
8.	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills
9.	Punjab	Amritsar
10.	Rajasthan	Banswara

(B) Names of districts having two or more KVs

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Sl.No.	Name of the District
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.	Andaman
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2.	Rangareddy
		3.	Hyderabad
		4.	Visakhapatnam
		5.	Krishna
		6.	Guntur
		7.	Chittoor
		8.	Anantapur
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.	West Kameng
		10.	Papumpare
4.	Assam	11.	Karbi Along
		12.	Dibrugarh

1	2	3	4
		13.	Tinsukia
		14.	Sibsagar
		15.	Cachar
		16.	Kamrup (M)
		17.	Jorhat
		18.	Sonitpur
		19.	Nagaon
5.	Bihar	20.	Saran
		21.	Darbhanga
		22.	Samastipur
		23.	Patna
		24.	Gaya
		25.	Begusarai
6.	Chandigarh	26.	Chandigarh
7.	Chhattisgarh	27.	Dantewada
		28.	Durg
		29.	Korba
		30.	Koriya
		31.	Raipur
		32.	Rajnandgaon
8.	Delhi	33.	East Delhi
		34.	North West Delhi
		35.	North Delhi
		36.	New Delhi
		37.	South West Delhi
		38.	West Delhi
		39.	South Delhi
9.	Goa	40.	North Goa

1	2	3	4
		41.	South Goa
10.	Gujarat	42.	Ahmedabad
		43.	Gandhi Nagar
		44.	Kutch
		45.	Jamnagar
		46.	Vadodara
		47.	Surat
		48.	Anand
		49.	Rajkot
11.	Haryana	50.	Ambala
		51.	Panchkula
		52.	Karnal
		53.	Sirsa
		54.	Faridabad
		55.	Gurgaon
12.	Himachal Pradesh	56.	Chamba
		57.	Kangra
		58.	Hamirpur
		59.	Shimla
		60.	Solan
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	61.	Jammu
		62.	Kathua
		63.	Udhampur
		64.	Srinagar
		65.	Anantnag
		66.	Baramulla
14.	Jharkhand	67.	Bokaro
		68.	Ramgarh

1	2	3	4
		69.	West Singhbhum
		70.	Dhanbad
		71.	Ranchi
15.	Karnataka	72.	Bangalore
		73.	Bellary
		74.	Belgaum
		75.	Dharawar
		76.	Dakshin Kannada
16.	Kerala	77.	Kannur
		78.	Kasargod
		79.	Ernakulam
		80.	Kozhikode
		81.	Palakkad
		82.	Thiruvanthapuram
17.	Madhya Pradesh	83.	Bhopal
		84.	Gwalior
		85.	Indore
		86.	Itarsi
		87.	Jabalpur
		88.	Katni
		89.	Rewa
		90.	Sagar
18.	Maharashtra	91.	Thane
		92.	Mumbai City
		93.	Mumbai Sub-urban
		94.	Raigad
		95.	Pune
		96.	Ahmednagar

1	2	3	4
		97.	Nasik
		98.	Jalgaon
		99.	Chandarpur
		100.	Nagpur
19.	Manipur	101.	Imphal
20.	Meghalaya	102.	East Khasi Hills
		103.	Ri-Bhoi
21.	Mizoram	104.	Aizawl
22.	Nagaland	105.	Dimapur
		106.	Kohima
23.	Orissa	107.	Angul
		108.	Ganjam
		109.	Khurda
		110.	Bolangir
		111.	Sundergarh
		112.	Cuttak
		113.	Koraput
24.	Puducherry	114.	Puducherry
25.	Punjab	115.	Ferozepur
		116.	Ludhiana
		117.	Bhatinda
		118.	Mohali
		119.	Kapurthala
		120.	Patiala
		121.	Gudaspur
		122.	Amritsar
		123.	Jallundhar
26.	Rajasthan	124.	Jaipur
		125.	Tonk

1	2	3	4
		126.	Jodhpur
		127.	Bikaner
		128.	Alwar
		129.	Barmer
		130.	Jaisalmer
		131.	Ganga Nagar
		132.	Ajmer
		133.	Udaipur
		134.	Baran
		135.	Sawai Madhopur
		136.	Kota
27.	Sikkim	137.	East Sikkim
28.	Tamil Nadu	138.	Chennai
		139.	Coimbatore
		140.	Kanchipuram
		141.	Madurai
		142.	The Nilgiris
		143.	Ramanathapuram
		144.	Sivaganga
		145.	Tiruchirapali
		146.	Tiruvallur
		147.	Vellore
29.	Tripura	148.	West Tripura
		149.	North Tripura
30.	Uttar Pradesh	150.	Mathura
		151.	Agra
		152.	Lucknow
		153.	Sultanpur
		154.	Kanpur

1	2	3	4
		155.	Jhansi
		156.	Allahabad
		157.	Gonda
		158.	Sonebhadra
		159.	Gorakhpur
		160.	Varansi
		161.	Ghaziabad
		162.	Bareilly
		163.	Meerut
		164.	Shahjahanpur
31.	Uttarakhand	165.	Dehradun
		166.	Tehri Garwal
		167.	Uttar Kashi
		168.	Pauri Garwal
		169.	Chamoli
		170.	Hardawar
		171.	Almora
		172.	Pithoragarh
		173.	Champawat
		174.	Nainital
32.	West Bengal	175.	Burdwan
		176.	Darjeeling
		177.	Kolkata
		178.	Howrah
		179.	Jalpaiguri
		180.	24 Pargana North
		181.	24 Pargana South
		182.	Malda
		183.	Midnapore

SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Sir, I asked about the details of funds sanctioned and utilized by the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last three years, State-wise. There is a mention that in Haryana there are Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. But in Annexure-II there is no mention of Haryana and there is no mention as to how much funds were released during the last three years. There is no mention of Haryana.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, what we do is that we release the funds to the various regional offices and there is no regional office with respect to Haryana is mentioned here. But whatever funds were required for the schools in Haryana — there are 20 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas — were released to them. There were no complaints about that.

SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Sir, this is my first supplementary. I want to know... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please ask your second supplementary. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: My second supplementary is that the concept of Kendriya Vidyalayas and the Navodaya Vidyalayas was to promote national integration and excellence in school education. They are rural-based schools. Now the next policy of the Government of India is that there will be no examination up to 10th class. I feel that if there is no examination up to the 10th class, then the whole concept will be defeated the reason being that in rural areas if there is no examination, no studies will take place in schools.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in fact, the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas are two separate special category schools. As far as the Navodaya Vidyalayas are concerned, there will be examinations for entry. That is the Navodaya Vidyalayas Scheme. In the rural areas only meritorious students are taken. So, the impression of the hon. Member that there will be no examinations for entry into the Navodaya Vidyalayas is wrong. As far as Kendriya Vidyalayas are concerned, these are from class 1 to class 12. Now we have the Right to Education Act and under the Right to Education Act, which is from class-1 to class-8, the stipulation is that there shall be no examinations for entry of children into the schools.

So, the Kendriya Vidyalayas Scheme has to be brought in line with the Right to Education Act. That is my answer to his question.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: थैंक्यू, चेयरमैन सर। जब फंड प्रोवाइड करने की बात आई है, उसमें से बच्चों को डायट भी दी जाती है और उसके लिए स्पेसिफिक एमाउंट सैंक्शन होता है कि इतने पैसे की डायट दी जाएगी। पिछले समय में महंगाई बहुत बढ़ी है, कमांडिटीज के प्राइसिज बढ़े हैं, लेकिन डायट का पैसा तो उतना ही रहा। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब प्राइसिज बढ़ाने की बात आए, तब क्या उन बच्चों के लिए डायट का पैसा भी बढ़ाया जाएगा या नहीं? क्या स्कूलों के प्रिंसिपल्स को ऑथोराइज किया जाएगा कि वे उतना पैसा खर्च करें ताकि बच्चों को ठीक डायट मिले?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: We have already for the JNVs increased the diet fee. But for Kendriya Vidyalayas, we don't give the diet fee. For JNVs, it has been increased.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: In view of the increase in prices...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Yes, yes, it has been increased keeping in view the increase in prices.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, the Minister in his reply has mentioned that there are 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas in Assam. One of the Kendriya Vidyalayas is situated in Barpeta, which has been started recently. The Government has allotted land to this school. This school is yet to run with complete infrastructure. Will the Government take necessary steps to see that this Kendriya Vidyalaya runs with full infrastructure in Barpeta? Part (b) of my question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, there is one part only.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I am given to understand that sanction has been given and the school is being run on a temporary accommodation. As you know, Sir, it takes a bit of time to build full infrastructure of a school. That will be done.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: From our side, from the MP quota and the MLA quota, we have given money for construction. But the Central Government has to give the required fund.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Once the land is allotted, then, of course, the Central Government will make sure that there is a permanent structure. In most of the Kendriya Vidyalayas, there are permanent structures. So you don't have to worry about that.

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सांसदों का जो कोटा था, क्या वह समाप्त कर दिया गया है? अगर समाप्त कर दिया गया है, तो क्यों?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your places. *(Interruptions)*. Please resume your places. Let the question be answered.

श्री कपिल सिब्बल: सर, ऑनरेबल मैम्बर ने जो सवाल पूछा है, हालांकि वह इस सवाल से संबंधित नहीं है, लेकिन फिर भी...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कमाल अख्तर: यह भी केन्द्रीय विद्यालय से जुड़ा हुआ है।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल: मैं आपको इसका जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हूँ! Sir, I just want to mention that one should understand the mechanics of it. We have passed the Right to Education Bill. Now the whole purpose of this quota was to make sure that people who belong to certain sections of civil societies, which are not part of the priority list, should also get admission. So the hon. Members were granted the right to nominate two persons of their choice for such admission. Now under the Right to Education Act, 25 per cent of the seats will be reserved in all Kendriya Vidyalayas, for civil category. Twenty-five per cent of the seats will be reserved for the category No. 7, that is, 25 per cent for the people in the neighbourhood. Which means, the 980 Kendriya Vidyalayas, all of them, in the years to come, will have 25 per cent reservation. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the answer.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Now, Sir, there are 10 lakh students in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country. Twenty-five per cent of the 10 lakh students, up to Class VIII, comes to about 25,000 and the total MP quota was about 2,800. Instead, under the Right to Education Act, we are giving 25,000 representations to this category...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please...*(Interruptions)* Let him answer...*(Interruptions)* Please resume your places...*(Interruptions)*

श्री कमल अख्तर: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह गरीब बच्चों के साथ अन्याय है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... साहू जी, बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... कमल अख्तर जी, आप बैठ जाइए! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री कमल अख्तर: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह गरीबों के साथ अन्याय किया गया है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, मेरी बात सुनिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए! ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... It is evident that Members want rights above citizens...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप ज़रा इनकी बात सुन लीजिए! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल: हिन्दुस्तान भर से कई लोग मुझे मिलने के लिए आते हैं। वे कहते हैं कि हम तो किसी एम.पी. को जानते नहीं हैं, हम भी गरीब हैं और हमारे बच्चे को भी एडमिशन मिलनी चाहिए, तो मैं उनको कोई जवाब नहीं दे पाता। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल: मैं उनको जवाब नहीं दे पाता। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं उनको जवाब नहीं दे पाता। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह मिनिस्टर के खिलाफ no confidence है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... That is all. Thank you very much. क्वेश्चन नं. 503. ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... What is this?...*(Interruptions)*.. आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... No; please resume your places...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry; you cannot do this...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... तिवारी जी, प्लीज़। You are a senior Member...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, इस पर डिस्कशन होनी चाहिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप इस पर डिस्कशन के लिए नोटिस दीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... If you want a discussion, then, give a notice. That is all...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed...*(Interruptions)*... साहू जी, आप सवाल पूछ चुके, अब आप बैठ

जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... अग्रवाल जी, it is not fair. आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज़। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्वेश्चन नं. 503. ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठ जाइए...**(व्यवधान)**... I have called question No. 503. Question No. 502 खत्म हो गया है।...**(व्यवधान)**... क्वेश्चन नं. 503...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry...*(Interruptions)* This is incorrect...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry, you cannot get protection for wrong things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a matter which relates to the functioning of the House. Please resume your place. *(Interruptions)* Please. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Mysura Reddy, please resume your place. *(Interruptions)* Please. *(Interruptions)*

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: सर, आपका संरक्षण चाहिए।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are on Question No.503 now. *(Interruptions)* Please. *(Interruptions)* प्लीज़, आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब नहीं हो सकता। ...**(व्यवधान)**... One minute. Let Question No.503 be answered.

Availability of storage facilities

*503. 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 about 20 per cent of the wheat targeted to be procured this year will have to be stored in the open for want of proper storage facilities in the country;
- (b) if so, the target for procurement this year and the available storage capacity with Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (c) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of wheat which was stored in the open, has been reported to have been damaged; 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) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) The wheat to be procured this year will be stored scientifically, both in covered godowns as well as in Covered and Plinth (CAP).
- (b) The estimate for wheat procurement in RMS 2010-11 is 262.67 lakh tonnes and the available storage capacity (covered, CAP, owned and hired) with Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 31.03.2010 is 288.36 lakh tonnes.
- (c) No, Sir. Large quantity of wheat stored in CAP, has not been damaged, However, some quantity of wheat kept in CAP storage has become non-issuable due to rains, cyclone and natural calamities etc. which are beyond human control.
- (d) Wheat stock damaged (non-issuable) stored in CAP by FCI during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Quantity of Wheat damaged (in MTs)	Value (in Rs. Lakh)
2007-08	147	6.73
2008-09	623	28.50
2009-10	716	32.73

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, एफ.सी.आई. गोदामों की कमी से जूझ रहा है। उसने 28.54 लाख टन अनाज रखने के लिए additional storage capacity भाड़े पर ले रखी है। एक ओर राजस्थान में जयपुर के गांधी नगर एफ.सी.आई. डिपो के godown को शराब रखने के लिए भाड़े पर दिया गया है, जबकि हमारा गेहूँ खुले आकाश के नीचे सड़ रहा है। सर, यह बात न्यूज पेपर में भी छपी है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not show any newspaper.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, खुले आकाश के नीचे गेहूँ सड़ रहा है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि godowns को food grains रखने की बजाय शराब रखने के लिए भाड़े पर क्यों दिया गया? उनमें हमारे food grains रखे जाएँ, इसके लिए मंत्री जी क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, as per the knowledge of the Government, no FCI godown is given for liquor storage. If any specific case is brought to our notice, it will be looked into.

Coming to Punjab, we have enough covered storage, the total capacity of which comes to 3,72,936 tonnes. We are in touch with the State Government and trying to see to it that, since we have much better production this year, we procure whatever comes to the market. With the assistance of the Punjab Government, we are procuring and storing whatever is coming to the market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Mabel Rebello. Second supplementary. Yes.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, मंत्री महोदय का यह answer सटीक नहीं है। अगर मंत्री महोदय को जानकारी नहीं है तो वे इसे जानें। मैं तो यह कह रहा हूँ कि राजस्थान में जयपुर के गांधी नगर एफ.सी.आई. डिपो के godown में शराब रखी गयी है और उसके बाहर गेहूँ का स्टॉक पड़ा है। इसलिए मंत्री महोदय का यह जवाब सटीक नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल क्या है?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I have seen that report. This report was there in some of the newspapers that one of the godowns is being used for storage of liquor. I have gone into the details. I have collected the information. Sir, that godown is not controlled by the FCI. There are a number of warehouses. Some of them are with the State Governments. Some of them are with the Central Warehousing Corporation. Some of them are with the State Warehousing

Corporations. The entire capacity is not blocked or booked by the FCI. Wherever there is vacant capacity, the concerned authorities are giving that to various people for different purposes. It is true that that particular godown, which does not belong to FCI, was given for storage of liquor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Ms. Rebello.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, मेरा दूसरा question? ...(व्यवधान)... वह तो पहला ही था।

श्री सभापति: आपके दो सवाल हो गये, ...(व्यवधान)... Sorry. Please don't mislead the Chair.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: नहीं सर, एक ही सवाल हुआ है।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, नहीं। आपके दो सवाल हो गये हैं। I am sorry. Please. *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, he has asked only one. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wrong. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, only one. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wrong. *(Interruptions)* No, no. Please resume your places. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, he has asked only one supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. I am sorry. *(Interruptions)* This business of asking serial questions cannot go on. Please go ahead with your question. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Raja, please. This is not your turn *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, he has asked only one supplementary. You can check the record. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, he did not ask the second supplementary. Please check the records. *(Interruptions)* He was repeating the same question.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Shall I go ahead, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, off and on we see on the television that in this current year almost Rs.800 crores worth wheat was destroyed in Punjab. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is making any budgetary provision this year onwards to construct state-of-the-art godowns, the modern godowns to store all the wheat that you will procure so that not a grain of wheat is destroyed in this current year. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any budgetary provision will be made for this, and when the construction of modern godowns will be completed so that 120 crores people of India can really have the advantage of having good food. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, regarding the damage of foodgrains in CAP and other storage facilities of the FCI, I would like to say that if you look at the data, you will find that even though there is a damage, it is of very negligible quantity, looking at the huge quantity of foodgrains the FCI is handling. Sir, in 2007-08, the quantity of wheat damaged was 147 metric tonnes.

...(Interruptions)... In the year 2008-09, the quantity of wheat damaged was 623 metric tonnes, and in 2009-10, it is 716 metric tonnes. Sir, we are handling a very huge quantity of wheat and rice. Sir, it is not only the FCI, the State Governments and other agencies are also helping us in this regard. Sir, we have a large scheme for the construction of storage facilities with the assistance of State Governments. We are in touch with all the State Governments in a large number of projects, and with assistance from the State Governments, we will be able to have the state-of-the-art storage facilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri H.K. Dua. ...(Interruptions)...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. You can't keep on asking questions. ...(Interruptions)...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, my question is not answered. I asked about the budgetary provision made for this year. He did not answer it. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any answer to that question available? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI H.K. DUA: Sir, the answer given by the Government paints a misleading picture virtually bordering on complacency, and gives an impression that all is well on the storage front. The figures given are very limited. The FCI figures regarding damage under the scheme called CAP are, in 2007-08, it was 147 metric tonnes; in 2008-09, it was 623 metric tonnes and in 2009-10, it is 716 metric tonnes. Sir, anybody can go to Punjab and Haryana for a day and see how short is the facility for storing grains. The Farmers Commission has given report which is scary on the storage front. Nearly 30 per cent of the perishable commodities get lost every year. The nation suffers a loss and the growers suffer a loss. I would like to know as to what plans the Government has to step up the building storage facility so that we don't lose any grain, or any of the perishable commodity further.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, as I told in reply to the last question, we have taken a number of steps to have new storage facilities. We are in touch with the State Governments. These facilities are done by the State Governments, the FCI and the CWC. Sir, we are giving a lot of funds to the State Governments for this purpose. We have got a specific scheme; there is a seven-year scheme, which includes the private enterprises also. So, new schemes are being implemented. Sir, this is being done with the assistance of the State Governments.

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: सभापति जी, शायद माननीय मंत्री जी को ज्ञात होगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में लेवी के चावल की पूरी खरीद FCI को करनी है, क्योंकि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने इसका जिम्मा FCI को दे दिया है और चूंकि FCI के पास भंडारण की क्षमता नहीं है, इसलिए वह लेवी का चावल नहीं खरीद पा रही है। इस वजह से उत्तर प्रदेश में लेवी का चावल बिल्कुल खरीदा नहीं जा रहा है। दूसरी तरफ गेहूं की खरीद भी कम हो रही है,

क्योंकि भंडारण की क्षमता नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे उत्तर प्रदेश में भंडारण क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए कोई कदम उठा रहे हैं? क्या उन्होंने इसके लिए कोई action plan बनाया है? यदि हां, तो इसके बारे में बताने की कृपा करें।

श्री शरद पवार: सभापति महोदय, इसमें दो बातें हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में FCI खरीद कर रही है, यह बात सही है। वहां पर FCI द्वारा जगह-जगह पर purchase शुरू है, मगर मैं इतना स्वीकार करता हूँ कि सभी जगह पर जहां मंडी है, वहां सभी purchase centers पर FCI के सेंटर्स नहीं हैं। सभी राज्यों में जो FCI purchase करती है, उनमें से बहुत जगह FCI डायरेक्ट किसानों से खरीदती नहीं है। वहां की स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की एजेंसी किसानों से खरीदती है, जिनको advance financial support FCI देती है और एजेंसी किसानों से खरीदने के बाद FCI को transfer करती है। हिन्दुस्तान की सभी मंडियों में FCI की अपनी एक मशीनरी खड़ी करना आसान नहीं है, इतने लोग उनके पास नहीं हैं। FCI की जिम्मेदारी स्टेट एजेंसी से खरीदना, स्टोर करना, ट्रांसपोर्ट करना और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को public distribution के लिए available करना है। उत्तर प्रदेश ने जो पूरी जिम्मेदारी FCI के ऊपर दे दी है, वह FCI कभी पूरी नहीं कर सकती है। सरकार के सामने यह बात लाई गई है कि इसमें वहां की cooperative institutions और अन्य एजेंसियों की मदद की आवश्यकता है। यदि यह मिलेगी, तो हम वहां पर ठीक तरीके से खरीदेंगे। उत्तर प्रदेश से मेरे पास बहुत शिकायतें आ रही हैं कि किसानों को minimum support price नहीं मिलती है, क्योंकि वहां जितने खरीद केन्द्र की आवश्यकता है, उतनी खरीद केन्द्र वहां पर नहीं हैं और इसकी कीमत किसानों को चुकानी पड़ती है। इसको दुरुस्त करने की आवश्यकता है और हम यह बात उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के ध्यान में लाए हैं।

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: महोदय, यह सरकार के ऊपर आरोप है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: देखिए, अब इस पर discussion नहीं होगा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: महोदय, यह सरकार के ऊपर आरोप है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: देखिए, अब इस पर discussion नहीं होगा...(व्यवधान).... नहीं, नहीं, यह नहीं होगा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, कोई मंत्री राज्य सरकार पर आरोप लगाए...(व्यवधान).... यह ठीक बात नहीं है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: यह discussion की जगह नहीं है...(व्यवधान).... आप बैठ जाइए...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, राज्य सरकार पर आरोप लगाया गया है...(व्यवधान).... इसको कार्यवाही से निकाला जाना चाहिए...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid this is not correct...(Interruptions)... Please resume your place...(Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, राज्य सरकार पर आरोप लगाकर अपने को बचाना चाहते हैं...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप बैठ जाइए...(व्यवधान).... कृपया आप बैठ जाइए...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, अगर आप इसे कार्यवाही से नहीं निकालेंगे, तो हम सदन का बहिष्कार करेंगे...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप बैठ जाइए...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : महोदय, अगर आप इसे delete नहीं करते हैं, तो हमें सदन को छोड़ना पड़ेगा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: देखिए, ऐसे नहीं होता है, अगर आपको कोई शिकायत है, तो आप उसे सही तरीके से उठाइए। रिकॉर्ड examine होगा, उसके बाद फैसला होगा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: राज्य सरकार पर आरोप लगाकर आप सरकार चलाने चाहते हैं, यह नहीं हो सकता है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry this is not correct. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: महोदय, मैंने दो सवाल किया था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: सवाल एक होता है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: महोदय, मैंने गेहूं की खरीद के बारे में भी पूछा था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given a ruling on this. Now let the next question be addressed. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल: महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will examine the record and then decide. Thank you. Question No.504.

*504. [The questioner (Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad) was absent.]

इस्पात की मांग में वृद्धि

*504. **श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद :** क्या **इस्पात मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विगत छः महीनों के दौरान देश में इस्पात की मांग में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो दिसंबर, 2009 से मार्च, 2010 की अवधि के दौरान इस मांग में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है;

(ग) क्या इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिए देश में इस्पात के प्रचुर मात्रा में उत्पादन की क्षमता स्थापित की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उत्पादन-क्षमता एवं मांग के बीच का अंतराल कितना है?

इस्पात मंत्री (श्री वीरभद्र सिंह): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) देश में इस्पात की मांग परिसर्जित इस्पात की खपत से जुड़ी हुई है। संयुक्त संघर्ष समिति (जेपीसी) द्वारा संकलित अनंतिम आंकड़े यह इंगित करते हैं कि गत 6 माह अर्थात् अक्तूबर से मार्च, 2009-10 के दौरान परिसर्जित इस्पात की घरेलू खपत में गत वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में 11.3 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है।

(ख) दिसंबर, 2009 की तुलना में मार्च, 2010 में परिसर्जित इस्पात की खपत 19.4 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। तथापि, इस्पात की खपत का पैटर्न मौसमी परिवर्तनों पर निर्भर करता है।

(ग) और (घ) वर्ष 2009-10 के लिए जेपीसी द्वारा जारी अनंतिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार अपरिष्कृत इस्पात की 72.76 मिलियन टन घरेलू क्षमता की तुलना में परिसर्जित इस्पात का उत्पादन 59.69 मिलियन टन और परिसर्जित इस्पात की घरेलू खपत 56.48 मिलियन टन है। इससे इंगित होता है कि देश में इस्पात की वर्तमान मांग से इस्पात उत्पादन की घरेलू क्षमता अधिक है।

Increase in demand for Steel

†*504. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for steel has increased in the country during last six months;

(b) if so, the percentage increase in this demand during the period from December, 2009 to March, 2010;

(c) whether capacity to produce steel in huge quantity has been established in the country to meet this demand; and

(d) if so, the gap between production capacity and demand?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The demand for steel is characterized by consumption of finished steel in the country. The provisional data compiled by the Joint Plant Committee (JP²) indicate that during the last six months *i.e.* October to March 2009-10, the domestic consumption of finished steel has recorded a growth of 11.3% over the corresponding period of last year.

(b) The consumption of finished steel in March, 2010 has increased 19.4% as compared to December, 2009. However, the steel consumption pattern is dependent upon seasonal variation.

(c) and (d) As per the provisional data released by the JPC for the year 2009-10, against the domestic crude steel capacity of 72.76 million tonnes the production of finished steel is 59.69 million tonnes, and domestic consumption of finished steel is 56.48 million tonnes. It indicates that the domestic steel production capacity is higher than the current demand for steel in the country.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, I would just draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the last sentence of his reply which has been laid on the Table of this House, which says that the domestic steel production capacity is higher than the current demand of steel in this country. Would the Minister like to comment on the anomaly that India has the lowest consumption of steel? We have one of the highest prices of steel. And for an economy which is growing at about 8 per cent, with the objective of going at a higher rate, how is it that our demand is way below acceptable international averages leading to the anomaly of domestic production being higher than what really is the demand? Is it because productivity is low or because of cost of steel in this country has kept the demand artificially suppressed?

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has put a very pertinent question. The figures that I have given pertain to the position as it prevails today. In

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The last financial year, the production of steel was more than the demand in the country.

But, I fully agree with him that the demand for steel is growing day-by-day by leaps and bounds. Also, per capita consumption of steel, which is one of the lowest in the world today, stands at only 34 kg. It is also going to grow. Keeping this in view, we have undertaken a massive expansion of our steel making facilities in the country, both in the private and also in the public sector. I would like to tell the hon. Member, at present, the domestic consumption of finished steel is 56.48 million tones. We envisage a plan by which this production will go up to 120 million tones by the year 2011-12. While calculating this, we have not taken into consideration the Greenfield projects. Sir, only the Brownfield projects and special programmes by the PSUs and other companies which have Brownfield projects have been calculated and I am sanguine that we will be able to achieve this goal.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि जो स्टील के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, उसके संबंध में domestic steel manufacturers की शिकायत है? उनका कहना है कि जो iron ore है, उसका चीन और अन्य देशों को निर्यात करने पर बहुत जोर है और iron ore निर्यात माफियाज़ इस तरह से सक्रिय हैं कि इनको बहुत महंगा iron ore मिलता है, जिसकी वजह से वे दाम बढ़ाते हैं, जबकि जो फैसिलिटी इन iron ore निर्यात माफियाज़ को दी जाती है, उस पर किसी किस्म का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है, खास तौर से जो 64+ quality iron ore है, उसको लेकर सबसे ज्यादा विवाद है। तो इस मामले में मंत्री जी का क्या कहना है?

श्री वीरभद्र सिंह : सर, वैसे तो steel prices के बारे में आज एक क्वेश्चन और आने वाला है, क्वेश्चन नंबर 515, यदि आप आज्ञा दें, तो मैं इसका भी जवाब दे सकता हूँ।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : हां, दीजिए।

श्री सभापति : आप इस सवाल का जवाब दीजिए।

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, I was saying that there is similar question — Question No. 515 — slated for oral reply today regarding the steel prices.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : हां, तो बताइए। आप अभी भी दे सकते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. We are not clubbing the questions. You just reply to this supplementary. Please do not go on to another question.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, I don't know which mafia the hon. Member is talking about.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सर, आप मेरा सवाल समझ नहीं पाए। क्या iron ore export पर इतना जोर है कि जो domestic steel manufacturing industry है, उसको पर्याप्त iron ore मिल नहीं पाता है, इसलिए steel products के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं?

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, he has also raised a good question.

We have a big store of iron ore reserves in the country. But, at the same time, the Ministry of Steel is of the view that we should do everything possible to conserve our iron ore in the country. At present, we are just exporting iron ore at a throw away prices. This will be having impact on the prices of steel. So, it is better to export the finished products than exporting iron

ore. We must export value added products instead of exporting iron ore. At the same time, I am not aware of any mafia as such. I think, this question should be addressed to the Mines Ministry.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, exporting cannot be at a throwaway price.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply reflects the complacency. When the record says that in 2009-10, the finished steel capacity was 59.69 million tones, the domestic demand was 56.48 million tones. The margin is very thin. Our country is also exporting steel to outside. If the export is also taken into account, I think, we are in shortage of steel. Hon. Minister himself has assured that 120 million tones capacity would be reached by 2020. My question to the hon. Minister is: If that is the vision of production by 2020, the input requirement within the country, particularly the precious iron ore, will also go up. So, will the Minister seriously consider to put an absolute ban on export of all kinds of iron ore... which the hon. Minister himself just now told, are being sold at throwaway prices. So, I would like to know whether that 'selling at throwaway prices' requires a ban and whether the Steel Minister is going to take a serious step in that direction.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Sir, so far as I am concerned, as a Minister of Steel, I have a considered view that there should be a total ban on the export of iron-ores so as to meet the domestic requirement of the country. But, of course, the Government does not function only with one Ministry. I will impress upon the Government, upon the Prime Minister and upon the Finance Minister also to consider the proposal for a total ban on export of iron-ores. But it can be achieved through other methods also. It can be achieved by some taxation measures also to discourage the export of iron-ores.

Import of raw sugar

*505. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of sugar imported in the financial year 2009-10;
- (b) whether there is any problem in processing of raw imported sugar in the country, especially in Jharkhand; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to sort out the matter and also to increase the availability of sugar in the domestic market in order to control the soaring prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) As per report dated 07.04.2010 of the Department of Revenue, the quantity of the custom cleared imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar in financial year 2009-10 (from 17.4.2009 to 31.3.2010) is 26.84 lac tons and 12.64 lac tons respectively.

(b) and (c) Due to restrictions imposed in November, 2009 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh on transportation and movement of imported raw sugar in the state, processing of imported raw sugar was affected. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has since lifted the restrictions in February, 2010. At present, no problem has been reported by the sugar mills/refineries in processing of raw imported sugar from anywhere in the country. There is no sugar mill/refinery in the State of Jharkhand. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to increase the availability of sugar in the domestic market and to control prices of sugar as indicated in the given Statement-I.

Statement-I

*Measures taken to increase 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, Khandasari 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 come into effect from 20.02.2010.
- 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.

श्री धीरज प्रसाद साहू : सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे अवसर दिया, उसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी का जवाब काफी संतोषजनक है एवं इस संबंध में सरकार की ओर से बहुत से सराहनीय कदम उठाए गए हैं। महोदय, देश में चीनी की वार्षिक जरूरत 23 मिलियन टन है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि चीनी के उत्पादन और जरूरत में जो फर्क है, उसको पूरा करने के लिए क्या सरकार किसी विशेष योजना पर काम कर रही है? यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सच है कि पिछले साल हिन्दुस्तान में चीनी का उत्पादन कम हुआ था, वह 150 लाख टन से नीचे हुआ था और देश की जरूरत 220-230 लाख टन के आसपास थी, इसलिए चीनी की कीमतें ऊपर गयी थीं। ऐसी स्थिति में इम्पोर्ट करने का एक रास्ता हमारे सामने था। आज खुशी की बात यह है कि अभी तक चीनी production की जो फिगर्स मेरे पास हिन्दुस्तान से आ रही हैं, वह 180 लाख टन के आसपास हैं और इस साल पर हेक्टेयर यील्ड अच्छा मिल रहा है इसलिए इस साल ज्यादा चीनी पैदा हो सकती है और देश में imported sugar, plus sugar which is produced in the country, इनसे देश की जो जरूरत है, वह पूरी होनी की परिस्थिति सामने आ रही है। जहां तक अगले साल का प्लांटेशन का सवाल है, सभी राज्यों में रिकार्ड देखने के बाद अगले साल excess production हो जाएगी, ऐसी स्थिति आज हिन्दुस्तान में मुझे दिखाई दे रही है। इसीलिए मार्किट में रेट पर इसका असर हो रहा है, यह बात सबके सामने आयी है।

श्री धीरज प्रसाद साहू : महोदय, सरकार के द्वारा कच्चा चीनी आयात पर जीरो ड्यूटी ओजीएल के अधीन 31 दिसंबर, 2010 तक जारी रखने से क्या खुदरा बाजार में चीनी की कीमत और कम होने की संभावना है?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I think, in the last Parliament Session, this issue was discussed. At that time, the price of sugar in open wholesale market was something about Rs. 4,800 per quintal. Two days back, the price, which we have collected from all over the country, was somewhat near to Rs. 2,550 per quintal. So, it has come down from Rs. 4,800 per quintal to Rs. 2,550 per quintal, plus excise duty. So, the trend is definitely going down.

DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the reply, in the measures taken, it is mentioned, "Allowed duty-free import" and "Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar.." Is it a fact that this is going to affect the sugar mills of our country? As per the reply of the hon. Minister, next year, the production is going to be surplus. I would like to know whether the sugar mills can pay the same price for cane which they are paying now. This is

a very serious matter. Is the Government going to continue the same policy on import of sugar, that is, without levy and duty-free import of sugar? Are you going to do this for the indigenous sugar factories also?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Till last year, there was a tax up to 60 per cent for import of sugar, but when there was a shortage, there was a mismatch between demand and supply. When we realized that we are not in a position to produce as per the requirements of the country, there was no alternative but to import and resolve the problems of the consumers. So, for the sake of providing incentive to imports, it is true that, we took this decision — ‘no duty on import’ this is number one; ‘no levy’ this is number two and ‘no release mechanism’, this is number three.’ So, these three major concessions were given which are not available for domestic industries and domestic producers. But that was the situation last year. As I said, today, the position is altogether different. It is true that there is more production. Trend is, definitely, of more production and prices are going down. We have to protect sugarcane farmers. If we have to protect sugarcane farmers, definitely, the Government has to take a decision at an appropriate time to keep a level-playing field for both of them.

श्रीमती वृन्दा कारत : सर, मंत्री जी ने जो जबाब दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि कई कदम सरकार ने दामों को नियंत्रण में लाने के लिए उठाए हैं। लेकिन आज भी चीनी का दाम बाजार में 35 रुपये किलो है। इससे स्पष्ट है कि सरकार ने जो मैजर्स उठाए, वे बिल्कुल असफल रहे, फेल रहे। मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से और मंत्री जी से सवाल है कि आपने जो यहां एक से पांच तक मुद्दे गिनाए हैं, ये तमाम मुद्दे बड़ी शुगर मिल्स को कंसेशन देने वाले मुद्दे हैं। मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि इसका मानेद्वी वैल्यू क्या है? जितने कंसेशन्स आपने इन कदमों में मिल्स को दिए हैं, उनकी वैल्यू क्या है? अगर आप इसके बारे में बता दें, तो अच्छा रहेगा।

श्री शरद पवार : सर, पहली बात तो यह है चीनी के दाम नीचे नहीं जा रहे हैं, यह बात सच नहीं है। माननीय सदस्या ने कहा कि आज 35 रुपये किलो चीनी का दाम रिटेल में है, ठीक है, it is between Rs.33/- and Rs.35/-. But, in some places, it is Rs.35/- also. But I recollect that in the same House, in the last Session, an issue was raised that prices reached to Rs.49/- to Rs.50/- per kilo. So, it has come down from Rs.50/- to Rs.35/-. That means, trend is, definitely, indicating as to in which direction it is going. A question was also raised about concessions. What concessions have been given? Duty-free import has been allowed. ..(Interruptions)...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : पहले 15 रुपये किलो में चीनी मिलती थी।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the question to be answered.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Duty-free import has been allowed. And the total quantity which has been imported — that figure has been given here — is somewhat near to 26.84 and 12.64 altogether. So, one will have to calculate, because at that time 60 per cent duty was there. So, it will be : the quantity of sugar X 60 per cent duty. I have got the figures ready with me, but it is an open secret. ..(Interruptions)...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : सर, 15 रुपये से 50 रुपये चीनी के दाम कर दिए और फिर 50 रुपये से 35 रुपये चीनी के दाम आ गए, तो चीनी कहां सस्ती हुई? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the next question. ...**(Interruptions)**..

श्री शरद पवार : सर, 15 रुपये किलो में चीनी देने के दिन गए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... किसानों को उनकी उपज की ठीक कीमत देनी होगी, तभी किसान गन्ना लगाएंगे। अगर किसान गन्ना नहीं लगाएंगे, तो चीनी के दाम 50 रुपये किलो तक जा सकते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, we are running out of precious time. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Punj, please. Please resume your place. ...**(Interruptions)**... Yes, Mr. Anbalagan. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप जरा दूसरों को भी सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप जरा दूसरों को भी सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, it is the mills which are making money. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Those who understand the sugarcane farming know this. You can ask the hon. Members who are sitting by your side and who are in sugarcane plantation. Those who are in sugarcane plantation never got this price in their lifetime. They know what price they got last year. Nobody has seen that type of price. You can ask your own colleagues. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid you are preventing the other Member from asking a question. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mrs. Karat, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... No; no; please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Anbalagan, go ahead.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, what is this answer? Every input has gone up and he is saying that *kisans* are getting very good price. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no; you had asked a question and it has been answered. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Anbalagan, please go ahead.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that various measures have been suggested to increase the availability of sugar. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Minister whether these measures served the purpose and whether they are adequate.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, if a proper price is provided to the sugarcane grower, he will definitely take an interest in sugarcane plantation, and, if the ample plantation is there, automatically the price will be maintained at a particular level. The reason I am saying why the farmer is going more for sugarcane plantation is because he has got a good price for his produce, and, I am sure, the prices will go down.

*506. [The questioner (Shri K.E. Esmail) was absent.]

Availability of essential commodities in outlets of NAFED and

Kendriya Bhandar

*506. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the essential commodities made available in the outlets of NAFED and Kendriya Bhandar in Delhi and the selling price of each of these commodities; and

(b) the prices of the same commodities in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details of list of essential commodities made available in the outlets of Kendriya Bhandar and selling price of each of these commodities and open market price at Delhi as on 22.4.2010 given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The list of essential commodities made available in the outlets of NAFED and selling price of each of these commodities and open market price at Delhi as on 28.4.2010 given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

The table showing list of essential commodities made available in the outlets of Kendriya Bhandar and selling price of each of these commodities and open market price at Delhi are as on 22.4.2010

Sl. No.	Item Name	Pack Size	Kendriya Bhandar. Selling Price as on 22nd April 2010 (In Rupees)	Open Market price at Delhi as on 22.4.2010 (Rs. per kg)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Atta	1 Kg	13.90	16.00
2.	Rice (Loose)	1 Kg	19.50	23.00
3.	Sugar (Loose)	1 Kg	32.00	33.00
4.	Channa Dal	1 Kg	31.00	34.00
5.	Yellow Pea Dal	1 Kg	22.00	N.A.
6.	Kaka Channa Dal	1 Kg	30.00	N.A.
7.	Arhar Dal	1 Kg	70.00	74.50
8.	Malka Red Dal	1 Kg	52.00	58.00
9.	Kala Masoor Dal	1 Kg	43.00	N.A.

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Rajma Chitra Dal	1 Kg	41.00	N.A.
11.	Iodized Salt	1 Kg	07.00	12.00
12.	Soya Oil	1 Kg	52.50	N.A.
13.	Mustard Oil	1 Kg	63.00	66.00
14.	Urad Chhilka	1 Kg	56.00	68.00
15.	Moong Chhilka	1 Kg	79.00	88.00
16.	Ground nut Oil	1 Litre	93.00	110.00
17.	Vanaspati	1 Kg	48.00	55.00
18.	Kabuli Chana	1 Kg	43.00	N.A.

Source: Kendriya Bhandar, State Civil supplies department, Government of Delhi.

Note : Prices of the essential commodities quoted by Kendriya Bhandar and the State Civil Supplies Department, Delhi are not strictly comparable on account of varietal differences.

N.A.: Not Available.

Statement-II

The table showing details of essential commodities made available in the outlets of NAFED and selling price of each of these commodities and open market price at Delhi as on 28.4.2010

Sl. No.	Essential Commodities	Nafed Rates (Rs.)	Open Market rates (Rs.) at Delhi as on 28.4.2010
1	2	3	4
1.	Pulses		
	Arhar Dal	65	75.00
	Moong Whole	76	N.A
	Moong Chilka	78	88.00
	Moong Wash	79	N.A
	Masoor Malka	51	N.A
	Gram White	39	N.A
	Gram Yellow	30	N.A
	Gram Dal	30	33.00

1	2	3	4
	Green Peas	25	N.A
	Rajma Chitra	37	N.A
	Yellow Pea Dal	22	N.A
2.	Edible Oil		
	Sunflower Oil (Fortune brand)	61	N.A
	Soyabean		
3.	Onion	13	14.00
4.	Potato	6.50	9.00

Source: NAFED, State Civil supplies department, Government of Delhi.

Note : Prices of the essential commodities quoted by NAFED and the State Civil Supplies Department, Delhi are not strictly comparable on account of varietal differences.

Note: N.A.: Not Available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Mr. K.E. Ismail, is not present. So, any supplementary on this?

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो सामान नेफेड के माध्यम से दिल्ली को दिया जा रहा है, क्या पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम के माध्यम से वह सामान गांवों तक पहुंचाने की कोई व्यवस्था है?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the items supplied through the PDS is done by the State Governments. Sir, the items supplied by the Kendriya Bhandar is done by the Bhandar itself. There are certain items in Delhi, about 18 items, from *atta* to *kabuli channa*, which are supplied by the Kendriya Bhandar. The PDS system is managed by the State Government.

*507. [The questioner (Shri Bhagirathi Majhi) was absent.]

Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas

*507. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry will provide special percentage of quota to all those children who are residing within three kilometres of Kendriya Vidyalayas so that they may get admission;

(b) whether Government will increase infrastructure of Kendriya Vidyalayas so that for every class, the number of sections can be increased and more students can get admission; and

(c) if so, whether Government has allocated required funds for developing required infrastructure for Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country?

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

Statement

(a) There is no such proposal. As per the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, Act, 2009, Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are required to admit in Class I, to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighborhood.

(b) KVs have been established primarily to cater to the educational needs of the wards of transferable Central Government employees. The following are the priorities for granting admission to different categories of children:-

- (i) Children of transferable Central Government employees including ex-servicemen:
- (ii) Children of non-transferable Central Government employees including ex-servicemen:
- (iii) Children of transferable and non-transferable employees of autonomous bodies, public sector undertaking and Institutes of Higher Learning of the Central Government:
- (iv) Children of transferable State Government employees:
- (v) Children of non-transferable employees of State Government:
- (vi) Children of transferable and non-transferable employees of autonomous bodies, Public sector undertaking and Institutes of Higher Learning of State Government:
- (vii) Children from any other category.

The number of sections and the student strength of a Kendriya Vidyalaya are increased based on the need and in such cases, adequate additional infrastructure is also provided for. For the session 2010-11, 720 new sections have been added.

(c) There is a budget provision of Rs. 350 crore under "Plan" for Kendriya Vidyalayas during 2010-11. Part of it is meant to be utilized to develop necessary infrastructure in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Bhagirathi Majhi, is not here. Any supplementary on this?

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि 25 परसेंट कोटा वीकर सैक्शन के लिए रखा जाएगा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 25 परसेंट कोटे में ढाई लाख बच्चों में वीकर सैक्शन के होंगे। इसके साथ ही यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1600 सीटें लोक सभा तथा राज्य सभा के मेम्बर्स को देने से जो आपका टार्गेट है, वह खत्म हो जाएगा? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the question to be answered. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : महोदय, यह सवाल पूछा गया है कि क्या तीन किलोमीटर के radius पर कोटा होगा या नहीं?

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सर, आपने जवाब दिया है कि 25 परसेंट वीकर सेशन को दिया जाएगा।
...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you start a discussion, we will run out of time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जवाब देने दीजिए, नहीं तो 12 बज जाएंगे।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will run out of time. Please*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जवाब देने दीजिए, आप तो बोले जा रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please go ahead. Please answer the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as you know, under the Right to Education Act, now there has to be a neighbourhood school and the State Government will decide the parameters of the contours of that neighbourhood school. It is not for the Central Government to prescribe a three-kilometre limit or any other limit. It is for the State Government to prescribe it. As and when the State Government prescribes that limit, we will know what the catchment area of that neighbourhood school in the Kendriya Vidyalaya will be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Funds for Horticulture Boards

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

- (a) whether Government is releasing funds for horticulture boards in the country;
- (b) if so, the details for the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (c) the incentives given to such boards for the Plan period, State-wise and their working conditions presently?

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

(b) and (c) Details of funds released to National Horticulture Board (NHB) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are as under:

2007-08	Rs.121.03 cr.
2008-09	Rs.122.47 cr.
2009-10	Rs.143.00 cr.

State-wise details of subsidy sanctioned by NHB during Eleventh Five Year Plan are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). During this period, NHB has sanctioned back-ended-subsidy of

Rs.169.6 crore for 568 cold storages of 27.41 lakh MT capacity. About 1 lakh acres of additional land has been brought under cultivation through 20,869 technology intensive integrated projects which will provide additional 11 lakh MT of horticulture produce in the country. It is estimated that these schemes would generate employment for about 3.44 lakh persons.

Statement

State-wise details of subsidy sanctioned by NHB during Eleventh Plan

(in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Subsidy sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.7959
2.	Bihar	1.3461
3.	Chhattisgarh	1.5627
4.	Delhi	1.7092
5.	Gujarat	42.4428
6.	Haryana	1.3299
7.	Himachal Pradesh	19.5082
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.9021
9.	Karnataka	35.1100
10.	Kerala	7.5498
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7.8011
12.	Maharashtra	106.8751
13.	Orissa	3.5071
14.	Punjab	13.0521
15.	Rajasthan	10.5636
16.	Tamil Nadu	24.1665
17.	Uttaranchal	10.0648
18.	Uttar Pradesh	104.2604
19.	West Bengal	4.4502
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.3680

1	2	3
21.	Assam	2.4664
22.	Mizoram	1.4617
23.	Manipur	0.4600
24.	Nagaland	0.9894
25.	Sikkim	1.3703
26.	Jharkhand	5.3522

Disinvestment of SAIL

*509. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to disinvest the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

(b) if so, the present stake of Government in SAIL and the total amount likely to be raised through disinvestment as well as from Follow-on Public Offers (FPOs) in financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12; and

(c) the mechanism Government is setting to have transparent system for disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided to disinvest 10% of its shareholding in SAIL and to go for 10% Further Public offer (FPO) of its equity, in two discrete tranches to be issued at appropriate times in consideration of SEBI guidelines and prevailing market conditions. The present stake of the Government of India in SAIL is 85.82% of the total paid-up share capital of the company of Rs.4130.40 crore.

At current prices, total receipt from the disinvestment and issue of fresh equity would be approximately Rs 18,000 crore. However, the actual amount that would be raised through disinvestment as well as from FPO would depend upon a number of factors including *inter alia* the prevailing market conditions, share price and the investors' interest at the time of actual disinvestment. The entire process would be carried out in a transparent manner in line with the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and SEBI guidelines/regulations governing such transactions.

Filling up of posts of teachers

*510. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of teachers sanctioned by the Central Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have not been filled up by some States, including Gujarat in the districts of Bharuch, Mehsana, Amreli, Rajkot and Surat;

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

(c) whether Central Government has taken steps for filling up of posts of teachers in these States, particularly in Gujarat, district-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d)
Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) 12.82 lakh posts of teachers have been sanctioned to the State and Union Territories till 2009-10, against which 10.22 lakh posts have been filled up till 31.12.2009. SSA sanctions teacher posts at the rate of (i) two teachers for new primary schools, (ii) three teachers for new upper primary schools, (iii) one teacher for every 40 children at primary and upper primary stage. A statement showing state-wise details of sanctioned and filled posts is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Recruitment to teacher posts sanctioned under SSA is undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. No teacher posts have been sanctioned for Gujarat under SSA till 2009-10, since the State has a PTR lower than 40:1 and no new primary and upper primary schools have been sought to be opened under SSA. The State has been meeting its requirement of teachers from existing teachers in the State sector.

With a view to expediting progress in recruitment, SSA undertakes periodic review and monitoring with the States in the quarterly performance review meetings as also while appraising the Annual Work Plan and Budget for each State every year.

Statement

Filling up of Posts of Teachers

Sl. No.	Name of State	Teachers sanctioned upto 2009-10	Total Teachers recruited upto December, 2009
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38238	39766
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5517	5271
3.	Assam	3042	0
4.	Bihar	260841	160145
5.	Chhattisgarh	56579	59938
6.	Goa	169	169
7.	Gujarat	0	0
8.	Haryana	8948	8936

1	2	3	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4178	3453
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	38104	27222
11.	Jharkhand	94605	81711
12.	Karnataka	24278	21798
13.	Kerala	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	97368	78672
15.	Maharashtra	13423	12158
16.	Manipur	365	0
17.	Meghalaya	10656	8965
18.	Mizoram	1889	1609
19.	Nagaland	590	0
20.	Orissa	83349	68752
21.	Punjab	4840	4813
22.	Rajasthan	114132	93119
23.	Sikkim	410	185
24.	Tamil Nadu	22628	25473
25.	Tripura	5770	3902
26.	Uttar Pradesh	276217	249481
27.	Uttarakhand	7559	5998
28.	West Bengal	107219	59032
29.	A and N Islands	67	67
30.	Chandigarh	785	757
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	448	377
32.	Daman and Diu	95	63
33.	Delhi	36	36
34.	Lakshadweep	26	28
35.	Puducherry	48	41
TOTAL SSA		1282419	1021937

Raising of fee by Higher Educational Institutions

*511. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that higher educational institutions, particularly IITs, IIMs and Central Universities are likely to raise the fees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is facing resource crunch so far as money allocation to universities and technical institutions is concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) to (d) The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Indore, Kozhikode and Shillong have decided to increase the fee for Post Graduate Programme (2010-12 batch). IIM-Lucknow has no proposal for raising the fee for this session. As per information given by IIMs, hike in fee is due to increased costs, including on the revision of pay and allowances of teachers. At present, there is no proposal to raise fee in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Taking into consideration the programmes offered and other relevant considerations, different Central Universities have different fee structures which vary from course to course. Fees for the next academic session has already been published in their prospectus/brochure. IITs, IIMs and Central Universities being autonomous bodies, are empowered under their Acts/Statutes/Rules to fix fees for different courses. In the case of Central Universities, the fees are fixed by the Executive Council/Board of Management of the University.

While admittedly, there are limits to allocation of funds for Central Educational Institutions/Universities, depending on the overall availability of funds approved by Parliament, sufficient funds have been made available to these prestigious institutions for the developmental needs consistent with their ability to spend. The funds allocated in the Eleventh Plan are substantially higher than the Tenth Plan. Resource crunch has not been allowed to adversely impact allocation to Universities and Central Technical Institutions.

Concession for disabled persons in trains

*512. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1813 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 2010 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant concession to disabled persons in the Railways similar to those granted to senior citizens, press correspondents, doctors and artists in Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duronto trains;

(b) if so, the percentage of the concessions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) Railway always provide special facilities for physically challenged persons not only in railway travel, but also in granting licenses for stalls for providing livelihood. For physically challenged persons, concession is available in more than 2000 mail/express trains except in Rajdhani Express, Duronto Express, etc.

Irregularities in PDS

*513. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one man committee appointed by the Supreme Court to investigate the state of the Public Distribution System (PDS) has highlighted glaring irregularities in the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to reform the Public Distribution System; and

(d) the role envisaged for the Public Distribution System in the proposed food security legislation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) Central Vigilance Committee (CVC), set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the context of Writ Petition no. 196/2001 to study functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS), has submitted its reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of 12 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Kerala and Uttarakhand as well as a report on Computerisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) operations. A gist of recommendations contained in the Committee's reports, which are common to most of the States/Union Territories as well as report on Computerisation of PDS Operations, is given in the Statement-I (See below).

Central Vigilance Committee has referred to certain deficiencies/shortcomings in the functioning of TPDS and has made recommendations for strengthening of TPDS. The reports of the Committee relating to States/UTs have been sent to concerned State/UT Governments to examine and send comments along with their action taken report.

Government has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Besides this, the Government has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

The proposed National Food Security law envisages, *inter alia*, entitling every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the

proposed legislation are being worked out. The proposed legislation would also bring about broader systemic reforms in the Public Distribution System.

Statement

Central Vigilance Committee Report on PDS in States/UTs (Recommendations common to most States/UTs) and Report on computerisation of PDS operations

1. Income criterion for poverty be revisited. This should not be less than minimum wage for agricultural labour.
2. Poverty in urban areas to be based upon minimum wage payable to an unskilled workman in the area.
3. Above Poverty Line (APL) as a category be abolished. Alternatively, the APL category be restricted to households having annual income of Rs. 1 lakh.
4. Global Positioning System (GPS) be installed on vehicles transporting PDS foodgrains for tracking their movement.
5. Reconstitute and activate Vigilance Committees, which should meet at regular intervals.
6. Fair Price Shop (FPS) be allotted to persons or groups having kirana/grocery stores. Sale of non-PDS rice and wheat not to be allowed from such FPS.
7. Fresh licenses to be granted in a transparent manner.
8. Door step delivery of foodgrains of FPSs.
9. There is a need for rationalizing the number of beneficiaries attached to each FPS to make the shops financially viable.
10. Complaint redressal mechanism with 24 hour helping for lodging complaints by beneficiaries and follow up action.
11. Supply of PDS foodgrains in small packages of 5-10 kg in HDPE bags.
12. Facility of mobile FPS especially in remote/tribal areas to be encouraged.
13. Zero tolerance towards corruption. Strict penal action/departamental action be taken against offenders, Strengthening of enforcement and anti-hoarding machinery.
14. Independent agency to monitor working of PDS - Ombudsman/Regulator be set up.
15. Political influence in operation of PDS should be done away with.
16. Introduction of computerisation of the entire distribution chain, right from the procurement process ending with retail distribution by the FPS dealers.

Winding up of UGC and AICTE

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

(a) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are being abolished;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has the 'capability/infrastructure' to regulate the foreign universities that are likely to be set up in the country in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the committee to advise on the Renovation Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, the need to establish an overarching authority in higher education other than agricultural and medical education has been expressed by Government as one of its priorities, subsuming the existing regulatory bodies such as University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Fragmentation of Knowledge over time has constrained the emergence of new knowledge at the frontiers of disciplines. It has become imperative that a holistic view of higher education is taken because of the increasingly converging nature of disciplines at the frontiers of emerging knowledge. Also, the restructuring of the Higher Education sector, in the context of a knowledge economy that thrives on innovation, the creation of new ideas and raising the consciousness of people, requires a new spirit of regulation that respects the autonomy of institutions amidst the need for accountability towards quality with opportunities for access to all.

(c) and (d) The draft legislative proposals including that for the regulation of entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, which has been finalized for introduction in Parliament, provides for an appropriate regulatory mechanism by authorities established by law.

Rise in prices of Steel

† *515. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that prices of steel have risen in international market during the last six months;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the rise in its prices in countries like China and USA;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of steel have risen in the country too; and

(d) if so, the rise in its prices from January, 2010 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Price of steel in the international market has increased over last six months. Ministry of Steel monitors

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

freight on board (FOB), export price from major steel producing countries. The movement of international steel prices (FOB) in respect of major categories of steel is given below:-

US Dollar/Tonne

Month	TMT	HR Coil	CR Coil	GP Sheets
Oct 09	505	475	595	625
Nov 09	495	483	615	645
Dec 09	510	510	625	660
Jan 10	535	535	635	660
Feb 10	540	555	685	695
Mar 10	570	608	700	745
Apr 10	660	655	790	745

(Source : Economic Research Unit)

(c) and (d) The retail market prices in India have increased since March, 2010. The indicative retail market prices in respect of certain major categories of steel, inclusive of taxes, duties and transportation in Delhi market are as below:-

Rupees/Tonne

Month	TMT	HR Coil	CR Coil	GP Sheets
January 2010	33970	35980	39530	44050
February 2010	33310	35890	40090	44350
March 2010	35100	36810	41210	45720
April 2010	40890	45090	47580	52580

(Source : Joint Plant Committee)

Construction of new rail lines in East Central Railway

*516. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of physical targets fixed for construction of new rail lines and doubling of existing lines in East Central Railway during the year 2007-08 and onwards;

(b) whether Railways have achieved the laid down targets;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the hurdles hampering achievement of the targets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) During the last 3 years *i.e.* 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, target of 196 km new line and 128 km of doubling

were fixed in East Central Railway. Out of these, 167 km of new line and 115 km of doubling have been completed till 31.03.2010. Remaining sections will get completed during 2010-11. There has been delay in completing projects in the target year due to reasons of delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance, unprecedented floods, water logged sites, contract failures and constraint of funds.

(d) Land acquisition, forestry clearance, monitoring of progress, execution of works are regularly being pursued with concerned agencies for timely completion of targets. Steps have been taken to modify contract conditions to bring efficiency in contract management. Efforts have been made to generate additional resources for expediting completion of ongoing projects.

EDUSAT hub and Satellite Interactive Terminals

†*517. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has demanded funds from the Central Government by sending a proposal for approval to set up Central Government's award winning EDUSAT hub and 448 Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs), an independent TV Channel for education for Shaleya Teaching Department;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any decision to sanction the proposal and release the funds; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development is mainly implementing: (i) National Mission on Education through ICT which primarily focuses on higher education institutions; and (ii) the Centrally sponsored scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools" with the objective of establishing an enabling environment to promote the usage of ICT in Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher Secondary schools for imparting computer literacy and computer aided learning.

The request from the Government of Maharashtra seeking funds for Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) for the School Education Department is not covered under the above mentioned two schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*518. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have demanded more funds for successful implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is considering to adopt new formula for the expenditure in SSA; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for making SSA more transparent and ensuring proper utilisation of funds provided under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) and (b) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), States/UTs are provided funds on the basis of approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP and B) for the year, taking into account the fund sharing pattern between Central and State Governments applicable for the year. Several States, including Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh have sought additional financial support to meet the requirements arising out of implementation of the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The 13th Finance Commission has earmarked Rs.24,068 crore for the five year period of 2010-11 to 2014-15 towards elementary education. The award of the 13th Finance Commission will augment the resources of the States to provide grants for elementary education.

(c) For effective implementation of SSA, a rigorous monitoring system has been put in place, which includes *inter alia*, submission of monthly/quarterly progress reports and periodic review meetings by States, field level monitoring through reputed institutes of social sciences and university departments of education, as also independent review missions on programme progress. In addition, statutory and independent annual financial audits and concurrent financial reviews are conducted under SSA. A system of electronic transfer of funds to State Project Offices of SSA in States and Union Territories is also in place.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

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

(a) the details regarding route-kilometres of gauge conversion on Western Railway in the State of Gujarat converted from metre gauge to broad gauge during 2005 to 2009;

(b) whether Railways are aware that train services have reduced or on some lines there are no services at all on account of above gauge conversion; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Railways to restart the same number of train services which were available prior to gauge conversion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) 569 route Km of rail lines on Western Railway in the State of Gujarat have been converted from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge from 2004-05 to 2009-10.

(b) and (c) The train services have been introduced keeping in view the public demands, traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability, over the converted sections fit for running passenger traffic and the number of trains have not reduced in general. The Broad

Gauge coaches have about 20 to 25% more carrying capacity than the Metre Gauge coaches and their introduction has led to greater capacity to clear the traffic. The direct connectivity offered on conversion to Broad Gauge is also far more wider than the availability in Metre Gauge.

Shortage of edible oils

*520. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of edible oils in the country;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to meet the requirement; and
- (c) the action and plan Government is proposing to improve the production of edible oils in the country to reduce import of such edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Although there is a shortfall in domestic production as compared to demand for edible oils, the gap is met by imports. As such there is no shortage.

In order to meet the requirement of edible oils in the country, the Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) The import of edible oils is under Open General Licence (OGL) except coconut oil.
- (ii) Import duties on crude and refined edible oils has been reduced to nil and 7.5% respectively.
- (iii) Exports of all major edible oils except coconut oil and except branded oil in small consumer packs within a quantitative limit has been banned.
- (iv) State Governments have been authorized to impose stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds.
- (v) A Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oil to ration card holders at the rate 1 kg per ration card per month is under implementation.
- (c) The Government has taken various steps to increase production of edible oils in the country which includes:
 - (i) A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 major oilseeds growing States for increasing production.
 - (ii) Block demonstration and Integrated Pest Management demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
 - (iii) Enhanced incentives to farmers through fixation of higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

- (iv) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in the development of higher yielding improved varieties and production and protection of technologies in oilseeds.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

ISOPOM Scheme in Chhattisgarh

†3840. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the amount sanctioned, released and payment of balance amount with regard to the proposals received from Chhattisgarh for Isopom Scheme, post-harvest technique machine, micro-management work plan and national organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : Details of the amount sanctioned, released and balance unreleased amount for Chhattisgarh for the year 2009-10 are as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)			
Name of the schemes	Amount Allocated	Amount released	Balance Amount
Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)	1261.57	1261.57	Nil
Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA)	2170.00	2170.00	Nil
Post harvest technique machine	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Project on Promotion of Organic Farming	Nil	Nil	Nil

Survey of agricultural production

3841. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any State-wise survey of agricultural production has been done by Government;
- (b) if so, the details of production of main crops;
- (c) whether any survey has been done regarding crops in Goa;
- (d) the details of the production of main crops' in the last five years; and
- (e) the efforts made by Government to increase food production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) :
(a) and (b) For assessment of production under major

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

agricultural crops, most of the State Governments conduct General Crop Estimation Surveys (GCEs). State-wise details of production of major agricultural crops in the country during 2009-10 (2nd advance estimates) are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Government of Goa conducts Crop Estimation Surveys (CESs) for assessment of production of paddy, ragi, pulses, groundnut and sugarcane. Details of estimated production of main agricultural crops in Goa during the last five years are as under :

(^{'000 Tonnes})

Crop	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rice	145.2	147.3	130.3	121.6	123.3
Pulses	9.4	11.5	16.3	11.3	10.1
Foodgrains	155.7	159.8	147.4	133.6	134.3
Groundnut	5.4	7.9	4.6	7.0	8.2
Oilseeds	5.4	7.9	4.6	7.0	8.2
Sugarcane	60.6	55.9	58.3	56.0	49.3

(e) In order to increase production of agricultural crops in different States of the country including Goa, the Government of India is implementing various schemes such as Macro Management of Agriculture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Oilseeds, Oilpalm, Pulses and Maize Development (ISOPOM) and Integrated Cereals Development Programmes etc.

The efforts made by the Government to increase production of agricultural crops in Goa, include assistance/incentives to farmers on purchase of seeds of high yielding varieties, bio-control agents/sex pheromones for plant protection, purchase of agricultural machinery, demonstration to farmers on paddy, pulses and groundnut, revitalizing water bodies through desilting, digging of wells, installation of pump-sets for sprinkler/drip irrigation, new plantation and ratoon management of sugarcane besides increase in the minimum support price/fair and remunerative price of paddy and sugarcane to ensure better returns to farmers.

Statement

State-wise estimates of production of major crops during 2009-10

State	Production ('000 Tonnes)										
	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains	Ground-nut	Soyabean	Rapeseed and Mustard	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Cotton *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andhra Pradesh	11649.0	8.0	4057.9	1442.1	17157.0	1024.1	137.0	2.0	1547.1	12258.0	3493.0
Assam	3593.5	64.0	15.8	7.6	3680.9	NG	NG	121.0	136.6	1077.0	1.0
Bihar	2995.5	4903.2	1908.0	493.8	10300.5	0.7	NG	87.1	144.3	5384.6	NG
Chhattigarh	3723.3	93.3	186.6	507.5	4510.7	13.3	78.9	20.1	152.6	18.6	0.1
Gujarat	1166.7	2465.1	1299.8	538.4	5470.0	1863.0	70.0	261.0	3139.0	11330.0	7875.0
Haryana	3576.0	10764.0	1253.3	171.7	15765.0	2.0	NG	924.6	964.6	4654.0	1879.0
Himachal Pradesh	51.0	523.9	362.2	18.8	955.8	0.0	0.6	4.8	6.1	15.2	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	839.2	263.0	552.0	14.6	1668.9	0.0	NG	45.5	48.1	0.3	0.0
Jharkhand	1341.7	139.7	222.0	183.3	1886.6	10.2	0.0	39.6	59.6	401.1	NG
Karnataka	3397.6	253.0	6146.0	981.0	10777.6	512.0	78.0	1.0	1103.0	21646.0	904.2
Kerala	555.7	0.0	0.8	1.8	558.3	2.1	NG	NG	2.1	112.0	1.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Madhya Pradesh	996.2	7343.4	1457.1	3697.7	13494.4	143.7	6109.1	754.1	7108.6	2519.3	394.1
Maharashtra	2123.2	1603.0	6210.0	2147.0	12083.2	414.0	2767.5	2.0	3442.5	54046.0	4914.0
Orissa	6939.6	6.5	228.6	482.3	7657.0	95.4	NG	2.2	204.7	661.3	150.6
Punjab	11280.0	15492.0	508.1	23.0	27303.1	3.0	NG	36.0	81.1	3720.0	2159.8
Rajasthan	228.3	5532.3	3983.5	1016.8	10761.0	357.2	914.6	3238.2	4729.6	135.4	284.4
Tamil Nadu	5959.3	NG	1841.8	220.4	8021.5	875.3	NG	0.2	971.1	33090.8	224.1
Uttar Pradesh	10422.3	28900.3	3104.8	2380.2	44807.5	50.0	5.0	1470.0	1607.0	93102.9	1.0
Uttarakhand	621.0	1019.0	322.0	66.0	2028.0	2.0	18.0	18.0	39.0	5060.0	NG
West Bengal	14305.0	812.5	332.9	243.4	15693.8	145.0	0.6	340.0	712.3	1600.0	30.0
Others	1794.1	92.5	279.6	107.3	2273.5	11.5	37.4	61.7	122.6	435.3	7.0
ALL INDIA	87558.3	80278.6	34272.8	14744.7	216854.4	5524.5	10216.7	7429.1	26321.6	251267.8	22318.4

*Production in 000 bales of 170 kg. each, NG: Not Grown

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

3842. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Agricultural Insurance Scheme presently covers presowing/planting risks;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to cover them also; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is under implementation since Rabi 1999-2000 covers only yield losses due to non-preventable risk during period from sowing till harvesting.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on recommendations including coverage of pre-sowing/planting risk of the Joint Group, constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared by the Government.

Growth of parthenium weed

3843. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of arable land that has become uncultivable due to rampant growth of the parthenium weed;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the experiments conducted in the State of Haryana of using the beetle zygramma as an effective antidote; and
- (c) the action Government intends to take for carrying out adequate tests for the development of this beetle as an antidote to the pernicious weed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Out of total cultivable and arable land about 14.25 million hectare land has been estimated to be infested severely with the rampant growth of parthenium weed. However, with manual weeding and using herbicides, farmers are able to cultivate crops in these areas too but with low productivity.

(b) Government is aware that parthenium weed defoliating beetle zygomma bicolorata is being used to suppress parthenium in the State of Haryana. Nucleus culture of zygomma bicolorata supplied from Directorate of Weed Science Research, Jabalpur is being regularly released by Haryana Agricultural University the Krishi Vigyan Kendras located in different districts of Haryana.

(c) Research efforts have been made at Directorate of Weed Science Research, Jabalpur to develop technologies to mass rear zygomma bicolorata throughout the year to use it as an

effective antidote against pernicious parthenium weed. Technologies have also been developed to overcome the limitations of this bioagent to make it more effective against parthenium.

Gene fund for improved seed varieties

3844. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has mooted a gene fund for improved seeds varieties and plans to invite private participation to develop both the fund and research;

(b) whether this would become a major project once it takes off with a private public partnership model; and

(c) if so, whether PPP model functions would have to be worked out and whether Government is keen for private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) The establishment of 'National Gene Fund' has been done under the provisions of section 45 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV and FR Act), 2001. The management of this fund is being done as per the provisions of PPV and FR Act, 2001 and PPV and FR Rules, 2003. The Gene Fund is applied, *inter alia*, for the expenditure for supporting the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources including in *situ* and *ex-situ* collections and for strengthening the capability of the Panchayat in carrying out such conservation and sustainable use.

National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility

3845. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the new scheme National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the above scheme Government only set up soil testing laboratories across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the STLs set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether it is also a fact that not a single STL has been set up in Andhra Pradesh in 2009-10;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) how the above project helps in increasing the fertility of soil and thereby productivity in the country?

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

(a) The Government of India has launched the “National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility” (NPMSF) during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity.

(b) and (c) The components of NPMSF scheme include setting up of 500 new static soil testing laboratories, 250 new mobile soil testing laboratories, 20 new fertilizer quality control laboratories, strengthening of the existing 315 soil testing laboratories, strengthening of the existing 63 fertilizer quality control laboratories and promoting organic manures, soil amendments and distribution of micro nutrients during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(d) The details of STLs set up in Andhra Pradesh are given in the Statement-I and II (See below).

(e) and (f) During 2009-10, 2 new static Soil Testing Laboratories at Kurnool and Mahbubnagar districts and one new Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory at East Godavari district and strengthening of 10 existing Soil Testing Laboratories with provision of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) have been taken up with the funds released under NPMSF.

(g) Soil test based judicious application of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients is recommended to sustain good soil health and higher productivity in the country.

Statement-I

*Details of Soil Testing Laboratories existing in the State (Location-wise),
Mobile Soil Testing Labs (MSTL) and Regional Soil Testing Labs (RSTL)
in Andhra Pradesh*

Sl.No.	District	Location of the STL
1	2	3
1.	Srikakulam	Amadalavalasa
2.	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram
3.	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam (MSTL)
4.	Visakhapatnam	Anakapalle
5.	East Godavari	Samalkot
6.	East Godavari	Tadepalligudem
7.	Krishna	Vijayawada
8.	Guntur	Guntur
9.	Guntur	Bapatla (RSTL)

1	2	3
10.	Guntur	Bapatla (MSTL)
11.	Prakasam	Ongole
12.	Nellore	Nellore
13.	Chittoor	Tirupathi
14.	Ananthapur	Ananthapur
15.	Kadapa	Kadapa
16.	Kadapa	Kadapa (MSTL)
17.	Kurnool	Yemmiganur
18.	Mahaboobnagar	Jadcherla
19.	Nalgonda	Miryalaguda
20.	Khammam	Khammam
21.	Warangal	Warangal
22.	Karimnagar	Karimnagar
23.	Adilabad	Adilabad
24.	Nizamabad	Nizamabad
25.	Sangareddy	Sangareddy
26.	Rangareddy	Rangareddy
27.	Rangareddy	Rajendranagar (MSTL)
28.	Rangareddy	Rajendranagar (RSTL)

Statement-II

List of Agriculture Market Committees (AMC) STLs in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	District	No. of AMC, STLs	Sl. No.	Location of the AMC (STL)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Srikakulam	2	1.	Palasa
			2.	Palakonda
2.	Vizianagaram	1	3.	Parvathipuram
3.	Visakhapatnam	2	4.	Narsipatnam

1	2	3	4	5
			5.	Paderu (ITDA)
4.	East Godavari	4	6.	Rampachodavaram
			7.	Rajamundry
			8.	Tuni
			9.	Ambajipet
5.	Wast Godavari	2	10.	Jangareddigudem
			11.	Bhimavaram
6.	Krishna	4	12.	Nuziveedu
			13.	Machilipatnam
			14.	Gudivada
			15.	Nandigama
7.	Guntur	1	16.	Narsaraopet
8.	Prakasam	2	17.	Kandukur
			18.	Markapur
9.	Nellore	2	19.	Kavali
			20.	Gudur
10.	Chittoor	3	21.	Madanapalli
			22.	Chittoor
			23.	Kuppam
11.	Ananthapur	2	24.	Dharmavaram
			25.	Penugonda
12.	Cuddapah	2	26.	Proddutur
			27.	Rayachoty
13.	Kurnool	2	28.	Kurnool
			29.	Nandyal
14.	Adilabad	3	30.	Indervelly
			31.	Nirmal
			32.	Mancherial
15.	Karimnagar	4	33.	Peddaipally
			34.	Jagtial

1	2	3	4	5
			35.	Vemulavada
			36.	Manthani
16.	Nizamabad	2	37.	Bodhan
			38.	Kamareddy
17.	Mahaboobnagar	4	39.	Narayanpet
			40.	Gadwal
			41.	Nagarkurnool
			42.	Wanaparthi
18.	Nalgonda	3	43.	Nalgonda
			44.	Bhongir
			45.	Suryapet
19.	Warangal	3	46.	Kesamadam
			47.	Jangaon
			48.	Eturunagaram
20.	Khammam	3	49.	Kothagudem
			50.	Bhadrachalam
			51.	Sathupally
21.	Medak	2	52.	Medak
			53.	Siddipet
22.	Rangareddy	4	54.	Ibrahimpattanam
			55.	Vikarabad
			56.	Pargi
			57.	Medchal

Rationalization of tax structure on foodgrains and sugar

3846. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is expected to emphasize on States the need to rationalize their tax structure on foodgrains and sugar to bring down prices of essential commodities during the State Chief Ministers conference;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister had already held the meeting with the Chief Ministers on food prices; and

(c) if so, to what extent State Governments have agreed to implement the suggestion and to what extent it has helped in checking the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) A conference of Chief Ministers was held on 6th February, 2010 to discuss, *inter alia*, the issues relating to prices of essential commodities, the various taxes imposed on sugar etc. The Conference was attended by Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister and Agriculture Minister.

(c) The Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi, West Bengal and Bihar have abolished VAT on imported sugar. Chhattisgarh has abolished the entry tax on sugar. Prices are influenced by a number of factors, including taxes. The rationalization of taxes also helps in reducing the prices.

Use of agricultural land for other purposes

3847. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much area under agriculture has been taken in Punjab and Haryana for SEZ, Government projects, industries and housing colonies; and

(b) whether there is any policy to further ban on the use of agricultural land for such purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) As per available data, the extent of agricultural land has marginally declined from 4.25 million ha. in 2005-06 to 4.24 million ha. in 2007-08 in the State of Punjab. Similarly, during the same period in the State of Haryana agricultural land has declined from 3.78 million ha to 3.75 million ha. This decline in extent of agricultural land in both the States indicate that agricultural land has been utilized for non-agricultural purposes. However, Government of India does not maintain data in respect of diversion of agricultural land for other uses viz. Special Economic Zones, Government projects, industries and housing colonies, etc.

(b) As per the Constitution of India, land falls under the purview of the State Governments, and therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring in suitable policies/legislation to check the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Governments of Punjab and Haryana have no specific policy to ban the utilization of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

The steps taken by Government of India for prevention of diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes are enclosed as a Statement.

Statement

The steps taken by Government of India for prevention of use of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses:-

- (a) **National Policy for Farmers 2007 (NPF, 2007)** : The National Policy for Farmers 2007 envisages that Prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/wastelands elsewhere. State governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.
- (b) **National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007)** : A National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 has been formulated by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources which came into effect on 31.10.2007. The policy provides that only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the project may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. The Policy has been sent to the States/UTs for implementation.
- (c) **Policy in case of SEZ** : Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) have constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then Hon'ble Minister of Defence to consider the issues related to SEZs and the EGOM at its meeting held on 5th April, 2007 recommended that:
 - In respect of pending applications for SEZs, there may be processed for in-principle, formal approval and, notifications subject to the conditions that the State Government would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs.
 - Upper limit of the area required for multi product SEZs to be fixed at 5000 ha. However, State Governments may prescribe a lower limit.
 - A comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy be worked out ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Based on the above recommendations, Governments of India has decided that Board of approval (BoA) will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. However, cases in which all persons interested in the land either have not submitted any objection under Section-5A or have withdrawn the objections submitted and have thus acquiesced in the proposed acquisition of land may be considered. In other cases, where there are objections under Section-5A, the Collector/Acquiring Authority may not proceed with the acquisition for the purpose of SEZ and such cases, if any, brought before the Board of Approval may not be considered.

Micro irrigation projects in Jharkhand

3848. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the per cent of net sown area dependent on monsoon in Jharkhand;
- (b) the reasons for poor irrigation facilities in Jharkhand;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to enhance net irrigation area in Jharkhand;
- (d) whether dry land farming and micro irrigation projects have been put into operation in Jharkhand; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) About 82% of net sown area in Jharkhand is dependent on monsoon.

(b) The reason for poor irrigation facilities in Jharkhand is as under:

- (i) Undulating topography.
- (ii) Hilly region.
- (iii) Small land holding where big water storage structures can not be created.

(c) Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro irrigation during January, 2006 in the country including the state of Jharkhand. An amount of Rs.229.92 lakh has been released as Central subsidy to Jharkhand for implementation of Micro Irrigation system since inception of the Scheme.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

Shortfall in production of rice

3849. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is nearly 20 million tonnes shortfall in production of rice in 2009-10;

(b) the quantity of rice that Government is proposed to import from the international markets to make up the deficit of Kharif crop;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is discussing with Thailand Government for import of rice directly without involving private traders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir. As per the 2nd advance estimates released on 12.02.2010, the production of rice in the country during 2009-10 is estimated at 87.56 million tonnes which is lower by 11.62 million tonnes as compared to the production of 99.18 million tonnes of rice during 2008-09.

(b) The present stock situation of rice is sufficient to meet the requirement of TPDS and other welfare schemes of the country at the current level of allocation and hence, at present, there is no proposal to import rice for the Central Pool.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Malihabadi dasehri mango

3850. SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for promotion of production of patented Malihabadi dasehri mango;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to provide infrastructure to Malihabad district; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for bountiful production of this variety of dasehri mango?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of Malihabad Dasehri mango is being promoted under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission Scheme (NHM) and State Sector Scheme for Development of fruit-belts (Non-Plan) in Lucknow district, which includes mango fruit-belt areas of Mall, Malihabad, Kakori and Bakshi-Ka-Talab.

(c) One mango pack-house has already been established at Rehmankhara (6 km. away from Malihabad), which is equipped with desaping, washing, grading, packing and storage facilities for promotion of marketing and export activities, Besides, one Fruit-mandi has also been established at Dubagga near Malihabad for marketing of mango. Auction platforms are also available in this fruit-mandi.

It is proposed to establish one model fruit mandi, 22 post harvest kits, 1 primary processing unit, 1 low energy cool-chamber and 3 functional infrastructure for collection, sorting, grading, packing, etc. at Malihabad.

(d) During 2010-11, following activities are proposed under NHM and State Sector Scheme for Development of fruit-belts (Non-Plan) in Lucknow district for bountiful production of Malihabad dasehri mango:

1. Area expansion under Dasehri mango in 72 ha. and high density area expansion in 15 ha. is proposed.
2. Rejuvenation of senile orchards in 400 ha.
3. Promotion of Integrated Pest Management in 44 ha.
4. Horticulture mechanization - 8 power operated machines.
5. Distribution of foot-sprayers - 66
6. Training of Farmers - 800 (No.)

Subsidy for drip/sprinkler irrigation

3851. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farming households and how many out of them have adopted drip/sprinkler irrigation in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total hectares under irrigation, and out of this, hectares covered under drip/sprinkler irrigation, in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether as per above statistics, new irrigation system is gaining ground in the country; and

(d) the Central subsidy provided to farmers who adopted drip/sprinkler irrigation during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and number of beneficiaries thereof?

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

(a) Total number of farming households are estimated to be 893.50 lakh, of which 10.32 lakh farmers have adopted drip/sprinkler irrigation system in the country. Number of beneficiaries, State-wise are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Net irrigated area is about 622.87 lakh ha, of which 19.46 lakh ha. is covered under drip/sprinkler irrigation. The State-wise details are in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of Central subsidy provided to farmers for adopting drip/sprinkler irrigation, year-wise, State-wise is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Details of total area under irrigation and area covered under drip/
sprinkler irrigation*

State	Net Irrigated (*000 ha) (2007-08)	Area Covered under drip/ sprinkler irrigation (Area in ha.)	Number of farmers adopted drip/sprinkler irrigation since inception
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4644	474941	350895
Arunachal Pradesh	54	0	285
Assam	76	0	707
Bihar	3462	641.45	340
Chhattisgarh	1334	71775.54	45904
Goa	35	246.13	159
Gujarat	3528	192093.20	85401
Haryana	3025	36167.35	17661
Himachal Pradesh	104	0	251
Jammu and Kashmir	308	0	0
Jharkhand	142	445.50	223
Karnataka	3132	302616.47	130745
Kerala	388	5823.31	2861
Madhya Pradesh	6418	81637.76	36170
Maharashtra	3181	385401	172141
Manipur	51	0	400
Meghalaya	58	0	1649
Mizoram	9	0	649
Nagaland	76	0	565
Orissa	2158	19010.27	8396
Punjab	4112	13412.84	6230
Rajasthan	6444	314741	145945

1	2	3	4
Sikkim	9	0	576
Tamil Nadu	2864	37424.95	18712
Tripura	61	0	92
Uttarakhand	345	0	600
Uttar Pradesh	13085	9784.21	4893
West Bengal	3136	481.18	230
Others	48		
TOTAL	62287	1946643.1	1032680

Statement-II

Details of Assistance provided and number of farmers adopted drip/sprinkler irrigation for last three years

(Rs. In Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		Total
		Assistance provided	No. of farmers benefited	Assistance provided	No. of farmers benefited	Assistance provided	No. of farmers benefited	No. of farmers benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5747.76	57423	9727.31	61790	14340.7	189373	308586
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	71.25	125	0	0	60	0	125
3.	Assam	82.65	145	312.08	411	87	51	607
4.	Bihar	0	121	0	169	0	50	340
5.	Chhattisgarh	783.39	18696	954.45	18154	1251.98	6680	43530
6.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	0	56	2	39	10.7	60	155
8.	Gujarat	7349.6	21518	4898.61	26714	4469.46	25000	73232
9.	Haryana	604.19	3893	1207.28	11152	216.69	1268	16313
10.	Himachal Pradesh	22.23	39	125.25	125	65	50	214
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	12.75	1	28.98	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	223	223
13.	Karnataka	6864.51	30628	7318.66	51036	6381.3	31164	112828
14.	Kerala	0	1114	0	776	0	147	2037
15.	Madhya Pradesh	700.46	1193	4649.84	19183	3474.58	13453	33829
16.	Manipur	57	100	135.75	250	28.56	0	350
17.	Maharashtra	13897.34	41113	14748.06	50220	10707.08	46936	138269
18.	Meghalaya	331	556	296.4	500	303	453	1509
19.	Mizoram	79	140	96.9	170	188	125	435
20.	Nagaland	57	100	94.88	225	72	100	425
21.	Orissa	108.4	1535	337.94	1339	528.4	6111	8985
22.	Punjab	427.05	2093	504.88	1604	861.54	1821	5518
23.	Rajasthan	2341.14	33795	2382.31	38876	5703.15	33892	106563
24.	Sikkim	232.26	407	26.79	47	114	85	539
25.	Tamil Nadu	2200	3910	0	5799	0	9003	18712
26.	Tripura	52.73	92	0	0	35.62	0	92
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	2330	150	644	0	987	3961
28.	Uttarakhand	69.83	122	147.53	70	117	58	250
29.	West Bengal	0	6	0	121	0	103	230
TOTAL		42078.79	221250	48129.67	289415	49044.74	367193	877858
Years		No. of farmers benefited						
2007-08		221250						
2008-09		289415						
2009-10		367193						
GRAND TOTAL		877858						

Miserable condition of farmers in U.P.

3852. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that condition of farmers in Bundelkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh is very miserable;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that marginal and even farmers having holdings of 10 acres are unable to maintain their families due to non-profitable agriculture in the regions;
- (d) whether a survey will be conducted to assess the correct situation;
- (e) whether a financial package will be announced for farmers of Bundelkhand and Eastern UP and whether Government will review its agricultural policy to make it farmer friendly; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (f) The State Government has reported that while the condition of farmers in Bundelkhand and Eastern U.P. is not very miserable, but during time of drought in Bundelkhand and of floods in Eastern U.P., farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers, suffer extreme hardships.

In order to assess the condition of farmers in Bundelkhand Region, the Government of India had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Team (IMT) which visited the region in February, 2008 to advise on the measures to be taken for Integrated Development of the Region. Based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Team (IMT), a Comprehensive Package for Integrated Development of Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has been approved for implementation of various interventions at an estimated cost of Rs. 7266.00 crore in a time-bound manner out of which Rs. 3506 crore has been earmarked for Uttar Pradesh. Besides this, during times of drought and flood, a quick assessment of the damage is made with a view to extend relief admissible from Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc. are already under operation in these regions. 2 Schemes have been introduced for implementation through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from the current financial year, namely (i) Extending Green Revolution to the Eastern Region of the country, covering Eastern Uttar Pradesh with an allocation of Rs. 57.27 crore during 2010-11. (ii) Special Initiative for Pulses and Oilseeds in Dry Land Areas by organizing 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in Rainfed Area during 2010-11 with an allocation of Rs. 27 crore for Uttar Pradesh during the current year.

In Uttar Pradesh, out of 71 districts, 45 districts have been covered under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) which includes all the 7 districts of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and most of the districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) - Rice, 14 districts, under NFSM - Wheat, 26 districts and under NFSM - Pulses, 6 districts have been covered in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Six districts of Bundelkhand have also been covered under various components of NFSM.

Availability of pastureland

†3853. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of pasture land for cow and other animals is decreasing in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether its reasons have been examined;

(c) whether it's having adverse effect on production of milk and health of animals; and

(d) the scheme under which above matter is being taken care of?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reasons for gradual decrease in area under pastureland are that the majority of these lands have either been diverted for other agriculture purposes or have been encroached.

(c) Decreasing grazing area will lead to decreased availability of nutrients to the milch animals, leading to lower production and productivity.

(d) Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme throughout the country having a component of Grass Land Development including Grass Reserves. Under the component, during 2009-10, Rs. 712.05 lakh were released to the States.

Importance of clean milk

3854. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any Central scheme for training and strengthening the infrastructure to create mass awareness about the importance of clean milk production amongst the cattlemen in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cattlemen trained under the scheme in Tamil Nadu since launch of the scheme; and

(d) the role which has been assigned to Government of the State in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored scheme "Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production" in the country since 2004-05

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

under which 100% grant-in-aid is provided for training of farmers on clean milk production and for supply of detergents, antiseptic solutions and utensils besides strengthening laboratories in dairy co-operative societies and 75% grant is provided for setting up of milk chilling units. Since 2004-05, 144 projects have been approved with total outlay of Rs.228.84 crore as on 31.3.2010. About 5.42 lakh farmer members have been trained and 31.27 lakh litre chilling capacity has been created in the country under this scheme as on 31.3.2010.

(c) A total number of 31,835 farmer members in Tamil Nadu have been trained upto 31.3.2010.

(d) The State Government sends the proposals under the scheme. The Central Government releases funds to the State Government which in turn releases to the State Milk Federations/District Milk Unions for implementation of the projects. Progress of the projects under the scheme are monitored and reviewed by the State Government.

Achievements in agriculture growth rates

3855. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual growth rate in agriculture sector during the present decade, year-wise;
- (b) whether the present agriculture rate of growth is as per the fixed targets;
- (c) whether the country will achieve 4 per cent growth rate by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (d) if not, the steps being taken to achieve the agriculture growth rate target of 4 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) The growth rates in Agriculture and Allied Sector during present decade are as follows:

Year	Percentage growth rate of agriculture and allied sector
1	2
At 1999-2000 prices	
2000-01	-0.2
2001-02	6.3
2002-03	-7.2
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.0

1	2
At 2004-05 prices	
2005-06	5.2
2006-07	3.7
2007-08	4.7
2008-09	1.6

Note : CSO has changed the base year from 1999-2000 to 2004-05

(b) to (d) The growth target for Agriculture and Allied Sector is set at 4 per cent for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012). There are year to year variation in growth over the targeted growth rate. To incentivize the states to increase investment in Agriculture and Allied Sector to achieve targeted growth, Government has launched several Schemes which include:

- (1) A Plan Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched during 2007-08 to achieve 4% agricultural growth during Eleventh Five Year Plan in Agriculture and Allied sector.
- (2) Another, Centrally Sponsored Scheme “National Food Security Mission (NFSM)” has been launched in 312 identified districts of 17 States with an aim to achieve additional production of 20 million tonnes of food grains by the end of Eleventh Plan (2011-12).
- (3) Centrally Sponsored Scheme “National Horticulture Mission” for holistic development of horticulture sector was launched in 2005-06. Improvement in production and productivity, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management and marketing are the major programmes of the Scheme.
- (4) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) has been launched to provide assistance for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds and distribution of seed mini-kits, distribution of plant protection equipments, etc.
- (5) Macro Management of Agriculture and Integrated Cereals Development Programmes etc. have also been launched to augment production.

Research for development of new varieties of mango

3856. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual funds given to the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture in 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(b) whether it is a fact that this Institute has been primarily responsible for research on mango in the country since 1972;

(c) the reasons for the failure of this Institute in developing new varieties of mango which could have elongated the mango season in the country;

(d) whether the Institute has been unable to meet the expectations and requirements of the farming community; and

(e) the steps taken to upgrade the research facilities and set target dates for improving and lengthening the mango season in the country?

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

(a) The annual funds to the Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture in 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given below:

	(Rs. in Lakhs)	
	2008-09	2009-10
Institute Plan	375.00	360.00
Institute Non-Plan	977.65	1250.50
All India Coordinated Research		
Project (Sub-tropical Fruits)	250.00	280.00
Pension	130.00	194.81
'P' Loans and advances	10.00	—
AP Cess Funded Scheme	12.17	7.61
TOTAL	1754.82	2092.92

(b) Yes Sir, CISH is primarily doing the work on mango, both at Institute as well as through All India Coordinated Project on Subtropical fruits, which has centres across the Country. Besides mango the Institute is taking up research on mandatory crops like guava, aonla, bael, jamun, jackfruit and papaya. The centre was started as central mango research station in 1972 and elevated as Central Institute of Subtropical horticulture in the year 1995.

(c) The institute has developed several new varieties namely Dashehari-51, Ambika and Arunika. A new hybrid, H-1084 developed has maturity reaching in August and shall elongate the mango season.

(d) and (e) The institute has developed several varieties in mango and guava. Lalit and Swetha varieties of guava are popular. A seedless jamun varieties has also been developed at this institute. The institute is actively engaged in the supply of quality planting materials of new varieties, dissemination of technologies pertaining to rejuvenations, production, protection and Post harvest management. Village level seminar, field days and stakeholders meetings are held at the initiatives of the institute. The institute has created media resources file incorporating

farmers advisory for the media to sensitize the farmers on current issues of mango production. The institute has a large germplasm repository (721) in mango, which is being evaluated for identifying climate resilient superior varieties.

Achievements of CISH in horticulture

3857. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) has pioneered a plantation method called ultra high density meadow orchard plantation of guava in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of this campaign by CISH;

(c) the number of farmers benefited from such achievements till now;

(d) whether any audit has been done of the ground level achievements of CISH on various claims and achievements in horticulture over the last five years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Demonstrations on this technology has been conducted. The technology is also popularized through print and electronic media. Several farmers from Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra and Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh have adopted the technology.

(c) More than 100 farmers have adopted this technology covering 404 hectare and many farmers have visited the Institute to learn the technology.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. A Quinquennial review Team of ICAR has reviewed the work of the Institute for the period from 1.4.2001 to 31.12.2006. The Research Advisory Committee reviews the work annually and provides guidance to the Institute.

Guidelines for increasing production of pulses

3858. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any guidelines to States and Union Territories for increasing production of pulses in order to bring down their prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the average retail price of pulses have come down indicating their prevailing prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) In furtherance of the announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 6th February, 2010 in the conference of Chief Ministers on "issues related to prices of essential commodities", for starting a National Mission on Pulses, National Food Security Mission

(NFSM) has been strengthened with enhanced scope for intensive promotion of pulses crops. The pulses component of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) has been merged in the mission and all the districts in the ISOPOM/NFSM States are now covered under NFSM Pulses. In addition, 15 districts of Jharkhand and 10 districts of Assam have also been included under NFSM Pulses based on their potential for pulses development. The revamped NFSM Pulses is now covering 458 districts of 16 states as against earlier 171 districts of 14 states. Government of India has issued guidelines for implementation of NFSM-Pulses which provides assistance for promotion of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, farm mechanization, demonstrations and trainings of farmers etc.

In addition to the above mentioned enhancement of scope, the NFSM-Pulses have been strengthened further with the introduction of another initiatives — Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) that has been launched as a part of NFSM Pulses from 2010-11 onwards. Under Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), 1 million hectare of potential pulses areas under the major pulses crops viz. tur, urad, moong, gram and lentil has been taken up for large scale demonstration of technology in compact blocks.

An amount of Rs. 300 crores has also been provided in the union budget 2010-11 to organize sixty thousand “Pulses and oilseeds villages” in rainfed areas with attention to promote dry land farming. These funds have been provided as additional central assistance under the ongoing scheme of ‘Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)’.

(c) The average retail prices of pulses have been controlled through

1. Ban on export/duty reduction on import/import by PSUs

- Extended zero duty on import of pulses for another one year upto 31.3.2011.
- Extended the ban on export of pulses (except kabuli chana) for another one year upto 31.3.2011.
- Extended the current dispensation for PSUs to imported pulses against reimbursement up to 15% of losses and service charge of 1.2% of cif value up to 30.9.2010.

2. Supply of pulses through PDS

- Extended the scheme for distribution of imported pulses through PDS upto 31.3.2011.

3. On Stock limits

- Enabled imposition of stock limit orders by State Governments in the case of pulses upto 30.9.2010.

Second generation Bt. cotton seeds

3859. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian subsidiary of Monsanto has announced that its first generation Bt. cotton was ineffective against the pink bollworm pests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that it is a strategy of the company to phase out the first generation Bt. cotton seed and promote the second generation Bollgard II seeds which would fetch higher price; and
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. M/s Monsanto recently issued a press release on 7th March, 2010 stating that pink bollworms (PBW) have developed resistance to cry 1 AC gene in cotton crop in some localized pockets of Amreli, Bhavnagar, Junagarh and Rajkot districts in Gujarat.

(b) The Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, a nodal agency for monitoring the development of insect resistance to cry 1 Ac gene, has informed that the methodology followed by M/s Monsanto in concluding that cry 1AC gene is not effective in controlling the PBW is flawed and, therefore, the inferences are inconclusive. The Chairman of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) convened a meeting on 20th April, 2010 with the technology providers; Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and CICR, Nagpur to discuss the issue of development of resistance of PBW to Cry 1 Ac gene. It was decided that CICR, Nagpur will carry out scientific studies during the ensuing season and recommendations should be made only after arriving at proper scientific conclusions.

(c) and (d) M/s Monsanto India Ltd., has denied adoption of such a strategy to promote second generation Bollgard-II to phase out the first generation Bt. Cotton seed, considering that Bollgard-I is planted by cotton farmers across key cotton growing countries in the world and given the popular demand of Bollgard-II technology by cotton farmers in India.

Purchase of photocopier paper

3860. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his ministry has purchased photocopier papers at higher rates during the last 3-4 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for purchasing the photocopier paper at higher rates than available in Kendriya Bhandar at much cheaper rates like Spectra copier paper; and

(d) if so, the action taken to purchase the paper at most economical rates as per Rule 137, GFRs-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) Photocopier paper is procured by the Ministry of Agriculture from time to time strictly in accordance with the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2005. As provided therein, the mode of purchase is decided based on the value of procurement to obtain most competitive and economical prices with maximum transparency. While procuring photocopier paper, provisions of Rule 137 of GFR, 2005 and the existing orders on the subject issued by the Government are always kept in view.

Allocation of funds to Jharkhand

3861. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds his Ministry has allocated to the State of Jharkhand during the last five years, year-wise, district-wise and missions-wise;

(b) the quantum of these allocated funds actually spent in Jharkhand on various activities during the last five years, year-wise, district-wise and missions-wise;

(c) whether any funds have specially been allocated for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts of Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof during last five years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Detail indicating the funds allocated, released and expenditure during last five years for mission mode schemes of the Ministry in the State of Jharkhand is given in the Statement (*See below*). District-wise allocation and expenditure monitoring is done by state governments only.

(c) to (e) No funds are allocated for Left Wing Extremist (LWE) districts specifically in any scheme of the Ministry.

Statement

Allocation of funds to Jharkhand

Name of the State : Jharkhand

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
Name of the Scheme	Alloca-	Release	Exp.	Alloca-	Release	Exp.	Alloca-	Release	Exp.	Alloca-	Release	Exp.	Alloca-	Release	Exp.
	(prov.)	tion		tion	tion		tion	tion		tion	tion		tion	tion	
National Horticulture Mission	59.90	30.30	0.03	83.25	40.00	19.48	90.18	7.81	23.51	98.73	50.00	52.01	47.66	30.84	43.64
National Food Security Mission (NFSM)*							0.00	0.00	0.00	13.07	9.80	4.49	11.63	4.93	4.60
National Bamboo Mission#				0.00	0.00	0.00	3.88	1.00	1.00	3.10	2.77	2.77	3.17	1.09	1.09

*NFSM started from 2007-08

#NBM started from 2006-07

Co-operation among BRIC nations

3862. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the BRIC nations (Brazil, Russia, India and China) have recently agreed to extend their cooperation in agriculture to promote global food security;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government of India has urged BRIC nations to increase productivity in foodgrains and also to set up a working group of experts in farm research; and
- (d) if so, to what extent the BRIC nations have agreed to implement various decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) Agriculture Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC), met in Moscow and agreed on broad contours of quadrilateral cooperation in agricultural sector with particular attention to family farming the development of which will not only help long term interests of the four States but contribute towards global food security. It was also agreed to set up a standing Expert Working Group for implementation of measures collectively agreed which, *inter alia*, include increasing production and agriculture research.

Import of manure

†3863. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is importing dung manure for agricultural use;
- (b) if so, the names of the countries from where it is being imported; and
- (c) the quantity of manure imported till date from the year 2005, year-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Details indicating country-wise and year-wise quantity of manure imported from the year 2005 onwards are given in the Statement.

Statement

India's Import of Manure (ITCHS : 31010091 (Animal Dung), 31010092 (Animal Excreta), 31010099 (Other) for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and April 2009 to November 2009

ITCHS	Country	2005-06 Qty. (KGs)	2006-07 Qty. (KGs)	2007-08 Qty. (KGs)	2008-09 Qty. (KGs)	Apr. 09 - Nov. 09 Qty. (KGs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31010091	China PRP	0	0	0	3200	0

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31010092	Netherland	0	0	250	0	0
31010099	Unspecified	0	2880	2880	31	14000
31010099	South Africa	15000	7000	14500	15005	1000
31010099	Canada	96620	144148	99436	180872	87599
31010099	USA	79335	40185	108604	80100	18910
31010099	Mexico	0	0	1000	0	0
31010099	Australia	19150	37890	16581	27816	80300
31010099	China PRP	46404	147667	434220	711528	595643
31010099	Japan	0	60	6423	4140	0
31010099	Korea RP	0	0	1670	5430	2711
31010099	Malaysia	0	0	0	7425	0
31010099	Singapore	0	0	100	0	0
31010099	Thailand	750	2600	222	954	428
31010099	U Arab Emrs	0	0	0	48000	0
31010099	Taiwan	200	138	0	0	0
31010099	Austria	0	0	76000	171000	98649
31010099	Belgium	147000	84000	105000	0	0
31010099	France	3900	0	0	0	0
31010099	Germany	14288	78000	21840	174	0
31010099	Ireland	0	0	0	3360	5040
31010099	Italy	21160	91512	123800	143700	256084
31010099	Spain	2000	800	3547	1421	0
31010099	UK	0	0	5000	2256	0
31010099	Iceland	0	1000	10000	10000	0
31010099	Norway	41900	40000	51000	85000	75000
TOTAL		487707	677880	1082073	1501412	1235364

*The figures for the period upto 2008-09 are finalised whereas those of April 09 to Nov. 09 are provisional

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata.

Development of new variety of paddy

†3864. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a new variety of paddy has been developed by scientists which despite getting submerged in water for twenty days yields 3.5 tonne per hectare;
- (b) the details of development process along with the areas where the usage of this variety may be most beneficial;
- (c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other Agricultural Universities propose to increase the commercial production of the said variety;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the further steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir. Swarna-sub 1 variety developed under the collaborative project of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), tested and identified by Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack, yields around 3.5 tonnes/ha despite remained submerged in water for two weeks.

(b) Swarna-Sub 1 was developed by incorporating submergence tolerance QTL [SUB1] into Swarna variety using Marker-assisted backcross breeding procedure. This variety is beneficial to the farmers of flash flood areas in States of Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A total quantity of 78 quintals of breeder seed has been indented. This quantity is being produced during ensuing Kharif season 2010 at CRRI, Cuttack. For commercial production of this variety the breeder seed is further multiplied of foundation and certified seed to make it available to farmers.

Technological innovation

3865. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research had introduced 36 models of technological innovation based sustainable rural livelihood in more than 100 most disadvantaged districts in the country thereby benefiting 50,000 farm families;
- (b) if so, the name of districts covered in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether tribal predominant districts were also covered; and
- (d) if not, by when such districts in tribal belt and economically backward Vidarbha region would be covered?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) In Maharashtra three subprojects covering ten backward districts are approved as listed below:-

Title of subprojects	District Covered
Sustainable Rural Livelihood Security in Backward Districts of Maharashtra (Proponent; BAIF Pune)	Garchiroli, Chandrapur, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Yawatmal
Sustainable rural livelihood security through integrated approach in Hingoli and Nanded districts of Maharashtra (Proponent: MAFSU, Nagpur)	Hingoli, Nanded
Efficient Land Use Based Integrated Farming System for Rural Livelihood Security in Aurangabad, Dhule and Gondia Districts of Maharashtra (Proponent: NBSS and LUP, Nagpur)	Aurangabad, Gondia, Dhule

(c) Garchiroli and Nandurbar are the tribal-predominant districts. Ahmednagar, Yawatmal, Hingoli and Dhule also have significant tribal populations.

(d) No new projects are under consideration at present.

Introduction of e-courses by ICAR

3866. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of e-courses introduced by ICAR for degree and post graduate programmes during 2007 and 2008;

(b) whether on-line access to research journals and other similar material was provided during 2008 and 2009; and

(c) if so, whether these journals were available in English and Hindi only, or regional language versions were also made available so as to cover maximum number of users/beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) NIL during 2007 and 2008.

(b) Yes, Sir. Abstracts of research articles published in the Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences and the Indian Journal of Animal Sciences has been available and both the journals are available in open access from March, 2010.

(c) Research journals published by ICAR namely, the Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences and the Indian Journal of Animal Sciences, are available in English only.

Decline in production of pulses

†3867. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether production of pulses in the country is declining in comparison to their consumption;

(b) the ratio of the consumption and production and import of pulses in the country during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for the declining production of pulses in the country; and

(d) whether due to low production, prices of pulses are likely to go up in the coming days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) As per latest available data on consumption of pulses collected through the Consumer Expenditure Surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), consumption of pulses in the country during 2004-05 is estimated at 10.09 million tones. Details of production and import of pulses in the country during the last five years *i.e.* 2004-05 to 2008-09 are as under:

(Million Tonnes)		
Year	Production	Import
2004-05	13.13	1.34
2005-06	13.39	1.70
2006-07	14.20	2.27
2007-08	14.76	2.84
2008-09	14.57	2.48

(c) Pulses are genetically low yielding and less input responsive as compared to other cereals and oilseeds. Major constraints on production of pulses in the country include, inadequate availability of quality seeds of improved varieties, inadequate and imbalanced use of nutrients, soil moisture stress/drought yield losses due to insect-pests and diseases, non-utilisation of full potential of rice fallows etc. besides less profitability as compared to other competing crops.

(d) The production of pulses in the country has increased from 14.57 million tones during 2008-09 to 14.74 million tones during 2009-10 (2nd advance estimates). Due to various measures taken by the Government to reduce the impact of the price rise, the retail prices of pulses such as gram dal, tur dal, masoor dal have declined over the last three months.

Monitoring of drought situation

3868. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a strong division with adequate power and expertise in his Ministry to deal with drought as the present set up of drought monitoring cell is inadequate and ineffective to tackle drought situation;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) to (c) A drought Management Division and a Drought Monitoring Cell exist in the Ministry. With the availability of manpower in both the units, the impact of drought of 2009-10, spread across 338 districts in 14 states, mainly on account of deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009, was managed effectively.

Financial support to drought affected farmers in Andhra Pradesh

3869. SHRI GIREEESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers affected by drought, benefited under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the total amount spent under the scheme to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers affected by the recent drought in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the crops and areas notified in the State for the purpose of providing relief under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) During 2009-10, out of total claims approved of Rs. 801.33 crore for Kharif 2008, Rs.781.23 crore have been paid to 7.58 lakh farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Claims of Rs.36.60 crore of Rabi 2008-09 have been approved by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) for 0.50 lakh farmers to be paid after receipt of State share. Yield data of Kharif 2009 crops have been received for major crops by AIC from Andhra Pradesh State Government and claims are being processed accordingly.

(c) Details of crops and areas notified for Kharif 2009 under NAIS in Andhra Pradesh are given in the Statement.

Statement

*Details of crops and areas notified for Kharif 2009 under NAIS in
Andhra Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Crops	No. of Districts Notified	Name of the Districts notified
1	2	3	4
1.	Paddy	22	All Districts except Hyderabad

1	2	3	4
2.	Jowar	12	Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Chittoor, RR Dist., Nizamabad, Medak, Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam and Adilabad.
3.	Bajra	12	Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Nellore, Prakasam, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Chittoor, Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda.
4.	Maize	13	Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Prakasam, Ananthapur, R.R. Dist, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and Adilabad.
5.	Redgram	17	Visakapatnam, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Chittoor, R.R. Dist. Medak, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and Adilabad
6.	Greengram	10	Krishan, R.R. Dist. Nizamabad, Medak, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and Adilabad
7.	Blackgram	5	Guntur, R.R. Dist, Nizamabad, Medak, and Adilabad
8.	Castor	7	Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, R.R. Dist. Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Warangal.
9.	Sunflower	4	Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa and Mahabubnagar
10.	Groundnut (UI)	16	Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Prakasam, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Chittoor, R.R. Disst, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam and Karimnagar.
11.	Groundnut (I)	6	Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur, Kurnool and Mahbubnagar
12.	Soyabean	4	Guntur, Nizamabad, Medak and Adilabad.
13.	Sugarcane (P)	11	Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatan, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishana, Nellore, Chittor, Medak, Nizamabad and Khammam.

1	2	3	4
14.	Sugarcane (R)	11	Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishana, Nellore, Chittoor, Medak, Nizamabad and Khammam.
15.	Cotton (I)	8	Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Kadapa, Mahabubnagar, Karimnagar, Khammam and Warangal.
16.	Cotton (UI)	17	Vizianagaram, East Godavari, Krishana, Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Mahabubnagar, R.R. Dist, Medak, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Khammam, Warangal, and Adilabad
17.	Chillies (I)	10	Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Ananthapur, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam
18.	Chillies (UI)	7	Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Medak, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Adilabad
19.	Banana	4	East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur
20.	Turmeric	7	Guntur, Kadapa, Rangareddy, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar and Warangal.

Implementation of Gramin Bhandaran Yojana

3870. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made an assessment of effective implementation of Gramin Bhandaran Yojana in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of rural godowns constructed and the number of farmers benefited under the scheme; and

(c) the basis of providing subsidy to entrepreneurs for constructing rural godowns in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An evaluation of Central Sector Scheme of Gramin Bhandaran Yojana was conducted by an independent agency during the year 2006. The Evaluation Report indicates that principal objectives of Gramin Bhandaran Yojana Scheme have been met like creation of scientific storage capacity, prevention of distress sale, reduction of loss in quantity and quality, creation of addition employment opportunities in rural areas, encouraging private and cooperative sector investment in creation of storage infrastructure in major producing zones and major consumption zones in the country etc.

Since inception of the scheme *w.e.f.* 1/4/2001, a total of 16263 rural godown have been constructed all over the country. The number of farmers benefited from the scheme is not available. However, as per the evaluation report godown owners are predominately farmers (70%). While 95% of the godowns are used to store agricultural output, 5% store both input and output.

(c) Under the scheme of Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, subsidy @ 25% of the project cost is provided to farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives and Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations for construction of godowns. In case of North Eastern States/hilly areas and SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and Women Farmers, subsidy @ 33.33% of project cost is provided. All other categories of individuals, companies and corporations are given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost.

Achievements of Kissan Call Centres

3871. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made so far in respect of setting up of Kissan Call Centres;

(b) whether it has been decided to set up Kissan Call Centres in all districts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the districts covered so far; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the process of setting up of Kissan Call Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) The Kissan Call Centres run by the Government of India have been functioning since January 21, 2004. The total number of Call Centres has now increased to 25 at different locations covering farmers in all the States/UTs. The details of location of these Centres and the States/UTs served by each Centre are given in the Statement (*See below*). The Kissan Call Centres are accessible through toll-free number 1800-180-1551 from all telephone networks (including mobile phones) from 6 AM to 10 PM on all 7 days of the week. Farmers' queries are replied to in 22 local languages on all aspects of agriculture and allied subjects. Since inception of the Scheme and till 31.3.2010, about 42.05 lakh calls (including IVRS and Live calls) have been received by the Kissan Call Centres throughout the country.

(b) No, Sir. The existing 25 Kissan Call Centres are serving the needs of farmers in the entire country.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) All the districts of entire country are covered with the existing State level call centers.

(e) Not applicable.

Statement

Location of Kissan Call Centres and the States/UTs covered by each Centre

Sl.No.	Location	States/UTs covered
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Guwahati	Assam, Manipur, Nagaland
4.	Patna	Bihar
5.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
6.	New Delhi	Delhi
7.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat, Daman, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
8.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir
10.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
11.	Bengaluru	Karnataka
12.	Trichur	Kerala and Lakshadweep
13.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
14.	Nagpur	Maharashtra and Goa
15.	Shillong	Meghalaya
16.	Aizwal	Mizoram
17.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
18.	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh
19.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
20.	Gangtok	Sikkim
21.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
22.	Agartala	Tripura
23.	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
24.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
25.	Kolkata	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Suicide by farmers in Vidarbha

3872. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of Government is drawn towards media reports that seven farmers committed suicide in Vidarbha region thereby taking the toll to 638 this year;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the number of suicides by farmers are increasing despite the implementation of the scheme of waiving of agricultural loans by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a) As per information made available by the Government of Maharashtra, 23 farmers have committed suicide in Vidharba due to agrarian reasons during the year 2010 from January 1 to April 08, 2010.

(b) to (d) The Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 has been implemented in all districts of the country. As per provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crore small and marginal farmers and 0.68 crore other farmers have benefitted from the scheme involving debt waiver and debt relief to the tune of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as their line of credit has been declogged due to clearing off of their principal and interest liabilities.

Details indicating the number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in various States during the last three years, as reported by the respective State Governments are given in the Statement (See below). As would be evident from this statement, the total number of suicides due to agrarian reasons has been decreasing since implementation of this Scheme.

A rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone districts in four States includes both immediate and medium term measures with an aim of establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. It has been decided by the Government to extend the period for implementation of the non credit components of the package by 2 more years *i.e.* 30th September, 2011. In addition to this, the Government of Maharashtra Provides Rs. 1 lakh to the dependent of the deceased farmer as immediate relief.

For revitalization of agriculture sector, a number of plan schemes and programmes are under implementation across the country which include National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the States so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied

sectors in a decentralized manner, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management and Support to Agriculture Extension Services etc. The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 also has definite provisions to improve economic viability of farming.

The Union Budget 2010-11 has outlined a four pronged strategy to spur agricultural growth with a view to promoting inclusive growth, enhance rural incomes and sustain food security.

Statement

*Number of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons as reported by
State Governments.*

S.	Name of the State No.	Period/Date of reportNo.	of	suicides	by
					farmers agrarian
1	2	3		4	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2007		504	
		2008		419	
		2009		219	
2.	Karnataka	2007-08		182	
		2008-09		143	
		2009-10 (upto 31.08.09)		14	
3.	Maharashtra	2007		590	
		2008		627	
		01.01.2009 to 31.01.2010		463	
4.	Kerala	2007		68	
		2008		22	
		2009		03	
5.	Tamil Nadu	2007		01	
		2008		01	
		2009		Nil	
6.	Punjab	2007		24	
		2008		12	
		2009		18	

1	2	3	4
7.	Gujarat	2007	04
		2008	01
		2009	Nil
8.	Assam	03.12.2009	Nil
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.08.2007	Nil
10.	Bihar	14.05.2008	Nil
11.	Chhattisgarh	16.03.2010	Nil
12.	Goa	08.03.2010	Nil
13.	Haryana	10.03.2010	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	10.03.2010	Nil
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.11.2009	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	25.04.2008	Nil
17.	Manipur	23.03.2010	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	27.11.2009	Nil
19.	Madhya Pradesh	22.03.2010	Nil
20.	Mizoram	05.02.2010	Nil
21.	Nagaland	23.11.2009	Nil
22.	Orissa	04.03.2010	Nil*
23.	Rajasthan	14.12.2009	Nil
24.	Sikkim	30.11.2009	Nil
25.	Tripura	25.03.2008	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20.11.2009	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	09.03.2010	Nil
28.	West Bengal	31.10.2009	Nil
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	05.03.2010	Nil
30.	Govt. of NCT of Delhi	04.03.2010	Nil
31.	Daman and Diu	05.03.2010	Nil
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.03.2010	Nil

1	2	3	4
33.	Lakshadweep	12.03.2010	Nil
34.	Puducherry	24.03.2010	Nil
35.	Chandigarh	15.11.2009	Nil

*41 cases of alleged suicide by farmers.

Setting up of National Institutes of Drought Management

3873. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended for setting up of National Institute of Drought Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the responsibilities proposed to be entrusted to this Institute;

(d) the reasons for delay in setting up the Institute; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to set up the Institute at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission in its 3rd Report titled "Crisis Management: From Despair to Hope" has, *inter alia*, recommended that a National Institute of Drought Management may be set up.

(c) to (e) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Development of high yielding crops

†3874. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the less water consuming high yielding varieties of crops that have been developed keeping in view of the monsoon system along with the crop-wise details thereof;

(b) whether unavailability of additional water was the reasons for no increase in the yield of wheat after the 80s;

(c) the names of the improved varieties of less water consuming local grains that have been developed;

(d) whether Government would arrange for development of F-1 category seeds at Panchayat Samiti level to ensure the availability of certified seeds to these new improved crops; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether help of Panchayati Raj institutions will be sought for this?

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

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) along with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have developed several early maturing varieties of crops which perform well under moisture stress and drought conditions. Some of these varieties/hybrids are: **Wheat** (PBW 527, HD 2888, HI 1531, HI 1500, HD 8627, HD 2888); **Barley** (HBL 276, RD 2660, K 603); **Rice** (Vandana, Anjali, Dataswari, PNR-519, VL Dhan 208, Varendra, Sahbhagi Dhan); **Maize** (Pusa Hybrid Makka-1, 2 and 5, Vivek-33, Vivek-23, HM-4, Vivek-27, Pusa Extra Early-5, PMH-2, Pratap-1 and Vivek QPM-9); **Chickpea** (RSG 888, RSG 963, RSG-14, ICCV-10, Kabuli); **Lathyrus** (Bio L212); **Mothbean** (CAZRI Moth 3); **Horse Gram** (AK21); **Guar** (RGC 936); **Groundnut** (JGN-3, K134, Kadiri 6, CSMG-84-1, GG-2); **Mustard** (Pusa Bahar, JD-6, Shivani, RB-50, RGM-48); **Soybean** (NRC 7, JS 71-05) **Cotton** (HD 123, RG 18, Jawahar Tapti, Omshankar, RAJDH 7); **Sugarcane** (CO 8371, Co 980-14; **Jute** (JRO-524, Shyamali).

(b) The production of wheat in 1980-81 was 36-31 million tonnes which increased to 80.58 million tonnes in 2008-09 and accordingly, the production of wheat has not declined since eighties.

(c) The names of the important improved varieties of less water consuming in local coarse grains are **Sorghum** (CSH 15R, CSH 19R, CSV-18, RSLG-262, CSH-12R); **Pearl Millet** (HHB 67 improved, GHB-757, GHB-538); **Ragi** (Shakthi, TRY-1, VR 708, A 404); **Foxtail Millet** (AK 132-1, Kodo-KK-2), and **Little Millet** (OLM-20).

(d) and (e) Participatory seed production has been started at different centers of ICAR Institutes and SAUs under National Seed Project (Crops). Presently, several State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR Institutes across the country are producing quality seeds of improved varieties in different crops through farmers' participation. In this programme Panchayats can help to a great extent in boosting the seed production.

New Fertilizer Policy

†3875. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that difference of opinion has emerged in Government on New Fertilizer Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had sought any suggestions from representatives of people, farmers and industrial groups for New Fertilizer Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy policy with effect from 1.4.2010. Wide consultations were held with the State Governments, Fertilizer Industry and concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India while finalizing the policy on Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS). The NBS was approved by the Government after considerations and recommendations by the Group of Ministers.

Decontrolling of prices of fertilizers

3876. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for decontrolling of prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would empower the manufacturers liberty in fixing the prices;

(d) if so, whether Government has contemplated mechanism to protect the interest of the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers (except SSP) with effect from 1.4.2010. This policy is applicable on SSP with effect from 1.5.2010. As per this policy, the Government shall pay subsidy to the manufacturers/importers on DAP, MOP, NPK Complexes (12 grades), MAP, TSP, Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and SSP based on the nutrients contained therein. Though the MRP is being fixed by Companies, the Government has fixed the subsidy under Nutrient Based Subsidy in such a manner that the MRP with effect from 1.4.2010 fixed by companies is near to the earlier level of MRP. A marginal increase of Rs. 30 per bag only has taken place. In case of MOP, no increase has taken place and in case of SSP there is reduction of Rs. 70 per bag.

Availability of fertilizers

3877. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production, demand and supply of various fertilizers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, fertilizer-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of fertilizers in various States including Himachal Pradesh and farmers are facing hardships and suffering losses due to non-availability and delay in supply of fertilizers;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to provide the fertilizers as per demand/request of the State Governments and to increase the production and availability of various fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement distribution control of the Government of India. All other fertilizers like DAP, MOP and NPK etc. are de-controlled since August, 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level and State Governments are responsible for further distribution within the State.

The production of Urea, DAP and Complex fertilizer during the years 2007-08 to 2009-10 is given in the Statement-I, II and III (*See below*). The requirement (demand) and availability of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPK) fertilizers including Himachal Pradesh during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the Statement-IV to VII (*See below*). The procurement of all fertilizers is done by Himachal Pradesh Marketing Federation (HIMFED) on behalf of the State Government. Depending upon the demand of fertilizers, HIMFED places orders on the fertilizer companies and procures these fertilizers from them. Since the warehousing capacity in the State is limited, the HIMFED procures fertilizers on month to month basis based on actual sales.

The State has not asked for any increase. In fact, Himachal Pradesh has surrendered some of Urea allocation given to them under ECA, because of decrease in consumption of it.

(d) In order to ensure availability of fertilizer vis-a-vis requirement through out the country, Department of Fertilizer has taken various policy initiatives, some of which are:

- (i) Each state in consultation with the fertilizer suppliers is required to prepare a monthly supply plan district wise within overall availability at state level for ensuring availability of fertilizers in all parts of the State;
- (ii) The supply of fertilizers by manufacturers/suppliers is being monitored through a web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System which is able to track production, imports, dispatch, arrival and sales up to the district level;

- (iii) The state governments have been advised (i) that the State Institutional agencies will coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies (ii) to review the railway rake points in their states and take up the issues with the Railways for improvements, if any, required to ensure availability of fertilizers in every nook and corner of the State.
- (iv) The Government has introduced a Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010, which has replaced the outgoing Concession Scheme for P and K fertilizers. Under the NBS, State Governments have to play more proactive role to co-ordinate with the manufacturers/importers to tie up supplies of fertilizers as per the requirement of States.
- (v) Manufacturers of customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizers are now eligible to source subsidized fertilizers from the manufacturers/importers after their receipt in the districts as inputs for manufacturing customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizer for agricultural purpose under NBS. There would be no separate subsidy on sale of customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizers. To encourage soil and crop based usage of such fertilizers, the State governments need to facilitate the same.
- (vi) The resources available for production of fertilizers like Urea, DAP and NPK are being utilized to the full capacity. The indigenous production of fertilizers is not adequate to meet the increasing demand. There has been a gap between the indigenous production of fertilizer and its demand. The gap between the assessed requirement and indigenous production is met through imports. 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. As a result of this the production of urea has increased from 200 LMT in 2008-09 to about 211 LMT in 2009-10. It is expected that the indigenous production of urea is likely to increase further during 2010-11. Government has also taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P and 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 and 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 and K sector.

Statement-I*Production of urea for the Years 2007-08 to 2009-10*

('000' MT)

Name of Plants	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4
PUBLIC SECTOR:			
NFL:Nangal-II	478.7	514.5	474.0
NFL:Bhatinda	511.4	537.5	514.7
NFL:Panipat	511.6	488.3	512.9
NFL:Vijaipur	899.9	865.9	878.5
NFL:Vijaipur Expn.	866.6	937.9	949.6
TOTAL (NFL):	3268.2	3344.1	3329.7
BVFCL:Namrup-II	77.6	60.7	79.2
BVFCL:Namrup-III	251.7	128.5	230.4
Total (BVFCL):	329.3	189.2	309.6
RCF:Trombay-V	0.0	0.0	306.9
RCF:Thal	1832.3	1903.3	1782.2
TOTAL (RCF):	1832.3	1903.3	2089.1
MFL:Chennai	440.5	405.7	435.9
TOTAL PUBLIC SECTOR:	5870.3	5842.3	6164.3
COOP. SECTOR:			
IFFCO:Kalol	544.5	559.8	601.2
IFFCO:Phulpur	629.9	662.7	722.6
IFFCO:Phulpur Expn.	924.3	840.6	1000.1
IFFCO:Aonla	875.7	986.8	1000.3
IFFCO:Aonla Expn.	989.3	1018.1	1000.3
TOTAL (IFFCO):	3963.7	4068.0	4324.5
KRIBHCO:Hazira	1739.7	1743.2	1779.6
TOTAL Coop. Sector:	5703.4	5811.2	6104.1
TOTAL (Pub+Coop.)	11573.7	11653.5	12268.4

1	2	3	4
PRIVATE SECTOR:			
GSFC:Vadodara	240.8	236.3	281.5
SFC:Kota	380.9	395.5	382.2
DIL:Kanpur	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZIL:Goa	395.4	412.4	387.5
SPIC:Tuticorin	0.0	0.0	0.0
MCF:Mangalore	379.6	379.3	379.5
GNFC:Bharuch	670.3	592.3	601.7
IGF:Jagdishpur	880.3	1068.6	1096.1
NFCL:Kakinada-I	757.2	768.9	757.0
NFCL:Kakinada-II	597.2	609.1	723.1
CFCL:Gadepan-I:	1004.4	909.8	1019.6
CFCL:Gadepan-II	995.5	1008.3	1011.2
TCL:Babrala	1069.7	1023.8	1231.7
KSFL:Shahjhanpur	913.2	864.3	972.8
TOTAL PRIVATE SECTOR:	8284.5	8268.6	8843.9
TOTAL (Pub+Coop.+Pvt.):	19858.2	19922.1	21112.3

Statement-II

Production of DAP for the Years 2007-08 to 2009-10

(‘000’ MT)

Name of Plants	Production		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4
COOP. SECTOR:			
IFFCO:Kandla	438.3	214.7	722.7
IFFCO:Paradeep	593.2	436.5	402.3
TOTAL Co-op Sector	1031.5	651.2	1125.0
PRIVATE SECTOR:			
GSFC:Vadodara	87.9	43.5	0.0

1	2	3	4
ZIL:Goa	212.5	205.0	351.8
SPIC:Tuticorin	71.5	0.0	0.0
MCF:Mangalore	211.4	158.3	198.1
TCL:Haldia	237.6	147.8	183.7
GSFC:Sikka-I	780.6	630.5	921.8
GSFC:Sikka-II	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (Sikka-I and II):	780.6	630.5	921.8
CFL:Kakinada	567.9	518.2	520.6
Hindalco Indus: Dahej	131.2	168.6	181.8
PPL:Paradeep	879.8	470.2	763.7
TOTAL Private Sector	3180.4	2342.1	3121.5
TOTAL (Co-op.+PVT.):	4211.9	2993.3	4246.5

Production of GSFC: Sikka-I and II are combined

**GFCL - Kakinada has ben taken over by CIL *w.e.f.* 1.2.2008

Statement-III

Production of Complex fertilisers for the Year 2007-08 to 2009-10

(‘000’)

Name of Company/Unit	Product	Production		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
PUBLIC SECTOR:				
FACT:Udyogamandal	20:20	90.8	115.8	181.3
FACT:Cochin-II	20:20	334.2	489.5	576.8
TOTAL (FACT):		425.0	605.3	758.1
RCF:Trombay	15:15:15	468.2	471.0	490.4
	10:26:26	0.0	0.0	0.0
RCF:Trombay-IV	20.8:20.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (RCF):		468.2	471.0	503.3
MFL:Chennai	17:17:17	35.2	0.0	0.0
	19:19:19	0.0	0.0	0.0
	20:20	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (MFL):		35.2	0.0	0.0
TOTAL PUBLIC SECTOR:		928.4	1076.3	1261.4

1	2	3	4	5
COOPERATIVE SECTOR:				
IFFCO:Kandla	10:26:26	840.8	1041.1	1191.1
	12:32:16	691.0	538.0	460.6
TOTAL (IFFCO/Kandla):		1531.8	1579.1	1651.7
IFFCO (OCF): Paradeep	20:20	272.6	869.5	1097.7
	10:26:26	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (IFFCO): Paradeep		272.6	869.5	1097.7
Total (IFFCO)		1804.4	2448.6	2749.4
GSFC:Vadodara	20:20	120.1	197.3	292.9
CFL:Vizag	28:28	391.1	207.1	290.1
	14:35:14	0.0	67.2	175.7
	20:20	208.2	434.0	563.7
	10:26:26	98.7	31.4	23.9
TOTAL (CFL):		698.0	739.7	1053.4
ZIL:Goa	19:19:19	249.6	32.1	0.0
	28:28	0.0	0.0	0.0
	14:35:14	0.0	0.0	0.0
	10:26:26	179.1	270.1	208.9
	20:20	0.0	3.3	22.6
	12:32:16	48.4	67.7	134.7
TOTAL (ZIL):		477.1	373.2	366.2
SPIC:Tuticorin	20:20	1.0	0.0	174.4
	17:17:17	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (SPIC):		1.0	0.0	174.4
MCF:Mangalore	20:20	33.7	74.3	84.1
	16:20	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (MCF):		33.7	74.3	84.1
CFL:Ennore	16:20	148.7	158.4	212.6
	20:20	38.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL (CFL):		187.3	158.4	212.6

1	2	3	4	5
GNFC:Bharuch	20:20	193.2	134.0	166.5
TOTAL (GNFC):		193.2	134.0	166.5
TCL:Haldia	28:28	0.0	0.0	0.0
	14:35:14	35.6	0.0	0.0
	15:15:15	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	120.4	104.9	30.2
	10:26:26	236.3	308.5	363.8
TOTAL (TCL):		392.3	413.4	394.0
GSFC:Sikka-I	20:20	0.0	0.0	0.0
	10:26:26	16.4	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	28.3	49.9	0.0
GSFC:Sikka-II	12:32:16	0.0	0.0	0.0
CFL:Kakinada	20:20	0.0	48.9	4.2
	14:35:14	25.4	102.1	478.1
	17:17:17	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	50.6	23.0	17.0
	10:26:26	420.5	399.4	236.3
TOTAL (GFCL):		496.5	573.4	735.6
Hindalco Ind:Dahej	10:26:26	10.1	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	8.1	0.0	0.0
	20:20	0.0	0.0	0.0
DFPCL:Taloja	23:23	51.5	57.9	100.6
PPL:Paradeep*	20:20	188.5	176.0	242.7
	28:28	0.0	0.0	0.0
	16:20	4.7	0.0	0.0
	14:35:14	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	42.6	98.5	33.0
	10:26:26	168.4	277.5	171.5
TOTAL (PPL):		404.2	552.0	447.2
TOTAL PRIVATE SECTOR:		3117.8	3323.5	4027.5
TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):		5850.6	6848.4	8038.3

Statement-IV

State-wise availability and sales of UREA, DAP and MOP

2006-07

Qty in (LMTs)

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Himachal Pradesh	0.58	0.54	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	1.42	1.15	1.05	0.71	0.55	0.51	0.21	0.10	0.10
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	53.50	51.83	14.50	14.42	12.94	2.30	1.34	1.22
Uttaranchal	1.65	2.17	2.10	0.32	0.24	0.23	0.12	0.06	0.04
Bihar	17.50	16.32	16.01	4.50	3.29	2.65	2.50	1.04	1.00
Jharkhand	1.74	1.63	1.60	1.10	0.71	0.68	0.07	0.01	0.01
Orissa	4.70	4.44	4.21	0.98	1.16	1.03	0.92	0.85	0.75
West Bengal	12.00	12.28	11.94	4.10	3.99	3.54	3.58	2.78	2.51
Assam	3.08	2.67	2.47	0.51	0.27	0.24	0.82	0.59	0.54
ALL INDIA	249.55	254.79	244.52	81.31	77.57	69.75	33.27	24.82	23.17

Statement-V

State-wise availability and sale of UREA, DAP and MOP

2007-08

Name of State	UREA			DAP/MAP			MOP (LMTs)		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	26.84	25.12	8.24	7.16	7.15	5.55	4.52	4.50
Karnataka	12.80	13.63	12.54	5.80	4.54	4.50	4.00	3.70	3.58
Kerala	1.40	1.44	1.34	0.28	0.18	0.18	1.40	1.19	1.16
Tamil Nadu	9.85	9.68	9.16	4.25	3.35	3.35	4.90	4.85	4.77
Gujarat	17.25	18.37	17.93	5.80	6.76	6.47	1.70	1.82	1.79
Madhya Pradesh	13.75	14.76	14.31	7.50	6.82	6.34	1.10	0.76	0.74
Chhattisgarh	5.90	6.17	5.87	1.70	1.38	1.35	0.74	0.69	0.62
Maharashtra	21.20	23.05	21.39	7.05	6.45	6.29	3.05	3.46	3.23
Rajasthan	14.70	13.83	13.21	6.05	5.51	4.50	0.23	0.23	0.19
Haryana	18.75	19.30	18.47	5.85	6.80	5.36	0.50	0.34	0.29
Punjab	25.00	26.97	26.46	8.00	9.14	6.81	0.95	0.58	0.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	54.37	52.72	15.50	14.89	13.20	3.00	1.27	1.14
Uttaranchal	2.30	2.42	2.31	0.32	0.23	0.23	0.18	0.05	0.05
Himachal Pradesh	0.61	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05
Jammu and Kashmir	1.40	1.19	1.15	0.84	0.33	0.33	0.28	0.07	0.07
Bihar	20.00	19.40	18.56	4.25	3.30	3.07	2.05	1.19	1.07
Jharkhand	2.10	1.67	1.58	0.90	0.75	0.74	0.13	0.08	0.08
Orissa	5.50	5.19	4.58	1.25	1.79	1.72	1.20	1.05	1.01
West Bengal	12.95	12.45	11.56	4.55	3.80	3.78	4.00	2.76	2.73
Assam	2.30	1.99	1.93	0.70	0.08	0.08	0.85	0.40	0.40
ALL INDIA	271.70	274.26	261.71	89.21	83.40	75.55	36.13	29.28	28.28

Statement-VI

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

2008-09

												Qty in LMTs
Name of State	UREA			DAP			MOP			Complex		
	Require-	Availability	Sales	Require-	Availability	Sales	Require-	Availability	Sales	Require-	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	27.84	27.33	8.50	9.98	9.97	5.85	6.27	6.04	20.50	16.50	16.30
Karnataka	13.50	12.88	12.82	6.05	8.12	8.07	4.55	5.14	5.05	11.17	8.44	8.39
Kerala	1.49	1.68	1.63	0.31	0.24	0.24	1.33	1.53	1.51	1.72	1.85	1.81
Tamil Nadu	10.37	11.28	11.28	4.31	3.85	3.85	4.84	5.95	5.84	3.62	3.55	3.51
Gujarat	18.65	18.69	18.48	7.10	8.24	8.19	1.90	2.26	2.22	4.39	4.92	4.70
Madhya Pradesh	15.75	13.83	13.59	8.25	8.31	8.14	1.20	1.17	0.88	4.35	2.20	2.15
Chhattisgarh	5.40	5.23	5.06	1.75	2.31	2.28	0.77	0.95	0.92	1.31	1.23	1.22
Maharashtra	23.25	22.84	22.46	8.60	10.19	10.15	3.70	5.17	4.92	15.65	10.40	10.29
Rajasthan	15.10	13.21	12.97	5.60	5.90	5.77	0.33	0.32	0.24	1.42	0.67	0.66
Haryana	19.90	17.59	17.36	6.00	6.69	6.61	0.46	0.47	0.39	0.67	0.31	0.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Punjab	25.50	26.28	25.77	8.10	8.82	8.82	0.95	0.98	0.81	1.01	0.59	0.57
Himachal Pradesh	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.44	0.40	0.40
Jammu and Kashmir	1.35	1.28	1.26	0.80	0.59	0.59	0.33	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.01	0.01
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	55.74	54.83	15.50	15.12	14.93	2.50	2.79	2.47	10.50	7.44	7.32
Uttarakhand	2.30	2.22	2.20	0.35	0.31	0.31	0.18	0.08	0.08	0.45	0.51	0.51
Bihar	21.25	18.33	17.96	4.25	4.12	4.11	1.90	2.28	2.13	3.60	2.59	2.59
Jharkhand	2.00	1.57	1.54	1.05	0.80	0.80	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.40	0.38	0.38
Orissa	5.50	4.74	4.61	2.00	1.89	1.89	1.35	1.53	1.34	2.88	2.66	2.55
West Bengal	13.00	11.94	11.67	4.86	4.03	4.03	4.15	4.80	4.62	7.49	7.29	7.23
Assam	2.40	2.30	2.30	1.03	0.14	0.14	1.06	1.08	0.95	0.30	0.06	0.06
ALL INDIA	281.34	270.88	266.51	94.83	99.78	99.03	37.86	43.34	40.95	92.32	72.26	71.22

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

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

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

Statement-VII

Cumulative requirement, availability and sales of fertilisers during the year 2009-10 (April to March)

2009-10

												Qty in LMT
Name of State	UREA			DAP			MOP			Complex		
	Require-	Availability	Sales	Require-	Availability	Sales	Require-	Availability	Sales	Require-	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	27.50	26.16	25.95	9.75	8.89	8.85	6.60	6.07	6.01	20.50	18.69	18.15
Karnataka	13.75	13.77	13.77	8.20	8.46	8.46	5.15	6.12	6.08	11.20	10.95	10.76
Kerala	1.63	1.53	1.53	0.35	0.30	0.30	1.54	1.57	1.54	1.90	2.12	2.05
Tamil Nadu	11.50	9.98	9.98	4.25	2.94	2.94	5.84	5.14	5.12	4.00	6.18	6.13
Gujarat	18.75	18.21	18.12	8.00	7.64	7.62	2.30	2.86	2.69	4.72	4.20	4.01
Madhya Pradesh	15.25	16.00	15.93	8.50	9.52	9.47	1.20	1.67	1.43	3.55	2.48	2.43
Chhattisgarh	5.48	5.27	5.27	1.77	2.65	2.65	0.84	0.96	0.90	1.42	1.04	1.04
Maharashtra	24.75	22.87	22.87	12.50	13.83	13.82	5.60	7.07	7.06	14.00	11.25	11.13
Rajasthan	15.10	13.37	13.15	6.50	5.86	5.85	0.35	0.55	0.42	1.37	0.78	0.78
Haryana	19.65	18.05	17.95	7.00	6.66	6.66	0.52	0.90	0.90	0.45	0.48	0.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Punjab	25.50	24.65	24.46	8.50	8.08	8.06	0.91	1.00	1.08	0.55	0.57	0.55
Himachal Pradesh	0.67	0.54	0.54	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.50	0.38	0.38
Jammu and Kashmir	1.40	1.22	1.22	0.78	0.48	0.48	0.26	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	55.00	53.64	53.08	17.00	16.51	16.49	2.85	3.47	3.43	8.50	9.47	9.40
Uttarakhand	2.15	2.33	2.33	0.40	0.38	0.38	0.13	0.04	0.04	0.45	0.41	0.40
Bihar	19.00	17.04	17.03	4.50	3.98	3.97	2.10	2.26	2.26	3.10	2.68	2.68
Jharkhand	2.05	1.50	1.50	1.15	0.82	0.82	0.15	0.17	0.17	0.50	0.69	0.68
Orissa	5.75	4.61	4.59	2.25	2.24	2.21	1.70	1.31	1.27	3.00	2.28	2.24
West Bengal	13.00	11.71	11.71	4.80	4.56	4.55	4.15	4.97	4.97	7.50	8.39	8.39
Assam	2.60	2.56	2.56	0.35	0.22	0.22	1.26	0.97	0.97	0.06	0.06	0.06
ALL INDIA	281.90	265.97	264.48	106.98	104.09	103.92	43.85	47.60	46.74	87.73	83.38	82.03

Fertilizers under Nutrient Based Subsidy

3878. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 5 million tonnes of fertilizers have been contracted under Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how it would be useful to the farmers and the farming industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Estimated import plan filed by the Importers of Fertilizers with Department of Fertilizers during 2010-11 is as follows:

(Qty. in LMT)

DAP	68.35
MOP	61.07
NPK	10.23

- (c) It would result in comfortable availability of fertilizers in the country during 2010-11.

Overcharging of fertilizer price

3879. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fertilizers allocated to the State of Jharkhand for the last five years, year-wise and fertilizer-wise;
- (b) whether he is aware that the agents are charging over and above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for transportation; and
- (c) the manner in which he proposes to stop this malpractice and punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The allocation (availability) of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilisers in Jharkhand during the year 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are as under:

(‘Qty. in ‘lakh metric tonnes)

Year	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex
1	2	3	4	5
2005-06	1.56	0.73	0.05	*DOF started monitoring of complex fertilizer
2006-07	1.63	0.71	0.01	<i>w.e.f.</i> 1.4.2008
2007-08	1.67	0.75	0.08	

1	2	3	4	5
2008-09	1.57	0.80	0.16	0.38
2009-10	1.50	0.82	0.17	0.69

(b) to (c) Under clause 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to print the maximum retail price on each bag of fertilizers whether under statutory price control or out of the purview of the statutory price control. No person shall charge higher than the price printed on the bag. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable to be proceeded under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments as enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders who indulge in any kind of malpractices.

Natural gas based fertilizer production

3880. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many fertilizer companies have shifted from Naptha to natural gas due to the easy availability of natural gas from KG-D6 Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) block;

(b) whether Surat and Bharuch are most preferable for setting up of gas based fertilizer units where natural gas is easily available;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such shifting to natural gas has reduced cost by 65 per cent for those fertilizer plants; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to pass on the benefits thereon to the farmers?

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

(b) and (c) Fertilizer plants can be set up anywhere in the country where connectivity to the plant is available or likely to be available in future. The concession to new investment is determined on the basis of parameters prescribed in the policy for new investments in urea sector notified on 4th September 2008.

(d) and (e) The reduction in naphtha usage in existing gas based units has reduced the subsidy cost to the Government by approximately 32%. The reduction in subsidy by shifting to natural gas has resulted in savings of subsidy bill. As regards benefits to farmers, the fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) notified by the Government, which are much below the normative delivered cost of these fertilizers.

Import of sugar

3881. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of sugar imported by various agencies/companies during the year 2009-10;
- (b) the average price of imported sugar during this period; and
- (c) the present situation of sugar stocks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Central Government did not import sugar on its account during the year 2009-10. It is the sugar mills or public sector undertakings or merchant importers/exporters who have undertaken import of sugar as per their commercial prudence. As per trade sources, 26.60 lac tons of raw sugar and 7.96 lac tons of white sugar was imported during the current sugar season 2009-10 (Upto 19.04.2010). The international sugar prices of import have varied from time to time. As such, it is not possible to indicate the average price of imported sugar during this period.

(c) Sugar stocks are being held by the sugar mills/merchant importers/exporters and private traders. As such, it is not possible to indicate the present situation of sugar stocks in the country.

Food security cover to every family

†3882. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a high level committee is contemplating upon the draft of National Food Security Act to ensure food security in the country;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof and whether it is also a fact that only households living Below Poverty Line are being considered to be covered under this Act; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is not the foremost responsibility of the Government to cover each and every family under food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the enactment of the National Food Security Act which, *inter alia*, envisages entitling every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out. Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalised, it would be placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Food Security Fund

3883. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a Central Food Security Fund to monetarily compensate the BPL beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System;

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

(c) whether State Governments that fail to provide the mandatory rations to entitled BPL families will have to bear the cost of any such compensation; and

(d) if so, how Central Government plans to monitor the new deal for BPL families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to the enactment of the National Food Security Act which, *inter alia*, envisages entitling every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out. Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalised, it would be placed on the website of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for public scrutiny and comments.

Failure of PDS

3884. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Committee appointed by the Supreme Court has recently slammed the Public Distribution System as one of the most corrupt schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the root causes of the failure of PDS in several States have been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in view of the CVC report on the poor functioning of PDS, the Union Government proposes to take any steps to evaluate and improve the functioning of the PDS; 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) The Central Vigilance Committee

(CVC), set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the context of Writ Petition no. 196/2001 to study functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS), has submitted its reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of 12 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Kerala and Uttarakhand as well as a report on Computerisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) operations.

Central Vigilance Committee has referred to certain deficiencies/shortcomings in the functioning of TPDS and has made recommendations for strengthening of TPDS. The reports of the Committee relating to States/UTs have been sent to concerned State/UT Governments to examine and send comments along with their action taken report.

Governments has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Besides this, the Government has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Selling of wheat and rice in open market

‡3885. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to sell wheat and rice in open market in the country;

(b) if so, when this decision was taken during the financial year 2009-10 and the reasons behind such decision;

(c) the names of products along with their quantity decided to be sold under above decision and the prices fixed for the sale of these products; and

(d) the names of products along with quantity thereof sold in open market in the country as per this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government decided in August, 2009 to sell wheat and rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) in the Country to check inflationary trends in their prices.

(c) and (d) 20.81 lakh tonnes and 5 lakh tonnes of wheat was allocated for sale through tenders to bulk Consumers and small processors respectively under this Scheme through FCI. In addition to above, 20 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice was allotted to States/Union Territories/NAFED/NCCF for distribution to retail consumers under the Scheme. Details showing price and lifting of wheat and rice under the Scheme are given in the Statement-I, II and III.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*The Consolidated Lifting Position of Wheat Released to the Bulk Consumers Under Open Market Sales
Scheme (Domestic) for October, 2009 - March, 2010*

As on: 21.04.2010

Sl. No.	Zone	Name of FCI Region/State Govt.	Allotment (October, 09 - March 10)	Quantity approved for sale	Qty. Lifted	Quantity left over (Allotment - Approved)	OMSS(D) Rates upto November 2009 (Rate: Rs. per Quintal)	OMSS(D) Rates upto 24.12.09 (Rate: Rs. per Quintal)	OMSS(D) Rates from 25.12.09 onwards. (Rate: Rs. per Quintal)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	North	Delhi	247,266	188800	186115	58,466	1420.94	1437.9	1254.08
2.		Chandigarh	21,627	19010	19010	2,617	1406.75	1423.71	1239.89
3.		Punjab	234,732	134283	134283	100,449	1406.75	1423.71	1239.89
4.		Haryana	83,816	70381	69546	13,435	1406.75	1423.71	1239.89
5.		Uttar Pradesh	115,756	68206	68206	47,550	1453.1	1470.06	1286.24
6.		Uttarakhand	60,807	53852.5	53852.5	6,955	1428.21	1475.17	1261.35
7.		Rajasthan	37,596	22845.85	22845.85	14,750	1440.95	1457.91	1274.09
8.		Himachal Pradesh	4,275	0	0	4,275	1461.59	1478.55	1309.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.		Jammu and Kashmir	154,238	88595	88595	65,643	1417.01	1433.97	1250.15
		ZONE TOTAL	960,113	645,973	642,453	314,140			
10.	South	Tamil Nadu	115,143	61510	61510	53,633	1568.21	1585.17	1401.35
11.		Puducherry	8,430	2900	2900	5,530	1577.28	1594.24	1410.42
12.		Kerala	87,705	63820	62336	23,885	1603.21	1620.17	1436.35
13.		Andhra Pradesh	91,188	54246	54246	36,942	1547.03	1563.99	1380.17
14.		A and N Islands	0	—	—	—	1806.5	1823.46	1602.34
15.		Lakshadweep	0	—	—	—	1667.23	1684.19	1500.37
16.		Karnataka	200,754	131237	131237	69,517	1573.9	1590.86	1407.04
		ZONE TOTAL	503,220	313,713	312,229	189,507			
17.	East	Bihar	12,950	4600	4600	8,350	1493.53	1510.49	1326.67
18.		West Bengal	126,618	54700	54699.96	71,918	1528.1	1545.06	1361.24
19.		Sikkim	584	0	0	584	1567.62	1584.58	1419.54
20.		Orissa	59760	31070	31070	28,690	1545.78	1562.74	1378.92
21.		Jharkhand	11,096	8346	8346	2,750	1519.07	1536.03	1352.21
		Zone Total	211,008	98,716	98,716	112,292			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	North-East	Assam	85065	12500	12500	72,565	1540.99	1557.95	1374.13
23.		Arunachal Pradesh	0	—	—	—	1595.97	1612.93	1471.11
24.		Meghalaya	0	—	—	—	1592.25	1609.21	1425.39
25.		Tripura	0	—	—	—	1649.69	1666.65	1482.3
26.		Mizoram	0	—	—	—	1632.02	1648.98	1465.16
27.		Nagaland	0	—	—	—	1576.2	1593.16	1409.34
28.		Manipur	0	—	—	—	1701.1	1718.06	1534.24
ZONE TOTAL			85,065	12,500	12,500	72,565			
29.	West	Maharashtra	247,390	116632	115702	130,758	1524.5	1541.46	1357.64
30.		Goa	6,321	4400	3720	1,921	1567.2	1584.16	1400.34
31.		Madhya Pradesh	43024	22200	22200	20,824	1477.47	1494.43	1310.61
32.		Chhattisgarh	12,236	6336	6336	5,900	1531.61	1548.57	1364.75
33.		Gujarat	13,058	5458	5458	7,600	1485.52	1502.48	1318.66
34.		Daman and Diu	0	—	—	—	1544.73	1561.69	1378.06
35.		D and N Haveli	0	—	—	—	1528.09	1557.7	1373.88
ZONE TOTAL			322,029	155,026	153,416	167,003			
GRAND TOTAL			2,081,435	1,225,928	1,219,314	855,507			

Statement-II

*The Lifting Position of Wheat By States/UT Governments/NAFED/NCCF for Distribution to Retail Consumers Under
Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) for October, 2009 - March, 2010*

As on: 21.04.2010											(Qty. in MT)		
State/UT Govt.						NAFED		NCCF					
Sl. No.	Zone	Name of the State/UT	Allotment		Lifting	Allotment	Lifting	Allotment	Lifting	Total Allotment	Total Lifting	OMSS(D) Rate (in Rs.) per qtl. for State/UT/ NAFED/ NCCF	
			Oct.09 To Dec.09	Jan 10 To March 10	Total Allotment								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	North	Delhi	80481	80481	160962	90653	7700		12631.57	5494	181293.6	96147	1113.47
2.		Chandigarh	0	0	0	0					0	0	1099.28
3.		Punjab	88982	88982	177964	0					177964	0	1099.28
4.		Haryana	19522	19522	39044	0			4210.52		43254.52	0	1099.28
5.		Uttar Pradesh	51518	51518	103036	0	1100		2105.26		106241.3	0	1145.63
6.		Uttarakhand	26477	26477	52954	0			10.52		52964.52	0	1120.74
7.		Rajasthan	86932	86932	173864	138753	1100				174964	138753	1133.48
8.		Himachal Pradesh@	49523	49523	99046	11284					99046	11284	@1169.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.		Jammu and Kashmir	40264	40264	80528	22583			1052.63		81580.63	22583	1109.54
		ZONE TOTAL	443699	443699	887398	263273	9900	0	20010.5	5494	917308.5	268767	
10.	South	Tamil Nadu	30893	30893	61786	34540	3300				65086	34540	1260.74
11.		Puducherry	380	380	760	0					760	0	1269.81
12.		Kerala	40660	40660	81320	23634					81320	23634	1295.74
13.		Andhra Pradesh	8239	8239	16478	0	2200				18678	0	1239.56
14.		A and N Islands	798	798	1596	0					1596	0	1499.03
15.		Lakshadweep	0	250	250	0					250	0	1359.76
16.		Karnataka	18032	18032	36064	3033	2200				38264	3033	1266.43
		ZONE TOTAL	99002	99252	198254	61207	7700	0	0	0	205954	61207	
17.	East	Bihar	5332	5332	10664	440.1	1100				11764	440.1	1186.06
18.		West Bengal	182990	182990	365980	0	6600		3157.89		375737.9	0	1220.63
19.		Sikkim\$	738	738	1476	638					1476	638	\$1278.93
20.		Orissa	31807	31807	63614	0			2105.26		65719.26	0	1238.31
21.		Jharkhand	3149	3149	6298	0			1052.63		7350.63	0	1211.60
		ZONE TOTAL	224016	224016	448032	1078.1	7700	0	6315.78	0	462047.8	1078.1	
22.	North-	Assam	66247	66247	132494	34179					132494	34179	1233.52
23.	East	Arunachal Pradesh%	1535	1535	3070	0					3070	0	%1330.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24.		Meghalaya	3677	3677	7354	3677					7354	3677	1284.78
25.		Tripura#	4472	4472	8944	0					8944	0	#1341.69
26.		Mizoram	1885	1885	3770	2036					3770	2036	1324.55
27.		Nagaland	7572	7572	15144	1000					15144	1000	1268.73
28.		Manipur	3162	3162	6324	0					6324	0	1393.63
		ZONE TOTAL	88550	88550	177100	40892	0	0	0	0	177100	40892	
29.	West	Maharashtra	68267	68267	136534	2591	8800		4210.52	5	149544.5	2596	1217.03
30.		Goa	1604	1604	3208	1604					3208	1604	1259.73
31.		Madhya Pradesh	53885	53885	107770	14917	1100		2105.26		110975.3	14917	1170.00
32.		Chhattisgarh	4939	4939	9878	1090					9878	1090	1224.14
33.		Gujarat	15991	15991	31982	15991	2200		42.1		34224.1	15991	1178.05
34.		Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0					0	0	1237.26
35.		D and N Haveli*	45	45	90	90					90	90	*1233.27
		ZONE TOTAL	144731	144731	289462	36283	12100	0	6357.88	5	307919.9	36288	
		GRAND TOTAL	999998	1000248	2000246	402733.1	37400	0	32684.16	5499	2070330	408232.1	

*For D and N Haveli the rate from Oct. 09 to 03.12.09 was Rs. 1220.62 per Qtls.

#For Tripura the rate from Oct.09 to 24.12.09 was Rs. 1342.22 per Qtls.

@For H.P. the rate upto 03.01.10 was Rs. 1154.12 per Qtls.

\$For Sikkim the rate upto 31.12.09 Rs. 1260.15 per Qtls.

%For Arunachal Pradesh the rate upto 31.12.09 Rs. 1288.50 per Qtls.

Statement-III

*The Lifting Position of Rice By States/UT Governments/NAFED/NCCF for Distribution to Retail Consumers
Under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) for October, 2009 - March, 2010*

As on: 21.04.2010											(Qty. in MT)	
			State/UT Govt.			NAFED		NCCF				
Sl. No.	Zone	Name of the State/UT	Allotment			Lifting	Allotment	Lifting	Allotment	Lifting	Total Allotment	Total Lifting
			Oct.09 To Dec.09	Jan 2010 To March 10	Total Allotment							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	North	Delhi	8361	8361	16722	0	3500		4000	0	24222	0
2.		Chandigarh	0	0	0	0					0	0
3.		Punjab	0	0	0	0					0	0
4.		Haryana	0	0	0	0			4000		4000	0
5.		Uttar Pradesh	1593	1593	3186	0	500		2000		5686	0
6.		Uttarakhand	2196	2196	4392	0					4392	0
7.		Rajasthan	39	39	78	39	500				578	39
8.		Himachal Pradesh	8780	8780	17560	4064					17560	4064

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9.		Jammu and Kashmir	24684	24684	49368	19992					49368	19992
		ZONE TOTAL	45653	45653	91306	24095	4500	0	10000	0	105806	24095
10.	South	Tamil Nadu	126422	126422	252844	252844	1500				254344	252844
11.		Puducherry	4	4	8	0					8	0
12.		Kerala	25675	25675	51350	12250					51350	12250
13.		Andhra Pradesh	152753	152753	305506	152334	1000				306506	152334
14.		A and N Islands	650	650	1300	0					1300	0
15.		Lakshadweep	206	206	412	206					412	206
16.		Karnataka	59215	59215	118430	41848	1000				119430	41848
		ZONE TOTAL	364925	364925	729850	459482	3500	0	0	0	733350	459482
17.	East	Bihar	2	2	4	0	500				504	0
18.		West Bengal	7963	7963	15926	0	3000				18926	0
19.		Sikkim	1897	1897	3794	0					3794	0
20.		Orissa	704	704	1408	0					1408	0
21.		Jharkhand	20	20	40	0					40	0
		ZONE TOTAL	10586	10586	21172	0	3500	0	0	0	24672	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
22.	North-	Assam	41508	41508	83016	74					83016	74
23.	East	Arunachal Pradesh	3674	3674	7348	0					7348	0
24.		Meghalaya	4476	4476	8952	0					8952	0
25.		Tripura	10368	10368	20736	0					20736	0
26.		Mizoram	3549	3549	7098	7098					7098	7098
27.		Nagaland	5871	5871	11742	0					11742	0
28.		Manipur	2756	2756	5512	2604					5512	2604
		ZONE TOTAL	72202	72202	144404	9776	0	0	0	0	144404	9776
29.	West	Maharashtra	3210	3210	6420	100	4000		1000	5	11420	105
30.		Goa	1406	1406	2812	0					2812	0
31.		Madhya Pradesh	351	351	702	6.5	500				1202	6.5
32.		Chhattisgarh	960	960	1920	0					1920	0
33.		Gujarat	600	600	1200	1200	1000				2200	1200
34.		Daman and Diu	7	7	14	0					14	0
35.		D and N Haveli	100	100	200	200					200	200
		ZONE TOTAL	6634	6634	13268	1506.5	5500	0	1000	5	19768	1511.5
		GRAND TOTAL	500000	500000	1000000	494860	17000	0	11000	5	1028000	494864.5

*Statement showing the Rates for sale of rice to State/UT Governments under
Open Market Sale Scheme (D) for the month of October upto 05.11.2009*

OMSS (D) rate for for Raw Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS (D) rate for Raw Rice Common	OMSS (D) rate for Parboiled Rice Grade 'A'	OMSS (D) rate for Parboiled Rice Common
1540.06	1495.28	1518.55	1474.43
Revised rates for sale of rice w.e.f. 06.11.2009			
Upto 12.04.2010			
1614.68	1569.91	1592.08	1547.96
Revised rates for sale of rice w.e.f. 13.04.2010			
1585.55	1540.78	1562.95	1518.13

Price-rise of essential commodities

3886. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that food inflation has risen to 16.35 per cent during the week ending on 20 March, 2010 as against 16.22 per cent during preceding week;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has totally failed in checking price rise during last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the fresh steps Government contemplate to contain the price rise of essential commodities and provide relief to poor from unprecedented price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The WPI Inflation rate of commodities such as Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Potato, Onion and milk that are monitored by the Government for the week ending 13th March, 2010 and 20th March, 2010 is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Rise in domestic prices of rice, pulses (except gram), sugar, potato and onion was owing to the combined effect of factors such as shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, increase in MSP, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather and climate change, improvement in income and living standards. Market expectations and sentiments also play a major role in price rise. Delayed monsoon as well as

floods triggered an expectation of lower production which also contributed to pushing up the price level of food articles.

However, due to the remedial measures taken by the Government to soften the impact of price rise, the retail prices of most of the commodities are showing a declining trend over the past 3 months.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps to contain the price rise of essential commodities and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers. The list of Government measures taken till date are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Rate of Inflation (%) for some of the Food Articles for the week ending
13th March, 2010 and 20th March, 2010*

Week Ending	Food Articles	Rice	Wheat	Pulses	Potatoes	Onions	Milk
13-Mar-10	16.22	7.42	15.09	31.68	5.62	-6.64	15.31
20-Mar-10	16.35	7.36	13.54	31.55	-12.20	-13.38	18.74

Source: DIPP

Statement-II

Steps taken by Government to moderate price rise in essential commodities:

A. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude); and butter and ghee.
- (ii) Reduced 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). 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. The cap on the quantity to be imported upto 31.03.09 has also since been removed *vide* notification dated 27th November, 2009. The Government has extended it upto 31.12.2010 without any quantitative cap.
- (v) Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills (at zero duty) up to 30.09.2009 (notified on 17.02.2009 and 02.03.2009).

- (vi) Withdrew export incentives on milk and milk products.
- (vii) Withdrawal of 5% benefit under VKGUY for the export of oil cake/meal.
- (viii) Reduced custom duty on Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) to 30% as in the case of butter/butter oil.
- (ix) Permitted import of 10,000 MT Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) under TRQ (5%) for 2009-10.

Administrative Measures

- (i) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (ii) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (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: it has been provided that *w.e.f.* 19.09.2009 no person, establishment, or industrial unit using or consuming more than 10 quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use, in any manner, shall keep stock, at any time, sugar exceeding 15 days of such use or consumption. Further, the stockholding limit for stocking domestically produced sugar by bulk consumers has been reduced from 15 days to 10 days *vide* notification dated 05.02.2010, which will come into effect on 20.02.2010 and remain in force for 180 days.
- (iv) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at \$250 per tonne for April 2010) and 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, 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.
- (vii) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton 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 April, 2010, 18.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar have been made available which includes 12.00 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 2.20 lakh tons of sugar processed from imported raw sugar during February, 2009, estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.00 lakh ton and about 2.0 lac tons of carry over non-levy quota of March, 2010. Besides, levy sugar quota of 2.02 lac tons also been released. Thus, for the month of April, 2010, 20.02 lac tons of sugar 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 what released under OMSS (D) to household consumers and small processors of wheat.
 - (b) In addition to above a quantity of 10 lakh MT of wheat was also allocated by Government for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI from October, 09- March, 10. Out of the 20 lakh tonnes wheat allocated to State Governments, 10.81 lakh tonnes was diverted for tender sale to bulk consumers.
 - (c) 5 lakh tonnes of wheat was also allocated for sale through tender through FCI to small processors.
 - (d) 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.
- (xii) The Government also contemplating bringing legislation on Food Security.
- (xiii) A conference of Chief Ministers was held on 6th February, 2010 to discuss the issues relating to prices of essential commodities. The conference recommended the constitution of a Standing Core Group of State Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers to deliberate on and recommend measures to contain price rise. Accordingly, a Standing Core Group has been set up under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The first meeting of the Core Group which was held on 8th April, 2010, decided that 3 Working groups will be constituted to study in depth issues related to agriculture, prices and revamping of PDS.

- (xiv) Experimented with popularization of Yellow Peas through sale in the Retail Outlets of NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and Mother Dairy in Delhi.

(B) 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.

Blackmarketing of subsidized food grains

3887. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the salient details of findings of the report on “sale of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System (PDS)” of the Supreme Court appointed Central Vigilance Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa, indicating reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether any steps have been taken, in response thereto, for prevention of diversion from PDS and black-marketing of subsidized foodgrains and the consumer items and to bring the perpetrators to justice;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Committee identified States where PDS had collapsed; and

(f) 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 (f) The Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) has submitted its reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of 12 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Kerala and Uttarakhand as well as a report on Computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) operations.

Central Vigilance Committee has referred to certain deficiencies/shortcomings in the functioning of TPDS in various States/UTs and has made recommendations for strengthening of TPDS. The reports of the Committee relating to States/UTs have been sent to concerned States/UT Governments to examine and send comments along with their action taken reports. The salient findings of the reports are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

In respect of malpractices detected under TPDS, the details of persons prosecuted under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act, 1955) and the persons detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (PBM Act, 1980) during 2007 to 2010 are as under:

S. No.	Year	Persons prosecuted under EC Act, 1955	Persons detained under PBM Act, 1980
1.	2007	4872	119
2.	2008	6425	162
3.	2009	5131	147
4.	2010 (upto 31.03.10)	—	42

For monitoring supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, the Central Government has issued Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. As provided under the said Order, the State and UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of 8 and 9 of the said Order. Details of action taken by the State and UT Governments from January, 2007 to March, 2010 is given in the Statement-II.

To prevent diversion and black-marketing of foodgrains meant for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government has issued directions to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001 and to implement Nine-Point action plan which includes, *inter alia*, use of information technology, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny, creating awareness among public about PDS operations and training Vigilance Committees on intricacies of PDS operations.

Statement-I

Central Vigilance Committee Reports on PDS in States/UTs

1. Income criterion for poverty be revisited. This should not be less than minimum wage for agricultural labour.
2. Poverty in urban areas to be based upon minimum wage payable to an unskilled workman in the area.
3. Above Poverty Line (APL) as a category be abolished. Alternatively, the APL category be restricted to households having annual income of Rs. 1 lakh.
4. Global Positioning System (GPS) be installed on vehicles transporting PDS foodgrains for tracking their movement.
5. Reconstitute and activate Vigilance Committees, which should meet at regular intervals.
6. Fair Price Shop (FPS) be allotted to persons or groups having kirana/ grocery stores. Sale of non-PDS rice and wheat not to be allowed from such FPS.
7. Fresh licenses to be granted in a transparent manner.

8. Door step delivery of foodgrains to FPSs.
9. There is a need for rationalizing the number of beneficiaries attached to each FPS to make the shops financially viable.
10. Complaint redressal mechanism with 24 hour helpline for lodging complaints by beneficiaries and follow up action.
11. Supply of PDS foodgrains in small packages of 5-10 kg in HDPE bags.
12. Facility of mobile FPS especially in remote/tribal areas to be encouraged.
13. Zero tolerance towards corruption. Strict penal action/departamental action be taken against offenders. Strengthening of enforcement and anti-hoarding machinery.
14. Independent agency to monitor working of PDS - Ombudsman/Regulator be set up.
15. Political influence in operation of PDS should be done away with.
16. Introduction of computerisation of the entire distribution chain, right from the procurement process ending with retail distribution by the FPS dealers.

Statement-II

Results of action taken by the State/UT Governments under Clauses 8 and 9 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 from January 2007 to March, 2010.

(As compiled on 31.03.2010)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Year	Number of inspections	Number of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/Cancelled/Show cause notices issued/FIR lodged
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2007	12484	3379	8	1415
		2008	9245	5852	2	1747
		2009	*	*	*	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2007	81	9	00	51
		2008	50	25	00	39
		2009	42	00	06	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	2007	2346	630	15	484
		2008	9879	607	29	577
		2009	*	*	*	*
4.	Bihar	2007	38220	41	04	1949
		2008	53305	23	10	4333
		2009	54934	19	08	4822
5.	Chhattisgarh	2007	16719	913	90	862
		2008	33088	1510	108	961
		2009	25048	353	73	630
6.	Delhi	2007	235	94	72	248
		2008	163	135	281	153
		2009	00	32	51	00
7.	Goa	2007	116	00	00	26
		2008	242	04	00	18
		2009	516	00	00	24
8.	Gujarat	2007	15454	01	186	86
		2008	20788	06	59	358
		2009	18544	03	74	381
9.	Haryana	2007	2443	615	37	3832
		2008	2254	635	80	3112
		2009	12320	1267	33	5084
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2007	29522	00	48	2548
		2008	13896	00	9	995
		2009	12943	00	3	956
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.01.06 to 31.03.07	7532	1390	228	255
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	*	*	*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Jharkhand	2007	17364	00	00	2777
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	00	00	00	1590
13.	Karnataka	2007	*	*	*	*
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	*	*	*	*
14.	Kerala	2007	124433	43428	1	225
		2008	199694	97980	24	289
		2009	149222	51715	25	183
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2007	*	*	*	*
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	70294	2319	161	736
16.	Maharashtra	2007	49013	162	413	778
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	*	*	*	*
17.	Manipur	2007	101	8	00	00
		2008	20	4	2	00
		2009	*	*	*	*
18.	Meghalaya	2007	2075	184	10	139
		2008	1082	80	5	79
		2009	849	10	00	35
19.	Mizoram	2007	92	190	00	00
		2008	72	104	2	45
		2009	317	395	5	155
20.	Nagaland	2007	129	00	00	00
		2008	43	00	00	00
		2009	*	*	*	*
21.	Orissa	2007	76766	4885	161	2212

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		2008	49925	1734	97	962
		2009	16006	60723	24	1007
22. Punjab		2007	*	*	*	*
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	28265	2126	27	1986
23. Rajasthan		2007	00	490	197	00
		2008	00	813	296	00
		2009	00	729	113	00
24. Sikkim		2007	00	43	43	00
		2008	00	00	00	00
		2009	*	*	*	*
25. Tamil Nadu		2007	00	11584	854	00
		2008	271092	22268	1266	00
		2009	225803	12565	1650	00
26. Tripura		2007	9410	547	16	297
		2008	9790	540	14	572
		2009	10111	279	16	660
27. Uttarakhand		2007	9788	9788	29	104
		2008	2543	2543	22	25
		2009	*	*	*	*
28. Uttar Pradesh		2007	245258	34999	3586	17240
		2008	179153	29458	3829	10452
		2009	112058	21120	1337	7320
29. West Bengal		2007	7996	338	160	1061
		2008	7350	194	29	625
		2009	*	*	*	*
30. A and N Islands		2007	234	00	00	00
		2008	329	00	00	14
		2009	96	00	00	06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Chandigarh	2007	42	00	00	07
		2008	20	00	00	03
		2009	42	00	00	10
32.	D and N Haveli	2007	40	00	00	00
		2008	20	21	01	00
		2009	72	1	0	9
33.	Daman and Diu	2007	*	*	*	*
		2008	*	*	*	*
		2009	*	*	*	*
34.	Lakshadweep	2007	24	00	00	00
		2008	12	00	00	00
		2009	12	00	00	00
35.	Puducherry	2007	4788	982	76	00
		2008	5406	795	114	00
		2009	2376	209	44	01
TOTAL :		2007	665173	113310	6006	36341
		2008	869461	165331	6279	25359
		2009	739870	153865	3813	25608
GRAND TOTAL = 2007+2008+2009			2274504	432506	16098	87308

*Information not received from the State/UT Governments.

Starvation deaths

3888. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per reports of a panel appointed by the Supreme Court every year hundreds of homeless and destitutes starve to death on streets;

(b) whether the panel further asked to ensure all rural and urban homeless are given Antyodaya Anna Yojana ration cards immediately; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to minimise the starving deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court Special

Commissioner in the case of PUCL vs Union of India and Others in Civil Writ Petition No.176/2001 has in his report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 13.1.2010 stated that there have been several reports in the media regarding deaths of homeless people as a result of very low temperatures experienced by Delhi during this year. In the 8th report of the Special Commissioner, it has referred to the need for providing food to the destitutes and other vulnerable sections of the society. It has also observed that various issues on the conditions of homeless in Delhi are also applicable to homeless in other cities and towns across the country.

The Special Commissioner had asked Delhi State Government in March, 2007 to cover all homeless population by Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards within six months.

The Delhi Government in its compliance report submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 10.2.2010 has informed on the grant of AAY status to homeless people and the quantity of specified food articles to be supplied to them. It has also informed the Court that the Government of Delhi has created a Committee for Homeless and "Mission Convergence" and has also appointed NGOs for the purpose of distributing cards for homeless as well as for the survey of further eligible homeless people.

To ensure food security for the poor and vulnerable sections of the society, Government of India has been making allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories for distribution to targeted sections of the society under various schemes. Allocations of foodgrains are made under Targeted Public Distribution System, Mid Day Meal scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Scheme for Welfare Institutions, Emergency Feeding Programme and Village Grain Bank Scheme. A total allocation of 554.9 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated under these schemes during 2009-10.

Futures trading in agriculture sector

3889. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has called for doing away with ban on exports and futures trading in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it will have any implications on this sector?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Subsidized pulses in open market

3890. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to bridge the gap between production and demand of pulses, Government has decided to augment domestic production as well as to import pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subsidized pulses supplied through PDS are being sold in open markets at higher price; and

(d) if so, the corrective measure contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual Domestic production of pulses has been around 14-14.08 million tonnes during the last three years. The demand for pulses was estimated around 17-18 MTs during the last three years. The gap between demand and supply is filled by import of variety of pulses. Government has allowed import of pulses at zero duty. In order to facilitate higher import of pulses there are two schemes in operation such as

(i) Scheme for import of pulses by PSUs against reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of CIF value.

(ii) Distribution of imported pulses by State Governments through PDS, @ 1 kg per family per month at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg.

(c) So far Government has not received any complaints/reports in this regard. The State Governments are to distribute imported pulses supplied by the PSUs to the State Governments for distribution through PDS.

(d) In view of the (c) above, does not arise.

Irregularities in providing BPL cards

3891. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a fresh survey of the BPL card holders in the country;

(b) if so, the total BPL card holders at present and during last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether there were many irregularities in providing BPL cards in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government has taken any corrective measures and found any body responsible for issuing BPL card to non-eligible person/family so far in the country; 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) Targeted Public Distribution

System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the 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/UT Government.

The accepted number of BPL families is based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on March 1st, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by the State/UT Governments, whichever is less. As per these estimates, the accepted number of BPL families is 6.52 crore including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. A statement showing State-wise details of BPL card holders is given in the statement.

The State/UT Governments have issued more number of cards than the accepted number of BPL families as per the estimates of the Planning Commission. As reported upto March 2010, State and UT Governments have issued 11.08 crore BPL ration cards including 2.43 crore AAY cards.

The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For formulating the guidelines for conducting the next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to suggest the methodology, which has submitted its report in August, 2009. The guidelines for conducting the next BPL Census will be finalized by the Ministry of Rural Development in consultations with the State Governments and the concerned Ministries of the Central Government. The guidelines for identification of BPL families in urban areas will be finalized by Planning Commission in consultation with concerned Ministries.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order mandates the State/UT Governments to issue distinctive ration cards to Above Poverty Line (APL), BPL and AAY families, to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. Instructions have also been issued to the State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October to December, 2009 to review the existing list of BPL and AAY ration cards issued. As per reports received from State/UT Governments upto March 2010, 173.83 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards have been eliminated. As per reports received from Governments of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh upto March 2010, 20 persons have been found to be involved in issuance of bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Statement

*Number of Below Poverty Line Families Based on 1993-94 Poverty Estimates of Planning
Commission and Population Estimates of Registrar General of India*

(Figures in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of BPL Families as on 1.3.2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99
3.	Assam	18.36
4.	Bihar	65.23
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.75
6.	Delhi	4.09
7.	Goa	0.48
8.	Gujarat	21.20
9.	Haryana	7.89
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.36
12.	Jharkhand	23.94
13.	Karnataka	31.29
14.	Kerala	15.54
15.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25
16.	Maharashtra	65.34
17.	Manipur	1.66
18.	Meghalaya	1.83
19.	Mizoram	0.68
20.	Nagaland	1.24
21.	Orissa	32.98
22.	Punjab	4.68
23.	Rajasthan	24.31

1	2	3
24.	Sikkim	0.43
25.	Tamil Nadu	48.63
26.	Tripura	2.95
27.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79
28.	Uttaranchal	4.98
29.	West Bengal	51.79
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.28
31.	Chandigarh	0.23
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.18
33.	Daman and Diu	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.03
35.	Puducherry	0.84
TOTAL :		652.03

Sale of crops at below MSP

†3892. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India directly purchases rice, wheat, etc., from the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many States particularly in poor States like Orissa, the farmer is compelled to sell his crops at the rate below to minimum support price;

(d) if so, the steps being considered by Food Corporation of India in such a situation; and

(e) whether such a distressed sale of crops is a main cause of suicide by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and agencies of State Governments purchase paddy, wheat and coarsegrains conforming to the prescribed specifications, directly from the farmers.

(c) No, Sir. FCI has intimated that no report regarding distress sale *i.e.* sale of paddy at less than Minimum Support Price (MSP) by farmers, has been received by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

them. Further, Government of Orissa has also informed that there has been no report of distress sale of paddy in the State.

(d) Government of Orissa is undertaking procurement of rice under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme (DCP). As such the responsibility of procurement of paddy under the scheme rest with the State Government. However, FCI also plays a supplementary role in procurement.

(e) No, Sir. In view of reply given at (c) above.

Import of sugar

3893. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of sugar imported during 2008-09;
- (b) the name of the countries from where sugar was imported during the financial year; and
- (c) the quantity of imported sugar distributed among the States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Central Government did not import sugar on its account during financial year 2008-09. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) Kolkata, 386099 tons of sugar was imported during the financial year 2008-09. Out of this, the bulk of the quantity amounting to 385689 tons (99.9%) was imported from Brazil. The rest were imported from 24 countries in small quantities.

(c) As the Central Government did not import sugar on its account, the question of distribution of imported sugar among the States does not arise.

Distribution of subsidized pulses and edible oil

3894. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has extended a scheme for supply of imported pulses to State Governments at subsidized rates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the States in which pulses has been supplied under the said scheme;
- (c) whether Government proposes to extend a similar scheme for distribution of subsidized edible oil in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the quantity of pulses and edible oil so far supplied to various States under these schemes during 2008-09 and 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government has extended the scheme for supply of imported pulses by the PSUs to State Government through PDS up to 31.3.2011. In 2009-10 imported pulses have been supplied to 9 States namely West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh which is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Scheme for distribution of Imported edible oils by the designated PSUs for distribution by the State Government implemented during 2008-09 was first extended up to 31.3.2010 has been further extended up to 31.10.2010. It envisages an import of upto 10 lakh tonnes of edible oils with a subsidy of Rs. 15 per kg. of imported edible oil handed over to States for distribution through PDS/other outlets at a rate up to 1 litre per month per ration card.

(e) During 2008-09, 4200 tonnes of pulses and 2.60 lakh tonnes of edible oils were supplied; while during 2009-10, 2.50 lakh tonnes of pulses and 1.68 lakh tonnes of edible oils have been supplied to the State/UT Governments.

Statement

Distribution of Imported pulses through PDS during 2009-10

(as on 31.3.2010)

(in tonnes)

Name of Agency	State to which supplied	Pulses	Contracted quantity	Supplied quantity
1	2	3	4	5
MMTC	West Bengal	Moong	1000	Nil
	Tamil Nadu	Urad	4000	4000
		Green Lentil	3000	3000
	Andhra Pradesh	Tur	17000	17000
TOTAL MMTC			25000	24000
PEC Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Yellow peas	1000	1000
		Tur dal	97650	81469
		Chick peas	3000	3000
	Maharashtra	Tur dal	28000	11905
	Kerala	Moong	8604	7824
		Chick Peas	5078	5078

1	2	3	4	5
	Tamil Nadu	Urad dal	8500	4500
		Yellow Lentil	9500	4500
		Tur	2000	
	Uttar Pradesh	Chick peas	1322	1322
		Yellow peas	1979	1979
		Moong	946	946
		Urad dal	994	994
	Haryana	Moong	1298	1298
		Chick peas	4200	2700
		Yellow peas	5500	1000
		Urad dal	3700	2100
	Himachal Pradesh	Chick peas	11100	11100
		Urad dal	2350	2350
TOTAL PEC			196721	145065
STC	Tamil Nadu	Urad	2000	2000
		Yellow Lentil	7500	7304
	Uttar Pradesh	Yellow peas	60000	60350
TOTAL STC			69500	69654
NCCF	Rajasthan	Moong	1000	999
	Tamil Nadu	Yellow Peas	6000	6000
		Tur	250	258
		Urad	5000	4800
TOTAL NCCF			12250	12057
GRAND TOTAL			303471	250776

Note : ^- STC has, in addition, supplied 30000 tonnes of tur dal (split) to Maharashtra State Civil Supplies Dept. This dal was locally milled from imported tur whole contracted by private trade for which STC is not filing any claim for subsidy.

Source : All PSUs

Price of foodgrains

3895. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of foodgrains may ease after rabi harvest;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far against each item; and
- (c) the views of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Second Advance Estimates released by Ministry of Agriculture, on 12.2.2010 estimates kharif foodgrain production for 2009-10 higher at 99.85 million tonnes than the 1st advanced estimated at 96.63 million tonnes. The general expectation is that given the good production of foodgrains, the prices are expected to ease after rabi harvest.

Food Security Reform

3896. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that 18 per cent BPL families were not covered in PDS and 80 per cent of BPL families are unaware of process by which BPL households are identified and selected, as per the finding in UN World Food Programme Report of December, 2008; and

(b) if so, the reforms contemplated by Government such as policy interventions and changing norms from household level to per capita basis for food security coverage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The United Nations World Food Programme and the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in its Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Rural India released in December, 2008 has indicated that as per survey conducted for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India by ORG-Marg, nationally, an estimated 18 per cent of BPL households did not have ration cards. It also States that as per survey conducted by ORG-Marg Centre for Social Research in 2005, nearly 80 per cent of all respondents were unaware of the process by which BPL households are identified and selected.

(b) The proposed National Food Security law envisages, *inter alia*, entitling every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. Details of the proposed legislation are being worked out. The proposed legislation would also bring about broader systemic reforms in the Public Distribution System.

Economic burden on FCI

3897. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure on procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been rising day-by-day during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating per quintal expenditure incurred thereon by the FCI during last three years;

(c) whether the said expenditure has been categorized separately;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the additional economic burden on FCI on account of access stocks held by it; and

(f) the remedial steps being taken in this regard to bring about better management particularly in Punjab and Rajasthan?

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

(b) to (d) As informed by Food Corporation of India (FCI), the procurement cost of FCI is primarily linked to Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the *ad-valorem* statutory charges. The MSP has increased over the years with consequent increase in procurement costs and the procurement volume.

The increase in volume of operations coupled with normal inflationary trends are responsible for the increase in the storage and distribution costs. The staff cost of FCI has also increased due to implementation of pay revision.

The details of procurement cost and storage and distribution cost of FCI during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

Statement showing item-wise per quintal expenditure, incurred by FCI on wheat and rice during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the Statement-II and III respectively (*See below*).

(e) Statement showing carrying cost of buffer stock and carryover charges paid to State agencies by FCI during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in the Statement-IV (*See below*).

(f) Government has taken several measures to bring about better management of foodgrains throughout the country including Punjab and Rajasthan. The main measures in this regard include:-

(i) Issue of bonds by the FCI at lower coupon rates, backed by Government guarantee.

(ii) Improving the operational efficiency of FCI.

(iii) FCI is raising unsecured loans to lower cost of funds.

Statement-I*Procurement and distribution cost of FCI*

(in Rs Crore)

	2007-08			2008-09 (Provisional)			2009-10 (Revised Estimates)		
	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
Procurement Cost	12551	25684	38235	13864	27323	41187	21324	32105	53429
Storage and Distribution Cost			7243			10496			11656
TOTAL :			45478			51683			65085

Statement-II*Details of per quintal expenditure of FCI in respect of Wheat*

(Rs./qtl)

	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional)	2009-10 (Revised Estimates)
1	2	3	4
Pooled cost of Grain	903.30	960.53	1022.02
Procurement Incidentals			
Statutory/Obligatory cost			
Mandi charges and Taxes	83.83	105.72	123.74
Gunny Cost	47.24	46.41	51.74
TOTAL :	131.07	152.13	175.48
Lab. and Transpt. charges			
Mandi Labour	9.96	9.28	10.82
Forwarding charges	0.33	0.67	0.23
Internal Movt.	15.46	14.40	17.18
TOTAL :	25.75	24.35	28.23

1	2	3	4
Stg. and Int. chrg. to State			
Storage Charges	0.78	1.14	0.69
Interest	2.99	6.35	4.58
Pr. year Arrears Exp.	-5.64		
TOTAL :	-1.87	7.49	5.27
Admin. Chg. to Agencies	8.39	8.84	9.23
Other (Guarantee Fee etc.)	0.68	0.81	1.01
TOTAL Proc. Incidentals	164.02	193.62	219.22
Acquisition cost	1067.32	1154.15	1241.24
Distribution cost Freight	74.57	61.27	72.76
Handling charges	39.80	44.71	43.60
Storage Charges	28.24	29.47	28.52
Interest	80.70	65.02	36.61
Shortages	-1.91	0.41	2.67
Admin. Overheads	23.03	29.39	31.90
TOTAL Distribution cost	244.43	230.27	216.06
Economic Cost	1311.75	1384.42	1457.30

Statement-III

Details of per quintal expenditure of FCI in respect of Rice

			(Rs./qtl)
	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional)	2009-10 (Revised Estimates)
1	2	3	4
Pooled cost of Grain	1037.13	1216.09	1370.15
Procurement Incidentals			
Statutory/Obligatory cost			
Mandi charges and Taxes	94.94	130.08	151.60

1	2	3	4
Milling Chrg. and Driage All	29.47	28.04	29.66
Gunny Cost	48.42	57.85	68.86
TOTAL :	172.83	215.97	250.12
Lab. and Transpt. charges			
Mandi Labour	10.75	11.67	12.60
Forwarding charges	1.35	0.35	
Internal Movt.	5.07	1.62	1.74
TOTAL :	17.17	13.64	14.34
Stg. and Int. charges paid to State Agencies			
Storage Charges	2.82	2.38	2.67
Interest	11.37	12.63	14.29
Pr. year Arrears Exp.	1.40		
TOTAL :	15.59	15.01	16.96
Admin. Chg. to Agencies	8.92	7.96	13.61
Other (Guarantee Fee etc.)	0.40		
TOTAL Proc. Incidentals	214.91	252.58	295.03
Acquisition cost	1252.04	1468.67	1665.18
Distribution cost			
Freight	105.11	65.52	45.54
Handling charges	39.54	44.72	43.62
Storage Charges	27.52	29.40	28.53
Interest	92.39	82.67	49.17
Shortages	10.37	12.09	9.59
Admin. Overheads	22.89	29.41	31.95
TOTAL Distribution cost	297.82	263.81	208.40
Economic Cost	1549.86	1732.48	1873.58

Statement-IV

Buffer Carrying Cost

	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional)	2009-10 (Revised Estimates)
Buffer Carrying Cost	449	2822	3926
Carry over Charges paid to State agencies	243	573	1797
TOTAL Buffer Subsidy	692	3395	5723

Import of wheat from Australia

3898. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 1250 tonnes of wheat imported from Australia was found to be poisonous and not fit for human consumption and seized;
- (b) if so, the persons responsible for such a shady deal; and
- (c) the action taken on this, besides the measures taken to ensure non-recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

In-depth study of proposed National Food Security Bill

3899. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the empowered Group of Ministers on the proposed draft of the National Food Security Bill has decided to have an in-depth study of the Bill;
- (b) if so, the present status of the proposed National Food Security Bill;
- (c) whether suggestions of food experts and economists have been considered before finalizing the proposed law; 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) to (d) The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has circulated a Concept Note on the proposed Food Security Law to all States/Union Territories and concerned Central Ministries and has also held consultations

with the State Food Secretaries, representatives of various Central Ministries, Planning Commission and other experts and economists.

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted for the purpose has requested Planning Commission to examine several issues relating to the proposed law and to give its recommendations.

Once the draft National Food Security Bill is finalised, it would be placed on the website of the DFPD for public scrutiny and comments.

Market manipulation

3900. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any large scale market manipulation/price fixing of food items has been detected and investigated by Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has a clear policy/programme and intelligence to address market manipulation; 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) No Sir.

(b) Questions does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and detain such persons under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community.

Export of sugar

3901. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one and half years ago his Ministry had given sanction to export sugar at a rate of Rs. 12.5 per kg. to other countries;

(b) if so, whether Government had given subsidy to the exporters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not given sanction for export of sugar at a rate of Rs. 12.5 per kg. to other countries. However, the Central Government, with a view to improve

liquidity of sugar mills to pay cane price including cane price arrears to sugarcane farmers, has extended assistance on export of sugar from 19.04.2007 to 30.09.2008 at the rate of Rs. 1350 per ton for coastal States and Rs.1450 per ton for non-coastal States subject to actuals in case of export to neighboring countries.

Increase in price of food articles

3902. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Finance has suggested to shut out traders in open market food prices operation;

(b) whether it is also pointed out that at this moment the rural economy is suffering from increase in price of every type of food article; and

(c) if so, Government's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Economic Survey 2009-10 prepared under the leadership of Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance articulates the issue of open market sales of food grains in the following way:

"The second problem pertains to the [how] of releasing the grains that we decide to release. Suppose the Government has decided to release 10,000 tonnes of wheat on the market in some State and does it by forming batches of 1,000 tonnes (as it often does in reality) and offloading each batch through some form of open market sales, such as setting a reserve price and asking for tenders. There will in such a case be 10 persons or firms that will buy up the grain. Now consider the alternative of releasing the same total grain in much smaller batches to traders and millers or directly to retail consumers. The price impact of these two kinds of releases will be vastly different. The former creates an oligopoly, whereas the latter creates a competitive market by giving little amounts of grain to lots of people, and the downward pressure on prices in this latter case will be much greater. This use of standard industrial organization theory can costlessly improve the efficacy of the FCI".

(b) and (c) The rural price movement can be seen in Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourer (CPI-RL). On the basis of CPI-RL the year on year inflation for 2009-10 is given below.

Year on year inflation for CRI-RL (All) and CPI-RL (Food) in per cent

Month	CPI-RL (All)	CPI-RL (Food)
1	2	3
Apr.,-09	9.09	9.09
May-09	10.21	11.16
Jun.,-09	11.26	12.44

1	2	3
Jul.,-09	12.67	14.22
Aug.,-09	12.67	14.13
Sep.,-09	12.97	14.63
Oct.,-09	13.51	15.33
Nov.,-09	15.65	18.14
Dec.,-09	16.99	20.43
Jan.,-10	17.35	20.78
Feb.,-10	16.45	19.26
Mar.,-10	15.52	17.71

The Government has taken several measures to control inflation, which include:

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero-for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and sugar.
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils.
- (iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under open general licence (OGL). This has since been extended upto 31.12.10.
- (iv) Levy obligation removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (v) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (vi) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, sugar, edible oils and edible oilseeds.

In addition, a Core Group of Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers has been constituted on 15th March, 2010 to discuss issues related to prices of essential commodities with Ministry of Agriculture as nodal agency.

Recently, the RBI has announced in its Annual Policy Statement for 2010-11 to increase the Repo Rate by 25 basis points from 5.00 per cent to 5.25 per cent and the Reverse Repo rate by 25 basis points from 3.50 per cent of 3.75 per cent with immediate effect. It has been decided to increase the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 25 basis points from 5.75 per cent to 6.00 per cent *w.e.f.* from fortnight beginning April 24, 2010.

Stoppage of export of pulses by Australia and Canada

3903. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia and Canada have stopped exports of pulses to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the planning of Government to meet the requirement of pulses in the country?

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

(b) In view of the (a) above, does not arise.

(c) Government has taken several measures to enhance the availability of pulses in the country as given in the Statement.

Statement

(A) Government Measures

1.1 Ban on export/duty reduction on import/import by PSUs

- Extended zero duty on import of pulses for another one year up to 31.3.2011.
- Extended the ban on export of pulses (except kabuli chana) for another one year up to 31.3.2011.
- Extended the current dispensation for PSUs to import pulses against reimbursement up to 15% of losses and service charge of 1.2% of cif value up to 30.9.2010.

1.2 Supply of pulses through PDS

- Extended the scheme for distribution of imported pulses through PDS up to 31.3.2011.

1.3 On Stock Limits

- Enabled imposition of stock limit orders by State Governments in the case of pulses upto 30.9.2010.

(B) Medium Term Measures :

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

Inclusion of cotton seed in ECA

3904. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether Government has once again included cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) with a view to regulating the production, quality and distribution of Bt. cotton seed;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Cabinet gave approval for re-inclusion of cotton seed as an essential commodity;
- (d) whether the re-inclusion comes after two years when the seed was removed from ECA; 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) Cotton Seed had been deleted from the list of Essential Commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The was done when the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was amended by the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2006 which came into effect from 12.02.2007.

Subsequently the Government decided to reinclude Cotton Seed as an Essential Commodity in the Schedule to the essential Commodities Act, 1955. Accordingly a Notification No. S.O.3267 (E) dated 22.12.2009 was issued to regulate the production, quality, distribution and other aspects of Cotton Seed. The Notification is valid till 21.06.2010.

Import of pulses from Myanmar

3905. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

DR. RAM PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether India had earlier planned to import three quarter million tonnes of pulses from Myanmar on Government to Government commodity purchase basis which work out much cheaper than other routes;
- (b) whether the deal fell through because of Myanmar insisting on advance non-US dollar cash payment;
- (c) whether India was keen on using the balance of trade route, since advance cash payment violated Government to Government deal terms; 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) As per the Agreed Minutes, about one million tonnes of pulses were to be imported. Subsequently 30,000 tonnes of black matpe and 7,000 tonnes of green moong were contracted to be imported. However, only about 5,000 tonnes of black matpe, was imported.

(b) The main issue was their request for making payment prior to the fixation of price and quantity of pulses imported. Government decided not to proceed further on account of procedural complexities.

(c) and (d) Pulses were already being imported by the PSUs and private traders at zero duty under OGL.

Apathy of State Governments for lifting subsidized pulses

3906. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of four lakh tonnes of imported pulses with a subsidy of 10.00 per kg. offered to 28 States recently, only 9 States have responded so far, lifting a total of only 1.4 lakh tonnes;

(b) whether many States have found the scheme unviable as getting the allotted pulses processed and distributed would raise their prices higher than those prevailing in the market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Assam and Bihar did not lift the allotted quota of subsidised pulses; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As the scheme was approved only in November 2008, progress was limited in 2008-09. However in 2009-2010 the authorized agencies have supplied more than 2.50 lac tonnes of imported pulses to 9 States namely West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Some of the State Governments such as Assam, West Bengal and Punjab have requested for supply of processed pulses. It has been decided that the requirement of processing of pulses may be arranged mutually between the State Governments and the PSUs concerned.

(d) and (e) Under this scheme, No state-wise allocations is made. As per the scheme, it is up to the State/UT Governments to place orders depending upon their requirement of quantity and variety of pulses, with the PSUs importing the pulses.

Procurement of wheat

3907. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat procured for the Central pool during the Rabi marketing season (April, 2009 to March, 2010);

(b) the number of BPL families likely to be covered under Public Distribution System during 2010-11; and

(c) the total off take of foodgrains (wheat and rice) from the Central Pool under the targeted PDS for the financial year 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) 253.82 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and agencies of the State Governments during Rabi Marketing Season, 2009-10 (April, 2009 to March, 2010).

(b) At present 6.52 crore BPL families are covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(c) 175.03 lakh tonnes of wheat and 215.77 lakh tonnes of rice has been lifted by the families covered under the TPDS during the period April, 2009 to February, 2010 in the financial year 2009-10.

Indian students abroad

3908. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian students studying abroad, country-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to conduct a study regarding their present condition; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Specific information is not maintained within this Ministry regarding Indian students studying abroad.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Right to Education

†3909. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to prevent the commercialization of education the Central Government is committed to introduce Right to Education Law in co-ordination with all State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the Central Government would find a possible solution under Right to Education Law by addressing the issues like marginalized schools, fee structure, pay-scales of teachers and all quality-centric issues like-building, playground, library and arrangement of skilled teachers and so on; and
- (d) the budgetary allocation being made by Government for the next financial year for implementing the Right to Education Law, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has consistently held the view that education in India is not regarded as commercial activity and all educational institutions of India necessarily have to be set up in the “not for profit” mode. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 enacted by the Parliament has come into force from 1st April, 2010.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Section 13 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that no school or person shall, while admitting a child, collect any capitation fee and subject the child or his or her parents or guardian to any screening procedure.

(c) The issues regarding provision of adequate school infrastructure, engagement of qualified and appropriately trained teachers, terms and conditions of service of teachers etc. have been addressed through various provisions of the RTE Act and the Norms and Standards specified in the Schedule of the Act.

(d) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme will be the main vehicle for implementation of the provisions of the RTE Act. In 2010-11, a Central budget allocation of Rs.15,000 crore has been presented to Parliament for SSA programme. Central budget allocation is not made state-wise. Funds are provided to each State/UT based on their approved Annual Work Plan and Budget for the year as per the funding ratio applicable in that year.

Financial assistance to NGOs

3910. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under any scheme financial assistance is provided by his Ministry to NGOs in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated with year of allocation in last three years, organization-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the achievement made, so far, scheme-wise; and

(d) the list of NGOs of Orissa blacklisted by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details are available in the Annual Reports of this Ministry for the Years 2007-08 (Annexure-II to V, pages-286-315), 2008-09 (Annexure — 10-15, pages 325-359) and 2009-10 (Annexure-10-15, pages 348-374). The major Initiatives and Achievements made by the Ministry of HRD are available in Annual Report for 2009-10.

(d) Not applicable.

Neighbourhood schools in Tamil Nadu

3911. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of neighbourhood schools required in Tamil Nadu for effective implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act for children between 6 to 14 years;

(b) whether expenditure for establishment of neighbourhood schools would be shared by the State and Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the cost-sharing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The matter regarding establishment of the neighbourhood schools for carrying out the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 comes under the purview of the appropriate Government and the local authority. The number of neighbourhood schools required to be established in Tamil Nadu would be in accordance with the areas or limits of neighbourhood as specified by the State Government.

(b) and (c) Section 7 of the RTE Act provides that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme will be the main vehicle for implementation of the provisions of the RTE Act. In 2010-11, a Central budget allocation of Rs.15,000 crore has been presented to Parliament for SSA programme and the States will be required to contribute the state share in accordance with the SSA norms.

Uniform syllabus for secondary education

3912. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce uniform syllabus for secondary education throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether consultations were held with stake-holders in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reactions/suggestions from stakeholders, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Schools being run in small buildings in slums in Delhi

†3913. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that private schools are being run in four storeyed buildings built in 25 square yards in slum areas of Delhi wherein students beyond its capacity are being taught;

(b) whether there is no facility of sports and recreation in these schools for the students;

(c) whether most of the schools are unrecognized; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the policy of Government regarding such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No such instance has come to the notice of the Directorate of Education of the Governments of NCT of Delhi.

(c) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the data on unrecognized schools is not available with them at present.

(d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 lays down that after commencement of the Act, no private schools shall be established or function, without obtaining a certificate of recognition from the prescribed authority. It also provides that no such recognition shall be granted to a school unless it fulfills norms and standards specified in the Schedule to the Act.

Use of realistic technology for education in rural areas

3914. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that education through Edusat, Doordarshan, radio and laptop is not sensible due to non-availability of power and internet connection in rural parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has any programme to overcome such situation by providing best quality education in rural parts of the country; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing more modern and realistic technology in education sector at grassroot village level in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The use of electronic media like doordarshan, radio and Information and Communication (ICT) in education also supplements regular teaching and provides avenue for quality enhancement of education in a cost effective manner. The inconsistency in supply of power may cause some inconvenience to the learners, in making use of ICT in learning process but alternative energy sources could help mitigate the inconvenience. The Government has launched a Scheme, namely, 'National Mission on Education through ICT' to make best use of the ICT in education. One of the components of the National Mission on Education through ICT is to provide connectivity to all the institutes of higher learning in the country including those, which are located in the rural areas of the country.

Housing facilities for teachers

3915. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether Government is considering to facilitate teachers with housing amenities and other necessary facilities in the country like other Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much funds will be required to provide housing facilities to teachers; and

(c) the details of extra source of funds for considering housing facilities to the teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, a centrally sponsored scheme to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality, *inter alia*, provides for residential quarters for teachers in remote and hilly areas with difficult terrain. The requirement of funds for this activity depends on the proposals of States. Various States also have their own programmes of provision of housing facilities to its teachers.

Proposed changes in education policy

†3916. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to change present education system and to work on the lines of foreign education institutions;

(b) whether Government is preparing any programme to bring changes in the education policy formulated in the year 1962 in the country;

(c) whether the present education policy is responsible for the backwardness of the country in the field of education; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the change in policy would be helpful in providing higher education to all sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Government is following National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992). It is based on an in-depth review of the educational situation and national consensus. It provides for National System of Education implying that upto a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The National System of Education envisages a common educational structure. The 10+2+3 structure has now been accepted in most parts of the country. The present educational policy has helped emerging India as a Knowledge Country. Educational Reforms are a continuous process and the Eleventh Five Year Plan seeks to carry them forward through expansion, the inclusion and rapid improvement in quality, through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Drop-out rate of students

3917. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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

- (a) the current drop-out rate of students of 14 to 18 years age group in comparison to 50 per cent drop-out rate in 6 to 14 years age group;
- (b) how much students of 14 to 18 years age group are unable to get or continue education;
- (c) the reasons behind school drop-out—economical, social or any other; and
- (d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the drop-out of students particularly for 14 to 18 years age group who are interested to continue education but are unable due to economical and social conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The dropout rate of students of class I-X is 56.81 per cent in comparison to drop out rate of 43.03 per cent of students of class I-VIII during the year 2007-08 (provisional). The dropout rate for class IX-XII is not calculated.

- (c) The socio-economic and school related factors affect dropout rate.
- (d) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Model Schools at Secondary level, Girls' hostels, National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship and National scheme of incentive to Girls for Secondary Education are some of the major programmes launched by the Ministry to check the dropout rate of students in the age group of 14 to 18 years.

Cost of education in foreign universities in the country

†3918. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has given its approval in principle to establish and run foreign universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the study in these universities will be so expensive that majority of people in the country will not have access to it; and
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction to such expensive education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India has been approved by the Government for introduction and a notice thereof has been sent to Parliament. Provisions of the Bill can take effect only subject to approval of Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Quota and enrolment of SC/ST/OBC students in Navodaya Vidyalayas

3919. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether quota for SC/ST/OBC students has been reserved in Navodaya Vidyalayas;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to enhance the existing percentage of enrolment; and
- (c) the number of male/female students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/OBCs enrolled in Navodaya Vidyalayas during last three years, the percentage thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (d) Seats are reserved in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) for children from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in proportion to their population in the concerned district, subject to a minimum of 15% for SC and 7.5% for ST. During 2009-10, the percentages of enrolment of SC and ST students in all JNVs were 25.09% and 16.91% respectively.

(c) Details of State-wise number of male and female students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes enrolled in JNVs during the last three years alongwith percentages with respect to total students enrolment are given in the Statement (*See below*). The data on the number of OBC students in JNVs is not maintained by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

Statement

State-wise number of SC and ST (Boys and Girls) students enrolled and their percentage with respect to total students in concerned States/UTs in JNVs during last three years.

2007-08 (A)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	SC				ST			
		Boys	Girls	Total	% with respect to the number of total students	Boys	Girls	Total	% with respect to the number of total students
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	2	3	0.67	20	38	58	12.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1724	745	2469	24.87	846	278	1124	11.32
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	25	73	2.17	1673	1271	2944	87.59
4.	Assam	998	587	1585	19.08	1376	769	2145	25.82
5.	Bihar	1910	941	2851	83.93	366	180	546	16.07
6.	Chandigarh	82	66	148	31.42	3	1	4	0.85
7.	Chhattisgarh	664	332	996	20.27	1059	530	1589	32.34
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	3	8	4.57	67	36	103	58.86
9.	Daman and Diu	16	12	28	7.39	11	7	18	4.75
10.	Delhi	174	106	280	27.94	23	14	37	3.69
11.	Goa	17	16	33	5.17	28	26	54	8.46
12.	Gujarat	866	449	1315	20.32	653	339	992	15.33
13.	Haryana	1621	589	2210	54.01	37	19	56	1.37
14.	Himachal Pradesh	958	670	1628	34.02	389	343	732	15.30
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	460	222	682	15.28	765	461	1226	27.47
16.	Jharkhand	913	450	1363	40.22	1357	669	2026	59.78
17.	Karnataka	1779	829	2608	20.94	829	480	1309	10.51
18.	Kerala	758	548	1306	20.17	143	148	291	4.49
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	112	95	207	95.39
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3221	1611	4832	23.74	2525	1263	3788	18.61
21.	Maharashtra	1905	1075	2980	24.38	853	481	1334	10.92
22.	Manipur	313	205	518	13.85	1028	717	1745	46.66
23.	Meghalaya	34	17	51	2.89	848	711	1559	88.43
24.	Mizoram	6	4	10	1.91	282	218	500	95.42
25.	Nagaland	7	5	12	0.86	743	602	1345	95.87
26.	Orissa	1373	687	2060	21.78	1675	838	2513	26.57
27.	Puducherry	223	139	362	24.91	3	1	4	0.28
28.	Punjab	2106	1277	3383	49.07	4	2	6	0.09
29.	Rajasthan	2853	713	3566	23.98	1795	614	2409	16.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30.	Sikkim	57	47	104	10.70	235	260	495	50.93
31.	Tripura	187	107	294	26.02	312	135	447	39.56
32.	Uttar Pradesh	7356	1493	8849	32.62	354	83	437	1.61
33.	Uttarakhand	805	234	1039	26.09	156	91	247	6.20
34.	West Bengal	447	220	667	80.75	106	53	159	19.25
TOTAL		33887	14426	48313	26.53	20676	11773	32449	17.82

2008-09 (B)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	SC				ST			
		Boys	Girls	Total	% with respect to the number of total students	Boys	Girls	Total	% with respect to the number of total students
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	1	0.22	26	38	64	13.97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1766	784	2550	25.76	822	293	1115	11.26
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	57	30	87	2.35	1835	1428	3263	88.31
4.	Assam	1072	629	1701	19.17	1452	827	2279	25.68
5.	Bihar	2344	623	2967	82.95	482	128	610	17.05
6.	Chandigarh	89	72	161	34.77	4	3	7	1.51
7.	Chhattisgarh	707	354	1061	20.17	1177	588	1765	35.55
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11	6	17	8.10	79	33	112	53.33
9.	Daman and Diu	20	10	30	7.48	10	9	19	4.74
10.	Delhi	161	105	266	27.25	21	20	41	4.20
11.	Goa	22	14	36	5.53	46	27	73	11.21
12.	Gujarat	938	396	1334	20.61	618	397	1015	15.68
13.	Haryana	1702	629	2331	54.11	46	23	69	1.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Himachal Pradesh	978	682	1660	34.23	409	358	767	15.82
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	468	226	694	14.88	843	529	1372	29.42
16.	Jharkhand	1314	162	1476	38.53	2095	260	2355	61.47
17.	Karnataka	1842	874	2716	21.43	866	497	1363	10.75
18.	Kerala	741	572	1313	20.24	135	149	284	4.38
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	113	90	203	92.69
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3329	1665	4994	24.01	2725	1363	4088	19.65
21.	Maharashtra	1934	969	2903	23.69	992	499	1491	12.17
22.	Manipur	324	209	533	13.65	1105	764	1869	47.86
23.	Meghalaya	29	18	47	2.59	893	720	1613	88.77
24.	Mizoram	5	3	8	1.20	384	262	646	96.71
25.	Nagaland	9	6	15	0.98	822	647	1469	95.95
26.	Orissa	1459	730	2189	21.91	1793	896	2689	26.92
27.	Puducherry	226	134	360	25.10	3	1	4	0.28
28.	Punjab	2213	1377	3590	48.61	10	5	15	0.20
29.	Rajasthan	2845	782	3627	23.75	1784	632	2416	15.82
30.	Sikkim	63	51	114	10.22	276	291	567	50.85
31.	Tripura	198	132	330	26.85	319	147	466	37.92
32.	Uttarakhand	809	236	1045	25.43	183	93	276	6.72
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7329	1426	8755	31.50	462	91	553	1.99
34.	West Bengal	828	35	863	79.47	214	9	223	20.53
TOTAL		35832	13942	49774	26.42	23044	12117	35161	18.67

2009-10 (C)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	SC				ST			
		Boys	Girls	Total	% with respect to the number of total students	Boys	Girls	Total	% with respect to the number of total students
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	A and N Islands	0	1	1	0.21	31	30	61	12.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1758	822	2580	25.74	831	296	1127	11.24
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	50	22	72	1.94	1831	1492	3323	89.62
4.	Assam	1112	700	1812	19.29	1691	696	2387	25.41
5.	Bihar	2420	566	2986	21.54	522	180	702	5.06
6.	Chandigarh	87	72	159	33.54	4	2	6	1.27
7.	Chhattisgarh	1156	683	1839	33.42	742	400	1142	20.76
8.	D and N Haveli	9	9	18	7.47	89	48	137	56.85
9.	Daman and Diu	19	13	32	7.77	9	3	12	2.91
10.	Delhi	168	80	248	26.11	20	22	42	4.42
11.	Goa	22	12	34	4.99	55	34	89	13.05
12.	Gujarat	959	424	1383	20.37	628	436	1064	15.67
13.	Haryana	1715	664	2379	32.16	42	21	63	0.85
14.	Himachal Pradesh	998	682	1680	33.57	438	387	825	16.49
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	465	245	710	15.07	898	555	1453	30.84
16.	Jharkhand	1087	312	1399	20.33	1769	832	2601	37.80
17.	Karnataka	1808	897	2705	21.38	876	507	1383	10.93
18.	Kerala	745	601	1346	20.69	121	155	276	4.24
19.	Lakshadweep	3	2	5	2.48	100	71	171	84.65
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4383	2761	7144	27.44	3891	1182	5073	19.49
21.	Maharashtra	1975	1032	3007	23.97	912	519	1431	11.41
22.	Manipur	324	243	567	14.26	1160	755	1915	48.18
23.	Meghalaya	31	18	49	2.42	1006	797	1803	89.21
24.	Mizoram	3	2	5	0.65	421	325	746	97.14
25.	Nagaland	12	10	22	1.39	803	693	1496	94.44
26.	Orissa	1503	1072	2575	24.86	1603	682	2285	22.06
27.	Puducherry	194	158	352	25.23	3	5	8	0.57
28.	Punjab	2278	1397	3675	49.27	10	2	12	0.16
29.	Rajasthan	2730	818	3548	23.06	1854	633	2487	16.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30.	Sikkim	62	40	102	8.42	239	392	631	52.11
31.	Tripura	188	150	338	26.78	333	161	494	39.14
32.	Uttarakhand	811	247	1058	25.33	177	89	266	6.37
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7562	1538	9100	32.26	498	105	603	2.14
34.	West Bengal	726	325	1051	36.63	173	97	270	9.41
TOTAL		37363	16618	53981	25.09	23780	12604	36384	16.91

Answers of meritorious students on website

†3920. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

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

(a) whether Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had decided to make the answers of meritorious students of Board examinations available on the website;

(b) whether the decision has been implemented;

(c) if so, the website on which this facility is available; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In the year 2008, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) displayed answers of high scoring students of Class X and XII Board examinations on its web-site.

(c) The answer books are available on CBSE website www.cbse.nic.in under "Examination Archive".

(d) Does not arise.

Changes required in higher education

†3921. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

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

(a) whether higher education requires a fundamental change as opined by the Yashpal Committee;

(b) whether it is felt that the framing of syllabus should be in tune with the changing global scenario;

(c) whether Supreme Court has also cautioned that China would march ahead if higher education is ignored;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether a new education policy is under consideration for this purpose;
and

(e) if so, the nature of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Committee to advice on Renovation and Rejuvenation under Prof. Yash Pal has recommended structural changes in the regulatory framework in the higher education sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Supreme Court, while hearing a matter concerning filling up of vacant posts including that of teachers in schools under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, had made observations that China could overtake India as the largest English speaking country in the world if education is ignored.

(d) While the Government has initiated several reform measures in consonance with National Policy on Education 1986 as amended from time to time, formulation of a new education policy is not under consideration.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (d).

Primary and upper primary education in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

3922. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

(a) whether as per the recent report of National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) the scenario of primary and upper primary education is very grim in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a huge shortage of schools and teachers in these States and drop-out rate is very high;

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

(e) the details of the action Government proposes to take to achieve the target of 100 per cent literacy in the country and to ensure right to education as per the RTE Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the Educational Development Index (EDI) for elementary education for 2008-09, Bihar is ranked at 34th position, while Uttar Pradesh is ranked at 23rd position.

(c) to (e) The position in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in respect of schools, teachers and drop-out rates is as under:-

	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh
Number of new schools opened under Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) upto 31.12.2009		
Target	36,857	44,244
Achievement	31,253	43,056
Number of teachers recruited under Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) upto 31.12.2009		
Target	2,60,841	2,76,217
Achievement	1,60,145	2,49,481
Drop out Rate for classes I to VIII (2007-08)	70.69	28.64

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009, which has come into force from 1st April, 2010, *inter alia* provides that (a) every child of the age of six to fourteen years has the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education; (b) the appropriate Government and local authority shall ensure admission, attendance and completion of elementary education; (c) un-enrolled and drop-out children have to be admitted in age appropriate class and provided special training; (d) the appropriate Government and local authority shall establish neighbourhood schools within such areas or limits as it may specify, within a period of three years; and (e) every school shall maintain the Pupil-Teacher ratio in accordance with the norms specified in the Schedule to the Act.

State of female education

‡3923. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of female education in the country is deplorable despite all types of campaigns related to adult education programme and women empowerment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the specific programmes being run in the country to promote female education and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Female Literacy in the country was 8.86% in 1951. To increase the female literacy rate, the Government had introduced several programmes, most importantly National Literacy Mission in 1988, on account of which the female literacy rate had increased to 53.67% in 2001. However,

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2001 Census also revealed that the gender gap in literacy was 21.59%. Therefore, the Government have now launched Saakshar Bharat, new variant of National Literacy Mission, with principal focus on women. The programme, along with other programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, aims to reduce the gender disparity from 21.59% to 10% by 2012.

Commercialization of education

3924. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that education in the country has been commercialized;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the educational institutions which have got recognition in the field of higher education, management and technical education during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken so far by Government to improve the Indian education system, which has been commercialized and the extent to which these steps have been effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) It has been stressed in the National Policy on Education as well as in several judicial pronouncements that education is not-for-profit activity and commercialization of education is to be avoided. The Government favours active support and involvement of private sector for funding and management of educational institutions subject to surplus earned be ploughed back for development of institutions. 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 Partnership (PPPs) in the education sector.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been given statutory status for coordinated development of technical education, promotion of qualitative improvement and maintenance of norms and standards. The details of AICTE approved technical institutions which got approval during last three years is as under :-

Number of AICTE approved degree level Technical Institutions approved during last three years

Programme	In 2007-08	In 2008-09	In 2009-10
1	2	3	4
Engg./Tech.	157	720	484
Management	17	371	420

1	2	3	4
HMCT	17	06	06
Pharmacy	189	167	59
Architecture	—	—	—
Applied Art and Craft	—	03	—
MCA	24	68	74
Total	404	1335	1043

University Grants Commission (UGC), under Section 2(f) and 12(b) of UGC Act, 1956, accords recognition to Universities and Colleges in higher education. The list of approved/recognized universities and colleges (by UGC) can be accessed on UGC's website www.ugc.ac.in.

Several reforms have been initiated to improve quality and access in higher education sector which includes legislation of law to prevent, prohibit and punish malpractices in higher education, mandatory assessment and accreditation in higher education, etc.

'Edusat' for school education

3925. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) when and what proposal has been received by the Government to set up 'Edusat' for school education in Maharashtra;
- (b) the details and status of the proposal;
- (c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning and who is accountable for delay in sanctioning; and
- (d) by when the proposal will be sanctioned, the details of the time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development is mainly implementing : (i) National Mission on Education through ICT which primarily focuses on higher education institutions; and (ii) the Centrally sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools" with the objective of establishing an enabling environment to promote the usage of ICT in Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher Secondary schools for imparting computer literacy and computer aided learning. The request from the Government of Maharashtra seeking funds for setting up 'Edusat' for school education in Maharashtra, which was received in this Ministry in August, 2008, is not covered under the above mentioned two schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Recognition of universities

‡3926. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the duration of recognition of reputed universities throughout the country has expired;
- (b) if so, the details of such universities;
- (c) whether Government has taken any corrective steps in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Higher educational institutions in the country, including Universities, are recognized for quality as assessed and accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The validity period of such accreditation is for a period of five years whereafter each such accredited institution is expected to come forward for second cycle of accreditation. However, as accreditation is presently not mandatory, institutions may only voluntarily opt for first accreditation and thereafter for renewal of accreditation after expiry of the validity period.

According to the information furnished by NAAC, out of 159 Universities accredited by it, as on 28.2.2010 accreditation validity period is over in respect of 67 Universities. A State-wise number of such Universities is given in the Statement (*See below*). As regards the corrective steps taken, it may be stated that the Central Government has since finalized a legislative proposal for mandatory accreditation of higher educational institutions in the country and subject to the law being approved by Parliament, all institutions will be obliged to hold valid accreditation certificate.

Statement

*Universities accredited by NAAC whose accreditation validity period
is over as on 28/02/2005*

Sl.No.	State	Universities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Karnataka	4
3.	Kerala	3
4.	Tamil Nadu	4
5.	Gujarat	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	5

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
7.	Maharashtra	9
8.	Bihar	1
9.	Chhattisgarh	2
10.	Jharkhand	1
11.	Orissa	3
12.	West Bengal	1
13.	Haryana	1
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
15.	Delhi	1
16.	Rajasthan	6
17.	Uttaranchal	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	11
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
20.	Manipur	1
21.	Nagaland	1
22.	Tripura	1
TOTAL		67

Accreditation of colleges by NAAC

3927. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has rated close to 4200 colleges across the country and whether close to half of those have not renewed their ratings;

(b) whether in most States, especially Maharashtra, aided colleges and Government run public institutions, without updating their rating, flash and flaunt their old ratings to unwary students; and

(c) whether NAAC has any awareness programme for alerting the student community of the status of a particular institution in regard to NAAC accreditation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has so far accredited 4094 colleges and as of now, the validity period of five years is over in respect of 2028 colleges. Instances have come to the notice of NAAC, that some

of the institutions are displaying their accreditations status even after expiry of the validity period. While advising institutions not to use the accreditation status after its validity is over, the NAAC has also, for creating awareness amongst student community, displayed the list of these institutions on its website: www.naacindia.org.

Dropping-out of students

3928. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether data and statistics collected by the National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) reveals that over 50 per cent of children who enroll in Class I drop-out by Class VIII;

(b) whether the study reveals a dropout rate for primary classes at 29 per cent with 4 million children out-of-school, the drop-out rate for upper primary has worked out to 51 per cent with 44.6 million children reckoned to be out-of-school; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per District Information System for Education (DISE) 2008-09 published by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), the national average drop-out rate at primary level between 2007-08 and 2008-09 is 8.02 percent. DISE disseminates drop-out data only for the primary level of education. As per national sample survey for out of school children in the age group of 6-13 years conducted by Social and Rural Research Institute-International Marketing Research Bureau (SRI-IMRB) in 2009, the number of out of school children is 81.00 lakhs in the country, of which 74.89% are never enrolled children, and 25.11% are drop-out children.

Paucity of Urdu teachers

3929. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is paucity of Urdu teachers, lecturers and professors in schools, colleges and universities throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Ministry provides financial assistance to the States for appointment of Urdu teachers in any locality where more than 25% of the population is Urdu speaking. This assistance is available for making new appointments as well as for existing Urdu teachers.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, recognized Madarsas/Maktabas are eligible for additional teachers as per norms. Under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) Scheme, residential

schools are set up at upper primary level for girls belonging to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. The States can also engage two Urdu Teachers in KGBVs in Blocks with Muslim population above 20% and in select urban areas.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also sanctioned Centres for Professional Development of Urdu Medium Teachers to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University.

In addition, the Government has established a special University by an Act of Parliament called Maulana Azad National Urdu University in 1996 mainly to promote and develop Urdu language and to impart education in Urdu medium.

Centre-State ratio of funds for implementation of Right to Education Act

3930. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several Chief Ministers have informed the Centre that it would be difficult for them to implement the Right to Education (RTE) Act if the fund sharing ratio remained at 55:45; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Section 7 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act. While endorsing the provisions of the Act, Chief Ministers of various States, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar have requested for allocation of adequate funds for implementation of the Act. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme will be the main vehicle for implementation of the provisions of the RTE Act. In 2010-11, a Central budget allocation of Rs.15,000 crore has been presented to Parliament for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme. The 13th Finance Commission has awarded Rs.24,068 crore as grant-in-aid specifically for elementary education.

Special status to Uttar Pradesh for education

†3931. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the national average of education of boys and girls indicating their percentage in Uttar Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that even today, percentage of education of boys and girls in Uttar Pradesh is very low as compared to the national average;

(c) if so, whether Central Government would consider to provide additional assistance to the State by giving it a special status in the field of education; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The gender-wise Gross Enrolment Ratios for classes I-XII of Uttar Pradesh and All India are given below:

Gross Enrolment Ratio (provisional) during 2007-08 in classes I-XII

	Boys	Girls	Total
Uttar Pradesh	83.39	80.83	82.18
All India	84.44	79.35	82.01

(c) and (d) State-wise allocations are not made by this Ministry. Grants are, however, released to the State Governments/Institutions keeping in view the proposals received, availability of resources and progress of utilization of funds earlier released under each programme.

Accreditation of colleges

3932. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per data revealed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) a large number of colleges across the country have not renewed their ratings;

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

(c) whether Government has now made accreditation a mandatory condition for all colleges in the country; and

(d) if so, the likely impact on colleges which have not renewed their ratings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the validity period of accreditation of five years is over in respect of 2028 colleges. The State-wise list of such colleges is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

Statement

*Colleges Accredited by NAAC whose accreditation validity period is over
as on 28/02/2005*

Sl.No.	State	Colleges
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42
2.	Karnataka	294
3.	Kerala	60
4.	Puducherry	3
5.	Tamil Nadu	72
6.	Goa	6
7.	Gujarat	8
8.	Madhya Pradesh	36
9.	Maharashtra	831
10.	Bihar	16
11.	Chhattisgarh	18
12.	Jharkhand	10
13.	Orissa	15
14.	West Bengal	55
15.	Haryana	145
16.	Himachal Pradesh	12
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	17
18.	Delhi	0
19.	Punjab	82
20.	Rajasthan	61
21.	Uttaranchal	24
22.	Uttar Pradesh	32
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
24.	Assam	177
25.	Manipur	1
26.	Meghalaya	3

1	2	3
27.	Mizoram	3
28.	Nagaland	1
29.	Tripura	4
TOTAL		2028

Minimum pass marks in Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

3933. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has fixed minimum pass marks for its engineering courses which are higher than that of other universities in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many students have been affected due to this since 2005;

(d) the measure proposed to bring down the said minimum marks and make them at par with other universities; and

(e) what amends will be made to those students who have already suffered due to higher benchmarks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) is a State university established by the State Legislature of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Central Government has no role in the academic/administrative matters of State Universities.

Regulatory mechanism for foreign university centres

3934. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of campuses by foreign universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any regulatory mechanism has been evolved to ensure the entry of quality institutions and also to maintain high standard of education offered by these institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in India has been approved by the Government for

introduction and a notice thereof has been sent to Parliament. The Bill facilitates the entry of reputed foreign educational institutions, while preventing the entry of those having dubious quality. Provisions of the Bill can take effect only subject to approval of Parliament.

Financial assistance for setting up polytechnics

3935. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts of Chhattisgarh where financial assistance for setting up of polytechnics has been provided under the scheme of submission on polytechnics under coordinated action for skill development during 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilized so far, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Under the scheme of Sub-Mission of Polytechnics under Coordinated Action for Skill Development the following Eleven Districts have been provided financial assistance for setting up of Polytechnics during 2008-09:-

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Funds Allocated (Rs. in crore)	
		2008-09	2009-10
1.	Koriya	02.12	
2.	Jashpur	02.12	
3.	Kanker	02.12	
4.	Dantewada	02.11	
5.	Narayanpur		02.00
6.	Bijapur		02.00
7.	Surguja		02.00
8.	Jangir-Champa		02.00
9.	Bilaspur		02.00
10.	Raipur		02.00
11.	Baster		02.00

The State Government has informed that the funds could not be utilized in view of the fact that the process of land allotment has not been completed so far. However, as the land allotment for the Districts viz. Koriya, Jashpur, Kanker, Dantewada have been completed now, the process of construction of building has been taken up.

Standard of education of women/girls

3936. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan to raise the standard of education of women/girls in the country;

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

(c) the total funds sanctioned/released for implementation of such schemes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the results achieved so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Reaching out to the girl child is central to the efforts to universalize elementary education. SSA provides financial support *inter-alia* for free textbooks to all girls upto Class VIII, organizes back to school camps for out of school girls and bridge courses for older girls. In addition, the Department of School Education and Literacy has launched two focused interventions for girls under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) - the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) to reach out to girls from marginalised social groups in educationally backward blocks in the country. A Statement showing the number of KGBVs sanctioned (State-wise) is given in the Statement-I (*See below*)

At secondary level, the Department of School Education and Literacy has launched the scheme of girls' hostels in November 2008 to facilitate girls with the main objective to bring and retain them in school. The scheme envisages setting up of hostels with lodging and boarding facilities in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) so that the girl students are not denied the opportunity to continue their study due to societal factors. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) also envisages various measures *viz.* (i) Focus on Girl students during micro-planning; (ii) Appointment of more female teachers; and (iii) Separate toilet blocks for girls to enhance enrolment of girl students. State-wise details of hostels sanctioned and fund released under the Girls' Hostel scheme are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Hostels sanctioned	Amount released (Rs. In lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Himachal Pradesh	5	95.62
2.	Madhya Pradesh	30	574.00
3.	Mizoram	1	19.12
4.	Punjab	21	402.00

1	2	3	4
5.	Rajasthan	27	516.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	44	842.00
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	95.62
8.	Chhattisgarh	74	1414.00
9.	Karnataka	62	1056.38
TOTAL		269	5014.74

(c) Details showing total funds sanctioned for implementation of KGBV and NPEGEL during the last three years, State-wise are given in the Statement-II.

(d) The enrolment of girls in schools has shown a steady increase over the years and progress has been made towards reducing the gender gap. A State-wise statement showing Gender Parity Index as per SES (2007-08) is given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Statement showing number of sanctioned KGBVs (State-wise)

Sl.No.	State	No. of KGBVs sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	395
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36
3.	Assam	26
4.	Bihar	391
5.	Chhattisgarh	93
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Gujarat	63
9.	Haryana	9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	79
12.	Jharkhand	198
13.	Karnataka	64
14.	Madhya Pradesh	200

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	36
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Meghalaya	2
19.	Nagaland	2
20.	Orissa	157
21.	Punjab	3
22.	Rajasthan	200
23.	Tamil Nadu	54
24.	Tripura	7
25.	Uttar Pradesh	454
26.	Uttarakhand	26
27.	West Bengal	64
TOTAL		2573

Statement-II

Statement showing number of sanctioned KGBVs and total funds sanctioned for implementation of KGBV and NPEGEL during the last three years (State-wise)

Sl. No.	State	KGBV			NPEGEL		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11308.83	20380.11	12021.83	9582.69	8520.78	3605.43
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	383.03	2081.32	1021.95	51.43	12.72	12.76
3.	Assam	344.78	1228.73	1063.60	122.09	61.29	40.57
4.	Bihar	12974.40	22434.27	15387.09	4806.03	3827.90	3146.78
5.	Chhattisgarh	2034.78	2841.03	2359.05	1313.36	720.63	1192.46
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	76.27	71.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Delhi	0.00	48.73	48.73	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Gujarat	1780.67	3131.98	2755.39	726.46	3131.98	725.87
9.	Haryana	480.67	380.84	324.12	484.61	433.55	316.57
10.	Himachal Pradesh	127.99	158.60	142.60	71.10	74.91	41.55
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1527.73	5644.53	4001.35	997.59	359.36	359.36
12.	Jharkhand	7511.85	7205.35	6712.66	4143.93	3933.98	2563.14
13.	Karnataka	958.31	1218.86	2332.00	553.09	773.50	587.87
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4199.16	8669.78	8162.93	12067.03	13634.46	6929.95
15.	Maharashtra	1543.05	2609.72	2455.92	607.21	616.03	456.16
16.	Manipur	37.43	34.32	25.47	21.36	12.82	5.09
17.	Mizoram	19.05	25.47	25.47	7.20	7.44	7.44
18.	Meghalaya	13.13	77.48	77.48	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	97.45	96.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	3628.37	5140.89	4454.66	4378.60	2825.93	3044.27
21.	Punjab	15.04	70.03	31.94	4.80	5.11	5.02
22.	Rajasthan	4078.75	6297.81	5985.69	12375.60	3933.72	3221.85
23.	Tamil Nadu	1074.33	1292.72	1189.71	1279.99	1185.03	595.93
24.	Tripura	35.83	91.35	91.32	3.64	3.67	4.12
25.	Uttar Pradesh	13482.19	29090.13	23010.06	15354.00	14463.94	13296.00
26.	Uttarakhand	582.93	975.08	585.91	344.14	255.51	252.68
27.	West Bengal	1039.18	1377.07	1559.80	1547.57	1408.54	1360.12
TOTAL		69181.47	122679.90	95995.14	70843.52	60202.78	41771.00

Statement-III

State-wise statement showing Gender Parity Index as per SES (2007-08)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	I-V	VI-VIII	I-VIII
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.00	0.98	1.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.92	0.87	0.90
3.	Assam	1.01	1.05	1.02

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	0.82	0.73	0.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.95	0.89	0.93
6.	Goa	0.98	0.92	0.96
7.	Gujarat	0.88	0.82	0.86
8.	Haryana	1.07	1.01	1.05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	0.98	0.99
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.95	0.82	0.91
11.	Jharkhand	1.00	0.91	0.99
12.	Karnataka	0.98	0.97	0.98
13.	Kerala	1.01	0.97	1.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.99	0.92	0.97
15.	Maharashtra	0.97	0.96	0.97
16.	Manipur	0.97	0.94	0.96
17.	Meghalaya	0.98	1.07	1.00
18.	Mizoram	0.97	0.98	0.97
19.	Nagaland	1.00	1.04	1.01
22.	Orissa	1.00	0.93	0.98
21.	Punjab	0.98	0.96	0.98
22.	Rajasthan	0.95	0.74	0.88
23.	Sikkim	0.98	1.21	1.04
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.00	0.97	0.99
25.	Tripura	0.98	1.00	0.98
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1.05	0.90	1.01
27.	Uttarakhand	1.09	1.04	1.07
28.	West Bengal	0.99	1.03	1.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.06	0.91	1.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.87	0.97	0.91
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.01	0.81	0.95

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Daman and Diu	0.86	0.84	0.85
33.	Delhi	1.02	1.05	1.03
34.	Lakshadweep	0.94	0.92	0.93
35.	Puducherry	0.87	0.86	0.87
	INDIA	0.98	0.92	0.96

Uniform Syllabus for Boards

3937. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to implement uniform syllabus for Boards all over the country from next academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has assessed the requirement of trained teachers to accomplish the task and whether existing faculties will be able to switch over to new syllabus in a short period; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that new books are available in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE) has facilitated the formulation of a core curriculum in Science and Mathematics subjects for higher secondary level for use by various Examination Boards in the country.

(c) and (d) Whenever any change in curriculum take place, the respective Examination Boards and the State Governments take appropriate steps for training of teachers and preparation or revision of textbooks, as necessary.

Navodaya Vidyalayas

†3938. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country at present and the number of these Vidyalayas running in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste boy and girl students in these vidyalayas, State-wise; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to open new Navodaya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 576 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the country and 33 of them are in Rajasthan.

(b) The State-wise details of the number of Scheduled Caste boys and girls students in JNVs, State-wise, are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages establishment of a JNV in each district of the country. JNVs have been opened in all the districts of Rajasthan except Pratapgarh. NVS has received a proposal to open a JNV in the district.

Statement

State-wise number of Scheduled Caste boys and girls students in JNVs

Sl. No.	Name of State	SC students as on 31.3.2010	
		Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	0	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1758	822
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	50	22
4.	Assam	1112	700
5.	Bihar	2420	566
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	87	72
7.	Chhattisgarh	1156	683
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	9	9
9.	Daman and Diu (UT)	19	13
10.	Delhi (UT)	168	80
11.	Goa	22	12
12.	Gujarat	959	424
13.	Haryana	1715	664
14.	Himachal Pradesh	998	682
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	465	245
16.	Jharkhand	1087	312
17.	Karnataka	1808	897
18.	Kerala	745	601

1	2	3	4
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	3	2
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4383	2761
21.	Maharashtra	1975	1032
22.	Manipur	324	243
23.	Meghalaya	31	18
24.	Mizoram	3	2
25.	Nagaland	12	10
26.	Orissa	1503	1072
27.	Puducherry (UT)	194	158
28.	Punjab	2278	1397
29.	Rajasthan	2730	818
30.	Sikkim	62	40
31.	Tripura	188	150
32.	Uttar Pradesh	7562	1538
33.	Uttarakhand	811	247
34.	West Bengal	726	325
TOTAL		36967	16618

International syllabus for CBSE affiliated schools abroad

3939. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to introduce new international syllabus from class I to IX in CBSE affiliated schools abroad (West and South Asian countries) from the next academic session;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed syllabus;

(c) the manner in which the new syllabus will be beneficial to the students;

(d) the manner in which the students will be motivated for adoption of new system of education who are already accustomed to the old syllabus; and

(e) whether the proposed syllabus would be introduced in CBSE schools in the country also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce international curriculum on a pilot basis for a few selected schools abroad from the academic session 2010-11 in classes I and IX.

(b) It provides, *inter alia*, flexibility in social science and languages. Other features include perspectives on building opinions, critical thinking module, life skill, research project and community service.

(c) This will widen the choices for students to obtain admission to higher educational institutions in different parts of the world. It will also attract the students of international community to avail of Indian education.

(d) The advantages of the new curriculum and capacity enhancement of teachers are expected to motivate students.

(e) There is no proposal to introduce the international curriculum in the schools in India during 2010-2011.

Fee hike in Government schools

‡3940. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while common people are facing problem of price rise, Central Government has added to their hardships with an unprecedented fee hike in schools under it;

(b) the details thereof along with the reasons for this fee hike;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated any new scheme for making primary education compulsory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) This Ministry has three school systems which are being run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Central Tibetan School Administration. There is no school fee for Navodaya Vidyalayas. Fees in school under Central Tibetan School Administration have not been raised recently. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan revised its tuition fees from Rs.40 per month (for boys) in classes IX-X and Rs.50 (for boys) for classes XI-XII to Rs.200 in classes IX-X, Rs.300 in classes XI-XII (commerce and humanities streams) and Rs.400 in classes XI-XII (science stream) with effect from 1.10.2009. Since Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily meant for the children of Central Government employees, and since the amount of school education expenses for the children of Central Government employees that is reimbursable has been substantially enhanced after the

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implementation of the Sixth Central Pay Commission recommendations, the fee hike is found reasonable.

(c) and (d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years.

Attack on Indian students in Australia

3941. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incidents in Australia in which Indian students were attacked in the last two years;

(b) the total number of cases registered by the Australian authorities in such incidents;

(c) the number of culprits punished in such incidents so far; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure the safety and security of the Indian students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Since January, 2008, the number of incidents of attacks on Indian students in Australia is 83 as per information available with the Indian High Commission in Australia. Out of these 36 cases have been registered and 31 arrests have been made. The cases are pending in the courts.

(d) The matter regarding attacks on members of Indian community including Indian students in Australia has been taken up with the Australian authorities by the Indian side during various Ministerial visits as well as the visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India in November, 2009. The high Commission of India in Canberra and the Consulates General in Sydney and Melbourne are in close and constant touch with the Australian authorities including the Ministers, the Australian Foreign Office, senior officers and police authorities and have impressed upon them that such attacks cannot be allowed to happen and that stringent measures should be taken to stop these attacks as well as to apprehend the culprits.

Minister of Human Resource Development visited Australia from 6th to 10th April, 2010 and discussed the matter regarding attacks on Indian students, their safety and the steps taken by the Australian Government with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations of Australia; Foreign Minister of Australia; Premier of Victoria; Premier of New South Wales; Deputy Premiers of Western Australia and New South Wales and Ministers of Education of Victoria and New South Wales. In these meetings, the Minister of Human Resource Development expressed his deep concern on the continued incidents of assaults on Indian students. He also requested Premier of Victoria for credible data on the incidents that

have taken place over the past one year as also information relating to the status of the trials, the charges framed and convictions. He stressed the importance of setting up an institutional mechanism for sharing such information. He also requested the Premier of Victoria and New South Wales about extending transport concession to international students and increase in accommodation facilities for international students.

Immediately after the above visit, the Premier of Victoria has sent an update to the Minister of Human Resource Development on the measures taken by the Victorian Government to improve the experience of international students in Victoria and to help safeguard the well-being of Indian students and the Indian community in Victoria, as well as to provide further information on cases involving Indian victims.

Payment for foodgrains for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

3942. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme which is one of the biggest cooked meal programme is facing foodgrain shortage and is likely to be disrupted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the dispute between his Ministry and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution over payment has directly affected the Mid-Day-Meal programme; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute and to implement the scheme in an effective manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Due to insistence of the Department of Food and Public Distribution for pre-payment of cost of foodgrains, there has been delay in intimating the State-wise allocation of foodgrains to its field units by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Consequently, some States like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Punjab have pointed out shortage of foodgrains for implementing the scheme.

(c) and (d) Inter-ministerial consultations have been held to resolve the issue. On the direction of Department of Food and Public Distribution, the FCI has instructed its regional offices on 12.4.2010 to release the foodgrains for the first quarter as per the allocation made by this Ministry. Accordingly, all the States/UTs have been advised by this Ministry *vide* letter dated 13.4.2010 to lift foodgrains from the FCI.

Suicide by students

3943. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that students are committing suicide in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary measures taken by Government to prevent them from this tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Sir, the details of suicides committed by students is not maintained centrally by the Ministry but it is a matter of great concern. Various socio-economic factors contribute to stress and anxiety among students especially school children. The Central Government has taken this issue seriously and has undertaken a number of steps to reduce examination related stress such as no Class X Board examination from 2011; introduction of grading system at Secondary School level; providing counseling for both students and parents; allowing fifteen minutes additional time to read Question Papers etc. Similarly, to counter stress amongst professional students, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have taken several measures to reduce academic strain on weak students by means of Special Slow Pace Programme; Mentoring Programmes; facilities for psychiatric intervention etc.

Both University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have notified regulations for prevention and prohibition of ragging in higher education institutions. The Ministry of Human Resource Development have taken several specific anti-ragging measures such as advertisement campaigns in the print, audio and audio visual media in order to sensitize various stakeholders towards the menace of ragging. An anti-ragging 'Helpline' is also functional with call centre facilities in English, Hindi and other Regional Languages for facilitating communication pertaining to incidents of ragging as well as to provide information on ragging and related issues.

Filling of OBC quota in professional colleges and institutions

3944. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the OBC quota has not been fully filled by the professional colleges and institutions;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Since the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006 provides for implementation in a phased manner consistent with the maintenance of standards of education, seats in certain courses of study in different institutions have not been fully filled. While all necessary guidelines have been issued to

institutions for implementing the Act, non-availability of students in certain subjects has also been reported by the University Grants Commission to be a reason for not fully filling earmarked seats.

Unrecognised private schools

3945. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unrecognised private schools that exist in the country and the details thereof;

(b) the status of such schools once the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act is notified;

(c) whether Government will work with such schools in gaining recognition, by providing necessary assistance and the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has considered revising some of the existing norms of recognition such as the requirement of playgrounds and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Ministry does not collect data of unrecognized private schools in the Country.

(b) Section 18 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 *inter alia* provides that no school, other than a school established, owned or controlled by the appropriate Government or the local authority, shall, after the commencement of this Act, be established or function, without obtaining a certificate of recognition from such authority, by making an application in such form and manner, as may be prescribed.

(c) Section 19 of the RTE Act contains provisions regarding the norms and standards required to be fulfilled by the school and a time limit of three years for fulfilling such norms and standards, in case a school established before the commencement of the RTE Act does not fulfil the same.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the norms and standards for school as specified in the Schedule of the RTE Act.

Education of visually impaired students in schools

3946. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken cognizance of the plight of visually impaired students in Government schools and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has taken stock of availability of equipment (such as Braille textbooks, Braille slates, abacuses, canes, etc.) across the country and the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure that visually handicapped students are provided with all requisite assistive devices; and

(d) the details of efforts taken by Government, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and allied schemes, to recruit special educators who are specially qualified in teaching the visually impaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the centrally sponsored scheme, “Inclusive Education for the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)”, assistance is provided for student oriented components that include aids and appliances to students with disabilities and also access to learning material as per requirement. These include Braille textbooks, audio tapes, talking books etc.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), each state formulate its annual plan on inclusive education, and the plan can include audio books, equipments for low vision, Braille books and Braille kits.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in collaboration with National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun (NIVH) brings out Braille version of its text books. For last two years, Delhi Bureau of Textbooks has also obtained CDs of text books from NCERT for preparation of Braille versions of text books to be used by students with visually impairment in Delhi Schools.

(c) Under the Scheme of IEDSS, State Governments/UT Administrations furnish the requirement of assistive devices. Under SSA, the list of organizations that provide Braille books, low vision kits, soft ware for the visually impaired, audio books, books with enlarged print etc. are shared with the States. Some States also train teachers on teaching of Braille.

(d) Under IEDSS, there is provision for special education teachers to take care of the requirement of disabled students that include visually impaired also. Under SSA, States can appoint at least 3 special educators per block, including one for teaching the visually impaired.

Educational Development Index for North Indian States

3947. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Educational Development Index (E.D.I.) for most of the North Indian States is low as compared to other parts of the country as per CII-KPMG study;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith EDI of the North Indian States;

(c) whether Government expenditure on education is also declining in North Indian States as compared to Southern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide incentives to boost education in North Indian States and also to encourage public private participation in education sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) To assess progress of States and UTs towards the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE), an Educational Development Index (EDI) has been developed by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) in which States are given ranking based on the parameters of access, infrastructure, teachers and outcomes. EDI is based on the District Information System of Education (DISE) collected annually. Details giving the ranking of States during the year 2008-09 are given in the Statement (*See below*). NUEPA EDI reveals that composite EDI (Primary and Upper Primary) in case of N-E States is better than a few States and mostly rank varies from 16 in case of Mizoram to 31 in case of Assam and 25 in case of Tripura.

The Right of Children of Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector specially with reference to admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by all children in schools which conform to specified norms and standards. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented in all States/UTs with the objective of universalisation of Elementary Education, in partnership with the States/UTs.

Statement

Educational Development Index for North Indian States

State/UT	Primary Level		Upper Primary Level		Composite Primary and Upper Primary	
	2008-09		2008-09		2008-09	
1	2		3		4	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.664	12	0.809	4	0.736	7
Andhra Pradesh	0.657	15	0.746	11	0.702	14
Arunachal Pradesh	0.512	29	0.519	31	0.516	30
Assam	0.446	35	0.519	32	0.483	33
Bihar	0.480	32	0.447	35	0.463	34
Chandigarh	0.688	10	0.756	9	0.722	10
Chhattisgarh	0.554	26	0.600	25	0.577	26
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.594	22	0.640	22	0.617	22
Daman and Diu	0.654	17	0.801	5	0.728	9

1	2		3		4	
Delhi	0.701	6	0.762	7	0.732	8
Goa	0.658	14	0.697	17	0.678	17
Gujarat	0.698	7	0.706	16	0.702	13
Haryana	0.714	4	0.789	6	0.752	4
Himachal Pradesh	0.611	21	0.746	12	0.679	16
Jammu and Kashmir	0.586	24	0.661	21	0.623	21
Jharkhand	0.449	34	0.464	33	0.456	35
Karnataka	0.693	8	0.723	15	0.708	12
Kerala	0.689	9	0.822	3	0.756	3
Lakshadweep	0.773	2	0.851	2	0.812	2
Madhya Pradesh	0.571	25	0.585	26	0.578	25
Maharashtra	0.660	13	0.740	14	0.700	15
Manipur	0.464	33	0.630	24	0.547	27
Meghalaya	0.498	31	0.522	30	0.510	31
Mizoram	0.686	11	0.741	13	0.714	11
Nagaland	0.633	20	0.675	20	0.654	20
Orissa	0.553	27	0.537	29	0.545	28
Puducherry	0.797	1	0.884	1	0.841	1
Punjab	0.714	5	0.760	8	0.737	6
Rajasthan	0.587	23	0.636	23	0.612	24
Sikkim	0.657	16	0.683	18	0.670	18
Tamil Nadu	0.747	3	0.753	10	0.750	5
Tripura	0.501	30	0.577	27	0.539	29
Uttar Pradesh	0.654	18	0.573	28	0.614	23
Uttarakhand	0.643	19	0.679	19	0.661	19
West Bengal	0.528	28	0.459	34	0.494	32

Residential schools for persons with hearing disabilities

3948. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to set up one residential special school upto twelfth standard for the persons with hearing disability in every State and one degree college for such persons in every Zone as directed by the Eleventh Plan; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal with this Ministry. Under the Centrally sponsored schemes, “Inclusive Education for the Disabled at the Secondary Stage” and “Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan”, there is provision for capacity building of general teachers to enable them to teach in an inclusive environment, appointment of special educators and disabled friendly access in schools.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides grant-in-aid to the non-Governmental organisations for the welfare of persons with disabilities for managing special schools for persons with disabilities.

Model colleges for tribal zones of MP

‡3949. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide complete grant for capital expenditure in place of only one-third grant for establishing model colleges to provide higher education to poor students of tribal zones of Madhya Pradesh and to provide at least half the amount required for operating these institutions, as a grant till end of current Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Central Government is seriously considering the proposal meant for the development of tribal zones of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the time by when it would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) A proposal was received from the State of Madhya Pradesh in January, 2008 suggesting that it would be more logical for the Central share to be raised to at least 50% of the capital cost and one-third of the expenditure to meet the running and maintenance expenditure.

(b) and (c) The thrust of the policy underlying the Eleventh Plan for Higher Education is on increasing access to quality higher education while ensuring equity. A new scheme for Reduction in Regional Imbalances, Social Gaps and Promotion of Inclusiveness in Higher Education has been introduced by the University Grants Commission in the Eleventh Plan, which will serve the tribal areas as well. 374 new model degree colleges are proposed to be established one in each educationally backward district including 39 districts of Madhya Pradesh and list of those

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the Statement (*See below*) where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is lower than the national GER. The UGC has formulated the guidelines for the Scheme which are available at UGC's website www.ugc.ac.in. According to UGC, no proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

In addition, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University has been established, with its headquarters at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, to provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of the country. The University, empowered to open such number of regional centres and campuses in tribal areas as the University may deemed fit, has opened one regional centre in the State of Manipur.

Statement

List of 374 identified Higher Educationally Backward Districts

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Lower Subansiri
	Andamans	Tawang
	Nicobars	Tirap
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Upper Siang
	Adilabad	Upper Subansiri
	Anantapur	West Kameng
	East Godavari	West Siang
	Kurnool	
	Mahbubnagar	
	Medak	
	Nizamabad	
	Prakasam	
	Srikakulam	
	Vizianagaram	
	West Godavari	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	
	Changlang	
	Dibang Valley	
	East Kameng	
	Lohit	
		4. Assam
		Bongaigaon
		Cachar
		Darrang
		Dhubri
		Goalpara
		Hailakandi
		Karbi Anglong
		Karimganj
		Marigaon
		Nagaon
		Sonitpur
		Tinsukia

5.	Bihar	Dhamtari
	Araria	Durg
	Aurangabad	Janjgir -champa
	Banka	Jashpur
	Begusarai	Kanker
	Darbhanga	Kawardha
	Gopalganj	Koriya
	Jamui	Mahasamund
	Kaimur	Raigarh
	Katihar	Raipur
	Khagaria	Rajnandgaon
	Kishanganj	Surguja
	Lakhisarai	7. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
	Madhepura	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
	Madhubani	8. Daman and Diu
	Nawada	Daman
	W. Champaran	Diu
	E. Champaran	9. Gujarat
	Purnia	Amreli
	Saharsa	Banas Kantha
	Samastipur	Bharuch
	Sheohar	Bhavnagar
	Sitamarhi	Dohad
	Siwan	Jamnagar
	Supaul	Junagad
	Vaishali	Kachchh
6.	Chhattisgarh	Kheda
	Bastar	Mahesana
	Bilaspur	Narmada
	Dantewada	Panch Mahals

	Patan		Punch
	Porbandar		Rajauri
	Rajkot		Udhampur
	Sabar Kantha	13.	Jharkhand
	Surat		Chatra
	Surendranagar		Deoghar
	The Dangs		Dumka
	Valsad		Garhwa
10.	Haryana		Giridih
	Fatehabad		Godda
	Gurgaon		Gumla
	Jind		Kodarma
	Kaithal		Pakaur
	Karnal		Palamu
	Panipat		P. Singhbhum
	Sirsa		Sahibganj
11.	Himachal Pradesh	14.	Karnataka
	Chamba		Bagalkot
	Kinnaur		Bangalore Rural
	Lahul and Spiti		Belgaum
	Sirmaur		Bellary
12.	Jammu and Kashmir		Bijapur
	Anantnag		Chamarajanagar
	Badgam		Chikmagalur
	Baramula		Chitradurga
	Doda		Dakshina Kannada
	Kargil		Gadag
	Kathua		Hassan
	Kupwara		Haveri
	Leh		Kodagu

	Kolar		Katni
	Koppal		Mandla
	Mandya		Mandsaur
	Raichur		Morena
	Tumkur		Narsimhapur
	Udupi		Neemuch
	Uttara Kannada		Panna
15.	Kerala		Raisen
	Kasaragod		Rajgarh
	Malappuram		Ratlam
	Palakkad		Sagar
	Wayanad		Satna
16.	Lakshadweep		Sehore
	Lakshadweep		Seoni
17.	Madhya Pradesh		Shahdol
	Balaghat		Shajapur
	Barwani		Sheopur
	Betul		Shivpuri
	Bhind		Sidhi
	Chhatarpur		Tikamgarh
	Chhindwara		Ujjain
	Damoh		Umaria
	Datia		Vidisha
	Dewas		West Nimar
	Dhar	18.	Maharashtra
	Dindori		Buldana
	East Nimar		Gadchiroli
	Guna		Hingoli
	Harda		Jalna
	Jhabua		Raigarh

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|-------------------|
| | Ratnagiri | | Malkangiri |
| | Sindhudurg | | Nabarangapur |
| 19. | Meghalaya | | Nayagarh |
| | East Garo Hills | | Nuapada |
| | Jaintia Hills | | Rayagada |
| | Ri Bhoi | | Sonapur |
| | South Garo Hills | 23. | Puducherry |
| | West Khasi Hills | | Yanam |
| 20. | Mizoram | 24. | Punjab |
| | Champhai | | Amritsar |
| | Kolasib | | Bathinda |
| | Lawngtlai | | Faridkot |
| | Lunglei | | Fatehgarh Sahib |
| | Mamit | | Firozpur |
| | Saiha | | Gurdaspur |
| | Serchhip | | Kapurthala |
| 21. | Nagaland | | Mansa |
| | Mon | | Moga |
| 22. | Orissa | | Muktsar |
| | Anugul | | Nawanshahar |
| | Balangir | | Patiala |
| | Bargarh | | Sangrur |
| | Baudh | 25. | Rajasthan |
| | Debagarh | | Ajmer |
| | Dhenkanal | | Alwar |
| | Gajapati | | Banswara |
| | Ganjam | | Baran |
| | Kalahandi | | Barmer |
| | Kandhamal | | Bharatpur |
| | Kendujhar | | Bhilwara |
| | Koraput | | Bikaner |

Bundi	Dindigul
Chittaurgarh	Erode
Churu	Kancheepuram
Dausa	Kanniyakumari
Dhaulpur	Karur
Dungarpur	Madurai
Ganganagar	Nagapattinam
Hanumangarh	Perambalur
Jaisalmer	Pudukkottai
Jalor	Ramanathapuram
Jhalawar	Salem
Jhunjhunun	Sivaganga
Jodhpur	Thanjavur
Karauli	The Nilgiris
Nagaur	Theni
Pali	Thiruvallur
Rajsamand	Thiruvarur
Sawai Madhopur	Thoothukkudi
Sikar	Tirunelveli
Sirohi	Tiruvannamalai
Tonk	Vellore
Udaipur	Viluppuram
26. Sikkim	Virudhunagar
East	28. Tripura
North	North Tripura
South	South Tripura
West	West Tripura
27. Tamil Nadu	Dhalai
Ariyalur	29. Uttar Pradesh
Coimbatore	Bahraich
Cuddalore	Balrampur

Dharmapuri
Barabanki
Bareilly
Basti
Bijnor
Budaun
Bulandshahr
Chitrakoot
Etah
Farrukhabad
Fatehpur
Gonda
Hamirpur
Hardoi
Hathras
Jyotiba P. Nagar
Kannauj
Kanpur Dehat
Kaushambi
Kheri
Kushinagar
Lalitpur
Maharajganj
Mahoba
Mathura
Moradabad
Muzaffarnagar
Pilibhit
Rae Bareli
Rampur
Saharanpur
Sant Kabir Nagar

Banda
Shahjahanpur
Shrawasti
Siddharthnagar
Sitapur
Sonbhadra
Sultanpur
Unnao

30. **Uttaranchal**

Bageshwar
Champawat

31. **West Bengal**

Bankura
Bardhaman
Birbhum
Dakshin Dinajpur
Darjiling
Haora
Hugli
Jalpaiguri
Koch Bihar
Maldah
Medinipur
Murshidabad
Nadia
North 24 Parganas
Puruliya
South 24 Parganas
Uttar Dinajpur

Total Districts = 374

Illegal occupation of Government land by schools

3950. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the private schools recognized by his Ministry have illegally occupied Government land and constructed school buildings particularly in UP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he is also aware of the fact that Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi recognized by CBSE has also illegally occupied the land of Central Government and constructed its school building on encroached land;

(d) whether an enquiry would be initiated and faulty schools recognized by CBSE would be derecognized; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education is not aware of such illegal occupation.

(c) As per the records available with CBSE, no such information has been brought to its notice.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Low enrolment in Government schools

3951. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government schools in the cities are having low enrolment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in some schools the enrolment is less than 100 students; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) City-wise enrolment data for all schools (primary to senior secondary) is not being maintained.

(c) As per data collected under District Information System for Education (DISE) by National University of Education, Planning and Administration (NUEPA), about 6.5 lakh schools having elementary level classes, had 100 or less than 100 enrolment in 2008-09 in both rural and urban areas.

(d) The programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-day Meal Scheme, etc. are being implemented uniformly in urban and rural areas.

Suicide by students

†3952. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether trend of suicide by school and college students has increased in the last year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of suicides committed so far in Mumbai; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Sir, the details of suicides committed by students is not maintained centrally by the Ministry but it is a matter of great concern. Various socio-economic factors contribute to stress and anxiety among students especially school children. The Central Government has taken this issue seriously and has undertaken a number of steps to reduce examination related stress such as no Class X Board examination from 2011; introduction of grading system at Secondary School level; providing counseling for both students and parents; allowing fifteen minutes additional time to read Question Papers etc. Similarly, to counter stress amongst professional students, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have taken several measures to reduce academic strain on weak students by means of special Slow Pace Programme; Mentoring Programmes; facilities for psychiatric intervention etc.

Both University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have notified regulations for prevention and prohibition of ragging in higher education institutions. The Ministry of Human Resource Development have taken several specific anti-ragging measures such as advertisement campaigns in the print, audio and audio visual media in order to sensitize various stakeholders towards the menace of ragging. An anti-ragging 'Helpline' is also functional with call centre facilities in English, Hindi and other Regional Languages for facilitating communication pertaining to incidents of ragging as well as to provide information on ragging and related issues.

Agreement with China in higher education

3953. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether country has entered into an agreement with China on recognizing each others certificate in higher education to facilitate cross border mobility of students for advance studies or job purposes; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has entered into an Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) with Peoples' Republic of China on November 21, 2006, which facilitates exchange of scholars, teachers, experts and students.

Students well-being and staff exchange programme with Australia

3954. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Australia have identified the safety and well-being of students as a matter of high priority in the bilateral efforts to build a broad knowledge partnership;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the MoUs signed so far; and
- (d) the new areas identified to focus in the current year and staff exchange programmes identified so far between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development visited Australia from 6th to 10th April 2010 and held extensive discussions with various Ministers of the Federal Government of Australia as well as State Governments of Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria regarding the safety and well being of Indian students in Australia. The Australian side has sent an update on the measures taken by the Victorian Government to help safeguard the well-being of Indian students.

An Educational Exchange Programme to enhance collaboration in area of education with Australia is already existing. Further, a Joint Ministerial Statement on education was signed by the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development with Deputy Prime Minister of Australia on 8th April, 2010. Three MoUs in the field of education were also signed on 8th April, 2010 during the visit include:

- (i) MoU between Association of Indian Universities and Universities Australia.
- (ii) MoU between Central Board of Secondary Education and Australian Council of Education Research and
- (iii) MoU between the Energy Research Institute (TERI) and Deakin University.

Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana

3955. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this Yojana would be helpful in small towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises has launched a new Central Sector Scheme, namely Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana (RGUMY) on 7th February, 2008 to provide hand holding support to first generation micro and small entrepreneurs in the establishment and management of their enterprises.

(b) Under this scheme the selected lead agencies *i.e.* 'Udyami Mitras' are providing guidance and assistance to the potential entrepreneurs registered with them, in preparation of project report, arranging finance, selection of technology, plant and machinery, marketing tie-ups with buyers, as well as obtaining various approvals, clearances and NOCs etc. Udyami Mitras are expected to assist the new entrepreneurs, in the establishment and successful running of the enterprise for the first six months. For providing this handholding assistance to the new entrepreneurs, the Udyami Mitras are paid handholding charges under the scheme.

(c) The scheme is beneficial to all potential first generation entrepreneurs, in all towns as well as rural areas, by encouraging establishment of new enterprises and thereby creating new job opportunities locally.

Survey for forest based projects in rural industries

†3956. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for forest based projects in rural industry;

(b) if so, the name of the States where the said survey has been conducted;

(c) whether proposals related to forest based micro industries have been received from the States;

(d) if so, the name of the States and the number of proposals received thereof;

(e) if not, whether there is any scheme to encourage States with regard to self reliant forest village or forest panchayat by preparing a standard package based on the survey; and

(f) the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), from 2008-09 for generating employment through setting up 'micro enterprises', through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the nodal agency at the national level and through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards and District Industries Centres at the State/Union Territories level, with involvement of banks.

Applications for setting up 'micro enterprises', including forest based micro industries are not received directly by the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises). Under PMEGP, eligible entrepreneurs can establish new 'micro enterprises', including forest based micro enterprises, by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks. For this purpose, proposals are invited from potential entrepreneurs at district level through advertisements in press and other media by KVIC, KVIBs and DICs periodically, depending on the target allocated under PMEGP. The project proposals so received are scrutinized by the District Level Task Force Committees (DTFCs) constituted for the purpose headed by the concerned District Magistrate. Based on the experience, technical qualifications, skill of the applicant, viability of the project, etc., the applications/project proposals are short-listed and recommended to banks. Banks take final credit decision, sanction the credit, make disbursement as well as ensure entrepreneurship training through accredited institutions.

A proposal from a non-government organization, namely, Siro Sarvaprit Kuldevi Shiksha Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Morena, Madhya Pradesh, for establishment of 'Rural Business Hub' on herbal products in Vijnagar Block of Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh, duly recommended by the State authorities, has been received by the Government (in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj).

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, some income generating activities are taken up by State Forest departments for forest dependent communities under the policy of joint forest management.

Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS)

3957. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for technology upgradation of micro and small enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of micro and small scale enterprises which were covered under the scheme in Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for Technology Upgradation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). The Scheme provides for 15 per cent capital subsidy on institutional finance availed by MSEs for induction of well-established and improved technology in selected sub-sectors/products approved under the scheme. The admissible capital subsidy under the scheme is calculated with reference to purchase price of the plant and machinery. The maximum limit of eligible loan is Rs. 100 lakh.

(c) The number of micro and small enterprises covered under the scheme in Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise is as under:

Financial Year	Number of micro and small enterprises covered under the scheme in Tamil Nadu
2005-06	221
2006-07	666
2007-08	470
2008-09	446
2009-10	863

The district-wise data is not maintained Centrally.

Norms for registration of MSMEs

3958. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registrations does a micro or small enterprises need to start and continue to function; and

(b) the steps taken in the last few years to make their functioning easier in terms of the regulatory environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In lieu of the earlier system of SSI registration there is a provision of filing of Entrepreneurs Memorandum (EM), which is optional for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and medium service enterprises. However, MSFs may also require to comply with other statutes of the Central or State Governments such as those relating to labour, environment, taxation etc. To facilitate easier and hassle free filing of EM by the MSEs, instructions issued *vide* Schedule II of the Notification No. S.O. 1643 dated 29 September, 2006 contain that the acknowledgment of filing of EM should be issued to the entrepreneurs/industrialists within five days of the receipt of the form of Memorandum by post, or on the same day, if the form of Memorandum is submitted in person as well as on-line. The

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been advocating with respective stakeholders to simplify their procedure.

Small scale industries in J&K

3959. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are tremendous opportunities of setting up small and medium industries in J&K State, especially in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the time-frame for doing the needful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The State of Jammu and Kashmir especially Kashmir holds better prospects for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) than larger industries in view of its geographical characteristics. Setting up of enterprises by the entrepreneurs is an on-going activity which is being supported by the Government through its various schemes/programmes across the country including the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government has also notified a comprehensive policy package for Jammu and Kashmir which provides, *inter alia*, fiscal incentives for ten years *i.e.* upto 2012.

Taking ownership of catering services

3960. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has decided to take ownership of catering functions in all passenger and mail trains beginning with Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains;

(b) whether a sub-Committee of Railway Board has highlighted the need to end the present situation of duality of authority between the IRCTC and Railways;

(c) whether just 31 contractors have formed a cartel for handling catering services for all 264 mail/express trains that provide pantry car services; and

(d) whether catering contracts obtained by multiple firms are owned by members of the same family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) For bringing about overall improvement in the quality of railway catering, the catering policy is being reviewed. Temporarily however, the supervision of catering services on a few trains is being undertaken by railways on an experimental basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per present catering policy, a firm/company or an individual can hold a maximum of 15% of any category of major units. At present there are 36 different licensees managing pantry car licences on 263 different trains which have been licensed out to private licensee. The ceiling limits laid down in the policy are being adhered to.

Rail projects in Andhra Pradesh

3961. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and current status of various proposals received during last three years from Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanctioning new rail lines/railway projects in the State;

(b) the reasons for not sanctioning them so far; and

(c) by when these are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per the available records, the proposals with their current status, received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the proposal	Current Status
1	2	3
1.	Manuguru-Ramagundam New Line (190Km)	Survey completed.
2.	Cuddapah-Bangalore New Line (255Km)	Project has been taken up for execution. 50% cost of the project is being shared by Andhra Pradesh Government.
3.	Bhadrachalam Road-Kovvur New Line (151KM)	Survey completed.
4.	Bhadrachalam Road-Bhavanapalem New Line (36Km)	Bhadrachalam-Satupalli New line proposed in Budget 2010-11.
5.	Nadikudi-Srikalahasti New Line (307Km)	Survey completed.
6.	Akkanapet-Medak-Manoharabad New Line	Survey completed.
7.	Akkanapet-Medak-Patancheru New Line	Survey completed. Updating survey of Akkanapet-Medak proposed in Budget 2010-11.
8.	Pandurangapuram-Sarapaka New line	Survey completed.
9.	Jadcherla-Nandyal New Line (182KM)	Survey completed.
10.	Armoor Adilabad New Line	Survey completed.
11.	Vijayawada-Gudivada-Machilipatnam-Bhimavaram/ Narsapur-Nidadavolu Doubling and Electrification (175Km)	Survey Completed. Proposal processed for necessary clearance.

1	2	3
12.	Bibinagar-Nadikudi/Macherla-Nallapadu (Guntur) Doubling and Electrification	Survey completed.
13.	Guntur-Tenali-Repalle (27Km) Doubling/ Electrification	Survey not taken up.
14.	Gadwal-Macherala (233Km)	Survey taken up.

Multi Model Transport System (MMTS)

1.	Secunderabad-Manoharabad Doubling and Electrification	The Proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.
2.	Falaknuma-Umdanagar Doubling and Electrification	The Proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.
3.	Secunderabad-Bhongir 3rd line and Electrification	The Proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.

The projects are taken up on various considerations based on the results of the survey. No time frame for sanction is feasible to be indicated at this stage for these projects.

Rail projects in Haryana

†3962. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail projects sanctioned by Railways in Haryana after the year 2000;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects which have been completed out of them;

(d) by when the works are likely to start on delayed projects; and

(e) the number of new projects which are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The details of railway projects sanctioned in the State of Haryana after the year 2000 with status of completion is as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of project	Latest anticipated cost	Status and Target date of completion wherever fixed
1.	Rewari-Rohtak new line (81.26 km.)	475.16 Cr.	The work is 80% completed and is likely to be completed by March, 2011.
2.	Jind-Sonipat new line (89 km.)	340.00 Cr.	The work is 23% completed.
3.	Kukrana-Panipat doubling (6.5 km.)	36.08 Cr.	The work is 45% completed.
4.	Rohtak-Jakhal doubling (52 km.)	96.06 Cr.	Work Completed.
5.	Palwal-Bhuteswar 3rd line (81 km.)	340.00 Cr.	Work is in progress and nearing completion.
6.	Rewari-Sadulpur gauge conversion (211 km.)	424.00 Cr.	Work completed.
7.	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari gauge conversion (295 km.)	770.00 Cr.	Work completed.
8.	Harsauli-Rewari doubling (39.35 km.)	110.94 Cr.	Work is 55% completed. Targeted for 2010-11.
9.	Jakhal-Mansa doubling	109.13 Cr.	Work is 30% completed and is targeted to be completed by June, 2011.
10.	Tuglakabad-Palwal 4th line (33.5 km.)	124.00 Cr.	Work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Civil, Electrical and Signaling works are in progress.
11.	Ambala Cantt.-Dhapper doubling (23 km.)	99.98 Cr.	Proposed in Railway Budget 2010-11.

(d) All projects are progressing based on availability of resources.

(e) 4 surveys have been taken up. 14 new surveys have been proposed in Railway Budget 2010-11.

Request for shifting of headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

3963. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat contributes a major share in passenger and goods traffic to Western Railway and hence has requested for shifting of headquarters to Ahmedabad from Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the request has not been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The location of the Headquarters of a Railway depends on operational and administrative requirements, consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The proposal to shift the Western Railway's headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad was examined in the light of the above and has not been considered feasible.

Unauthorised railway employment in Assam

3964. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the cases of unauthorized railway employment being made in the State of Assam;

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

(c) if not, whether Railway would refer such cases to CBI for thorough investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Appointment on the railways are made as per extant guidelines and no unauthorized appointments are known to be made.

Spending on advertisements

3965. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of money spent by her Ministry on advertisements during last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the details of money spent on advertisement approved by Eastern Railway specifying the route of luxury train Maharaja Express;

(c) the details of advertising agencies/companies which were given contract for such advertisement; and

(d) the details of the route shown in advertisement for Maharaja Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Introduction of transit journey and movement of goods from NER

3966. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any attempt to introduce transit journey and movement of goods from NER; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilization of surplus railway land for mobilizing resources

3967. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to utilize surplus railway land for mobilizing the additional financial resources;

(b) if so, whether Government would also consider those railway lands which had been acquired from farmers and have not been put to use in keeping with the original railway development requirements to revert back on lease to the original owners or their descendants;

(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) to (d) Indian Railways have approx 10.65 lakh acre of land. About 90% of this land is under Railway's operational and allied usages. The land which is presently vacant is generally required for Railways' own development works such as setting up of Rail Coach and Component Factories, Loco Component Factories, Wagon Factories, Coach Rehabilitation and Wagon Repair Workshops, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storages and Perishable Cargo Centres, Refrigerated Container Factories, eco-parks, health care facilities, bottling plants for clean drinking water, etc.; as well as for doublings, gauge conversions, yard re-modeling and traffic facility works, freight corridors; and also for servicing the track and other infrastructure. Moreover, Railways land/air space not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs is also proposed to be utilized for commercial development, wherever feasible, for generation of additional financial resources to fund Railway projects.

UTS-cum-PRS

3968. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1003 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5 March, 2010 and state:

(a) the names of the places of the 7 Unreserved Ticketing System-cum-Passenger Reservation System (UTS-cum-PRS) in North-Eastern Railway which have been planned by Government;

(b) by when the system is likely to be made functional; and

(c) the steps being taken to cover more stations in Uttar Pradesh under the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Names of seven stations where UTS-cum-PRS facilities have been planned are Pipraich, Madhosingh, Kichha, Bilaspur Road, Sidhauli, Tikunia and Mihinpurwa.

(b) UTS-cum-PRS facility at all the seven stations are planned to be provided by 31.8.2010.

(c) PRS (Passenger Reservation System) projects are sanctioned based on the requirement. In addition, whenever requests are received from public representatives, those are considered for sanction.

Inadequate train facilities in Saurashtra region

3969. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inadequate train facilities exist in Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various organizations/section of people have been making representations to Government for providing adequate train facilities in Saurashtra region; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps being taken by Government for improving the train facilities in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On Indian Railways, trains are not introduced region-wise, but on pattern of traffic demand, operational feasibility and availability of resources. However, introduction of 7 pairs of trains and increase in the frequency of 2 pairs of trains serving different parts of Gujarat have been announced in Railway Budget 2010-2011.

Further, 117/122-121/120 Pratap Nagar-Dabhoi Passenger have been extended upto Bodeli from 15.4.2010.

Connectivity to pilgrimage centers in Gujarat

3970. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received representations from various section of people including Government of Gujarat for providing train connections to places of pilgrimage namely, Dakor, Ambaji, Junagadh, etc.; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof and by when these places are likely to be connected with trains to facilitate pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for introduction of trains serving pilgrimage centers of Gujarat.

At present, Dakor station is served by 4 pairs of passenger trains viz. 265/266 and 115/116 Anand-Godhra Passenger, MEMU 723/724 and MEMU 725/726. Poonam special trains are also run for Dakor from Vadodara and Ahmedabad every month. Pilgrims desiring to visit Ambaji can avail of trains going towards and having stoppage at Abu Road. Junagarh is being served by nine pairs of Mail/Express/Passenger trains on Broad Gauge and two pairs of metre gauge trains. Extra coaches are being attached to trains as and when there is a demand from divisions during Fairs/Melas to ease traffic.

Shortage of funds for modernization

3971. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is short of funds for modernization and expansion of its services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways has any plan to overcome this paucity of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 1.4.2010 the sanctioned and ongoing projects of new lines, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification have a total remaining balance expenditure of Rs. 1,00,000 crores approximately. The average annual expenditure on these projects in the first three years of the Eleventh Plan is estimated as Rs. 6,400 crores approximately.

(c) and (d) Financing of Railway Projects through alternative means like Public-Private partnership, cost-sharing by State Governments, Multilateral Funding etc. are being explored.

Memu train between Lucknow-Hardoi

†3972. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether electrification work between Lucknow and Shahjahanpur under Lucknow and Muradabad division has been completed and it has been announced many times that a Memu train would be started between Lucknow-Hardoi;

(b) whether a Memu train between Lucknow-Hardoi could not be started till date even after declaration of its dates;

(c) if so, by when this train would be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Making of Buxar a model railway station

3973. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had made an announcement that Buxar railway station in Bihar would be made a model station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that massive construction and renovation work started nearly two years ago;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the contractor who was entrusted with the work, is not pursuing it vigorously and passengers are facing tremendous hardship as a result of this; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and measures being taken to expedite the construction work and complete it within time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Various improvement works have been taken up at Buxar railway station. Works of improvement on station building, VIP lounge, renovation of booking and passenger reservation system (PRS) have already been completed. Remaining works, like extension of platform for accommodating 24 coach trains, improvements on platform surface and circulating area have been planned for completion by December, 2010. Efforts have been made to expedite the works and close monitoring of works is being done.

Super fast train from Puri to Kurla

†3974. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a super fast train originating from Puri in Orissa to Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Kurla) in Mumbai, has been flagged off;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether this train halts at Dhenkanal a famous district centre of the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a huge resentment among people due to non-stoppage of the said train at Dhenkanal; and

(e) if so, the measure being contemplated by Government to sort out the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Stoppage of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express has been provided at Dhenkanal from 08.02.2010. Besides this, 2145/2146 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express (Weekly) is also available for Dhenkanal-Mumbai passengers. Stoppage of 2745/2746 Puri-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express at Dhenkanal has been examined but not found feasible at present.

Vacant posts in Railways

3975. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts sanctioned in safety category and the number of them lying vacant, post-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken to fill-up all the vacant posts;

(c) the measures taken to strengthen safety of rail passengers and to minimize rail accidents; and

(d) the action taken to modernize railway signaling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Train accidents

3976. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of train accidents took place in the past six months;

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

(c) the number of casualties occurred in these accidents; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) During the last six months from October, 2009 to March, 2010, 55 consequential train accidents, *i.e.*, Derailments, Collisions, Manned Level Crossing accidents and Miscellaneous accidents (other than cases of trespassing at Unmanned Level Crossings-UMLCs) took place

on Indian Railways. Zone-wise number of consequential train accidents during this period and casualties involved therein is given below:-

Zonal Railways	No. of Consequential Train Accidents (Excluding UMLC)	Casualties	
		Killed	Injured
Central	9	2	46
Eastern	—	—	—
East Central	7	3	3
Northern	5	—	—
North Eastern	2	1	2
Northeast Frontier	4	—	4
North Western	3	—	24
Southern	1	—	—
South Central	6	—	—
South Eastern	4	—	24
Western	1	—	10
East Coast	3	1	—
South Western	2	—	5
West Central	2	—	—
North Central	5	38	91
Southeast Central	1	—	—
	55	45	209

(d) 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.

Stoppage of trains at Jajpur Keonjhar road

3977. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether East Coast Railway Zone has any proposal of stoppage of Rajdhani Express, Coromandal Express and Falaknama Express at Jajpur Keonjhar road;

(b) the criteria of stoppage of trains; and

(c) whether Jaipur Keonjhar road which is closed to Kalinga Nagar and Central place of Dhekanal, Keonjhar, Jajpur District does not fulfil the criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) The important criteria taken into account for stoppage of train include sale of tickets, nature of train, availability of alternative services, proximity of stoppages, effect on other services, operational difficulties, passing time of trains etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Employment to physically disabled persons

3978. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has not filled the 3 per cent quota for physically disable persons in its recent recruitment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in some Railway Zones interviews have been completed, selected candidates list published and medical examination was done but the final appointment order has not been issued, so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Leasing of real estate assets

3979. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway proposes to lease real estate assets and expects revenue of Rs. 600 crore;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far, zone-wise;

(c) the objectives of such lease; and

(d) the views of the various railway zones in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) In order to mobilize additional financial resources, Indian Railways have set up Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through an act of Parliament to undertake commercial development of its vacant land not required by railways for its own immediate future operational needs, by leasing it on long term basis. 135 sites have been entrusted to RLDA so far, in this regard.

Vacant land is also leased/licensed for purposes connected with Railway working viz. shops, coal dumps, steel yards, bulk oil installation etc. This yields additional revenues for Railways. A target of Rs.611 crore was fixed for generation of revenues through such usage of railway land for 2009-10, zone-wise details of which are given in the Statement (See below).

Policy on Leasing/licensing of land is decided by Ministry of Railways.

Statement

Zone-wise targets of Earnings from land utilization for 2009-10

Railway	Target
Central	60
Eastern	40
East Central	25
East Coast	30
Northern	120
North Central	20
North Eastern	30
North East Frontier	30
North Western	45
Southern	50
South Central	40
South Eastern	20
South East Central	15
South Western	15
Western	45
West Central	25
Metro	1
TOTAL	611

Disruption of train operations during foggy weather

3980. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the hardship faced by passengers due to disruption in train operations during foggy winters for last few years;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to smoothen the rail operations during the fog;
and

(c) the steps taken to enhance the facilities for passengers who suffer due to lack of timely and correct information from Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Fog is a natural phenomenon adversely impacting all transportation services, including train movement. During such foggy periods, the emphasis is on running trains safely through restricted speeds, deployment of adequate staff, counseling of train running staff, dissemination of late train running information to passengers etc.

(c) Information relating to arrival/departure/late running of trains can be accessed by dialing a universal number '139' without prefixing any STD code from any type of phone and is also being made available through radio and television. Local helpline telephone numbers are made available station wise and the late schedule of trains is announced through public announcement system at stations.

Breaking out of fire at container depot

3981. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in container depot of Railways in Tughlaqabad area recently;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigation into the cause of the fire in container depot has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the responsibility fixed by Government and steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A committee of Senior Officers of CONCOR is enquiring into the incident. Enquiry report is awaited.

(d) Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the enquiry report.

Number of SC and ST employees in Railways

3982. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SC and ST employees in Railways in Group-A;

(b) the number of posts of SC and ST lying vacant in Railways and since when;

(c) whether Government would go for a special recruitment drive to fill up these vacant posts in near future;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the other steps which are being taken by Government or proposes to fill up the backlog vacancies in all the posts reserved for SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are 1,166 SC and 615 ST employees in Group-A as on 31-3-2007.

(b) 10395 posts of SCs and 12491 posts of STs were identified as lying vacant as on 1-11-2008 including Gr. 'A'.

(c) and (d) Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) has already been launched *w.e.f.* 1.11.2008 to clear the backlog vacancies.

(e) Does not arise.

Construction of schools on railway land

†3983. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is now contemplating a new scheme for opening of schools and colleges on the Railway land after it was announced that it will be used for the construction of hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms set by Government for selecting land for the purpose of opening of schools;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) whether participation of private sector has also been ensured in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Ministry of Railways have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) both with Ministry of Human Resource Development as well as Ministry of Health to develop educational facilities and construction of Hospitals by utilizing Railway land not required for immediate operational use. Separate strips of land are being identified for schools and for hospitals. Further details of implementing the MOU, norms for selecting land for the schools/colleges/hospitals and extent of private participation, if any, shall be worked out by a High Powered Working Group consisting of senior officers from Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Resource Development/Ministry of Health which has since been constituted.

Conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge

†3984. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the kilometres length of narrow gauge and metre gauge rail lines in 1950 and 2010, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any such plan or target under which all narrow gauge and metre gauge lines would be converted into broad gauge and the achievement thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to convert all narrow gauge and metre gauge lines into broad gauge in a fixed time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The length of railway lines (route kilometres) of Indian Railways is maintained as on 31st March of each year. The total length of narrow gauge and metre gauge railway lines as on 31.3.1951 (end of financial year 1950-51) was 4,153 and 24,185 kilometres respectively. However, State-wise information of length of railway lines as on 31.03.1951 is not available as route lengths were not recorded State-wise at that time. The State-wise length of narrow gauge and metre gauge railway lines of Indian Railways as on 31.3.2009 (latest available) is given below.

Name of the State	Narrow Gauge	Metre Gauge
Andhra Pradesh	—	184.66
Arunachal Pradesh	—	1.26
Assam	—	1057.12
Bihar	—	691.10
Chhattisgarh	88.46	—
Gujarat	771.41	1364.27
Haryana	3.41	24.85
Himachal Pradesh	245.78	—
Karnataka	—	97.00
Kerala	—	116.89
Madhya Pradesh	708.08	348.76
Maharashtra	596.29	105.75
Manipur	—	1.35
Mizoram	—	1.50
Nagaland	—	1.72
Punjab	11.66	—
Rajasthan	86.76	1724.19
Tamil Nadu	—	1152.44
Tripura	—	151.40
Uttar Pradesh	2.03	1281.44
Uttaranchal	—	61.15
West Bengal	220.01	106.14
TOTAL	2733.89	8472.99

(b) and (c) During 2009-10, about 1550 kilometres Gauge Conversion has been completed. Out of remaining about 9,500 kilometres of Metre/Narrow Gauge Lines, Gauge Conversion work already taken up for 5,500 kilometres. Further Gauge Conversion of about 450 kilometres of Narrow Gauge Lines has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2010-11.

Indian Railway Vision 2020 entails conversion of all Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to Broad Gauge except heritage lines. This would, however, depend upon availability of resources.

Train accidents

3985. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents occurred in the country, State/zone-wise during January to March this year resulting in loss of lives and injuries to passengers, railway employees and others;

(b) the details of each case with the *ex-gratia* payment made by Railways to the next of kin of the deceased and to those injured;

(c) whether statutory enquiry in each case has been completed; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During January to March, 2010, 08 consequential train accidents, *i.e.*, Derailments, Collisions, Manned Level Crossing accidents and Miscellaneous accidents involving loss of life or injury took place on Indian Railways. Date-wise and zone-wise details of these accidents and *ex-gratia* announced is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Statutory inquiry by the Commission of Railway Safety has been conducted in 05 accidents out of the above 08 consequential train accidents. Inquiry has already been completed by the Commission of Railway Safety in one accident of rear-end collision of 2556 Gorakhdham Express with 2418 Prayagraj Express on 02.01.2010 between Bhaupur and Panki stations on Tundla-Kanpur Section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway. In its final report, the Commission of Railway Safety has concluded that this accident had happened due to exceeding the permissible speed during foggy weather by the crew of 2556 Gorakhdham Express. Recommendations and findings of the Commission of Railway Safety have been examined by the concerned departments and instructions for train operations during fog, use of Walkie-Talkie sets by Guards, monitoring of the working of loco pilots by frequent surprise checks, have been issued and disciplinary action has been initiated against the defaulting official.

Statement

Train Accidents

Sl. No.	Date of Accident	Type of Accident	Railway	Division	Train No	Casualty Over All	<i>Ex-gratia</i> Ordered (Enhanced)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	02-Jan-10	Collision	North Central	Allahabad	(i) 4006 Lichchavi Express (New Delhi-Sitamarhi) (ii) 2402 Magadh Express (New Delhi-Islampur)	Grievous - 01 (Railway Staff)	Rs. 5,00,000/- to the next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs. 1,00,000/- to each grievously injured and Rs. 10,000/- to each simple injured.
2.	02-Jan-10	Collision	North Central	Allahabad	(i) 2556 Gorakhdham Express (ii) 2418 Pryagraj Express	Killed - 12 (Railway Staff- 01 and Passengers-11), Grievous - 12, Simple - 36 (Passengers)	Rs. 5,00,000/- to the next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs. 1,00,000/- to each grievously injured and Rs. 10,000/- to each simple injured.
3.	08-Jan-10	Derailment	East Central	Sonepur	2565 DBG-NDLS, Bihar Sampark Kranti Express	Killed - 02 (Road Users), Grievous - 02 (Road users)	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	16-Jan-10	Collision	North Central	Allahabad	(i) 4724 Kalindi Express (Bhiwani-Kanpur) (ii) 2452 Shram Shakti Express (New Delhi-Kanpur)	Killed - 03, Grievous - 10 (Passengers), Simple - 08 (Passengers-06, Railway Staff-02)	Rs. 5,00,000/- to the next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs. 1,00,000/- to each grievously injured and Rs. 10,000/- to each simple injured.
5.	08-Feb-10	Manned Level Crossing	East Coast	Sambalpur	333A Passenger (Titlagarh-Raipur)	Killed - 01 (Road user)	
6.	11-Feb-10	Derailment	North Western	Ajmer	DOZ-VZP Up Goods (Container Load)	Simple-01 (Loco Pilot)	
7.	11-Feb-10	Miscellaneous	Central	Mumbai	1696 Up Passenger (Roha-Diva)	Grievous - 10, Simple - 09 (Passengers)	Rs. 2,00,000/- to each grievously injured.
8.	22-Mar-10	Derailment	Western	Mumbai	AD 631 Dn EMU Local (CCG-ADH)	Grievous - 04, Simple - 06 (Passengers)	

Note : The above figures do not include unusual incidents at Unmanned Level Crossings.

Vacancies in Railways

3986. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies reported in Railways during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken so far to fill up the existing vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The vacancy position of zonal railways during last three years is as under:-

Year	01.04.07	01.04.08	01.04.09
Total Vacancies	165589	169996	169813.

(b) Streamlining of the working of Railway Recruitment Boards has been undertaken. Under the new methodology, examination for a particular post will be held on the same date simultaneously by all the Railway Recruitment Boards and in addition to Hindi, Urdu and English, question papers shall be set in local languages. Open Notification have been issued to fill up vacancies.

Closing of railway services

3987. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware that about railway services numbering 26 which have been totally closed in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when these railway services are likely to re-start; and

(c) whether her Ministry is aware about serious situation on account of non-functioning of train in between Patan-Vegdod-Ranuj to Jasadan-Botad, Surendranagar-Sayla, Morbi-Vankaner, Bhuj-Nalia, Nadiad-Madasa, Gandhidham-Palanpur, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Train services are cancelled on account of Gauge Conversion, poor occupancy, operational constraints, etc. The number of trains introduced on the completion of gauge conversion to Broad Gauge are done keeping in view public demands, traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(c) There is no such station named "Vegdod" over Western Railway. Train services are functioning in Patan-Ranuj, Morbi-Wankaner, Nadiad-Modasa and Gandhidham-Palanpur sections which are considered adequate. The sections of Jasadan-Botad and Surendra Nagar-Sayla were closed in consultation with the State Government as uneconomic branch lines. Passenger trains over Bhuj-Nalia section has been cancelled due to poor occupancy.

Rail projects in Gujarat

3988. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of surveys in hand for new lines on Western Railway within Gujarat;
- (b) the details particularly of North Gujarat covering the area of Banaskantha, Patan towards Rajasthan and also Kutch-Bhuj *via* Viramgam to Palanpur, Taranga, Ambaji, etc.; and
- (c) the probable time by when the survey will be completed and work may commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) There are 9 new line on-going surveys falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat. The details are as under:

1. Bhavnagar-Pipavav-Una-Kodinar (220 km)
2. Botad-Gondal *via* Jasdan (100 km)
3. Dwarka-Porbandar (90 km)
4. Porbandar-Savadiya-Junagarh (100km)
5. Veraval-Porbandar (130 km)
6. Gauge conversion of Bilimora-Wagai with extension upto Manmad (135 km)
7. Gauge conversion of Champaner-Panimines and Chochapara-Tanakla with extension up to Rajpiple (122 km)
8. Gauge conversion of Jhaghadia-Netrang with extension to Nandurbar (135 km)
9. Gauge conversion of Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension upto Abu Road (120 km).

Besides above, following new line surveys have been proposed in the Budget 2010-11.

1. Bhavnagar-Mahua (118 km)
2. Bhavnagar-Tarapore (135 km)
3. Kharaghoda-Santhalpur (111 km)
4. Kodinar-Pipavav (99 km)
5. Somnath-Kodinar (100 km)

All the surveys will be completed in text 1-2 years. The Commencement of work will depend upon sanction of the project.

Construction of rail coach factory at Palakkad in Kerala

3989. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to establish a coach factory at Palakkad;
- (b) whether the proposed coach factory would be operated on a public-private partnership model; and
- (c) if so, whether Government of Kerala would also be given a stake in running the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Ministry of Railways is engaged in obtaining requisite approval of the Government for establishing a coach factory at Palakkad. Planning Commission has accorded in principle approval and appraised the project. Expanded Board for Railways has also endorsed the project

(b) and (c) Decision about the structure of the entity would be taken after the final approval of the project.

Electrification of rail tracks

3990. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether railway proposes to electrify Jamnagar-Rajkot-Mehsana-Abu Road section and Abu Road-Ajmer-Jaipur- New Delhi section during the current rail budget of 2010-11;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Railways have granted any special fund for electrification of said sections; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Electrification of railway tracks is decided based on traffic volumes, operational necessity and financial viability. Based on these considerations, electrification of this section is not found to be justified at present.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Transportation of agricultural products

3991. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry has any plan for transportation of agriculture products using the rail network and also to facilitate their sale locally at non-metro stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when the said plan is likely to be implemented; and

- (d) the details of avenue likely to be generated with such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Indian Railways have been moving large volume of agricultural products like foodgrains, vegetables, fruits etc. through its network in railway wagons and parcel vans etc. However, with a view to encourage creation of facilities for setting up of cold storage and temperature controlled cargo centres and its transportation, Railways have put in place a pilot project under its Kisan Vision Scheme. After gaining experience from this pilot project a detailed policy will be issued.

Change of colour of goods trains

3992. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has contemplated to change the existing red colour of railway stations and goods trains;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the expenditure so far incurred by Railways in this regard and the budgetary provisions earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Colour washing/painting of Railway stations and other buildings and structures is a routine periodic maintenance exercise undertaken at Divisional and Zonal Railways, keeping in view the local architecture and heritage themes. As regards goods trains, instructions were issued in January, 2009 to colour higher axle load open and covered stainless steel wagons differently, to distinguish them for technical and operational reasons.

- (c) No additional expenditure has been incurred due to change in colour of Goods trains or station buildings.

Increase in price of steel

†3993. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that consumer sale price of steel have increased a great deal in the country during last three years;
- (b) if so, the increase registered in these prices;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that reason for increase in these prices is due to increase in prices of raw materials; and
- (d) if so, the percentage increase in prices of raw materials along with names of such raw materials and the effect of Government's taxation system on increase in prices?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During the last three years, the retail market price of steel has undergone both decrease and increase as per the details given on quarter-wise basis in the table below:-

Retail Price at Delhi on Quarterly Basis

	Rs./Tonne			
Month	TMT	HR Coils	CR Coils	GP Sheets
March 2007	29650	33275	38475	48750
June 2007	36925	35350	39000	48050
September 2007	29900	35500	39550	46750
December 2007	32200	34700	38000	42500
March 2008	43775	43800	48000	56000
June 2008	47451	48083	49492	52986
September 2008	41934	44211	48792	51662
December 2008	36634	36174	36039	39158
March 2009	34285	34818	36608	39628
June 2009	35479	33699	36568	38788
September 2009	32818	35608	39774	42128
December 2009	32220	35720	38690	41170
March 2010	35100	36810	41210	45720
April 2010	40890	45090	47580	52580

(Source: Joint Plant Committee, Economic Research Unit)

Note: (i) Prices are inclusive of Excise Duty and Sales Tax.

(ii) All prices are indicative.

It can be seen from the above table that the prices of steel have not been rising steadily during the past three years. The prices of steel started firming up in March, 2008 and peaked out in June 2008. Steel prices started decreasing from September, 2008 onwards and have again started rising from March, 2010 onwards.

(c) and (d) The rise in price of steel is attributable to various factors both in the supply side as well as the demand side. On the supply side, rise in price of steel can be attributed to a steep rise in the price of critical input materials such as iron ore, coking coal and met coke. There is also a sudden rise in demand of steel in the international as well as domestic market. The table below shows the rise in price of steel making raw materials during the past one year:-

US Dollar/Tonne

Month	Iron Ore	Met Coke	Scrap
April 09	63	425	208
May 09	68	390	220
June 09	78	390	210
July 09	91	390	230
August 09	99	390	285
September 09	87	395	303
October 09	91	395	265
November 09	101	395	270
December 09	110	455	320
January 10	132	473	320
February 10	128	473	328
March 10	143	495	370
April 10	165	495	453

(Source : Economic Research Unit)

Presently, there is no import duty on import of coking coal, metallurgical coke (met coke) and iron and steel scrap, three of the essential raw materials imported into the country.

Shortage of steel products

3994. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of steel products in several States including Gujarat and there is vast gap between demand and supply in Surat, Mehsana, Rajkot, Bharuch and Amreli districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as a result of shortage of steel products hoarding and black-marketing of such products have been resorted by the agencies/dealers;

(d) if so, the details of such cases; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the demands of consumer and prevent black marketing/hoarding of steel products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) No report regarding shortage or hoarding and black marketing of steel products has been received in Ministry of Steel.

12.00 Noon.

The data of sale of finished steel in Gujarat during the last two years by both the public sector steel companies namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are given below which indicate that there is a growth in sale of finished steel in Gujarat in the year 2009-10 compared to 2008-09:-

Name of Company	2008-09	2009-10	Growth in 2009-10
SAIL	2,51,630	2,80,360	11.4%
RINL	1,31,000	1,60,000	22.0%

Source : SAIL and RINL

SAIL caters demand of steel in Gujarat through two Branch Sales Offices and Warehouses, one each at Ahmadabad and Baroda, and 22 dealers in the following districts of Gujarat:-

District	Number of Dealers as on 1.4.2010
Surat	4
Mehsana	4
Rajkot	5
Bharuch	7
Amreli	2

RINL caters demand of steel in Gujarat by one Branch Office and Stockyard at Ahmedabad and one District Level Dealer at Vadodara.

The sale prices of various steel products are fixed by the respective companies and their dealers are required to display the prices of various steel items prominently.

(e) Steel is a de-regulated sector. The Government in such a market economy has role of a facilitator only - it provides the overall policy environment to promote growth of industry. Storage and distribution of finished steel products are commercial activities of the companies producing or trading in steel. The Government has no direct role to play in it. The Government has been encouraging the steel producers to enlarge their distribution network through retail outlets to ensure that steel is easily available to the distantly located buyers/potential buyers.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, what about Zero Hour? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers are to be laid on the Table. What is this, Mr. Rashtrapal?

Memoranda of Understanding (2010-11) between Government of India and various Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Companies Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2332/15/10]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2333/15/10]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2331/15/10]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2330/15/10]

Memoranda of Understanding (2010-11) between Government of India and various railway related, Corporations/Companies

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the IRCON International Limited, for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2334/15/10]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the RITES Limited, for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2335/15/10]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2336/15/10]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2337/15/10]

- I. Notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.**
- II. Reports and Accounts (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) of various Technological, Technical and Research Institutes/Centres/Councils/Universities/Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan/Missions and related papers.**
- III. Reports and Accounts (2008-09) of various Universities and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) Notification No. F51-1/2009-NCTE (N&S), dated the 31st August, 2009, publishing the National Council for Teacher Education (Recognition Norms and Procedure) Regulations, 2009, under sub-section (33) of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2310/15/10]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat, for the year 2006-07, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2576/15/10]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, for the year 2006-07, 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 (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2577/15/10]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2006-07, 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 (iii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2578/15/10]

- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Studies in Civilisations for the implementation of the Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture, 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 Centre.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2318/15/10]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab, Chandigarh, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (v) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2320/15/10]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2319/15/10]

- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, for the year 2006-07, 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 (vii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2579/15/10]

- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, for the year 2006-07, 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 (viii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2580/15/10]

- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, 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 (ix) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2508/15/10]

- (x) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, 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 (x) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2317/15/10]

- (xi) (a) Annual Report of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xi) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2315/15/10]

- (xii) (a) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal, Srinagar, 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 (xii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2294/15/10]

- (xiii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, 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 (xiii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2295/15/10]

- (xiv) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xiv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2304/15/10]

- (xv) (a) Annual Accounts of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 32 of the Allahabad University Act, 2005.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2299/15/10]

- (c) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Accounts of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, for the year 2008-09, within the stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2301/15/10]

- (xvi) (a) Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (2) of Section 29 of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act, 1969.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xvi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2581/15/10]

- (xvii) (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xvii) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2313/15/10]

(xviii) (a) Eleventh Annual Report of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09.

(b) Twelfth Annual Accounts of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xviii) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2314/15/10]

(xix) (a) Annual Accounts of the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xix) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2311/15/10]

(xx) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission, Chhattisgarh, Raipur, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xx) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2306/15/10]

(xxi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory Mission Authority, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2329/15/10]

- (xxii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2307/15/10]

- (xxiii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
- (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xiii) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2305/15/10]

- (xxiv) (a) Annual Report of the Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan), Agra, governed by Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan), Agra, governed by Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxiv) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2312/15/10]

- (xxv) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Accounts of the University of Delhi, for the year 2008-09, within the stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2300/15/10]

- (xxvi) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for the year 2008-09, within stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2582/15/10]

- III. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of Section 30 and sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Act, 1996:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2316/15/10]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 33 and sub-section (4) of Section 34 of the Tripura University Act, 2006:—

- (a) Annual Report of Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, Tripura, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Annual Accounts of Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, Tripura, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (d) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2302/15/10]

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- II. **Accounts (2007-08) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur and related papers.**
- III. **Memoranda of Understanding (2010-11) between Government of India and various Corporations Ltd.**

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 (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) Notification No.G.S.R.103 (E), dated the 26th February, 2010, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Amendment Regulations, 2010, under Section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standard Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2248/15/10]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) Notification No. G.S.R. 186 (E), dated the 12th March, 2010, publishing the Fruits and Vegetables Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 2010, under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2252/15/10]

- II. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—
- (a) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
 - (c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2249/15/10]

- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution) and the Central Warehousing Corporation, for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2409/15/10]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and the State Farms Corporation of India Limited (SFCl), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2253/15/10]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and the National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC), for the year 2010-11.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2254/15/10]

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Finance Bill, 2010

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

¶ In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Finance Bill, 2010, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th April, 2010.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of Article 110 of the Constitution of India.

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

REPORT ON INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report on the participation of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the One Hundred and twenty-first Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 19th to 21st October, 2009.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I present the Two Hundred and tenth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on “Demands for Grants (2010-11)” of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Committee on Public Undertakings (2009-10):-

- (i) Sixth Report on “Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.”;
- (ii) Seventh Report on “Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) - Unproductive payment of incentive in HPCL based on Audit Para 14.4.1 of the Report on Union Government (Commercial) of the C&AG of India No. 11 CA of 2008”; and
- (iii) Eighth Report on “Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Airports Authority of India-Review of Infrastructure and Operational Facilities (based on Audit Report No. 17 of 2007 (Performance Audit) (Commercial) of C&AG of India)”.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 3rd of May, 2010 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 2010, as passed by Lok Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the Pesticides Management Bill, 2008.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - (a) The National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009.
 - (b) The Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
 - (c) The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
 - (d) The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
6. Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance relating to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the
Second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance
relating to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Killings and suicides due to illegal decisions of Caste Panchayats

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, किसी समय में जातीय पंचायतों सामाजिक मर्यादाओं का नियमन करवाने में महत्वपूर्ण रोल अदा करती थीं, किन्तु आज स्थिति यह बन गई है कि जातीय पंचायतों के निर्णय निजी जीवन में दखल देने लगे हैं। राजस्थान के करौली जिले में एक परिवार के पांच सदस्यों ने रेल के सामने कट कर आत्महत्या कर ली। एक पंचायत हुई, जिसमें बाजनाकलां गांव और आसपास के लोग इकट्ठे हुए और उन्होंने एक अवैधानिक संबंध के विषय को लेकर यह निर्णय सुनाया। परिवार का मुखिया गजेन्द्र था, उसके ऊपर 50,000 रुपये का दंड लगा दिया गया, 10,000 रुपये का ब्याज लगा दिया गया, 10,000 रुपये गहनों के वसूल करने की बात कही गई और कुल मिला कर उस पर 80,000 रुपये का जुर्माना कर दिया। जुर्माना करने पर वह बहुत गिड़गिड़ाया कि यह गलत बात है, मुझ पर यह निर्णय मत थोपिए, किन्तु उससे कहा गया कि आप अभी-अभी पैसा दीजिए। परिणाम क्या हुआ कि गजेन्द्र नाम का व्यक्ति अपने परिवार के पांच सदस्यों को लेकर रेल के नीचे आकर कट गया और अपने जीवन की लीला समाप्त कर ली।

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में चार-पांच दिन पहले जो घटना हुई है, इस प्रकार की घटनाएं लगातार होती आ रही हैं। हरियाणा में दो समगोत्रीय लड़के-लड़कियों की शादी को लेकर भी पंचायत के द्वारा इसी प्रकार का निर्णय हुआ और उन लोगों ने आत्महत्या कर ली। गरीब लोग शादी के समय घोड़ी पर बैठे, उन पर जुर्माना कर दिया गया और उनका मुंह काला करके पूरे गांव में घुमा दिया।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य सरकार एवं केन्द्र सरकार को बीच में आना चाहिए और इस प्रकार के जो जातीय पंचायतों के निर्णय होते हैं, जिनके कारण ऐसी भयंकर स्थिति पैदा हो जाती है कि वे आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर हो जाते हैं, उन पर किसी प्रकार रोक लगाई जानी चाहिए, प्रतिबंध लगाया जाना चाहिए और सख्त कानून बनाया जाना चाहिए।

**Reported irregularities in procurement of bulletproof jackets for
paramilitary forces**

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I would like to raise an issue of serious violation of rules and misuse of office and corruption regarding the purchase of bulletproof jackets for Indian paramilitary forces. The Home Ministry's Director, Mr. R.S. Sharma, was arrested along with private contractor Mr. Gupta and his wife. Mr. Sharma is alleged to have taken bribe from Mr. Gupta as a favour in awarding the contract to him. The officer holding the rank of Director was the head of the special cell called, 'Modernisation and Positioning of Central Police Forces' and was looking after the allocation of weaponry to paramilitary forces. It includes supply of security equipment like armoured panels, weaponry, bulletproof jackets, helmets and shields. Sir, media like CNN IBN, Rediffmail, etc., reported that this is multi-crore scam. This is not only a scam but a serious move to weaken our defence and security. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Why is my matter not allowed? ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Allow me to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: I want to know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is Chairman's prerogative. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Admission or non-admission is the Chairman's prerogative. It has not been admitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is under consideration before the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twenty-five minutes past twelve of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P. Rajeeve to continue.

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I was surprised at the reaction when I mentioned the name of Bofors.

In Mumbai terrorist attack, we lost several officers, including one of the brilliant and courageous officers, Mr. Hemant Karkare. All of us saw on television channels that he had worn a bullet-proof jacket before going to the operation. But, Sir, this experience has raised the question on the quality of bullet-proof jackets used in our country by the paramilitary forces and other Defence forces. This issue of bullet-proof jacket is a serious threat to the country and defence of India, it also poses threat to the lives of personnel working in paramilitary forces who are engaged in country's defence. Sir, some media channels reported that Mr. Sharma is only a small fish; the big officials in the Home Ministry are involved in this scam. The current CBI inquiry is not sufficient to reveal all the facts. So, I urge upon the Government to ensure a fair inquiry and constitute a proper mechanism to enquire all the facts of this scam.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri P. Rajeeve.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Maya Singh.

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मध्य प्रदेश में केन्द्रीय वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I will not allow this...*(Interruptions)*. Why is my name not being called? ...*(Interruptions)*

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर : सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती माया सिंह : सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, the ruling party does not want to run the House...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the ruling party is holding the House to ransom...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir,...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-eight minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at two of the clock,
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

RE. ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we want the Chairman to review his decision. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, It is a sensitive issue. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): They are not interested in running the House. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You can approach... *(Interruptions)*.... No, no. *(Interruptions)* Please.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, today afternoon...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Let the Minister respond. *(Interruptions)* Listen to the Minister. *(Interruptions)* Please listen to the Minister. *(Interruptions)* The Minister is on his legs. *(Interruptions)* Please.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Can a Member raise a communication between the Chair and the Member in the House? If he is so aggrieved.... *(Interruptions)*...

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): Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is this? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Let the Minister respond. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Member has made an appeal to the Chair to reconsider the decision. *(Interruptions)* Let the Chair take a decision. That is all. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Whom is he protecting? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Ahluwalia, you are a senior Member of the House. The hon. Minister was on his legs. He wanted to say something. Let me listen to him. Then, I will decide on that, and, I will solve the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please cooperate with me. *(Interruptions)* Let me listen to the Minister. *(Interruptions)* No, no.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is this, Sir? *(Interruptions)* Is he there to justify the behaviour of the Member? *(Interruptions)*

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Sir, this is something which is not... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* Please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Are you justifying it? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Ahluwalia, please listen to me. *(Interruptions)*. I request you to take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, he should say sorry for what happened in the afternoon. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, let me listen to him. *(Interruptions)* Ahluwalia ji, please take your seat. I will solve it. You allow me to do so. *(Interruptions)* You take your seat. Ahluwaliaji, please take your seat. *(Interruptions)* This is not fair. *(Interruptions)* Ahluwalia ji, I am on my legs. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Why was the House adjourned in the morning? *(Interruptions)* When we were ready to speak, why was the House adjourned? That is my point. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. Keep quiet. *(Interruptions)* Sit down. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Ahluwalia, I am on my legs. Take your seat. *(Interruptions)* You take your seat. I am on my legs. What is this? What do you want to say Mr. Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Member has made an appeal to the Chair to reconsider his decision. *(Interruptions)* He will abide by the Chairman's decision, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Treasury Benches wanted to adjourn the House. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Ruling Party is not interested. ...*(Interruptions)*... What do they want? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Let me listen. *(Interruptions)* Let me solve it. *(Interruptions)* Allow me to solve the problem. *(Interruptions)*

Please allow me to solve the problem. *(Interruptions)* अहलुवालिया जी, ...**(व्यवधान)** आप लोग बैठिए!...**(व्यवधान)**

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Ask him to say sorry to the House. *(Interruptions)*

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

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Why not? *(Interruptions)* Why was the House adjourned? *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, what is the problem that you are going to solve? There is no problem. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): If the Minister is on his legs, I have to listen to him. *(Interruptions)* The Chair is bound to listen to the Minister, if he is on his legs. *(Interruptions)* Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* There is a convention in the House that if the

Parliamentary Affairs Minister is on his legs, the Chair is bound to listen to him. Take your seat. *(Interruptions)* This is irresponsible. *(Interruptions)* This is irresponsible. *(Interruptions)* No, no. *(Interruptions)* I don't agree with this. If he is on his legs, I am bound to listen to him.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: But we have a demand. *(Interruptions)* Our demand is also there. *(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has to reply to my question also. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Madam, you tell me. You had been in the Chair for eighteen years. You tell me if I am wrong. I am requesting you to tell me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He cannot protect only his party. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am requesting Najmaji to tell me if I am wrong. *(Interruptions)* You please take your seat. *(Interruptions)* I am bound to listen to him. Decision will be mine. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister did not come to our rescue yesterday. *(Interruptions)* Then, why for the ruling party, why is he....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, on this issue, the ruling party is not... *(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: It has never happened. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): One of you should speak. *(Interruptions)* Let me listen to Najmaji. *(Interruptions)* Let me listen to her. *(Interruptions)* Please keep quiet. *(Interruptions)* Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* Let me listen to Madam Najma. *(Interruptions)* Please keep quite. *(Interruptions)*

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: You mentioned to me that I was in the Chair. In 17 years, there has been no record that the Treasury Benches got the House adjourned. That is what I want to say. The Minister should apologise. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: That is the point. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You made your point. *(Interruptions)* What do you want to say? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I have nothing to say. I have already made a submission that *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Say sorry. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Some Members agitated because a decision was reached at in the morning. *(Interruptions)* I just want to appeal to the Chair to reconsider the issue. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, listen *(Interruptions)* I wish *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No, Sir *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, let me say *(Interruptions)*. Let me say *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No, Sir. *(Interruptions)* No, Sir. *(Interruptions)* That is not correct. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji *(Interruptions)*. Let me say *(Interruptions)* You take your seat. *(Interruptions)* I will react to that. *(Interruptions)* You take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I want to react. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, you say. *(Interruptions)* Say your view. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: In the morning, the House was adjourned under the pressure of the Treasury Benches. The Leader of the House should seek apology from the House. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, please. *(Interruptions)* Take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: That is my point. *(Interruptions)* That is my point. *(Interruptions)* If they have any grievance *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: If they have any grievance *(Interruptions)* If they have any grievance, they can go to the Chair. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please *(Interruptions)* Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* I will solve it. *(Interruptions)* No, no *(Interruptions)* Sit down. *(Interruptions)*

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I have a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, please cooperate. *(Interruptions)* Let me give my ruling. *(Interruptions)* Let me give my observation to what the hon. Minister said. *(Interruptions)* That is my right as the Vice-Chairman. *(Interruptions)* Please. *(Interruptions)* No, no. *(Interruptions)* I want to give my observation. *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, if the hon. Member has any grievance, he could have gone to the Chair. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That is your view. I want to give my observation to what the hon. Minister has said. *(Interruptions)* You take your seat. *(Interruptions)* Please, let me say *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: They have to apologise. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I have to give my observation. *(Interruptions)* Please *(Interruptions)* Let me say *(Interruptions)* Allow me to say *(Interruptions)* No, you take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, whether the Minister already *(Interruptions)* Why did they adjourn the House? *(Interruptions)*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: If you have any grievance, go to the Chamber. *(Interruptions)* Appeal inside the Chamber. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am sorry that the Chair is not being allowed to speak. *(Interruptions)* I am very sorry that the Chair is not being allowed to speak. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: You call the records *(Interruptions)* You call the records and see what he has said. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That I heard *(Interruptions)* So, why don't you allow me? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: That is wrong *(Interruptions)* when he is on legs *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): If I don't agree with that, should I not say that? *(Interruptions)* I said I want to hear only. *(Interruptions)* I did not give the ruling. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No, Sir, we will not *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Why don't you allow me to say? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: They must seek apology. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): What is this? *(Interruptions)* Now, I request *(Interruptions)* Take your seat. *(Interruptions)* Please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Can I make a request, Sir? *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will give you time. *(Interruptions)* Please *(Interruptions)* Ahluwaliji please *(Interruptions)* Ahluwaliji please *(Interruptions)* I came here. An issue was raised. I allowed because the Parliamentary Affairs Minister stood up. As far as I know, I have also been in Parliament for so many years, when Parliamentary Affairs Minister stands up, he is allowed to speak. That is a practice. So, I allowed. *(Interruptions)* No, no. Let me complete. Don't interfere. Then, he raised a point. As a Chair, it is my duty to react to that. For that, I have not been allowed.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No, Sir. A Parliamentary Affairs Minister cannot make an irresponsible remark. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): That I will see. You are not supposed to say that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: That is an irresponsible remark. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I have to see that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is to govern the House. *(Interruptions)* His duty is to run the House. *(Interruptions)* His duty is to run the House. *(Interruptions)* That is an irresponsible remark. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes past two of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twenty-five minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

THE PLANTATIONS LABOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Sir, I move

That the Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, be taken into consideration.

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे लाखों लोगों के जीवन को प्रभावित करने वाले इस महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक को यहां प्रस्तुत करने की अनुमति दी। चूंकि कल मई दिवस है, इसलिए इस महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर ...*(व्यवधान)*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, while replying, he can give the details. So, we can start the debate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. Please be brief.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I will take just one minute. उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, कल मई दिवस है और इस अवसर पर मैं अपनी ओर से, अपने मंत्रालय की ओर से, भारत सरकार की ओर से तथा इस सम्मानित सदन की ओर से भारत के करोड़ों श्रमशील लोगों को, मज़दूरों को, चाहे वे संगठित क्षेत्र के हों या असंगठित क्षेत्र के हों, बहुत-बहुत बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। आज इस सदन ने plantations में काम करने वाले workers की भलाई के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक को विचार के लिए लिया है, दूसरी तरफ लोक सभा में ESI Amendment Bill पर चर्चा हो रही है तथा आने वाले दिनों में तीसरा महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक जो इस संसद द्वारा पारित होगा, वह है Gratuity Amendment Bill. ये तीनों महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक लाखों श्रमशील लोगों के जीवन को प्रभावित करेंगे और मैं समझता हूँ कि भारत की संसद की तरफ से, हमारी working class के लिए यह बहुत बड़ा तोहफा है। यह विधेयक plantations में काम करने वाले मज़दूरों की भलाई के लिए लाया गया है और बहुत लंबे समय से इसकी मांग हो रही थी। आज यह विधेयक सदन में विचारार्थ आया है। जैसा प्रतिपक्ष की तरफ से सुझाव आया है कि पहले सम्मानित सदस्यों के विचार सुन लिए जाएं, फिर उनके सुझावों को सुनने के बाद, मैं इस संबंध में मंत्रालय का क्या stand है तथा सरकार का क्या stand है, इसे सदन के सम्मुख रखूंगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक को सदन के विचारार्थ प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

The question was proposed.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं The Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008 पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। महोदय, 2006 में Planning Commission ने labour laws and other labour regulations के बारे में एक Working Group बनाया था, जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट 2008 में दी और जिसने विभिन्न labour laws - कुछ labour laws, Central Government के तहत आते हैं, कुछ labour laws, राज्य सरकारों के तहत आते हैं - करीब 43 विधेयकों पर चर्चा की और अपनी अनुशंसाएं दीं। उसके बाद 2008 में यह विधेयक लाया गया। इसमें मुख्यतः 2 संशोधन हैं। जो हमारा 1951 का Plantations Labour Act है, उसमें 2 संशोधन आप लाए हैं। हमारी plantation industry का एक बहुत बड़ा इतिहास है।

जब हमारे देश में ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद था, तब उन्होंने हमारे देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में, वहां की climatic condition, वहां की धरती की उपयोगिता पर विचार करते हुए, tea, coffee, rubber, cinnamon, cardamom और तरह-तरह के plantation किए। ये सारे plantation लेबर एक्ट के तहत आते हैं। देश आज़ाद होने के बाद उसके लिए एक कानून बनाया गया और वह कानून चलता रहा। महोदय, यह कानून ऐसा चलता रहा कि इस कानून के तहत कुछ उल्लंघन भी होते रहे, जो करीब 60 साल के बाद हम लोगों को पता लगा कि Article 24 of the Indian Constitution में Fundamental Duties हैं, जिसके अनुसार 14 साल के कम उम्र का बच्चा काम नहीं कर सकता, उसका भी उल्लंघन हो रहा था। इस विधेयक के द्वारा उस पर संशोधन लाया जा रहा है। इस विधेयक में जो संशोधन लाया गया है, उसमें यह है कि One of the major problems of the safety and health in plantation arises out of the risk associated with the growing use of agro-chemicals, especially, insecticides, pesticides and herbicides. At present, the Act has no provision for safety measures and precautions to be taken for storage, utilization and handling of such agro-chemicals. It is also necessary to amend the Act to enable the Central Government to prohibit, restrict or regulate the employment of women and adolescents for handling hazardous chemicals in plantation. It is therefore considered necessary to amend the Act to prohibit employment of children below 14 years in plantation. जब कि Article 24 of the Indian Constitution के तहत जो हमारे Fundamental Rights हैं, वह कहता है, No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment. Till today, these children are working in hazardous conditions. Till today, they are handling the hazardous chemicals, they are spraying or they are plucking the leaves of tea plants or collecting the beans of coffee where already hazardous chemicals are sprayed. उनको हमने expose किया हुआ है।

आज हम इतने दिनों के बाद यह कानून ला रहे हैं। इसका स्वागत है कि आप ऐसा कानून ला रहे हैं, किन्तु यह दुख की बात है कि इतने दिनों तक हमारी संस्थाएं सोती रहीं। उनको इस चीज का पता नहीं लगा, जब कि यह 1951 से हो रहा है। ऐसी बात नहीं है कि agro-chemicals, insecticides, pesticides और herbicides को हमने अभी शुरू किया हो, अभी तो यह बंद होने वाले हैं, क्योंकि सारी दुनिया में अब लोग कहने लगे हैं कि chemicals, insecticides, pesticides और herbicides का प्रयोग बंद किया जाए। वहां पर सिर्फ herbal pesticides यूज हों, जो कि ज्यादा hazardous नहीं है। जैसे तंबाकू है, तंबाकू के पत्तों से निकोटिन सल्फेट बनता है। अगर तंबाकू को पानी में भिगो कर रख दिया जाए, तो उसमें से निकोटिन सल्फेट

निकलने लगता है। गांव या देहात में जब गाय या भैंस को फुट एण्ड माउथ बीमारी हो जाती है, तो उससे मुक्ति पाने के लिए उस निकोटिन सल्फेट युक्त पानी से उसके पैर धोते हैं, इससे फुट एण्ड माउथ बीमारी ठीक हो जाती है।

जहां कीड़े पत्तों को खा जाते हैं, उनके ऊपर छिड़कने से भी यह बीमारी चली जाती है, पर हम अंग्रेजी दवाओं का, chemicals का प्रयोग कर रहे हैं और आज हमें यह महसूस हो रहा है कि इस पर कानून बनाने की जरूरत है।

महोदय, कुछ चीजें हैं जो आपने देनी हैं, कुछ statutory facilities हैं, जो आपको plantation workers को देनी हैं। उसमें health भी एक है और health में वे उन plantation companies पर आश्रित हैं, जहां उनके पास hospitals हों, जहां उनका इलाज किया जा सके, क्योंकि लेबर डिपार्टमेंट का एक और Act है, ESI Act, जो plantation labour पर लागू नहीं होता है।

“Under section 1(4) of the ESI Act, the provisions of the Act apply, in the first instance, to all factories, other than seasonal factories.”

Plantation industry को “seasonal factories” की category में रखा गया है। “Seasonal factories” में होने के कारण इनको ESI के benefit नहीं मिल सकते। वहां लिखा हुआ है-

“Seasonal factories have been defined in section 2(19A) of the Act and include plantation. Plantations are, therefore, not covered under the ESI Act, 1948. However, under section 1(5) of the Act, the appropriate Governments are empowered to extend the provisions of the Act to any other establishment or class of establishments, industrial, commercial, agricultural and otherwise.”

किंतु दुर्भाग्य की बात है, इस section को नज़रअंदाज़ करके आज तक किसी राज्य सरकार ने इस पर कार्यवाही नहीं की है। राज्य सरकारों ने इनको भगवान भरोसे छोड़ा और plantation के, चाय बागानों के, कॉफी बागानों के या rubber plants के plantations को कंपनियों के भरोसे छोड़ दिया कि वहां के employee ने अगर कुछ लेना है, उनको कुछ अधिकार प्राप्त करने हैं, तो इनसे लें, वे हॉस्पिटल बनाएं। आपको पता होगा कि भारत रबर, चाय और कॉफी के क्षेत्र में अपने आपको नेता मानता था, क्योंकि इनका business अच्छा चलता है, किंतु आज हमारे competitor भी हैं। आज इंडोनेशिया, मलेशिया, चीन, बंगलादेश और श्रीलंका हमारे साथ compete कर रहे हैं। वे price में compete कर रहे हैं और इसका जो world-wide export है, उसके price में, खास तौर पर चाय और कॉफी में। जब वे compete कर रहे हैं, तो हम और जो plantation associations हैं, ये social cost कम करने के लिए कहते हैं। जब हम इनको किसी Act के तहत नहीं लाते हैं, अगर उनको वह facility हम यहां से नहीं देते हैं और उनको मालिकों पर आश्रित रखते हैं... जैसे आप North Bengal or Assam चले जाएं, तो आपको miles after miles चाय बागान तो दिखेंगे, पर जाकर पूछिए तो चाय बागान रुग्ण हो चुके हैं। कुछ बंद हो गए हैं और कुछ बंद होने के कगार पर हैं। चाय के पेड़ हैं किंतु उनका रखवाला कोई नहीं है। चाय के बागानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के घर हैं किंतु उनको कहीं से तनखाह नहीं मिलती है। उसका कारण क्या है? जो social cost हम विधेयक पास करके बढ़ाते हैं, उससे उनकी बेचने की क्षमता भी कम होती जा रही है। 2005 की figures मेरे पास हैं कि per kg. चाय पर करीब साढ़े सात रुपया या पौने आठ रुपया social cost है। मार्केट में compete करने में उतना मार्जिन होता है और उतने मार्जिन में ही मार खा रहे हैं। Tea Board की auction हो, चाहे कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री देख रही हो, चाहे लेबर मिनिस्ट्री देख रही हो और यह विभाग चूंकि plantation का है, नियमतः यह विभाग कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री के तहत आता है और

कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री को इस पर सोचना चाहिए। उसमें आगे यह भी प्रावधान है कि जहां हम ईएसआई के माध्यम से मदद नहीं कर सकते, वहां जो statutory benefits हमें देने हैं जैसे health, education, housing, drinking water, sanitation and conservancy, child care and creches. ये प्लांटेशन लेबर को उपलब्ध कराने हैं, यह statutory requirement है और प्लांटेशन इंडस्ट्री को इन सारी चीजों की भरपाई करनी है। महोदय, क्योंकि यह एक सेंट्रल एक्ट है इसलिए हमें राज्य सरकारें बहुत ज्यादा इंटरस्ट नहीं लेतीं। राज्य सरकारें निर्भर होती हैं कि प्लांटेशन के जो मालिक हैं, वे लोग करें। लेकिन जो इसकी administrative Ministries हैं - Commerce and Industry or Labour and Employment - उनको एक सेंट्रल स्कीम बनानी चाहिए जो सोशल वेलफेयर स्कीम हो और एक suitable mechanism होना चाहिए जिसके माध्यम से ये सारी सुविधाएं उन्हें उपलब्ध हो सकें क्योंकि वे hazardous chemicals के साथ उसको हैंडल करेंगे, उस पर स्प्रे करेंगे, उन पत्तियों को छुएंगे या उसके स्टोरेज डिपार्टमेंट में जब ट्रक में माल आएगा तो उसको ढोकर या कंधे पर लादकर वहां उतारेंगे। फिर वहां से उसका जो रिसाव होता है, वह वहां की वाटर बॉडीज़ में जाता है, वहां के वाटर लेवल को खराब करता है। उसी पानी को वे पीते हैं, वे वहीं पर खाते हैं, नहाते हैं, सब कुछ करते हैं। इस प्रकार उन पर जो असर पड़ता है, उसके लिए हमारे पास कोई कानून भी नहीं है। हमने कानून बनाया था। हमने Bhopal gas की घटना होने के बाद एक कानून बनाया - the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 - जिसकी definition में हमने “handling of hazardous chemicals” के बारे में लिखा है - “handling in relation to any hazardous substance means, the manufacture, processing, treatment, package, storage, transportation by vehicle, use, collection, destruction, conversion, offering for sale, transfer or the like of such hazardous substances” ये जितने भी insecticides or pesticides or vermicides हैं, basically they are hazardous chemicals. इस विधेयक के तहत ये इनको स्टोर करने की भी परमिशन दे रहे हैं, इसको यूज करने की परमिशन भी इसी एक्ट के तहत दे रहे हैं और इसको प्रोसेस भी उसी के तहत किया जा रहा है, उसकी पूरी हेंडलिंग हो रही है। लेकिन इस पूरे विधेयक में हम लेबर लॉ को ईएसआई के अंडर नहीं लाए कि वहां के लोगों को ईएसआई का सपोर्ट मिलेगा। हम इसमें यह भी नहीं लाए कि इनको Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 के तहत लाएं और अगर उनको कुछ तकलीफ होती है तो वह insured होंगे और इश्योरेंस की तरफ से उनकी हर तरह की liability क्लियर की जाएगी। यह विधेयक अभी 2007 में बना था। पता नहीं उन्होंने क्यों इस विधेयक को, जो दूसरा 1991 का विधेयक है, नज़रअंदाज़ कर दिया है। इसको अगर उसका कवरेज मिल जाता तो शायद मामला और आसान हो जाता क्योंकि वहां की स्टोरेज जो है, ऐसे hazardous chemicals की जो storage है, that is covered under this. I don't know whether this Act is covering that or not because there is no mention about this Act in this Amendment Bill. महोदय, इसमें महिलाओं के बारे में कहा गया है। फैमिली की डेफिनेशन चेंज की गयी है और definition of ‘workers’ चेंज की गयी है by enhancing wage ceiling from Rs.750 to Rs.10,000 per month. This proposal also amplifies the definition of ‘workers’ to include contract workers in plantation employed for more than 60 days in a year. यह एक अच्छी पहल है क्योंकि इसके साथ उसकी जो statutory requirement है और जो statutory commitment हैं कि उसको subsidized रेट पर राशन मिलेगा।

उससे डिप्राइव मत कर दीजिएगा, कहीं उसको मत बोल दीजिएगा कि यह बी.पी.एल. में नहीं आता है। तो बी.पी.एल. में नहीं आता, इसलिए इसको नहीं मिलेगा, क्योंकि जब 750 रुपए था, तब तो बी.पी.एल. में आ रहा था, अब जब आप उसकी तनख्वाह बढ़ाएंगे और दूसरी चीजें बढ़ाएंगे तो उसको आप कहेंगे कि Now you are above poverty line.

आप उसको डिप्राइव करिएगा, क्योंकि ये स्टेट्यूटरी जो कमिटमेंट हैं, बेनिफिट्स हैं उसमें भी प्लांटेशन इण्डस्ट्री “The plantation industry is required to meet substantial expenditure on these statutory and non-statutory social commitments which is increasingly finding it difficult to fund from its own resources”. वह कहेंगे कि साहब, हम दे नहीं सकते, आप बी.पी.एल. की परिभाषा बदल दीजिए और वह मारा जाएगा। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से आश्वासन चाहूंगा कि जहां एक तरफ आप उसकी तनखाह बढ़ा रहे हैं या उसको मिनिमम 60 दिनों का एम्प्लॉयमेंट देने का कमिटमेंट कर रहे हैं, दूसरी तरफ आप उससे यह अधिकार मत छीन लीजिएगा कि उसको जो सब्सडाइज्ड रेट पर राशन दिया जाता है वह बंद हो जाए, या उसको जो मेडिकल फेसिलिटी, एजुकेशन फेसिलिटी, मकान की व्यवस्था या पानी की व्यवस्था हैं, वे सारी छीन ली जाएं।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी मांग करूंगा कि यह आपने एक अच्छी पहल की है और इसमें अभी भी कुछ कमियां हैं, उन कमियों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए इसको एक पूरक विधेयक बनाएं। किन्तु वह साथ-साथ पूरी तरह इम्प्लीमेंट हो सके और जो बंद चाय बागान हैं, खास करके पश्चिमी बंगाल के द्वार इलाके के और असम के, उनको खुलवाने का बंदोबस्त करें, तभी यह आपने जैसा कहा कि महान मजदूर दिवस के एक दिन पहले यह विधेयक पास हो रहा है, तभी यह चरितार्थ होगा कि वाकई आपने मजदूरों के हक में यह विधेयक पास किया है, यही कहते हुए मैं समर्थन करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2010. I do congratulate the hon. Minister of Labour who has brought this Bill in this House. I also thank the Government, the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for coming forward with this Bill before the Labour Day. Along with this, the Gratuity (Amendment) Bill will also be passed in this House.

While supporting the Bill, I just would like to mention some important points here. I do agree with Shri S.S. Ahluwalia. He has mentioned many things here. Shri Ahluwaliaji has mentioned about improper medical care, people dying without proper medical care and no ESI scheme. But I do not agree with him when he says that this Bill arises out of the recommendation of the Working Group constituted in the Planning Commission. This Amendment Bill is the outcome of the resolution of the Indian Labour Conference, the Standing Labour Committee and different recommendations by the Expert Committees like the A.W.Fergusen Committee, Dr. Sabysachi Sen Committee, the Inter-Ministerial Committee and the Madhavan Committee. Rather, for his information, this Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted in the year 2003-04 when his Government was there. But the report came later. That is why this Amendment Bill has come. As we all understand, plantation crops such as tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom, etc., are grown mainly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in right South and, maybe, Goa and some other areas, and in East also, mostly in Assam, West Bengal; then in the North East area, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and in some parts of Jharkhand and Orissa also tea and coffee plantation has started.

Now, coming to the industry as such, the tea industry, I should say, is not in a very good condition. The coffee and the rubber industries are in a better condition because they have effective Coffee Board and the Rubber Board. But the position of the tea industry is, definitely, very bad. Many of the tea gardens have been closed down in West Bengal and Assam, and the workers are suffering. As has been mentioned by Shri Ahluwaliaji, I do agree with him on one point that there is exploitation. The point is that we have many labour laws in our country. Whether it is the Child Labour Act, or, the Payment of Wages Act, or the other labour laws, the Acts are there. But these are not being properly implemented. That is the main cause of exploitation. If these Acts were properly implemented, then, there would not have been such problems.

So far as child labour is concerned, this Government is, definitely, very much concerned about it. In 1991, when the Congress (I) Government was there, they took a decision to abolish child labour in hazardous industries. Then, of course, there is also the Supreme Court Judgement, and appropriate action is being taken. But, whether it is child labour or plantation labour or other labour, everything depends on the implementation of the Act, which is, unfortunately, not being done in our country. One thing is that in the Labour Department, adequate staff is not there. And, labour, being the Concurrent subject, there is difference of opinion and confrontation between the Central Labour Department and the State Labour Department. In the absence of the effective implementation machinery and in the absence of a strong militant organization at the grassroots level and the lack of co-operation of the Government, the implementation of the Act is not there. That may be the cause of exploitation. No doubt, plantation workers are mostly exploited. It is the responsibility of the industry, or, the tea garden owners, to give medical care. Medical care is a very important need for the plantation workers. In fact, Shri Ahluwaliaji did not mention about it. What about medical care? Also, people are not getting their provident fund. They are not getting their annual leave. They are not getting their salary. I would impress upon the Labour Department and this Government that they should take appropriate steps in this regard. They should find out alternative arrangements and see to it that in places where the tea gardens have been closed down, without paying the workers their provident fund contribution, without paying their gratuity and without paying their salary, these workers get their due. As you know, Sir, the Inter-Ministerial Committee has given its recommendations.

The principal recommendation of this Committee was sharing of social infrastructure cost between the Central Government, State Government, the local Government and concerned industries, rationalization of AIT and bringing it on par with CIT, rationalization of various enactments and taxes imposed by the States, amendment of rules and review of the Plantation Labour Act of 1951, issue relating to provident fund rules, etc. So, one of the suggestions included sharing of social costs because in the tea gardens in some places, the social cost is not

being given; the employers are also not in a position to give that. In that case, there is also a recommendation of sharing the costs by the State Government, the Central Government and the industry. So, this suggestion was recommended, but this has not been done till today. There was also a recommendation for the amendment of the Plantation Labour Act of 1951 in consultation with the trade unions. Accordingly, several discussions have taken place in the Standing Committee. I do not want to go into it.

I want to make a request to the Labour Minister. There are many recommendations about plantation workers which have been left out. In the near future, the Government should bring forward relevant amendments in the law so as to protect the interests of workers. Sir, the tea industry is facing problems. Even in the Inter-Ministerial Committee, there was a suggestion regarding sharing of the social cost. There was a suggestion that in case neither the employer nor the Government take the responsibility for payment of arrears and other dues to the workers, the management of the tea garden should be handed over to some sort of a Self-Help Group of workers with some financial assistance, so that the tea garden starts working and the interests of workers are also protected. Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I will take just a couple of minutes more and conclude.

Sir, the employers, the tea garden owners and the employers of plantation labour are not implementing the provisions of the Act; they are not taking the responsibility for workers' health; they are not giving Minimum Wages; they are not providing residential accommodation to workers; and they are also not making payment of the statutory dues. Sir, it is my earnest request that the Government must insist upon the tea garden managements, owners and employers to take appropriate steps for the implementation of the existing provisions of the Act. The Government should incorporate more provisions in the statute to protect the interests of workers.

Sir, there is also a board for plantation workers' welfare, like we have the Tea Board, the Coffee Board and the Rubber Board. But this board does not meet regularly. Even when it meets, it does not implement the provisions of the Act. In that case, what is the point of having this board? The Labour Minister should take up this matter and see to it that all these Boards meet regularly and make recommendations, which should be accepted by the Government. As we are aware, it is these four or five States in the south and other States in the East and North-East which are growing most of these plantations. If possible, we should have regional boards to have close interaction with the people there, because the problems of each region and the issues involved may be different. These regional boards can discuss regional problems and issues in detail and take appropriate decisions.

The Government is looking after the healthcare aspects of the workers in the form of the Rashtriya Bima Yojana, the *aam admi* Bima Yojana. I must also congratulate the Government

3.00 P.M.

because, of late, they are taking appropriate steps so that the plantation workers get adequate benefits. I also support what the hon. Member said here about the ESI scheme. Both these social security schemes, the ESI and the Provident Fund Scheme, are doing very well in this country, but there is a lacuna in this Act. The workers as well as the employers feel that the workers are getting better medical care and so, there is a feeling that the management can be exempted from the provisions of the Act. I think this is wrong and we must also formulate a scheme wherein all the workers in this country are covered by only one scheme, the ESI Scheme, so that everybody gets the same medical benefit. Even in the case of Provident Fund, I know many employers who are being exempted from the provisions of the Provident Fund Act. They keep the Provident Fund with themselves. The workers get neither pension nor the Provident Fund money. That too happens. Sir, this Government, being a pro-labour Government, should take firm and strong steps so that all workers get the same social security benefits whether under the Provident Fund or the ESI. The plantation workers should be included in the ESI scheme too. That is my suggestion and I think the main problems of the plantation workers would get solved.

With these words, I once again support this Bill and expect that the Government would take appropriate steps to protect the plantation workers from further exploitation.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to welcome the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which is quite well intentioned. But, at the same time, I must comment that this amendment is not adequate. The provisions of the Bill are not fully consistent with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the purpose that has been talked about. I urge upon the hon. Minister to go into the matter and see to it that it is made consistent; otherwise this well-intentioned amended Act will continue to confine to mere some pages in the statute book as is the situation of the majority of the labour related laws in our country. They are mainly meant for violations, not for implementation. From 1990 onwards, a new element has been injected into the scenario that if somebody violates the law, he is considered an offender and he should be punished as per the law of the land. But, in respect of labour law violaters, they are considered to be very smart entrepreneurs and sometimes allowed to share breakfast on the dining table of who is who in the Government. That is our culture, and they are sometimes decorated with Padmashri and other awards. It is done because they are considered very smart entrepreneurs, who are carrying the country to a very big growth trajectory. So, in that kind of a situation, with all good intentions, when the Union Labour Minister takes it up to repair a law, I think, the inbuilt safeguard has to be there for its proper enforcement. As my friend, Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia said, if it is not enforced properly, then the whole purpose of amending this Act will be defeated.

Sir, this particular Bill is targeted to address the issue of safety in the plantation section. It is not a fact. I do not agree with my friend, Ahluwaliaji, although he said it with good intentions, इतने दिन सोती रही, it is being discussed in the last 60 years. If I am correct, being basically a trade union official, in the last six decades, it is being discussed in different forums. But, unfortunately, it could not get the priority it deserved, and now it has been taken up. It is well enough. But, how has it been taken up? It has rightly identified the real problems and the serious damages it is causing to the health of the plantation workers. Surveys after surveys, made basically by the trade unions, are showing that the exposure to these chemicals and pesticides in our plantation sector is creating so much problem for the workers. It is sometimes creating mental retardation among the plantation workers, who usually come from the most backward and most weakest sections of the society, namely, the adivasis, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, migrant workers, etc.

The serious spread of mental retardation because of its exposure to chemicals. It is not merely tuberculosis; it is one of the diseases. It is not merely skin disease; it is one of the diseases. It is also causing serious mental retardation which is leading to widespread drunkenness by which the workers are losing their hard-earned money and the whole family becomes a pauper and they run after moneylenders, and ultimately the family falls in debt trap. So, such kind of a serious situation is being created there. Again and again, it is being pointed out. It was discussed in different forums, and, at last, it has been taken up. Just I have been told that in tea gardens, the spread of drunkenness was especially studied by the trade unions and other social activist groups and it was found that because of that kind of exposure to this chemical, it created a kind of nausea. There is always a continuous feeling of nausea within the worker which pushes it to go for alcohol or country liquor. In Kerala, for cashew plantation particularly, there is exposure to a particular chemical called endosulfan, which is creating serious mental retardation in workers. Other chemical exposure, health hazards, I understand, some diseases and others. But, it affects mind also. This is such a kind of serious disease.

It has been taken well enough. But, again, the provision that has been made, I find it is just an enabling provision for the State to make some rules and telling some dos and do-nots to the employers. The penalty provision that has been kept is totally inadequate to compel the owner/employer to abide by those safety requirements. The law talks about appointment of a qualified trained supervisor to handle those chemicals. But, it does not talk about appointment of a qualified safety officer and a preventive safety department; it should have been there for these remote areas, plantation areas. How could you address the issue and implement this law? I think, these are the areas that should be seriously looked into.

Secondly, I would come to the issue of medical facilities. You are leaving it to the mercy of the State Governments. Normally, the plantations are located in such remote areas where State Government hospitals are not accessibly nearby. This is a reality. Garden group of hospitals are playing a very important role, this is also a reality. Presently, let me tell you, particularly after 1990-onwards, in the managerial vocabulary that is being talked is, “In a tea garden or plantation, running a hospital is not a part of core competence and you throw it out; your business is to grow tea and sell it in the market; running hospital is not your competence, throw it out, outsource it.” A dangerous trend has started in the plantation area and most unfortunately, when I went through the Standing Committee report, the Standing Committee Members from all parties, when they put specific questions to the Union Labour Ministry, they argued that it was not a viable proposition in many areas. In some areas, Garden group of hospitals are there. The Members insisted, “You are running a big empire; tea garden means an empire; you must have a hospital there, you are located in isolated remote areas and you must have a hospital there. If you have to do business, the benchmark has to be followed.” I do not believe that our plantation industry is in crises. If you really go through the economics in a comprehensive term, the production is separated from marketing, production is separated from processing factory. The processing unit is earning profit, but the production unit is losing.

On the ground that the production unit is losing, workers are being deprived of their benefits. This is the reality in most of the plantation areas. It is a business jugglery by which the same entrepreneur created three different companies—one for production, one for processing and another for marketing. Marketing and processing are earning profits, and the production unit is losing it or earning a very low margin. By this they make a plea, ‘Garden is not viable, you cannot continue with the Garden group of hospitals, so we must have access to the State Government hospitals.’ This is no doubt a very clever exercise but people can understand. That cannot be the reason, that cannot be the sole remedy. That can be one of the remedies. The State Government hospitals and others can supplement, but you have to compel them to bring under the Garden group of hospitals. The Garden group of hospitals must increase in number and that must take care of the workers. You have to supplement each other. You can understand the manner in which the Labour Ministry responded to the queries of the Standing Committee Members. It appears that they are indulgent to the idea that the Garden group of hospitals need not be maintained and the whole thing can be pushed to the State Governments. I think, this should not be an idea; this will defeat the very purpose of the enactment, the purpose of the Amendment. I urge upon the Minister to please take care of that.

The third point is again on enforcement. Sir, there is another Act, particularly the Tea Act, 1953 for the tea area. That has got certain teeth. That has got a provision to say that the licence

may not be renewed if you are violating laws, including the labour-related laws. If the hon. Minister can let me know—the hon. Commerce Minister is also sitting here and I do not know whether he came prepared for this particular issue—how many complaints have come to the Central Government from different State Governments about non-compliance of the labour-related matters by the tea gardens and insisting for that provision to be invoked to leverage the Tea Act, 1953, of the conditions that have been there, to tighten them.

The economics of our plantation industry is not at all in crisis. The crisis is being projected to mint money, to mint profit and to rob the workers of their legitimate due. That is the reality. There is no crisis at all. So, keeping this in view, whether you are going to leverage the Tea Act, 1953, and this Act must have a reference of Tea Act there. I think, in this respect, the Commerce Ministry and the Labour Ministry must move in unison and only then the wealth that is created in our plantation industry can be properly go down, can be properly get distributed among the workers.

Sir, the last point is, I agree with my friend Mr. Khuntia when he said that there is Industrial Committee. It is a structured Committee. It does not meet. It is a Central Act. The major responsibility to implement the Act rests with the State Government. Unless there is an effective monitoring mechanism, particularly in plantation-like sector where the workers are extremely weak as they come from the weaker sections of the society where there is a problem of education, awareness and so many other things, and if there is no strong mechanism, they will continue to become the victims of exploitation. So, you must make the Industrial Committee operative. I have seen the geography of the plantation industry in our country. Unless these Committees are constituted regionally, it is very difficult. Sir, at least, two Committees — one for South and the other for East and North-East — have to be constituted. And, another one for the Northern region where plantation is gradually picking up in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and in so many other areas can also be constituted to closely monitor the implementation of these labour-related laws.

Sir, the last point is this. Sir, another problem which is really being faced by the plantation sector is the shortage of skilled labour.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Sen, you have exceeded your time by three minutes.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am concluding.

Sir, another most important point is that they are facing a very serious shortage labour, thanks to NREGA. Again, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Labour Minister and also the hon. Commerce Minister who is sitting here that a very peculiar anomalous situation is prevailing with regard to wages for labour in the plantation sector, particularly tea industry. In the East and the North-East, the wage is Rs. 67. In South, it is Rs. 105. In East and the North-East,

no DA element is there with the wage. In the South there is an element of DA ...(*time-bell*)... I am concluding. Sir, this is a very important point that I am dealing with. In the Eastern and North-Eastern region, there is ration. In South it is not there. I am told that since you are giving ration, the wage is very low; fine. I accept. That is why in East and the North-East it is Rs. 67 and I am getting ration. In South, it is Rs. 105 without ration. It is fine. Then, why do you deprive of me of DA. It is a double punishment. What is the basis for it?

The Wage Board for plantation was last set up in 1966. Thereafter, there is no Wage Board. I think, the time has come that unless you address this anomalous situation about the wages, the plantation industry will lose skilled workers, because they are able to find other better avenues. Again, those avenues are not so stable in this kind of critical economic situation. So, if that is important and you consider plantation sector as a very important segment of country's revenue generation through export and other things, you have to give importance it deserves and it demands that we must constitute the Wage Board immediately to address the wage issue of the plantation workers and bring it to standard. I think that is also a very important aspect which you alone can make with a bit of successful initiative. I request, while framing the rules — the State Government is framing the rules — the Central Government, the Union Labour Ministry should take up, in consultation with the Commerce Ministry, to frame a Central set of rules which act as overall guidelines to the State to frame their respective rules. And, it will help a proper monitoring and enforcement. So, at least, a better effort can be made.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मंत्री जी ने आज जो “The Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008” यहां प्रस्तुत किया है, मैं उसके समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

सर, बागानों में जो श्रमिक काम करते हैं उनके अधिकारों तथा उनकी सुरक्षा और कल्याण के लिए बागान श्रम अधिनियम, 1951 बनाया गया था। जब यह कानून बना उसके बाद से लगातार इन बागानों में काम करने वाले लोगों की और ऐसे संगठन, जो इन बागानों से संबंधित थे, उनकी यह लम्बी मांग थी, जो कानून मंत्री जी आज लेकर आए हैं। यह सही है कि चाहे चाय के बागान हों, रबड़ के बागान हों या इलायची के बागान हों, इनको अंग्रेजों ने इस देश की भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों के हिसाब से लगाया था। चाय बागानों में विशेष कर बच्चे और महिलाएँ भारी संख्या में काम करते हैं। उसका प्रमुख कारण यह है कि चाय बागानों में चाय की पत्तियाँ तोड़ने का काम होता है और चूँकि बच्चों और महिलाओं की उंगलियाँ मुलायम होती हैं, जिसके कारण ये उस काम को बहुत तेजी के साथ करते हैं। इसीलिए भारी संख्या में चाय बागानों में महिलाएँ और बच्चे काम करते रहे। 1951 से लेकर आज तक, आज जो यह कानून संसद के सामने लाया गया है, इस कानून का उल्लंघन होता रहा है। केवल चाय बागान में ही नहीं बल्कि हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में भदोही में कालीन बनाने का उद्योग है, उस उद्योग में भी 14 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों को बड़ी संख्या में काम पर लगाया जाता है। वहां कालीन बुनाई का जो काम होता है, चूँकि इनकी उंगलियाँ बहुत मुलायम होती हैं, इसलिए उनसे बुनाई करने में भी आसानी होती है। महोदय, इन बागानों में 14 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों को नियोजित करने का काम होता रहा। यद्यपि आज जो कानून आया है, इसके मुताबिक अब वहां महिलाओं को छः बजे सुबह से लेकर शाम सात बजे तक ही काम पर लगाया जाएगा, लेकिन इसके पहले पिछले 62 वर्षों तक लगातार, चाहे वे 14 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चे

रहे हों या महिलाएं रही हों, उनसे वहां देर रात तक काम कराया जाता था। अब जब यह कानून बन जाएगा तब मैं मानता हूं कि अब पुरुषों को सप्ताह में सिर्फ 48 घंटे काम करना होगा और इसी तरह से 14 वर्ष के ऊपर के बच्चों से सप्ताह में 27 घंटे ही काम लिया जाएगा।

सर, दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि मूल अधिनियम की 33, 35 और 36 धाराओं के अनुसार पहले जब कोई व्यक्ति दोषी पाया जाता था तो उसको केवल 3 महीने का कारावास या 5 सौ रुपए का जुर्माना किया जाता था, लेकिन आपने यह अच्छा काम किया है कि आपने इसको संशोधित किया है। अब अगर कोई व्यक्ति इस कानून का उल्लंघन करेगा तो उसके लिए आपने कारावास की अवधि को 6 माह किया है और जुर्माने को भी बढ़ाकर 10 हजार रुपए किया है। इस काम में बच्चे, महिलाएं या अन्य जो लोग भी लगाए जाते थे, उनके बारे में श्रम संबंधी Parliamentary Standing Committee ने अपनी रिपोर्ट भी दी थी। श्रम समिति ने अपने 38वें प्रतिवेदन में कहा था कि बागान में कई यांत्रिक और रासायनिक खतरे मौजूद रहते हैं, जहां बड़ी संख्या में अकुशल और अर्द्धकुशल कामगार नियोजित हैं। रासायनिक उर्वरकों तथा कीट एवं खर-पतवार नियंत्रक रसायनों के लापरवाहीपूर्ण उपयोग तथा कुछ बागानों में त्रुटिपूर्ण कार्य प्रक्रियाओं के कारण स्वास्थ्य संबंधी गंभीर खतरों की संभावना है। कीटनाशकों तथा खर-पतवार नाशकों की कई किस्मों का बागानों में प्रयोग किया जाता है। इन कीटनाशकों का परिवहन तथा भण्डारण सुरक्षित तरीके से नहीं किया जाता है। सांद्र पदार्थों को मिलाते समय कामगारों द्वारा बहुत-सी सुरक्षा संबंधी सावधानियों की उपेक्षा कर दी जाती है। मापक-पात्रों तथा व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा उपस्करों को उचित तरीके से उपयोग नहीं किया जाता है या बिल्कुल ही उपयोग नहीं किया जाता है, जिससे exposure संबंधी गंभीर खतरे होते हैं। इन रसायनों के अधिक उपयोग से बागान-उद्योग में कार्यरत कामगारों को त्वचा में खुजलाहट, चर्म रोग, अस्थमा, ब्रोंकाइटिस आदि बीमारियां हो जाती हैं।...**(समय की घंटी)**

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

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: बस, अब मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूं सर।

दूसरी चीज़ यह होती थी कि जहां ये कीटनाशक या रसायन रखे जाते थे, वहां उनकी सूची नहीं लगी रहती थी। आपने इस कानून के माध्यम से इसकी भी व्यवस्था की है। आप यह जो संशोधन विधेयक लेकर आये हैं, इससे बागानों में जो लाखों कर्मचारी कार्य कर रहे हैं और वहां जो महिलाएं काम कर रही हैं, इससे उनकी निश्चित रूप से सुरक्षा होगी। इसी बात के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री गोविंदराव आदिक (महाराष्ट्र): धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय जो आपने मुझे यहां बोलने का मौका दिया। मैं जानता हूं कि समय की पाबंदी है इसलिए आपने जो समय निर्धारित किया है, उसी में मैं अपना भाषण खत्म करने वाला हूं।

सर्वप्रथम मैं यूपीए सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं और उसका अभिनन्दन भी करना चाहता हूं कि इस सरकार ने एक बहुत ही प्रोग्रेसिव और पुरोगामी विधेयक यहां लाने का प्रयास किया है। वैसे अगर देखा जाए तो पिछले 63 सालों में हमारे देश में वर्कर्स के लिए, लेबरर्स के लिए और श्रमजीवी जनता के लिए जितने कानून हमने बनाये हैं, शायद ही किसी प्रगतिशील देश में इतने कानून बनाये गये हों। इसका उल्लेख आई.एल.ओ. की एक रिपोर्ट में भी किया गया है कि लेबरर्स को security देने के लिए भारत में सबसे ज्यादा कानून तैयार किये गये हैं। उन्हीं में से एक कानून 1951 में हमने पारित किया था। उसमें आज संशोधन करने का निर्णय सरकार ने किया, सरकार को इसके लिए मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा। कहते हैं - देर आये, दुरुस्त आये। देर हो गयी है, लेकिन फिर भी आप इस संविधान संशोधन में जिन प्रावधानों को लेकर आये हैं, इसका स्वागत केवल हम ही नहीं बल्कि श्रमजीवी जनता के हर वर्ग में किया जाएगा, इसमें कोई आशंका नहीं है।

महोदय, इस कानून के तहत हमने देखा है कि जीवित प्राणी के लिए जो हानिकारक बन सकते हैं, ऐसे जो जीवाणु और द्रव हैं, उनको नियंत्रित करने के लिए यह संशोधन किया जा रहा है। इसका फायदा जरूर प्लांटेशन इंडस्ट्री में होगा। प्लांटेशन इंडस्ट्री हमारे देश की एक बहुत ही अहम, बड़ी और महत्वपूर्ण इंडस्ट्री है, लेकिन जैसा हमारे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने कहा कि हमने इस इंडस्ट्री को बहुत neglect किया है। हमने इसमें काम करने वाले वर्कर्स की तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया है। यह अच्छी बात है कि अब इस पर ध्यान देने का प्रयास शुरू हुआ है और मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं। इसमें जो भी प्रावधान किये गये हैं, वे प्रावधान पूरे नहीं हैं, इनमें बहुत-सी खामियां हैं। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि उन खामियों को दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। इसके बारे में जो भी बातें कही गयी हैं, मैं उनको दोबारा नहीं कहना चाहता हूं, लेकिन मैं सरकार को यहां एक सुझाव जरूर देना चाहता हूं। वह सुझाव इतना ही है कि इसमें pesticides और insecticide के लिए जो प्रावधान किये गये हैं, हम तो यह चाहेंगे कि इस इंडस्ट्री में इन pesticides, insecticides और herbicides का कम से कम उपयोग किया जाए। अगर उसके लिए कोई रोक लगा दी जाए तो वह सबसे अच्छा होगा।

बीमारी के फैलने के बाद, उसको नियंत्रित करना एक और बात है और बीमारी न हो, इसके लिए पहले से ही preventive measures लेना दूसरी बात है। हम तो सरकार से यही कहेंगे कि इन preventive measures को लेने के लिए वह जरूर कुछ कदम उठाए। इससे सबको राहत मिलेगी।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इस इंडस्ट्री में बहुत से migrant labourers हैं, जिनका न यहां उल्लेख किया गया है और न ही किसी ने उनकी ओर ध्यान दिया है। एक तो permanent labourers हैं, उनके बारे में आप जो भी प्रावधान करेंगे, उनसे उन्हें फायदा होगा, लेकिन इनमें एक वर्ग ऐसे labourers का भी है, जो साल भर वहां काम नहीं करते हैं, वे केवल seasonal labourers के तौर पर काम करते हैं और season में काम करके निकल जाते हैं। जो लोग वहां permanent हैं, वे साल भर वहां काम करते हैं। उनके लिए आपने जो प्रावधान किए हैं, उनसे उन्हें जरूर फायदा होगा। लेकिन जो seasonal workers हैं, उनके लिए आप क्या प्रावधान करेंगे। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात है। जैसे हम देख रहे हैं कि Plantation Industry में population of migrant labourers, बड़ी चिंता का विषय बन जाती है। जैसे हमारी Sugar Industry में भी जिन्हें हम harvesting labourers कहते हैं, ये भी migrate होकर आते हैं और इनकी समस्याएं कुछ अलग ही होती हैं। हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी यदि इनकी ओर कुछ ध्यान दें और इनके लिए भी कुछ प्रावधान करें, तो इन लोगों को भी राहत मिल सकेगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं इस बिल को समर्थन देते हुए, अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने आज 49 वर्षों के बाद इस बिल में परिवर्तन करने की जो पहल की है, इसके लिए मैं उनको बधाई देता हूं। महोदय, आधी सदी के बाद कम से कम सरकार की नींद तो खुली है कि इस बिल में थोड़ा संशोधन किया जाए, लेकिन नींद ऐसी खुली है कि जहां penalties देने की बात है, वे लोग जो rules को violate करते हैं, उनके लिए penalty के रूप में 2,000 रुपए या 10,000 रुपए की रकम रखी गई है, जो उनके लिए कुछ भी नहीं है। इसलिए इस बात की ओर विशेष ध्यान दिलाना चाहिए कि जो हमारे laws हैं, वे implement किए जा सकें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि जहां Tea Gardens में plantation होता है, वहां पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा migrant labourers रहते हैं और उनके accommodation की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं होती है। न तो वहां पीने का पानी मिलता है, न ही वहां विद्युत की व्यवस्था होती है, न तो उनके बच्चों के लिए स्कूल होते हैं, न ही उनके लिए कोई सामाजिक सुरक्षा की गारंटी होती है। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि इस Act में इन सब चीजों का प्रावधान होना चाहिए - उनके health check-up का प्रावधान होना चाहिए और उनको सामाजिक सुरक्षा की गारंटी मिलनी चाहिए।

महोदय, कई माननीय सांसदों ने इस बात की ओर ध्यान दिलाया है कि जो chemicals वहां यूज होते हैं, जिनको untrained लोग काम में लाते हैं, उनको देखने के लिए वहां पर ऐसे supervisors होने चाहिए, जो trained हों और chemicals को handle करने के लिए उनके पास उपयुक्त जानकारी हो, ताकि वे इन chemicals को ठीक तरह से handle कर सकें।

महोदय, यहां चिकित्सा की बात भी आई है। वहां पर हॉस्पिटल्स नहीं हैं, इसके कारण उन मजदूरों का medical check-up नहीं होता है। इसलिए बागानों के नज़दीक ही ऐसे हॉस्पिटल्स की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, जहां पर उनका proper periodical medical check-up हो सके और उनका treatment हो सके।

महोदय, मैं एक बात की ओर मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं, विशेषकर पश्चिमी बंगाल में, जहां Tea Plantations हैं, वहां पर उनको weekly or monthly ration देने की व्यवस्था है, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस महंगाई के दौर में उन लोगों को पिछले 60-70 हफ्तों से राशन नहीं दिया गया है। इसलिए उनको समय पर राशन दिया जाए, इसको ensure करने के लिए कानून में आवश्यक व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि वहां पीने का पानी तक नहीं मिलता है। इसलिए वहां पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था को ensure किया जाए, इसकी ओर मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। वहां बहुत सी जगहों पर plantations बंद कर दिए गए हैं और उन मजदूरों के Provident Fund आदि की 100 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की रकम बकाया है।

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

चाय बागान के मालिक अपने-अपने बागानों को बंद करके मौज-मस्ती कर रहे हैं और हजारों वर्कर्स का 100 करोड़ से ज्यादा रुपया डूबा हुआ है, इसलिए सरकार को इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए कि इन वर्कर्स का वह पैसा ठीक समय से मिल सके। डूअर्स और दार्जिलिंग में ऐसे 25-30 चाय बागान बंद हैं, जहां के मजदूर बेरोजगार हो गए हैं। उनके पास न एपीएल कार्ड है और न ही बीपीएल कार्ड है। चूंकि उनके लिए राशनिंग की व्यवस्था थी, अब उनको कहीं से राशन भी नहीं मिलता है। इसके कारण वे आज भुखमरी के कगार पर ही नहीं हैं, बल्कि वे भुखमरी के शिकार हो रहे हैं, इसलिए इन वर्कर्स की ओर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

सर, इनका जो minimum wages है, इसको डीए के साथ लिंक करना चाहिए। अगर महंगाई बढ़ती है, तो इन्हें कुछ राशन दिया जाता है, इससे सारे चीजों की भरपाई नहीं होती है, इसलिए इनके wages को डीए के साथ लिंक करना चाहिए। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूं कि वह कानून में इस बात को insure करने की कोशिश करें। इन्होंने कहा है कि 14 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चे को काम पर allow नहीं किया जाएगा। इसके लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूं।

सर, accident के केस में और incurable disease के केस में वहां के वर्कर्स को compensate किया जाए, इस तरह का प्रावधान इस एक्ट में लाना चाहिए। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूंगा कि वे इसके बारे में सोचें। अंत में, दोबारा मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि उनके लिए प्रोपर मेडिकल चेक-अप की एक व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, जो वहां पर नहीं है। सैंकड़ों लोग बीमारियों से ग्रसित ही नहीं हो रहे हैं, बल्कि बीमारियों से ग्रसित हो कर उनकी अकाल मृत्यु भी हो रही है। इसकी तरफ विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह करता हूं कि वे इस ओर जरूर ध्यान दें। धन्यवाद।

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, the Plantation Act, 1951 was enacted for the welfare of the labourers. This present Bill seeks to amend the Act. The Act has no provision for safety measures and precautions for the handling, utilization and storage of agro-chemicals. The Government has taken a welcome step by bringing in this Amendment Bill for the welfare of the labourers working in various tea, coffee and rubber gardens, etc. of the country.

Sir, it is known to everybody that Assam is the world's largest tea-producing State. We are also rich in rubber plantations. Since the British period, Assam has been engaged in tea plantation. The tea industry in Assam has now become almost a cottage industry. We have thousands of small tea growers. We need to pay special attention to the welfare and protection of the lakhs of labourers engaged in these tea and rubber gardens in our States.

Sir, I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister on bringing the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008. I want to ask him whether his Ministry is satisfied with the welfare measures that have been extended so far to these labourers, who engage themselves and work for the prosperity and economic development of the country. I feel that it is not enough. There is exploitation. They do not get proper wages. They are deprived of education and proper healthcare. There are no proper drinking water facilities in the gardens. Even the human rights are not respected. This Act would ensure them safety and protection. There are amenities for washing, bathing, etc.

But, Sir, I want to know whether every garden is equipped with hospital and health unit. If there are hospitals and health units, are they equipped with doctors? I have the information that most of the gardens in Assam are not equipped with hospitals and doctors. Workers' healthcare is looked after by pharmacists and nurses. There should be a mandatory provision that every garden should be equipped with proper facilities of healthcare, hospitals and doctors. I, therefore, demand better implementation of this provision of Plantations Labour Act, 1951. I also demand the redressal of grievances raised by the labour community who are engaged in tea plantations in Assam. I wish the hon. Minister to visit our State and meet the tea garden community to redress their grievances relating to wages, bonus, etc. With these few words, I again thank you for giving me this opportunity. I welcome this Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा): डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, The Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 2008 का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। सर, यह बहुत अच्छा बिल है और यह पहले आना चाहिए था, लेकिन अब आया है, इसके लिए मैं सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

सर, भारत सरकार का major plantation Ministry of Forest and Environment में होता है। Tea plantations पर जितना खर्चा होता है, उससे हजार गुना ज्यादा, हर साल Ministry of Forest and Environment में खर्च होता है। वहाँ जो लेबर काम करते हैं, उनके लिए कोई protection नहीं है। वे लोग hire

and fire में चले जाते हैं। इसीलिए पब्लिक सेक्टर या सरकारी सेक्टर में जो काम करते हैं, विभिन्न multinational companies भी massive way में plantation करती हैं। Ministry of Forest and Environment के तहत massive way में plantation किया जाता है। Ministry of Mines में भी जो प्राइवेट पार्टियां हैं, वे भी massive way में plantation करती हैं और त्रि-स्तरीय पंचायती राज व्यवस्था में भी massive way में plantation होता है। इसलिए मैं आपसे एक ही दरखास्त करूंगा कि tea plantations में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को कम से कम ESI benefit मिले और पब्लिक सेक्टर और multinational companies में जो plantation होता है, उन मजदूरों के लिए भी कानून बनना चाहिए। साथ ही जो minimum wages दिए जाते हैं, ये बहुत कम हैं। उन लोगों को 1500-2000 रुपए महीने तक मिलता है, इसलिए इन plantation workers की तनखाह भी 6th Pay Commission के मुताबिक होनी चाहिए। आपने मुझे इस बिल पर बोलने के लिए समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, वास्तव में माननीय मंत्री जी के कारण ही यहां पर दो मिनट बोलने के लिए मैंने समय मांगा था। अंग्रेजों के समय से जो श्रमिकों का शोषण चल रहा है, उसके बाद जागकर सरकार ने श्रमिकों की सुरक्षा, कंपनसेशन और बच्चों को काम पर जाने से रोकने के लिए कदम उठाए, उसका मैं स्वागत करता हूं। मेरा समय मांगने का कारण यह था कि आज अप्रैल के अंत में माननीय मंत्री जी ने “मई दिवस” की शुभकामनाएं दी हैं, इस पर मुझे बहुत आश्चर्य होता है। आप बाहर किसी समारोह में “मई दिवस” के ऊपर बोलते हैं, वह अलग विषय है। आप इस देश के माननीय मंत्री हैं, इस देश में आप “विश्वकर्मा पुरस्कार” देते हैं, इस देश में सभी कारखानों में “विश्वकर्मा पुरस्कार” पर पूजा की जाती है और आप “मई दिवस” की शुभकामनाएं देते हैं - मेरा “मई दिवस” पर विरोध नहीं है - “मई दिवस” का संबंध अमरीका की घटनाओं से है। जो लोग इसे मनाते हैं, उनसे मेरा कोई विरोध नहीं है, लेकिन आप इस देश के मंत्री हैं। “मई दिवस” के बारे में जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है, उसे इस देश का “श्रम दिवस” घोषित नहीं किया गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरा कुछ कहना नहीं है, मुझे मालूम नहीं है। जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, “मई दिवस” को “श्रम दिवस” के रूप में मानने की घोषणा नहीं हुई है। जो “मई दिवस” मनाते हैं, उनके साथ मेरा कोई विरोध नहीं है, लेकिन इसका आरंभ अमरीका की घटनाओं से हुआ, यह इस देश का नहीं है। उपसभापति जी, मैं अनेक स्थानों के कारखानों में गया हूं, पश्चिमी बंगाल में भी मुझे कई लोगों ने कहा है कि आप “विश्वकर्मा दिवस” पर छुट्टी घोषित क्यों नहीं कराते? भारत सरकार “विश्वकर्मा पुरस्कार” देती है। इसलिए माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा निवेदन है कि आप अपने बाहर के भाषण और अंदर के वक्तव्यों में कृपा करके इन सारी बातों को ध्यान में रखें। जो अच्छा काम आप श्रमिकों के लिए कर रहे हैं, उसके लिए मैं आपको जरूर बधाई देता हूं, लेकिन आप मंत्री हैं, आप इस बात का ध्यान रखेंगे, इतनी ही मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है। धन्यवाद।

श्री हरीश रावत : माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपका और पूरे सदन का बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूं, विशेष तौर पर मैं श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं जिन्होंने यह कहा कि “मई दिवस” के विषय में यहां शुभकामना नहीं दी जानी चाहिए थी।...**(व्यवधान)**... यदि यह उनके दल का अपना विश्वास है तो मैं नहीं कह सकता।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास : मैंने दल की ओर से कुछ नहीं कहा।

श्री हरीश रावत : लेकिन यहां लाखों लोगों को रीप्रेजेंट करने वाले ऐसे मੈबर्स हैं, जिन लोगों ने इस दिशा में अपने जीवन के बहुमूल्य भाग को लगाने का काम किया है और इसीलिए मैंने सब लोगों की तरफ से, पूरे सदन की तरफ से जो कल “मई दिवस” है, उसके लिए बधाई देने का साहस किया। महोदय, यहां पर

आठ सम्माननीय लोगों ने अपने विचार रखे। मैं अहलुवालिया जी को विशेष धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ - वे यहां पर मौजूद नहीं हैं, उनके दल के माननीय सदस्य मौजूद हैं - मैं समझता हूँ कि आज उन्होंने जो बातें यहां पर कहीं, उन्होंने काफी हद तक जो दायित्व मेरा था कि एक्ट के अंदर जो हमने विभिन्न संशोधनों का provision रखा है, जिनको लेकर हम यहां पर आए हैं, उन्होंने उनकी चर्चा की और उनका समर्थन किया। सभी सदस्यों ने करीब एक मत से इन संशोधनों की आवश्यकता पर अपनी सहमति जताई। मैं इस बात को स्वीकार करता हूँ कि काफी विलम्ब हुआ। लेकिन जैसा तपन कुमार सेन जी ने कहा, यह विलम्ब कोई इरादतन नहीं था। लगातार प्रयास हुए हैं, मेरे पास इसका पूरा इतिहास है। 1985 से इस बात की कोशिश हुई कि इसमें संशोधन लाए जाएं, क्योंकि इस एक्ट का अलग-अलग स्वरूप है। सरकार की विभिन्न कमेटियों के माध्यम से, जिनमें सेक्रेटरीज की कमेटी भी है, इसका विवेचन किया गया। राज्यों से सुझाव आए, ट्रेड यूनियंस से सुझाव आए, लेकिन किसी चीज के कुछ संयोग होते हैं और आज शायद “मई दिवस” के पूर्व दिवस पर इस संशोधन विधेयक को इस सदन में आना होगा। पहले वे संशोधन, जो आवश्यक थे, नहीं हो पाए, 1989 में तो बिल भी यहां पर प्रस्तुत हुआ, लेकिन बाद में लोक सभा के dissolve होने के कारण यह विधेयक पारित नहीं हो सका।

सर, समय को देखते हुए इसमें मैं दो बातों तक अपने उत्तर को सीमित करने का प्रयास करूंगा। एक तो हम विभिन्न संशोधन लाए हैं तथा दूसरे माननीय सदस्यों ने सुझाव दिए हैं, मैं उन पर भी कुछ चर्चा करना चाहूंगा। सर, जैसा यह महसूस किया जाता था कि विशेष तौर पर एम्प्लॉयर के विषय में एक्ट के अंदर जो परिभाषा थी, कानून के दरवाजे पर एम्प्लॉयर उसका लाभ उठा लेते थे, इसीलिए हमने उसको व्यापक बनाया है। उसमें मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर, पार्टनर, लीजी और गवर्नमेंट ऑफिसर्स जो भी प्लांटेशन के एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं, उन सब को उत्तरदायित्व की सीमा के अंदर हम ला रहे हैं। दूसरे, परिवार की परिभाषा थी, उसमें मेल और फीमेल वर्कर्स के बीच में अंतर दिखाया गया था, उसको समाप्त करके चाहे मेल हों या फीमेल हों, उन पर यह एक्ट समान रूप से लागू होगा। जहां तक वेज सीलिंग को बढ़ाने का सवाल है, यह बड़ा कदम है और यकीनन कुछ शंकाएं चाहिए की गई हैं कि कहीं ऐसा न हो कि अभी तक तो बी.पी.एल. की श्रेणी में थे और अब आई.पी.एल. में आ जाएंगे तो कहीं बहुत सारी सुविधाओं से वंचित न हो जाएं। हमारा प्रयास रहेगा, हम राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत करेंगे कि प्लांटेशन वर्कर्स को दी जाने वाली सुविधाएं हैं वह उनके संदर्भ में देखी जानी चाहिए और उन सुविधाओं से जो उनको आज मिल रही हैं, वे उनसे वंचित न हों, बल्कि हम उनको कुछ नई सुविधाएं दे सकें, उनको देने का प्रयास करें। यहां श्री गोविंदराव जी ने कहा कि जो सीजनल वर्कर्स हैं यह उनको प्रोटेक्ट नहीं करता है, हमने उसी को देखते हुए इसमें, अगर एक साल में कोई 60 दिन भी कार्य कर रहा है तो उसको भी अब इस एक्ट के प्रोविजन का लाभ प्राप्त होगा, उसकी व्यवस्था की है। जो शंका आपने जाहिर की है वह वास्तविक है और हमने प्रयास किया है कि उस शंका का निराकरण हो सके और कांटेक्ट वर्कर्स हैं उनको भी समान रूप से लाभ मिल सके। हमारा कांटेक्ट वर्कर्स रेग्यूलेशन एक्ट है, वह भेद नहीं करता है सुविधाओं के विषय में। अब वह राज्य सरकारों के ऊपर है कि वे उसको किस तरह से लागू करने का प्रयास कर रही हैं। यहां पर एक बात की वास्तविक चिंता की थी और उसको हम बराबर महसूस भी कर रहे थे वह थी उम्र को लेकर।

हमारा चाइल्ड लेबर (प्रोहिबिशन एंड रेग्यूलेशन) एक्ट है वह 14 साल की उम्र की बात करता है और इन बच्चों को हैजार्ड्स आक्यूपेशन में जहां केमिकल, पेस्टिसाइड्स आदि का उपयोग होता है वहां यह उनके काम को प्रतिबंधित करता है और कानूनन वह अपराध है। जबकि हमारे इस एक्ट के अंदर 12 साल का उल्लेख था,

क्योंकि जब यह प्लांटेशन एक्ट इनएक्ट किया गया, क्योंकि हमारा चाइल्ड लेबर एक्ट बाद में संसद में पारित हुआ, उस समय राज्यों की सोसियो इकोनोमिक कंडीशन को देखते हुए 12 साल की उम्र का प्रावधान रखा गया था और इसीलिए हमको जैसे पहली आपर्च्युनिटी मिली है, उसको सुधारा है और उसको सुधारने का प्रयास किया है। इसमें मुख्य प्रयास है जिसका मैं विशेष तौर पर उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा, जिसके विषय में हमने राज्यों से भी परामर्श किया और जितने स्टेक होल्डर्स हैं उन सबसे भी बातचीत की, विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से भी बातचीत की और हमने एक नया चैप्टर इसमें जोड़ा है, उसमें हमने सब चिंताओं को, जो आक्यूपेशनल सेफ्टी से रिलेटिड हैं, हैल्थ से रिलेटिड हैं, दूसरे ऐसे सम्पर्क इश्यू से जुड़ी हुई हैं, उनको एड्रेस करने की कोशिश की है। अब यहां एक बड़ा सवाल हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने खड़ा किया। उन्होंने कहा कि इसको मॉनिटर कैसे किया जाएगा, इसकी क्या एजेंसी है? इसीलिए हमने यह प्रोविजन किया है कि राज्य जिस समय रूल्स फ्रेम करें।

उस समय इन बातों को ध्यान में रख सकें और मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं जो शंका उन्होंने प्रकट की है, हमारे छः ऐसे राज्य हैं जहां मेजर प्लांटेशन हैं, उन छः राज्यों को हम अपने मंत्रालय की ओर से माननीय सदस्यों की चिंताओं से अवगत कराएंगे।

उपसभापति महोदय, हम अपने मंत्रालय की ओर से आपको आश्वस्त करना चाहते हैं कि हमारा मंत्रालय राज्यों को रूल्स फ्रेम करते वक्त मदद करेगा, DG FASLI को हम इसके लिए इंस्ट्रक्शन्स देंगे कि वह संबंधित राज्यों के साथ सम्पर्क रखें, ताकि जिस समय रूल्स फ्रेम किए जाएं, उस समय हम उन कमियों को दूर कर सकें, जिन कमियों का सम्मानित सदस्यों ने उल्लेख किया है। उन प्रॉविजन्स को लागू करते वक्त, उनको ध्यान में रखा जा सके, उनका समाधान ढूंढा जा सके, क्योंकि आप इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि प्लांटेशन बहुत फैला हुआ सेक्टर है और इसमें हमारे यहां से हैल्थ स्कीम या एक्ट के अंतर्गत प्रॉविजन्स हैं, वे उनको मिलने चाहिए। इनको मॉनिटर करना, इनको कंट्रोल करना कठिन है। यह काम राज्यों के लिए सरल है। हमारा जो यह एक्ट है, इसको लागू करने का दायित्व राज्य सरकारों के ऊपर है। इस एक्ट की भावना के साथ किसी तरह का विरोधाभास नहीं हो, इसीलिए हमने इस बात को रखा है और इसीलिए हमने कहा है कि राज्य सरकारें ही इसके लिए रूल्स फ्रेम करने का काम करेंगी, ताकि इसका इफेक्टिव रूप से इम्प्लीमेंटेशन हो सके।

सर, जहां तक मेडिकल फेसिलिटीज का संबंध है, इस बात को हम और सभी माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं, जो शहरी क्षेत्र है, वहां पर तो कुछ मेडिकल सुविधाएं हैं, लेकिन जो दूर-दराज के क्षेत्र हैं, वहां पर मेडिकल सुविधाएं बहुत चिंतनीय स्तर पर हैं और प्लांटेशन में भी इसका अपवाद नहीं है। इस बात को हमने रियलाइज किया है और इसीलिए कानून के अंतर्गत दायित्व बनाया गया है कि जो एम्पलायर है, वह उन सुविधाओं को देगा और जो इंस्पेक्टर हैं, उनको मॉनिटर करने का दायित्व दिया गया है। राज्य सरकारों से यह अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे इस बात को देखें कि उनको वहां पर मेडिकल सुविधाएं मिलें, अगर उनको मेडिकल सुविधाएं नहीं मिल रही हैं, तो जो डिफाल्टर एम्पलायर हैं, उनसे उनको पूरा करवाया जा सके, उनसे उसके चार्जज लिए जा सके।

हमारा कम्पनसेशन एक्ट है, वह प्रभावी तरीके से लागू हो सके, उसके लिए भी 32(सी) के जरिए से उपाय किए गए हैं। हमने यह कहा है कि जहां वायलेशन होगा, उस वायलेशन के मामले में रिपोर्ट करने के लिए अभी तक केवल aggrieved party थी, वही ओथराइज्ड माना जाता था, हमने कहा है कि अब ऐसा नहीं होगा यदि ट्रेड यूनियन का सदस्य भी उसके बारे में कम्प्लेंट करता है, तो उसको भी उसी रूप में लिया जाएगा और उनको immunity दी जाएगी इस बात के लिए कि उनके खिलाफ कोई इस तरह का एक्शन नहीं लिया जा सके, जो उनकी सर्विसेज को प्रभावित करने का काम कर सकता है।

सर, यहां पर सभी सदस्यों ने गार्डन हॉस्पिटल का उल्लेख किया है और उन्होंने इस तरह की व्यवस्था को और स्ट्रेंथन करने की बात कही है। हम इस विषय में राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत करेंगे और साथ ही कामर्स मंत्रालय से भी बातचीत करेंगे।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता (असम) : सर, हम आपकी बात से संतुष्ट हैं।

श्री हरीश रावत : आप संतुष्ट हैं, तो मैं आपका इशारा समझकर कन्क्लूड कर देता हूं।...(व्यवधान)...

माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं इस विषय में माननीय सदन के सामने यह बात रखना चाहता हूं कि हमने इस बात को वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के सामने उठाया है।

हमने वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से यह आग्रह किया है कि मेडिकल की सुविधाओं को री-चेक करने के विषय में कोई न कोई मैकेनिज्म होना चाहिए। मैं सौभाग्यशाली हूं कि माननीय वाणिज्य मंत्री जी ने इस विषय में हमारे माननीय सदस्यों की चिंता को पूरे तरीके से सुना है। हम इस विषय में लगातार उनके सम्पर्क में हैं। यहां पर एक बात यह भी कही गई है कि सोशल सिक्युरिटी को व्यापक संदर्भ में किस तरीके से प्लांटेशन वर्कर्स पर लागू किया जा सकता है। सौभाग्य से यह जो पांच-सात साल का अंतराल है, ऐसा ऑफ सोशल सिक्युरिटी है। इस दौरान बहुत सारे प्रोविजन्स लेकर भारत सरकार आई है। मैं इसके लिए इस सदन के माननीय सदस्य पूर्व श्रम मंत्री श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडीस साहब को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूं। जो हमारा नेशनल सोशल सिक्युरिटी एक्ट है, इसके तहत माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने एक हजार रुपए का नेशनल सोशल सिक्युरिटी फंड निर्धारित किया है। प्लांटेशन वर्कर्स हैं, उनके लिए सोशल सिक्युरिटी की स्कीम बन सके, इसके लिए हम वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के सम्पर्क में पहले से ही हैं। वाणिज्य मंत्रालय इस विषय में हमारे विचार से सहमत है। हमने अपने स्तर पर नेशनल सोशल सिक्युरिटी बोर्ड के सामने इस बात को रखा था कि अपने प्लांटेशन वर्कर्स को किस तरीके से सोशल सिक्युरिटी स्कीम के अंतर्गत कवर कर सकते हैं। हम उसके विभिन्न पक्षों को देख रहे हैं, लेकिन राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना, RSBY प्लांटेशन वर्कर्स पर लागू की जा सके, उसको एक्सटेंड किया जा सके, हमने इसके लिए यह निर्णय लिया है। हम इस विषय में आगे राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत करेंगे।

महोदय, मैं तो यह चाहता था कि मैं और माननीय सदस्यों के और बिन्दुओं का भी जवाब देता, मैंने सदन की भावना को देखते हुए मौटे तौर पर उन सभी पहलुओं को कवर करने की कोशिश की है, जो माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां पर उठाए हैं। सबसे बड़ा सवाल यह है कि जो सबसे गरीब लोग हैं, पीड़ित हैं और मोस्टली माइग्रेंट वर्कर्स हैं, उनको किस तरीके से प्रोटेक्ट किया जाए, उनकी हिफाजत कैसे की जाए। हमने माइग्रेंट वर्कर्स के विषय में एक वर्किंग ग्रुप कांस्टिट्यूट किया था और उसमें बहुत सारे सुझाव दिए हैं। हम उनको भी अमल में लाने के लिए कदम उठा रहे हैं। यहां पर माननीय सदस्यों ने मिनिमम वेजेज़ की बात कही है, हमने मिनिमम वेजेज़ एक्ट में मिनिमम वेजेज़ के नेशनल फ्लोर लेवल को बढ़ाने का काम किया है। अब हम यह भी सोच रहे हैं कि उसके प्रोविजन्स को किस तरीके से स्टेडुचरी बनाया जा सके, इसके लिए हम डिफ्रेंट स्टेक होल्डर्स से बातचीत कर रहे हैं, कंसलटेशन कर रहे हैं। इस बात की हर संभव कोशिश की जा रही है कि इस सेगमेंट को जो गरीब है, जो परत-मंदा है, हम उन तक पहुंच सकें, सरकार पहुंच सके तथा पूरा देश उनके साथ खड़ा रह सके। इसी प्रयास की कड़ी के रूप में मैं इस संशोधन विधेयक को सदन के विचारार्थ प्रस्तुत करता हूं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted

4.00 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2-16 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Clause 1. There is one amendment (No. 2) by the hon. Minister.

Clause 1 - Short title and commencement

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I move:

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2008", the figure "2010" be *substituted*.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Enacting Formula. There is one amendment (No. 1) by the hon. Minister.

Enacting Formula

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I move :

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-ninth", the word "Sixty-first" be *substituted*.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

श्री वृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, आज हम एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मंत्रालय के काम काज की चर्चा कर रहे हैं। यह जो कंज्यूमर अफेयर्स मंत्रालय है, इसके जिम्मे सबसे ज्यादा काम वितरण का है। सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए, हमारे जो लक्षित लाभार्थी हैं, उन तक अनाज का वितरण कर अनाज पहुंचाना है। चीनी का, आयात-निर्यात का तथा अन्य सारे महत्वपूर्ण विषय इस मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत आते हैं। आज देश में सबसे ज्यादा चर्चा महंगाई की है। महंगाई का जो कंपोनेन्ट है, वह अनाज का है, खाद्य का है। पहले यह इनफ्लेशन 17 दशमलव कुछ प्रतिशत था, आज 16.61 प्रतिशत के करीब आ गया है। इसमें एक

प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। यह कमी इसलिए आई है, क्योंकि बाजार में अनाज आ रहा है, जिसको देखते हुए भी इसका दाम घटा है, परंतु सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि पिछले दो वर्षों से महंगाई कम नहीं हो पा रही है और वह भी विशेष तौर पर उन चीजों पर जो अनाज की हैं और रोजमर्रा की जरूरत की चीजें हैं। आबादी के बढ़ते हुए अनुपात को देखते हुए अनाज का उत्पादन घट रहा है। उत्पादन क्यों घट रहा है? डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने ठीक ही कहा कि हम केवल उत्पादन के बढ़ाने की चिंता तो करते हैं, परंतु जो किसान उपज पैदा करता है, उसको जो लाभकारी मूल्य है, वह लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिल पाता है। अगर लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा, तो उसकी खेती में दिलचस्पी क्यों होगी। लाभकारी मूल्य के लिए सरकार जो कहती है, महंगाई का जो कारण बताती है, उसमें शायद एक कारण यह है कि जो न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य है, उसको बढ़ा देती है, परंतु यदि जमीनी हकीकत देखी जाए, तो जो न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य है, वह किसानों को नहीं मिल पाता है। जो बिचौलिया या बड़े-बड़े ट्रेडर्स हैं, वे उसका हिस्सा ले लेते हैं। मैं और तो नहीं जानता हूं, मगर हमारे पास बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश की जो सूचनाएं हैं, और मैं समझता हूं कि पंजाब और हरियाणा को छोड़कर यही स्थिति और भी सूबों में होगी, क्योंकि वहां पर अभी तक जो क्रय केंद्र हैं, वे क्रय केंद्र खुले ही नहीं हैं। वहां पर केवल बोर्ड लग गया है या कपड़े का बैनर लगा दिया गया है, मगर उनकी खरीदारी नहीं हो रही है। आपने ग्यारह सौ रुपया दाम तय कर दिया कि किसान को मिलेगा, लेकिन उस बेचारे को आठ सौ, साढ़े आठ सौ या नौ सौ रुपये में, औने-पौने दाम में अपना अनाज बेच देना पड़ता है। यह बड़ी ही भयावह स्थिति है। आप जानते हैं और हम भी समझते हैं कि हमारे देश में, काफी बड़ी संख्या, लगभग साठ प्रतिशत से ऊपर होगी, मझोले और सीमांत किसानों की है। जो मझोले और सीमांत किसान हैं, वे ही सबसे ज्यादा अनाज पैदा करते हैं।

वे पैदा करने वाले भी हैं और उपभोक्ता भी हैं। उनकी यह स्थिति नहीं है कि वे अपने अनाज को रोक पाएं। दूसरे जो बड़े लोग हैं, वे रोक सकते हैं। उनको तो बाजार में बेचना है। एक तो यह है कि जो खरीदारी है, चाहे वह central pool का हो, चाहे राज्यों का हो, चाहे विकेंद्रित खरीद की व्यवस्था हो, हम जो न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य तय करते हैं, उसका यही मतलब है कि बाजार में कीमत कम-से-कम इससे गिरनी नहीं चाहिए, इसकी गारंटी हो। स्थिति यह है कि यही अधिक मूल्य बन जाता है। इसलिए जो न्यूनतम मूल्य है, वही किसान को नहीं मिल पाता। मैं समझता हूं कि यह बहुत बड़ा कारण है और सरकार, विशेषकर मंत्री जी को और इस विभाग को इस पर बहुत ही अंकुश लगाने की जरूरत है और इसका कोई रास्ता निकालने की जरूरत है।

दूसरी बात यह है, आप जानते हैं कि खेती की स्थिति कितनी चिन्ताजनक है। उस चिन्ताजनक स्थिति पर अभी एक expert ने भी कहा है कि यह जो खाद्य सुरक्षा की समस्या है, वह अगले दशक में बहुत ज्यादा गंभीर होगी, इसलिए हमको इस पर विशेष ध्यान देना है। यह हमारा सबसे neglected sector है। हम दूसरे सेक्टर्स पर बहुत ज्यादा ध्यान देते हैं, लेकिन कृषि पर ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। हम कृषि पर ध्यान नहीं देते हैं, इसीलिए वह हमारी सारी दिक्कत का, सारी मुसीबत का कारण है।

अब दूसरी बात यह है कि जो सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) है, उस PDS की क्या स्थिति है। अभी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने वाघवा साहब की अध्यक्षता में एक Central Vigilance Committee गठित की। उसे अपनी रिपोर्ट भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दाखिल कर दी। वह अखबारों में छपी है। उस कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में PDS का यह जो पूरा ढांचा है, इसके लिए 'rotten and cancerous', इन शब्दों का इस्तेमाल किया है। यह जर्जर है। उसने कहा है कि ऊपर से नीचे तक यह भ्रष्टाचार में इतना लिपटा हुआ है कि जिसके लिए यह सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी है, जो गरीब है, जो BPL का है, APL का है, उसको अनाज मिल ही नहीं पाता। अपनी रिपोर्ट में उसने कहा है, "Corruption is all pervasive in the entire chain involved in the PDS. Most of the functionaries under them in the Department are typically callous and resort to corrupt practices. The Central Government gives a whopping amount of Rs. 28,000 crores annually to the States to subsidize food for the poor, but till the recommendations of the Committee are put in place, the poor will

go on suffering at the hands of corrupt officials.” यह वाधवा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट का निष्कर्ष है। अब स्वाभाविक है कि इस वितरण प्रणाली को आप कैसे दुरुस्त करेंगे? तमाम प्रकार के suggestions आ रहे हैं - कूपन हो या और कुछ हो। मैं समझता हूं कि जब तक आप इस PDS को, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को दुरुस्त नहीं करेंगे, तब तक यह जो सारी मुसीबत है, यह जो सारी दिक्कत है, इसका कोई निदान निकल नहीं सकता, क्योंकि आज जो बाजारवादी अर्थव्यवस्था है, वह इतनी निरंकुश, निर्भीक और निडर हो गई है कि उस पर आपका भी अंकुश नहीं है। यह जो बाजार की शक्तियां हैं, वे सरकार से भी डरती नहीं हैं। यह बाजार किसका होता है? यह गरीब का नहीं होता है, यह उसका होता है, जो ताकतवर होता है। उस ताकतवर के मुकाबले अगर गरीब की रक्षा करनी है, तो हमें किसी-न-किसी प्रकार से कोई ऐसा प्रावधान, कोई ऐसा mechanism, ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी होगी, ताकि जो लक्षित गरीब है, जो targeted sector है, उसको उचित दामों पर जो आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं, Essential Commodities Act के तहत हम उपलब्ध करा सकें।

अब आपके विभाग में एक Price Monitoring Cell है, जिसका काम बाजार पर नजर रखना है। इसके जिम्मे यह काम है कि अगर उसे यह आभास होता है कि बाजार में जो ट्रेंड है, वह बढ़त की तरफ है, तो वह उन चीजों के दाम बढ़ने से पहले ही उसकी रोक के लिए कोई आवश्यक कदम उठाता है। परन्तु आपका यह जो Price Monitoring Cell है, यह काम ही नहीं करता है। यह बैठा हुआ है। विभाग की जो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी है, उसने इसके बारे में बहुत ही सख्त टिप्पणी की है कि अगर आपने Price Monitoring Cell बनाया है, जिसके जिम्मे यही काम है, उसके रहते हुए भी आपके दाम अचानक बढ़ जाते हैं और बाजार पर किसी प्रकार का नियंत्रण नहीं है।

दूसरा, आपने एक High-powered Monitoring Board बनाया। इसी High-powered Monitoring Board के अंदर यह Price Monitoring Cell आता है। स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि पिछले दो वर्षों से इसकी कोई मीटिंग ही नहीं हुई है, जबकि इसकी मीटिंग नियमित होनी चाहिए क्योंकि यह बहुत ही High-powered Board है। इस तरह आपने ढांचा तो बना दिया, मगर उस ढांचे में कोई प्राण प्रतिष्ठा नहीं की, वह केवल बना हुआ है। इन सारे संगठनों के होने के बावजूद भी दाम पर आपका कोई नियन्त्रण नहीं है। आप सदन में और सदन के बाहर केवल तमाम प्रकार की नीतियों की घोषणाएं करते रहते हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली है, उसके अन्दर भ्रष्टाचार है। आपका अनाज गोदामों में पहुंचने के बजाय, चोर-बाजारों या सेठों के पास पहुंच जाता है। उसके लिए भी सुझाव आया है कि आप किसी ऐसी वैज्ञानिक विधि का प्रयोग करें, ताकि इस प्रकार से फूड ग्रेन्स का जो डायवर्जन है, उसे रोका जा सके। एक सुझाव और है कि आपको एक Quality Rating Improvement System शुरू करना चाहिए। Non-formal सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए आवश्यक वस्तुएं कंट्रोल्ड दामों पर लोगों को उपलब्ध कराई जा सकें, इसकी व्यवस्था हो।

एक चीज और है - वायदा कारोबार। मैं यह सब इसलिए कह रहा हूं क्योंकि यही सब कारक हैं, जो हमारी महंगाई को बढ़ाने के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। वायदा कारोबार के सारे दुष्प्रभावों को देखने के बावजूद भी यह सरकार उस पर किसी प्रकार का अंकुश लगाने की आवश्यकता महसूस नहीं करती। हमारे जो माननीय कृषि राज्य मंत्री जी है, प्रो. थॉमस जी, उन्होंने एक बार कहा, “Government is not in favour of imposing any ban on future trading of any commodity.” यानी आप करना ही नहीं चाहते। आप केवल बैंकों के मौद्रिक कानूनों पर अंकुश लगाएं, उसका कोई नतीजा नहीं निकलता है। जिस तरीके से वायदा कारोबार अपने देश में बढ़ रहा है, वह बहुत चिन्ताजनक बात है। बैठे-बैठे, बिना सामान खरीदे, केवल कंप्यूटर के जरिए खरबों रुपये की खरीदारी की जा रही है, तो फिर यह कैसे दूर होगा?

आप आंकड़े से कहते हैं कि हमने बहुत ज्यादा खरीद लिया। इसमें यह भी एक बड़ी विचित्र बात है कि अनाज का जो प्रोक्योरमेंट है वह प्रोक्योरमेंट तो आपके आंकड़ों के हिसाब से बढ़ जाता है, परंतु FCI के अन्दर जो आपके गोदाम हैं जिनमें आपके अनाज इस तरीके से रखे जाते हैं कि वहां पर बहुत सारे अनाज सड़ जाते हैं। इसी सदन में एक माननीय सदस्य ने उस सड़े हुए अनाज का एक नमूना लाकर पेश किया था। अब तो उसको जानवर भी नहीं खा सकता। अभी समाचारपत्रों में छपा कि पंजाब और हरियाणा के गोदामों में पिछले सालों का अनाज, जैसे गेहूं और दूसरे जींस पड़े हुए हैं, सड़ रहे हैं और उनको रखने की जगह ही नहीं है। अब जब नई फसल आएगी तो उनको कहां रखा जाएगा? आज FCI की क्या स्थिति है? उसकी स्थिति यह है कि इसके establishment का खर्चा लगातार बढ़ता जा रहा है और इसके साथ ही वहां बदइंतजामी अलग से है। इसके साथ ही हम जो फूड सब्सिडी देते हैं, खाद्य पर हम जो अनुदान देते हैं, उसका किसानों को कोई फायदा नहीं होता, क्योंकि हम जो खाद्य अनुदान देते हैं तो उसमें FCI के establishment का खर्चा भी शामिल है। जो टारगेटेड वर्ग हैं, उनको जो सस्ते दाम पर हम अनाज मुहैया कराते हैं, उसके फर्क को भी उसमें शामिल कर लिया जाता है। इस तरह सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि यह जो आपका FCI है, उसमें एक तो rationalisation होना चाहिए, वहां के प्रबंधन को चुस्त-दुरुस्त करना चाहिए और साथ ही वहां के mismanagement के कारण जो हमारे अनाज सड़ते हैं जिससे हमारा अरबों-खरबों रुपए का नुकसान होता है उसको भी रोकने का हमें इंतजाम करना चाहिए। अब आप देखें कि अनाज रखने के लिए हमारे पास पर्याप्त गोदाम नहीं हैं और बहुत सा अनाज हम बाहर खुले में रखते हैं। 2008-2009 में उनकी खुद की owned capacity 77 परसेंट थी और वहां किराये पर अनाज रखने के लिए जो जगह ली गई, वह 89 परसेंट थी। उसी प्रकार से जो ओपन क्षेत्र है, उसमें भी जो owned capacity 13 प्रतिशत है और hired capacity 53 प्रतिशत है। इस तरह हम rent में भी पैसे देते हैं। इस प्रकार FCI का जो पूरा प्रबंधन है या पूरा इंतजाम है, उस पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता है और उसमें सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है वरना आपका सारा अनाज सड़ जाएगा ...(समय की घंटी)... वही हालत ware housing की है। उसकी भी यही स्थिति है। वह भी घाटे में चल रही है। सरकार की ओर से उसको जो लगातार अनुदान मिलता है उसमें से बहुत सा पैसा वह खर्च भी नहीं कर पाती है। उनके भी cost आती है। इस प्रकार जब तक हम अनाज के प्रबंधन का ठीक इंतजाम नहीं करते तब तक हमारा कोई मामला ठीक नहीं हो सकता।

दूसरी जो सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात है, वह चीनी की है, शुगर की है। मैं समझता हूं कि शुगर का संकट भी सरकार की नीतियों का ही नतीजा है, क्योंकि 2006 से लेकर 2007 और 2007 से लेकर 2008 के दरम्यान हमारा उत्पादन बढ़ा, मगर 2008 के बाद से हमारा चीनी का उत्पादन या गन्ने का उत्पादन लगातार कम होता गया। उसके कम होने के कई कारण हैं। सरकार तो यह मानती है कि यह एक चक्र है और इसमें उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहता है, मगर मैं ऐसा नहीं मानता हूं। यह उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहता है, यह एक प्राकृतिक बात जरूर है....।

परन्तु इसमें सरकार की नीतियां भी जिम्मेदार हैं। हमने जब 2008-2009 में गन्ने का दाम तय किया तो वह हमने पुराने दर के आधार पर किया। अगर किसान को गन्ने का लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा तो वह गन्ने का उत्पादन क्यों करेगा? लिहाजा उसने गन्ने का उत्पादन बंद कर दिया, परंतु इससे गन्ने के किसान को कोई फायदा नहीं हुआ। इसी दरम्यान जो चीनी मिल-मालिक हैं, मेरी सूचना के आधार पर, पिछले बीसों साल से उन्होंने जितना मुनाफा नहीं कमाया, उन्होंने उतना मुनाफा इस बीच में कमा लिया। क्योंकि तब यह हुआ कि चीनी का स्टॉक हमारे पास ज्यादा था और विश्व के बाजार में चीनी का दाम ऊंचा था तो हमने उसके export की इजाजत दे दी। हमने export के लिए तमाम प्रकार की सुविधाएं दीं और टैक्स में भी छूट दे दी। (समय की घंटी)

श्री उपसभापति : तिवारी जी, अब आप खत्म कीजिए।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : सर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से हम यह करते हैं कि जब विश्व बाजार में दाम ज्यादा हों, तब हम निर्यात करें और जब यह हमारे यहां कम हो, तब हम आयात करें, तो मैं ऐसा समझता हूँ कि आयात-निर्यात की यह नीति गलत है। इस नीति के तहत उसका फायदा मिल-मालिक उठा रहे हैं तो इस sugar policy पर भी सरकार को पुनर्विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। चीनी का जो उत्पादन है, अगर वह नहीं बढ़ेगा तो हम कैसे सबको चीनी उपलब्ध करा पाएंगे?

जहां तक edible oil की बात है; उत्पादन निरंतर घट रहा है। हम केवल बाहर से आयात करके अपनी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति कर रहे हैं। मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि हमारी जो खाद्य-नीति है, वह केवल आयात पर ही आधारित है। अगर हमको स्वावलम्बन करना है तो हम जो पैदा करें, उसका ठीक से वितरण हो, उसका ठीक से प्रबंधन हो, तभी हम सारी समस्याओं का निदान कर सकते हैं। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि चूंकि यह जो कंज्यूमर अफेयर्स मंत्रालय है, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मंत्रालय है। इसका काम बहुत बड़ा है। मैं मानता हूँ कि इस विभाग में पहले पांच-पांच मंत्री होते थे, लेकिन अब इन सारे कामों को मंत्री जी को अकेले देखना पड़ता है। इस प्रकार, उनके ऊपर बोझ बहुत बढ़ गया है। यह ऐसा मामला है जो जनता से जुड़ा हुआ है, गरीब से जुड़ा हुआ है और किसान से भी जुड़ा हुआ है। अगर यह इतना महत्वपूर्ण मामला है तो इस पर विशेष ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। सबसे ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता यह है कि किसानों को, चाहे वे गन्ना किसान हों या अन्न पैदा करने वाले किसान हों, अगर उनको लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिलता, अगर सरकार द्वारा घोषित न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पाने के लिए क्रय-केन्द्रों की व्यवस्था ठीक तरीके से नहीं होती तो मैं यह मानता हूँ कि खेती में किसी भी प्रकार से कोई सुधार नहीं हो सकता। अगर खेती में सुधार नहीं होगा, खेती का उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ेगा और अगर उसके उत्पादक को उचित दाम और लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा तो मैं समझता हूँ कि आपकी सारी अर्थव्यवस्था ध्वस्त हो जाएगी और देश एक बहुत बड़े संकट से जूझेगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for allowing me to participate in a debate which deals with a subject of vital importance. Sir, consumer interest is paramount for each and every political party irrespective of which Government is in power. We all want to protect consumers. This Government is also taking a lot of steps to protect the interests of consumers, though there are certain impediments, there are certain compulsions before the Government. The 20 per cent shortfall in rains, global recession and the Minimum Support Price are the issues which cannot be ignored. Whenever the Government is criticized or whenever we talk about price rise, people forget that these three factors are also very important.

As regards the Minimum Support Price, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari was saying that whatever the Central Government has been giving was not percolating down to the farmers in different parts of the country. Whose mistake is this? Is this the responsibility of the Central Government? The Central Government makes allocations; they provide the money. An allocation of Rs.28,000 crores was made for this purpose. If that is not percolating down, it means that the local administration and the State Governments should take the onus for that. This money must go to

the farmers. If the Purchasing Centres are not being created, if the Procurement Centres are not being created, or, they are not functioning properly, whose responsibility is that? The Central Government cannot directly go and open the Purchase Centres. They cannot directly give the money to the farmers. It is the responsibility of the local administration to take care of these issues.

Secondly, the Government has taken several steps in order to help the consumers, the poor people and the farmers. For instance, rice is being provided for the BPL families at Rs.5.65 per kg, and for AAY, it is provided at Rs.3 per kg. The price of wheat is Rs.4.15 per kg. for BPL and it is Rs.2 per kg. for AAY. There is 66 per cent rise in the MSP in case of rice and 42 per cent rise in case of cotton. This kind of catapult has been provided to uplift the economy of the poor people and the farmers. But the benefit has to go down to these people. Sir, the Government of India has taken a lot of steps in order to help the farmers and the consumers of this country. When this price rise issue came up, the Government reduced the import duty to zero for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils, maize, butter and ghee. They also reduced the import duty on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5 per cent. The Government allowed import of raw sugar by sugar mills at zero duty under OGL up to July, 2009 and extended this up to 31st December, 2010. Further more, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31st December. The Government has also allowed import of white refined sugar by STC, MMTC, PEC and NAFED up to 1 million tonnes. The Government has withdrawn the export incentives on milk and milk products so that proper availability can be ensured and milk is available in abundance in the country. The Government has also withdrawn 5 per cent benefit under VKGUY for the export of oil cake/meal. The Government reduced the customs duty on Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) to 30 per cent, as in the case of butter and butter oil. The Government has permitted import of 10,000 MT of Skimmed Milk Powder under TRQ for 2009-10. Therefore, the Government is taking all steps to ensure the availability of all goods and commodities to the people of this country.

Sir, I would like to give some suggestions to the hon. Minister. When Shri Subodh Kant Sahay was speaking the other day in the House, he gave a suggestion that in order to help the farmers, there should be corporate farming. Now, the corporate sector should come forward and they should provide some help to the farmers because in villages, the farmers have got very small holdings, and day by day, their holdings are getting further reduced.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Is this your party's position?

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: I am mentioning what Shri Subodh Kant Sahay said the other day. Now, if they can take their produce to the market, then, they can get remunerative prices. So far, what has been happening is that these middlemen are fleecing them by paying a low price, then, bring it to the cities and towns and sell them at 20 or 30 per cent times more.

So, I think this can only be reduced if some kind of a channel is created by the corporate sector. This is what he has advised. I think some thought must be given to the suggestion because, in China also, a lot many private companies are providing adequate money, adequate resources and so on to all the farmers and the farmers are getting a higher value for their produce. Brindaji, don't laugh at this...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: मैंने तो सोचा कि आप तो केवल IPL के एक्सपर्ट हैं, लेकिन आप तो corporate affairs के भी एक्सपर्ट हैं। यह कैसे हो सकता था।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: I am an expert on everything. I am an expert on BPL also.

Then, Sir, Consumer Courts must be strengthened. So far, the role of Consumer Courts has been limited to certain areas. People are not aware of them. They do not know where to go to redress their grievances. There should be adequate public awareness about Consumer Courts. Publicity campaigns should be launched about how to approach a Consumer Court, what kind of cases they can handle and complaints about what kind of grievances can be made to Consumer Courts. If we make Consumer Courts more effective, it would help the consumers.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) in the Chair]

Thirdly, Sir, whenever the Government reduces the customs duty or Excise duty on any product, the benefit is never passed on to the consumer. Once prices rise, they are never brought down. Prices may remain stable but they never bring them down. So, the benefit of reduction in Excise duty, customs duty, Sales Tax or VAT must be transferred to the consumer, the common man. Some kind of mechanism must be ensured for that.

Fourthly, cold chain must be created. I still remember, when Mr. N. K. Singh was Secretary to the Prime Minister, he had given this concept, that cold chain should be created. When he was the Revenue Secretary, even at that time he had given this innovative idea that there should be a cold chain throughout the country. I don't think much progress has been made on this concept. Preservation of food and various other such things is very important. Otherwise, foodgrains, vegetables, fruits worth thousands of crores perish and get wasted. So, cold chains must be created on a much larger scale.

As far as public distribution system is concerned, this system is purely in the hands of the State Governments. The State Governments should ensure that ration shops or Fair Price Shops function well and adequate supply is made for the owners. There is a lot of black marketing indulged in by these Fair Price Shops. Provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, which is known as the '3/7' in most parts of the country, is not properly implemented by many district administrations. I think the State Governments must step in. They should ensure that the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act are implemented and that the Fair Price Shops run well so that farmers and consumers are benefited.

With these suggestions, I conclude my speech, Sir.

श्री शान्ता कुमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह विभाग बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण है और इसलिए महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि आज़ादी के इतने वर्षों के बाद भी आज इस देश में 26-27 करोड़ लोग गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं और लगभग 12-15 करोड़ लोग भूख और कंगाली के कगार पर रहते हैं। यदि यह कहा जाए कि यह विभाग भारत के करोड़ों गरीबों की जीवन रेखा है, Life line तो यह अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगी। सबसे गरीब लोग जो हैं, यह विभाग उनकी दो वक्त की रोटी की गारंटी है, इसलिए इस विभाग का काम बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। अखबारों में कई बार कुछ समाचार आते हैं, तो बहुत परेशानी होती है। आज कल हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स “Tracking Hunger” के नाम से देश के गांवों के कुछ समाचार दे रहा है।

इलाहाबाद के नज़दीक माने गांव का समाचार देते हुए अखबार ने लिखा है कि वहां गरीब बच्चे सलेटी-पत्थर का चूरा खाकर गुजारा कर रहे हैं। एक और जगह के बारे में लिखा कि वहां लोग महुआ फूल को सुखाकर, उसको पानी में उबालकर, थोड़ा आटा-चावल मिलाकर गुजारा कर रहे हैं। इस प्रकार के बहुत से समाचार कई बार अखबारों में आते हैं और पढ़कर परेशानी तब होती है, जब हमारे सामने ये आंकड़े आते हैं कि आज हमारे देश के भंडारों में लगभग 474 लाख टन अनाज पड़ा है, जबकि बफर स्टॉक के norms केवल 200 लाख टन हैं। बफर स्टॉक से दोगुना अनाज हमारे भंडारों में है और उसके बाद भी देश के गांवों से इस प्रकार के समाचार बहुत वेदना पैदा करते हैं। अभी-अभी UNICEF की रिपोर्ट आई है और इसमें कहा गया है कि भारत में 43 प्रतिशत बच्चे कुपोषित हैं, जबकि बंगलादेश में 41 प्रतिशत, पाकिस्तान में 31 प्रतिशत और श्रीलंका में 23 प्रतिशत हैं। कुपोषित बच्चों की तादाद भारत में श्रीलंका, पाकिस्तान और बंगलादेश से भी अधिक है। फिर जैसा कि मेरे पूर्व वक्ता ने कहा कि कई बार इस देश के अंदर इतना अधिक अनाज खराब होता है और स्वयं माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहीं कहा था कि लगभग 2 लाख मेट्रिक टन अनाज हर वर्ष खराब हो जाता है। तो राज्यों के अपने गोदामों में जितना अनाज खराब होता है, उसका अंदाज़ा लगाएं - उससे भी बहुत चिंता हो जाती है। संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक जब दुनिया में सबसे अधिक भूखे लोग भारत में रहते हैं, तो उस स्थिति में, आज़ादी के साठ साल के बाद भी यह दृश्य है, जो कि बहुत चिंताजनक है और इस दृश्य पर विचार करते हुए मुझे तमिल क्रांतिकारी कवि सुब्रमण्य भारती के कुछ शब्द आते हैं। उन्होंने कहा था-

“Let us annihilate the universe even if a single individual is denied food.”

यदि एक अकेले व्यक्ति को भी भोजन नहीं मिलता है, तो फिर इस सृष्टि के होने का कोई मतलब नहीं है। इस क्रांतिकारी कवि ने यहां तक कह दिया कि फिर इस universe को annihilate कर देना चाहिए, अगर एक व्यक्ति को भी भोजन न मिले। आज अगर सुब्रमण्य भारती भारत में आ जाएं और उनको बताया जाए कि एक नहीं, बल्कि बीस-पच्चीस करोड़ लोग ऐसे हैं, जो आधा-अधूरा खाना खाकर सोते हैं, तो वे क्या कहेंगे, समझ में नहीं आता है। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस विभाग में जो मुख्य कमियां हैं, उनको युद्ध स्तर पर दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। इस विभाग में 4,62,000 गांवों में राशन देने की दुकानें हैं, बहुत बड़ा विस्तार है। 48,000 कर्मचारी इसी काम के लिए इस विभाग में हैं, लेकिन जैसा कि मुझसे पहले वक्ता कह रहे थे कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट की Wadhwa Committee की रिपोर्ट ने कहा है कि 42 प्रतिशत अनाज जो गरीबों के लिए है, रास्ते में चोरी हो जाता है। CVC, N. Vittal ने कहा था- 28,000 करोड़ रुपए की subsidy भ्रष्टाचार में चली जाती है। योजना आयोग की स्टडी में भी कहा गया है कि 48 प्रतिशत अनाज भ्रष्टाचार में चला जाता है। Transparency International ने “India Corruption Study” में कहा कि 67 प्रतिशत अनाज भ्रष्टाचार में

चला जाता है। स्वयं भारत सरकार के Economic Survey में इस बात को स्वीकार किया गया है कि चोरी होती है, मिलावट होती है, खुले बाजार में अनाज बिकता है। अब लगभग 60,000 करोड़ की subsidy में से यदि 50 प्रतिशत चोरी हो जाता है, तो उसका अर्थ यह है कि लगभग 30,000 करोड़ रुपया भ्रष्टाचार में जाता है और यह वह पैसा है, जो देश के सबसे गरीब व्यक्ति को दो वक्त की रोटी देने के लिए सरकार देती है।

यह बहुत भयंकर परिस्थिति है। जो योजना आयोग की Performance Evaluation of TPDS रिपोर्ट है, इसमें एक विचित्र बात कही गयी है — “Taking into account all the inefficiency of the PDS, it is found that Government of India spends Rs.3.65 to transfer Re.1 to the poor.” गरीब व्यक्ति को एक रुपए का अनाज गांव में पहुंचाने के लिए यह विभाग 3 रुपए 65 पैसे खर्च करता है। अगर यह एक रुपया सीधा गरीब को दे दिया जाता तो 2 रुपए 65 पैसे हमारे बच जाते। यह inefficiency की सीमा है। एक और बात इसमें कही गयी है — “About 57 per cent of subsidized grain does not reach the target group of which a little over 36 per cent is in the supply chain.” मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि आखिर यह स्थिति क्यों है, हमारा तंत्र इतना inefficient, इतना भ्रष्ट क्यों हो गया है? इस बात पर गंभीरता से विचार करने की जरूरत है। महोदय, यह जो भयंकर भ्रष्टाचार है, इसका एक सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि अकाउंटैबिलिटी नहीं है। कानून हैं, नियम हैं लेकिन उनको इम्प्लीमेंट करने की भारत में कोशिश नहीं होती। यह केवल इसी विभाग की बात नहीं है, लगभग सभी विभागों की बात है। मैं अखबार में एक समाचार पढ़ रहा था कि चीन के अंदर दूध में मिलावट हुई, दो बच्चे मरे, अपराधी पकड़े गए और 6 महीने के अंदर दो अपराधियों को फांसी की सजा दी गयी। मैंने बड़े ध्यान से समाचार पढ़ा — “दूध में मिलावट करने वाले दो अपराधियों को फांसी की सजा” - लेकिन भारत की हालत क्या है? यहां पर लोक सभा पर आक्रमण करने वाले अपराधियों को सुप्रीम कोर्ट के द्वारा सजा देने के बाद भी न फांसी देने की हिम्मत है, न नीयत है। यह एक अंतर है और उसका परिणाम यह है कि चीन ने गरीबी दर 60 परसेंट से घटाकर 16 परसेंट कर दी और हमारे देश में गरीबों की संख्या निरंतर बढ़ रही है। मैं पूरी सरकार से एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अब समय आ गया है कि हम सोचें कि इन सारी चीजों को हम कब तक बर्दाश्त करेंगे? ऐसा लगता है कि इस देश में सब कुछ बिक रहा है। इन दिनों जो खबर आ रही है - कभी आईपीएल की खबर आती है, कभी किसी माधुरी गुप्ता की खबर आती है, कभी केतन देसाई की खबर आती है - देश को इस पर विचार करना होगा, भ्रष्टाचार को फांसी पर लटकाना होगा। यदि भ्रष्टाचार को फांसी देने की योजना नहीं बनायी तो वह भ्रष्टाचार इस देश को फांसी पर लटका देगा। कितनी विचित्र बात है कि इस विभाग के अंदर सब प्रकार के नियम और कानून हैं।

मैं जब खाद्य मंत्री था, तब भी यह समस्या थी, इस पर विचार किया गया था और सरकार ने सभी विभागों से सलाह करके एक public distribution system control order निकाला था और मैंने स्वयं उस पर बड़े विस्तार के साथ सभी अधिकारियों के साथ बैठकर विचार किया था कि क्यों नहीं होगा, कहां गड़बड़ होती है, कैसे हो सकता है? उस ऑर्डर में विस्तार से - महीने की पहली तारीख को अनाज यहां पहुंच जाना चाहिए, उसको यहां से वहां यह अधिकारी पहुंचाएगा, उसका वितरण होगा, पंचायतों को एसोसिएट किया जाएगा, दुकान के बाहर लिखकर लगाया जाएगा - ये सारी बातें करने के बाद फिर यह कहा था कि उसमें यदि किसी प्रकार की कमी होगी तो फिर Essential Commodity Act के मुताबिक सजा मिलेगी। उसका जिक्र तो इस रिपोर्ट के अंदर है, लेकिन यह नहीं बताया गया कि कितने लोग पकड़े गए? अगर 30 हजार करोड़ रुपया चोरी में जाता है - उस गरीब के लिए, जो दो वक्त भूखा रहता है - उसमें कुछ लोग गड़बड़ करते हैं, उसको

राशन नहीं पहुंचाते हैं तो उनको पकड़ा क्यों नहीं जाता, उनको सजा क्यों नहीं दी जाती? कानून में कंट्रोल ऑर्डर है, सब कुछ है। यह सचमुच बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि देश के खजाने से गरीब की मदद करने के लिए पैसा निकाला जाता है और आधा पहुंचता नहीं और यह सब कहते हैं। मुझे जब यह पता लगा कि एक रुपए का अनाज पहुंचाने के लिए तीन रुपए 65 पैसे खर्च होते हैं, तो मुझे भरोसा नहीं हुआ। मैंने कहा कि इसकी ऑथेंटिसिटी पता करें। तो पता लगा कि स्वयं देश के गृह मंत्री जी ने नेशनल डिफेंस कौंसिल की मीटिंग में यह बात कही है। अब देश के गृह मंत्री कह रहे हैं कि एक रुपए का अनाज पहुंचाने के लिए 3 रुपए 65 पैसे खर्च आते हैं, यह योजना आयोग का आकलन है, तो आप कार्यवाही क्या कर रहे हैं, सोच क्या रहे हैं? यह भी हो रहा है, वह भी हो रहा है, हम चुपचाप बर्दाश्त करते चले जा रहे हैं। इस स्थिति से निबटने की आवश्यकता है। मुझे खुशी है कि सरकार खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून ला रही है, जो बहुत जरूरी है। अगर आप इस प्रकार सोच रहे हैं कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को पौष्टिक भोजन मिले, यह उसका अधिकार होना चाहिए, आपकी बहुत अच्छी सोच है, बहुत अच्छी बात है। आप कानून तो बना देंगे लेकिन इम्प्लीमेंट कौन करेगा? यही व्यवस्था, इनएफिसिएंट करप्ट व्यवस्था, क्या यह ही इसको इम्प्लीमेंट करेगी? क्योंकि इसमें तो शायद खाद्य सुरक्षा की जो परिभाषा है 1996 के रोम सम्मिट के अंदर कि सभी को सब समय पौष्टिक भोजन उपलब्ध हो, देश के सभी लोगों को सब समय पौष्टिक भोजन उपलब्ध हो, यह व्यवस्था करने की बात आपने सोची है। लेकिन जब तक तंत्र ठीक नहीं होगा, प्रशासन ठीक नहीं होगा, भ्रष्टाचार समाप्त नहीं होगा, भ्रष्टाचार करने वालों को सजा नहीं होगी, तो आप कितना भी कानून बनाएं, इस प्रकार के कानूनों से किसी भी प्रकार का लाभ देश के आम गरीब आदमी को नहीं होगा।

एक बड़ी हैरानी की बात है कि हम इतनी बातें सोच रहे हैं लेकिन देश में गरीब कितने हैं यह अभी तक पता ही नहीं है। सरकार की अलग-अलग एजेंसीज गरीबों की अलग-अलग संख्या बताने की कोशिश कर रही हैं। अर्जुन सेन गुप्ता के मुताबिक 77 परसेंट लोग गरीब हैं, एन.सी. सक्सेन 50 परसेंट गरीब बतलाते हैं। योजना आयोग कहता है कि 6 करोड़ 52 लाख लोग गरीब हैं बी.पी.एल. में, राज्य सरकारें कहती हैं कि 10 करोड़ 58 लाख हैं। ऐसा तो नहीं है कि हम गंभीरता से नहीं सोच रहे हैं। आखिर सरकार की सभी एजेंसीज का कोई एक पैमाना होना चाहिए कि देश में कुल गरीब कितने हैं। हम खाद्य सुरक्षा की बात कर रहे हैं लेकिन जब आंकड़ों में इतना अंतर है तो यह सारा कैसा होगा, इस पर भी विचार करना चाहिए। इस विभाग में और भी बहुत सी जिम्मेदारियां हैं, मैं उनके विस्तार में नहीं जाता। लेकिन इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि अटल जी की सरकार के समय सब कुछ ठीक था, कहीं पर कोई कमी नहीं थी। खाद्य मंत्री के रूप में मेरी स्थिति यह थी कि यहां से अनाज भेजने के बाद हम प्रदेशों के मुख्य मंत्रियों को टेलीफोन पर कहते थे कि जो अनाज भेजा है जल्दी खर्च करो, जल्दी बांटो, और नहीं तो फूड फॉर वर्क शुरू करो, क्योंकि और अनाज आ रहा है और उसको भेजना है। शायद देश में यह पहला मौका था कि खाद्य मंत्री के रूप में हम लोग प्रदेशों से लड़ते थे कि जल्दी खर्च करो, जल्दी ले जाओ, फिर भी खत्म नहीं हुआ तो अन्त्योदय अन्न योजना शुरू की, फिर भी भंडार भरे थे तो एक्सपोर्ट करना शुरू किया। सबसे बड़ा कारण यह था कि उस समय ईमानदारी से सरकार चलती थी, निर्णय देश का हित सोच करके होते थे। विदेशी कम्पनियों द्वारा अनाज के व्यापार में आने की कोशिश तब भी की गई थी। लेकिन उस समय की सरकार ने मना कर दिया। यह ठीक है कि उदारीकरण हो गया है, सब देशों में जाकर सब कुछ कर सकते हैं, लेकिन यह देश गरीब है और मुझे याद है खाद्य मंत्री के रूप में मैंने बड़े जोर से अटल जी के सामने कहा था कि उदारीकरण के नाम पर वे कम्पनियां कह रही हैं कि हमको भी

अनाज का व्यापार करने दो, लेकिन यह देश गरीब है और गरीब की रोटी हम किसी मल्टी नेशनल कम्पनी के पास गिरवी नहीं रख सकते। जब तक अटल जी की सरकार रही, विदेशी कम्पनियों को अनाज के व्यापार में नहीं आने दिया। ज्यों ही सरकार गई, विदेशी कम्पनियों को, बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियों को अनाज के व्यापार में आने का अधिकार दिया गया। उन्होंने अनाज खरीदा, एक्सपोर्ट किया और उसके बाद देश में जो हालत हुई, जिस ढंग से महंगाई बढ़ी वह आपके सामने है। किस समय किस चीज को एक्सपोर्ट करना है, किस को इंपोर्ट करना है।

यह बड़े महत्व की बात है मुझे याद है, आदरणीय कृषि मंत्री जी सामने बैठे हैं, जब हमारे समय में सरकार को पता लगा कि प्याज थोड़ी-थोड़ी महंगी हो रही है, हमने कृषि विभाग से पता किया कि प्याज क्यों महंगी हो रही है, हमें बताया गया कि प्याज का उत्पादन कम नहीं हुआ है, बल्कि यह पता लगा कि कुछ देशों में प्याज की ज्यादा जरूरत है, इसलिए भारत के लोग प्याज को इकट्ठा करके एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। हमने दो दिन के अंदर एक्सपोर्ट को बंद किया और बहुत से लोग डेलीगेशन लेकर आए, विशेषकर नासिक के लोग, लोक सभा में भी शोर मचा, वहां भी आंदोलन हुआ, तो उस समय हमने कहा कि कुछ लोगों को करोड़ों रुपये का फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए हम भारत के लोगों को महंगा प्याज नहीं खाने देंगे। हमने 24 घंटे में प्याज का एक्सपोर्ट बंद किया, लेकिन आपकी सरकार की हालत क्या है? आपको पता था कि गन्ने का उत्पादन कम है, पता था कि चीनी कम होगी, इसके बावजूद भी 50 लाख टन चीनी एक्सपोर्ट होती रही। महंगाई के कई कारण हैं, किस समय इम्पोर्ट करना है, किस समय एक्सपोर्ट करना है, इस बारे में तुरन्त निर्णय लिया जाए, तो बहुत सी बातें हल हो सकती हैं।

अंत्योदय योजना चल रही है, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने इस योजना को आगे भी बढ़ाया है। यह योजना उस समय चलाई गई थी जब इस तरह के समाचार आ रहे थे कि सरकार के अनाज के भंडार भरे पड़े हैं, लेकिन कहीं-कहीं भुखमरी की हालत हो रही थी, इसलिए यह योजना शुरू की गई। मुझे इतना ही कहना है कि आप खाद्य सुरक्षा का कार्यक्रम करिए, लेकिन उसमें 35 किलो अनाज प्रति परिवार दिया जाना चाहिए। आप इसको कम मत करिए, आपने इसको पिछले दिनों कम किया था, यह अब बढ़ना चाहिए और उस समय दो रुपये और तीन रुपये प्रति किलो की जो बात थी, उसमें भी किसी तरह की बढ़ोतरी नहीं होनी चाहिए।

मैं एक विशेष बात यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी जो वितरण प्रणाली है, अब समय आ गया है कि इसमें क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन किए जाएं। इसको इतने वर्ष हो गए हैं। इसमें एक तो सख्ती की बहुत जरूरत है, इसमें एकाउंटेबिलिटी जरूरी है, गलत काम करने वालों को सख्त सजा देने की जरूरत है। इस बार के इकोनॉमिक सर्वे में भी शायद यह बात कही गई है कि क्यों न सीधे गरीब आदमी तक सब्सिडी पहुंचे। इस बारे में सरकार को गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिए। शायद कई जगह पर पायलेट प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में इसको शुरू करने की कोशिश की गई है। इस वितरण व्यवस्था में बदलाव करने की जरूरत है। आप इसके बारे में सोचिए। यह जो बीच का तंत्र है यह 30-40 हजार करोड़ रुपये चोरी कर लेता है, क्या कोई ऐसा तरीका नहीं हो सकता है कि गरीब आदमी को हम सीधे सारी की सारी सहायता पहुंचा सकें? यही हाल बाकी योजनाओं का है। लगभग 40-50 हजार करोड़ रुपया भारत की सरकार गरीबी उन्मूलन के लिए हर साल भेजती है, लेकिन गरीबी बढ़ रही है, क्योंकि पैसा नीचे उन तक पहुंचता नहीं है। यह तो हमें कई बार बताया गया है कि एक रुपया चलता है, तो नीचे तक 15 पैसे पहुंचते हैं, लेकिन आज तक यह किसी ने बताने की तकलीफ नहीं की कि ये 85 पैसे कौन खाता है? उसको आप पकड़ते क्यों नहीं, उसको सजा क्यों नहीं देते? जिस देश में गरीबी को दूर करने के लिए 40-50 हजार करोड़ रुपया खर्च किया जाता हो, लेकिन उस देश की गरीबी बढ़ रही हो, तो व्यवस्था में

परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार गंभीरता से इस बात पर विचार करे। कूपन सिस्टम की बात है, खाद्य कूपन की बात है, सीधे गरीब को मदद दी जानी चाहिए। इस बारे में, मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि दुनिया के कुछ देशों ने एक प्रयोग किया है। मैं पढ़ रहा था कि ब्राजील ने यह प्रयोग किया है। ब्राजील में 60 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते थे, इसलिए उन्होंने फूड कूपन शुरू किया। मुझे एक बात पढ़कर अच्छा लगा कि उन्होंने गरीब परिवार की महिला प्रमुख के नाम पर कूपन दिया। उन्होंने कूपन पुरुष को नहीं दिया, बल्कि महिला को दिया। यह प्रयोग वहां पर सफल हुआ है। फैमिली पर्स प्रोग्राम शुरू किया और कई कार्यक्रम शुरू किए। सीधे मदद कूपन सिस्टम के रूप में गरीब को दी, कोई बीच में नहीं, कोई विभाग खाद्य देने वाला नहीं और उसका परिणाम यह निकला है कि छह साल में ब्राजील का कुपोषण 73 प्रतिशत कम हो गया।

शिशु मृत्यु दर 45 परसेंट कम हो गई और BPL की संख्या 12 परसेंट कम हो गई। कुछ अन्य देशों ने भी इस प्रकार के प्रयोग किए हैं। मैं आप से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि यह वितरण व्यवस्था इस देश के उस गरीब की जीवन रेखा है, जिसके बच्चे रात को भूखे सोते हैं। आज इस वितरण व्यवस्था को सख्ती से ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं समझता हूँ जो देश में कंट्रोल आर्डर बना था, अगर यह इम्पलिमेंट हो जाए, तो बहुत हद तक व्यवस्था ठीक हो सकती है। इस पूरी रिपोर्ट में कहीं पर भी यह नहीं बताया कि इस कंट्रोल आर्डर को इम्पलिमेंट करने से कितने लोगों को सज़ा हुई और कितने लोग पकड़े गए। ठीक है, आप यह बात कहेंगे कि इसको इम्पलिमेंट करने की जिम्मेवारी राज्य सरकारों पर है, लेकिन करवाना तो आपको है और जो मदद देते हैं, वह तो आप ही देते हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी कहा है कि यह व्यवस्था आउट डेटिड हो गई है। इस व्यवस्था को ठीक करने की कोशिश करें और कुछ नया करने की सोचें तथा कूपन सिस्टम शुरू करें। दुनिया के ब्राजील जैसे छोटे देश ने इस सिस्टम को शुरू करके कुछ सफलता प्राप्त की है, तो हम भी इसको अपने यहां शुरू करें। मैं यही कहूंगा कि यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण विभाग है और गरीब की जीवन रेखा है आज इसमें बहुत चिंताजनक स्थिति है। 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक अनाज रास्ते से चोरी हो जाए, इससे बड़ी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण स्थिति कोई नहीं हो सकती। यह विभाग इसको रोकने की कोशिश करे। मुझे विश्वास है कि विभाग इस बारे में विचार करके, इसको ठीक करने की कोशिश करेगा। धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, मैं शान्ता कुमार जी की बात से पूरी तरह सहमत हूँ कि यह मंत्रालय वाक्य में गरीबों के लिए जीवन रेखा का मंडेट है। हकीकत यह है कि आज यह जीवन रेखा, life line कमजोर हो रही है और यह सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण कमजोर हो रही है। इसमें सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के बजटरी एलोकेशन का सवाल है और स्वयं इस मंत्रालय की नीतियों का सवाल है।

सर, मैं यह मानती हूँ कि विशेषकर पिछले दस सालों से जो देश की वितरण प्रणाली है, वह कमजोर हो रही है। हमारे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने कहा कि भ्रष्टाचार इसका मुख्य कारण है तथा उन्होंने वधवा कमेटी का भी जिक्र किया और वह सब सही है। सर, मैं यह मानती हूँ कि इस वितरण प्रणाली को कमजोर करने का जो मुख्य कारण है, वह सरकार का टार्गेटिंग सिस्टम है। जब आप टार्गेटिंग सिस्टम लागू करेंगे, जब आप गरीबों को गलत मापदंड के आधार पर APL और BPL में बांटेंगे, जब आप खाद्य एलोकेशन को 70 प्रतिशत कम करेंगे, तो निश्चित रूप से वितरण प्रणाली न केवल कमजोर होगी, बल्कि चोपट होगी और वही हो रहा है। मैं केरल की मिसाल देती हूँ। केरल की मिसाल इसलिए नहीं दे रही हूँ कि आज हमारी पार्टी की सरकार है, लेकिन केरल पूरे देश के सामने एक मिसाल है। आज केरल में क्या हुआ, पूरे एलोकेशन में से 73 या 78 प्रतिशत काटने से फेयर प्राइज शॉप्स अन-वायबल हो गई, नॉन वायबल हो गई और वे बंद हो रही हैं। जो आपका एक नेटवर्क है, जो आपकी गरीबों तक पहुंचने के लिए जीवन रेखा है, आपने टार्गेटिंग करके, एलोकेशन काटकर, उसको चोपट किया है। मैं माननीय शरद पवार जी से यह साफ तौर से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जब हमने इस

5.00 P.M.

हाउस में दो साल पहले या तीन साल पहले सवाल किया था कि आप साफ बताएं कि आप सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के पक्ष में हैं या विपक्ष में हैं? उस समय शरद जी ने कहा कि मैं इसके विपक्ष में नहीं हूँ, लेकिन इसके लिए जो पैसे की जरूरत है, जो सब्सिडी बढ़ाने की जरूरत है, वह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को देनी चाहिए। मैं आज पूछना चाहती हूँ कि यूनिवर्सलाइजेशन ऑफ पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम, जो आज सबसे अधिक जरूरी है, क्योंकि जो आंकड़े यहां पेश किए गए, हमारे देश में कुपोषण बढ़ रहा है, आज संगठित क्षेत्रों में काम करने वालों की संख्या बढ़ रही है, जिनकी कोई स्थायी आमदनी नहीं है, उनके लिए आप सब्सिडाइज राशन देने के लिए तैयार हैं या नहीं हैं? अगर तैयार हैं तो आप कौन से मापदंड अपनाएंगे? बाजार में सब्जी, आलू के दाम क्या होने चाहिए, आज यह एक मजाक बन गया है।

हम सौदेबाजी करते हैं कि बीपीएल में कितने लोग होने चाहिए। सर, इसकी सौदेबाजी हो रही है, जो गरीबों के साथ मजाक है। आज 6.52 करोड़ परिवार का आंकड़ा दिया जा रहा है। अभी हमें पता चला कि कुछ नेताओं ने कहा कि यह तो बहुत कम है, इसको बढ़ाना चाहिए। ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स ने कहा कि हां, हां, इसको बढ़ाना चाहिए। वे प्लानिंग कमीशन के पास गए। प्लानिंग कमीशन के सामने, जो बताए गए हैं, चार अलग-अलग एस्टीमेट्स हैं, मैं उसको दोहराना नहीं चाहती हूँ। प्लानिंग कमीशन सबसे कम एस्टीमेट, जिसमें सबसे ज्यादा कमी है, तेंदुलकर कमेटी के एस्टीमेट्स, उस पर अभी कह रहे हैं कि तैयार हो रहे हैं, लेकिन ये कितने होने चाहिए, उसके बारे में आज भी बहस हो रही है। कोई कहता है कि 8.52 करोड़ परिवार कवर हो रहे हैं, कुछ कह रहे हैं 7 करोड़ कवर हो रहे हैं। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के अपने मापदंड के आधार पर 10.05 करोड़ परिवार हैं। सर, मापदंड क्या है? यह मापदंड कोई वैज्ञानिक मापदंड नहीं है। सरकार की जेब से गरीबों के लिए कितना पैसा देना चाहते हैं, वही मापदंड है। इसलिए इस विभाग का जो मुख्य काम है, procurement and distribution, उसके यूनिवर्सल पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम के जो framework होने चाहिए, मैं आपके द्वारा शरद जी से रिवेस्ट करना चाहती हूँ कि हमारी नीति में बीपीएल के एस्टीमेट के नाम पर जो सबसे बड़ी कमजोरी है, जिसमें अधिकतर गरीबों को बाहर रखा जा रहा है, वे उसको बदलें, उसको सार्वजनिक बनाएं और उस आधार पर Food Security Act को लेकर आएँ, वरना Food Security Act का कतई कोई अर्थ नहीं होगा।

Dubious estimates के आधार पर, जो विज्ञान से नहीं, सही मैथेडोलॉजी से नहीं, बल्कि सरकार के आर्थिक एस्टीमेट्स पर निर्भर करके दिये जाएं। सर, मैं यह मानती हूँ कि अभी यह बताया जाता है कि इतना एस्टीमेट्स है, सब्सिडी का इतना बढ़ गया है, मैं फूड मंत्रालय के उन ऑफीसर्स के साथ अपनी सहमति प्रकट करती हूँ, जिन्होंने Standing Committee के सामने यह मांग की कि जो हमें चाहिए, वह हमें नहीं मिला। उन्होंने यह कहा, “The requirement of food subsidy is about Rs.72,234 crores, of which about Rs.14,952 crores is to be given to State Governments and the balance of about Rs.57,282 crores to the FCI. What we get was short by Rs.14,000 crores.” Now, what will be its impact? I am paraphrasing here what they have said. “Its impact will be that we will be unable to pay the proper dues to the State Governments which are doing very good work in the decentralized procurement programme and we will also cause a lot of trouble for the FCI.”

Now, if this is the situation, I would like to ask this to the hon. Minister. State Governments ने decentralized procurement programme किया है।

उसमें हमारा बंगाल भी है, तमिलनाडु है, मध्य प्रदेश है, उत्तर प्रदेश है, और भी हैं। इस प्रकार सरकारों ने प्रयास किया। लेकिन अगर सरकारों के सामने Central Government की यह समझ है कि हम पर्याप्त

subsidy नहीं देंगे और पूरा बोझ स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के ऊपर डालेंगे — सर, यह मेरा बयान नहीं है, यह खाद्य मंत्रालय के ऑफिसर्स का बयान है, जो Standing Committee की रिपोर्ट में दर्ज है — इस problem को कैसे overcome किया जाएगा, मैं चाहती हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में मंत्री जी जरूर कुछ रोशनी डालें।

सर, इसी के सम्बन्ध में मैं एक और बात कहना चाहती हूँ। Leakages के बारे में यहाँ बहुत सारी बातें हुई हैं। एक सुझाव आया है - direct cash transfer. अभी तीन प्रदेशों में pilot project है, शान्ता जी ने भी उसका जिक्र किया है। मैं उस direct cash transfer programme का स्पष्ट रूप में विरोध करना चाहती हूँ। क्यों? यह direct cash transfer programme कतई food security की गारंटी नहीं हो सकता है। मैं आपको इसके तीन कारण बताती हूँ। पहली बात यह है कि जब जानते हैं कि हर परिवार में direct cash transfer की 10 emergencies रोज होती हैं। जब वह cash आएगा, तो क्या गारंटी है कि हम उस cash को food के ऊपर खर्च करेंगे? दूसरी बात यह है कि कौन-से आधार पर वह cash तय होगा? रोज तो दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। आप 35 किलो अनाज कौन-से दाम के आधार पर तय करेंगे? आज यह दाम है, तो कल बाजार में उसका दुगुना दाम है। उसको कौन तय करेगा? तीसरी बात यह है कि आप इसे महिलाओं के नाम पर जरूर दे सकते हैं, लेकिन इसकी कोई गारंटी नहीं है कि महिला उसको अपनी मर्जी से खर्च कर सकेगी, क्योंकि परिवार के अन्दर भी पुरुष प्रधान समाज में असमानता है। इसलिए वह कहाँ खर्च होगा, कैसे खर्च होगा, उसकी भी कोई गारंटी नहीं है। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमारे देश में ऐसी बहुत सारी मिसालें हैं, कई प्रदेश सरकारों ने मिसालें पेश कीं, जहाँ उन्होंने Self-help Group को involve किया, जहाँ उन्होंने पंचायतों को involve किया और उनकी involvement के आधार पर उन्होंने Public Distribution System को मजबूत किया। इसलिए मैं इस सुझाव से सहमत नहीं हूँ। मंत्री जी Annual Report में यह बहुत स्पष्ट नहीं है कि इसमें मंत्रालय की क्या समझ है। लेकिन मैं चाहती हूँ कि मंत्री जी direct transfer या coupon transfer के बारे में पुनर्विचार करें। Leakages हैं, leakages को खत्म करना चाहिए। उसकी भी मिसाल हमारे देश में है। इसलिए please don't throw the baby out of the bath water which is going to happen. It will further destroy the Public Distribution System in this country.

Sir, the third point which I want to make is that — it is very good and I want to congratulate the hon. Minister and his Ministry — इन्होंने 2006-07 और 2007-08 में जो भारी गलती की और procurement के क्षेत्र से पीछे हटे, जिसके कारण बहुत सालों में पहली बार हिन्दुस्तान को import करना पड़ा और जिससे बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियों को, विदेशी कंपनियों को फायदा हुआ, कम-से-कम उस गलती को - उन्होंने उसे स्वीकार किया या नहीं, मैं नहीं कह सकती हूँ - लेकिन उसको सुधारा जरूर, क्योंकि आज हमारा procurement ठीक चल रहा है और अच्छा चल रहा है। यह एक अच्छी बात है लेकिन मैं यह चाहती हूँ कि जब आप Minimum Support Price तय करते हैं, तो आप उस Minimum Support Price को अन्य commodities के साथ भी जोड़ लीजिए। बहुत सारी जगहों पर Minimum Support Price और अन्य agricultural essential commodities में हस्तक्षेप करके आप किसानों को मदद भी पहुँचा सकते हैं। आप corporate sector पर निर्भर नहीं हो सकते हैं। हमारे साथी, राजीव जी ने corporate farming का सुझाव दिया, लेकिन यह बिल्कुल गलत सुझाव है। खैर, मैं उस पर नहीं जा रही हूँ।

सर, मेरा सुझाव यह है कि आपका एमएसपी का जो पूरा कॉन्सेप्ट है, उसे बढ़ाना चाहिए, क्योंकि इस समय मार्केट में प्राइसिज़ फ्लक्चुएशंस बहुत अधिक तेजी से हो रहा है। अब आप देखिए कि आलू पैदा करने वाले किसान को आलू के लिए केवल 40 या 50 पैसे फी किलो मिल रहा है, लेकिन फिर भी बाजार में आलू 10-11 रुपये किलो बिक रहा है। प्रदेश सरकार भी इसमें कुछ सब्सिडी दे सकती है, लेकिन सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को इन तमाम सवालों पर एक स्टैंड लेकर, एक नीति तय करके चलना चाहिए। कृषि क्षेत्र में जो एक्यूट डिस्ट्रेस है,

अगर आपको उसे डील करना है, तो निश्चित रूप से एमएसपी को अन्य कमांडिटीज़ पर भी बढ़ाने की जरूरत है।

बफर स्टॉक के संबंध में जो बाज कही गई थी, उससे मैं सहमत हूँ, लेकिन साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि आखिर इसका लॉजिक क्या है? जब आपके पास इतना बड़ा बफर स्टॉक है, फिर भी आप सब्सिडाइज्ड रेट्स पर एपीएल सैक्शन के लिए एलोकेशंस में 73% कटौती कर रहे हैं। तमाम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स बार-बार यह मांग कर रही हैं कि इसको रीस्टोर कीजिए, लेकिन आप बैकडोर से एपीएल के प्राइस बढ़ा रहे हैं। एक तरफ आप दावा करते हैं कि आपने Central Issue Price दस साल तक नहीं बढ़ाया है दूसरी तरफ स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को कह रहे हैं कि पहले हम 8.30 रुपये में दे रहे थे, लेकिन अब तुम्हें इसके लिए 14-15 रुपये देने पड़ेंगे। सर, इसलिए आपने जितना एडीशनल एलोकेशंस में देना चाहा, प्रोटेस्ट में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने उसका एक-चौथाई भी लिफ्ट नहीं किया। यह उन्होंने इसलिए किया कि आपने दाम के बारे में बगैर किसी की सहमति से एपीएल के लिए एडीशनल फूड ग्रेन्स के नाम पर एक तरफा रेट बढ़ा दिया है। यह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के प्रति भी अन्याय है। इसके बारे में आप सोचिए। अच्छा आप हमें थोड़ा यह बताइए कि बफर स्टॉक्स को स्टोर करने के लिए स्टोरेज की कॉस्ट कितनी आती है? मैं यह मानती हूँ कि सरकार की यह नीति तो नहीं हो सकती है कि देश के चूहे भरपेट खाएं और हमारे बच्चे भूख से रोते रहें। सरकार की नीति यह तो नहीं हो सकती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर): वृंदा जी, कन्क्लूड कीजिए।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I will take just five to six minutes. इसलिए सर, टाइमली आप इसको देखिए। बफर स्टॉक्स में फूड सब्सिडी का लोड बढ़ता जा रहा है, उसको कम करने के लिए आप एपीएल और बाकी सैक्शंस के लिए कुछ कीजिए। चूंकि समय कम है, इसलिए अब मैं शुगर पर आती हूँ।

सर, शुगर के बारे में मेरे कुछ सवाल हैं। आपका एक Sugar Development Fund है। मैंने देखा कि उस Sugar Development Fund में एक अजीब पॉलिसी है कि आप किसानों को 4% सब्सिडी लोन्स में देना चाहते हैं, लेकिन आप उस सब्सिडी को शुगर मिल्स के द्वारा देते हैं। आज भी, पिछले तीन साल से किसानों का बकाया 2,700 करोड़ रुपया है। इसके लिए आपने कहा कि as season grows, it will get less, लेकिन फिर भी किसान सफर क्यों करें? इसलिए आप किसानों को कम रेट पर जो भी लोन्स वगैरह देना चाहते हैं, उसे डायरेक्टली किसानों को दीजिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि आपने शुगर मिल्स को 3000 करोड़ रुपये दिए हैं। इसमें एक सवाल यह भी उठता है कि आपकी जो सिक शुगर मिल्स हैं, उनको तो आपने एक पैसा भी नहीं दिया। आप कौन सी शुगर मिल्स को पैसा दे रहे हैं? वे शुगर मिल्स किस रूप में शुगर डेवलपमेंट कर रही हैं? अगर वे अपने मुनाफे का डेवलपमेंट कर रही हैं तो वह अलग बात है, लेकिन इसके बारे में कुछ स्पष्ट नीति बनाए जाने की जरूरत है।

एफसीआई के बारे में मैं यह समझती हूँ कि उसके साथ बहुत अन्याय हो रहा है। यहां पर हमारे कपिल जी भी बैठे हैं, इनको मालूम है कि The HRD Ministry owes Rs.3,000 crores to the FCI. अगर आप किसी और प्राइवेट बैंक से इस तरह का लोन लेते तो अभी तक आपका सब कुछ ज़ब्त हो जाता, आपका दफ्तर तक ज़ब्त हो जाता, लेकिन बेचारे एफसीआई वाले हैं, जिन्होंने आपको 3000 करोड़ रुपया दिया हुआ है। Rural Development Ministry का भी लगभग 300 करोड़ रुपया है। तो मेरा कहना यह है कि आज एफसीआई को मजबूत करने की जरूरत है। जहां करप्शन है, उसे हटाइए और जहां पर गलत नीति है, उसे हटाइए। Make the officers accountable. For example, the CAG has said that there is a loss of Rs.1300 crores because the FCI, where it had capacity unutilized, still hired from private godowns. That is a

contradiction. The CAG has pointed it out. So, take action against FCI officers; make them accountable. But, please don't destroy the FCI by not paying its dues. At present, you have a sanctioned strength of 36,000 employees. You are still 3,000 employees below your sanctioned strength. Why? Where are the Quality Inspectors?

आपने कहा कि कोई डैमेज नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन कौन वहाँ जाकर इंस्पेक्ट कर रहा है? जो empirical evidence है, उससे यह दिखाई दे रहा है कि सारा कुछ डैमेज हो रहा है, लेकिन आपके FCI Inspectors कौन हैं, जो वहाँ जाकर चेक-अप कर रहे हैं? इस प्रकार इसको भी देखने की जरूरत है।

I have two more points. I come to the Consumer Affairs Department. Here, I have one point to make that the entire approach of the Consumer Affairs department in the explanation on price rise, I think, is quite objectionable. अगर यह सदन उस पूरी रिपोर्ट को पढ़े तो देखेगा कि इसमें जो कुछ दोष हैं वे सभी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के हैं और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट दूध की धुली हुई है, जबकि हर नीति सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से संबंधित है। Forward Markets Commission जो इनके मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत काम करता है, उसके चेयरमैन ने इस रिपोर्ट में जो कहा है, उसे मैं पढ़ना चाहती हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर): अब समय नहीं है।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: "The Government cannot be the Godfather and watchman. Let the market be the watchman." सर, यह उन्होंने कहा है। Market watchmen होते-होते मार्केट के भरोसे में किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। लेकिन, मैं यह चाहती हूँ, क्योंकि Standing Committee on Agriculture ने भी स्पष्ट कहा कि futures trade में भी छोटे और मध्यम किसानों का कतई कोई फायदा नहीं है। आपने एक और कमेटी का गठन किया। उसको भी आप देख लीजिए। लेकिन आम किसान जानता है कि उनका उससे दूर से भी कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। इसलिए, सर, मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से reiterate करती हूँ और बहुत सारे जो भी सोचने वाले कुछ इकोनॉमिस्ट्स हैं, जो यह कहते हैं कि futures trade in essential commodities should be banned.

इसलिए, सर, मैं अपील करती हूँ कि यह एक ऐसा मंत्रालय है, जहाँ मंत्री जी की ओर से full time attention की जरूरत है। शरद जी, आप तो बहुत अनुभवी हैं, इसलिए दो-दो मंत्रालयों को देख रहे हैं। लेकिन, मैं मानती हूँ कि इस मंत्रालय के साथ और इस मंत्रालय के प्रति लोगों की जो मांग है, आशा तो मैं नहीं कहूँगी लेकिन माँग जरूर है, उसकी तरफ आप जरूर ध्यान देंगे। इतना ही कहकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करती हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री गंगा चरण (उत्तर प्रदेश): आदरणीय महोदय, मैं उपभोक्ता मामले एवं खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय के कार्यों से संबंधित चर्चा पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। अभी हमारे विद्वान वक्ताओं, माननीय श्री शान्ता कुमार जी और श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी ने इस पर अपने बहुत अच्छे विचार दिए।

महोदय, मैं उपभोक्ता मामले से अपनी बात शुरू करता हूँ। आज देश में जितने भी खाद्य-पदार्थ बन रहे हैं, उन खाद्य-पदार्थों में सबसे ज्यादा मिलावट हो रही है। हम रोज अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं, रोज इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया के माध्यम से टेलीविजन में देखते हैं कि कहीं इंसान के मुर्दा शरीर में लगाई जाने वाली क्रीम की मिलावट दूध में हो रही है।

जो मावा होता है, जिससे मिठाइयाँ बनती है, वह नकली मावा क्विंटलों में बरामद हो रहा है। मरे हुए जानवरों की चर्बी से नकली देशी घी बनाया जा रहा है। मुझे लगता है कि हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी भी यह अखबारों में पढ़ते होंगे और टीवी में देखते होंगे। जब हम टीवी में देखते हैं और अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं तो हमारा मन भय से कांप जाता है कि हम क्या खा रहे हैं और क्या पी रहे हैं। इसीलिए आज हम देख रहे हैं कि कस्सों से

लेकर गांवों और बड़े शहरों में लोग बड़ी तादाद में बीमार हो रहे हैं। किसी की किडनी खराब हो रही है तो किसी का लीवर खराब हो रहा है। हार्ट अटैक और ब्लडप्रेसर की बीमारियाँ आम हो गयी हैं। बड़े लोग तो बड़े अस्पतालों में इलाज करा लेते हैं, लेकिन गरीब लोग बर्बाद हो जाते हैं। वे अपना इलाज नहीं करा पाते हैं और तड़प-तड़प कर मर जाते हैं। यह एक गंभीर मामला है। जब विदेशी लोग हमारे देश में आते हैं तो वे चिंतित होते हैं कि हम यहाँ की वस्तुओं को खाएँ या नहीं खाएँ, यहाँ का पीनी पीएँ या न पीएँ? यह मिलावट सिर्फ प्राइवेट सेक्टर में नहीं हो रहे है। ऐसी तमाम कंपनियाँ हैं, जो दूध में यूरिया मिला रही है। उनका कहना है कि बगैर यूरिया मिलाये दूध रह ही नहीं सकता, वह फट जाएगा। अभी “इंडिया टीवी” ने “मुर्दा-क्रीम” के बारे में लोगों को बताया। लेकिन, केन्द्र सरकार कहेगी कि यह राज्यों का विषय है। वह हर चीज़ में कह देती है कि यह हमारा विषय ही नहीं है, सारी जिम्मेदारी राज्यों की है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब आपकी कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं है तो इस पार्लियामेंट में ताला लगा दीजिए। यहाँ बैठने की जरूरत क्या है? मंत्रालयों और मंत्रियों के ऊपर इतना खर्च हो रहा है। सदन में चर्चा हो रही है और हम सारी जिम्मेदारियों से यह कह कर बच जाते हैं कि यह राज्यों का विषय है।

आप अखबारों में पढ़िए, हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश की मुख्य मंत्री बहन मायावती जी ने सबसे ज्यादा छापे डलवाये हैं। उन्होंने नकली वस्तुएँ बनाने वालों और नकली खाद्य सामग्री बनाने वालों को सबसे ज्यादा पकड़वाया है। उनके ऊपर गैंगस्टर एक्ट और एनएसए लगवाया है। किसी भी अन्य राज्य में उतना प्रभावी कदम नहीं उठाया गया है।...(व्यवधान)... हमारे केन्द्रीय मंत्री को भी अपने स्तर से, जो मिलावट करने वाले लोग हैं, उनको दिल्ली में पकड़ना चाहिए। यहाँ तो आपका शासन है। यदि कहीं सबसे ज्यादा मिलावट होती है तो वह दिल्ली के बाजारों में होती है। यहाँ सबसे ज्यादा नकली चीज़ें मिलती हैं।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे संसद भवन में भी जो रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट का खाना आता है, उसमें भी मिलावट होती है और हम लोग बीमार पड़ जाते हैं।...(व्यवधान)... पिछली बार हमने सेंट्रल हॉल में खाना खाया और food poisoning हो गयी। यहाँ जो सी.जी.एच.एस. की दवाइयाँ हैं, वे भी नकली आ रही हैं। हम लोगों को नकली दवाइयाँ दी जा रही हैं।...(व्यवधान)... हनुमंत राव जी, आप क्या बोल रहे हैं?...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर): आपका समय नष्ट हो रहा है, आप बोलिए। आपके पास पांच मिनट और हैं।

श्री गंगा चरण: सर, आपने वृंदा कारत जी को पाँच मिनट एक्स्ट्रा दिए हैं। आप भेदभाव मत कीजिए। हम भी पाँच मिनट एक्स्ट्रा लेंगे।

सर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मिलावट को कोई रोकने वाला नहीं है। जब हमने सारे दुधारु जानवरों की हत्या कर दी तो दूध कहाँ से आएगा? दूध जीवन के लिए एक ऐसी चीज़ है कि बगैर दूध के कोई परिवार रह नहीं सकता है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ, शहरों में तो जानवर पाल नहीं सकते हैं क्योंकि यहाँ रोक लगी हुई है तो शहरों में दूध की आपूर्ति कहाँ से होगी? जो दुधारु जानवर हैं, उनके protection के लिए सरकार कोई इंतजाम नहीं कर रही है।

उनके लिए कोई चरागाह नहीं बनाए जा रहे हैं। जो चरागाह हैं, उनका अधिग्रहण करके फैक्ट्रियां बनाई जा रही हैं और चारों तरफ कंकरीट के जंगल खड़े किए जा रहे हैं। हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी देश के बहुत बड़े नेता हैं और आपके पास बहुत बड़े-बड़े विभाग हैं। आपने किसानों का कर्जा माफ करके, एक इतिहास रच दिया था। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप एक नया इतिहास और रच दीजिए, चूंकि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था किसानों पर निर्भर है, इसलिए आप इस देश के दुधारु जानवरों का संरक्षण करिए, चरागाहों की रक्षा करिए और सरकार की तरफ से डेयरी फार्मों के लिए अनुदान दीजिए। मैं अपना उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने एक गाय पाली। इस पर मेरे पड़ोसी ने कहा कि आप गाय नहीं पाल सकते, क्योंकि आपके घर में हमें गोबर की गंध आती है। मैंने उनसे कहा कि आपको गोबर की गंध बहुत बुरी लगती है, लेकिन आप जो यूरिया मिला हुआ दूध पीते

हैं, नकली दूध पीते हैं, वह आम आदमी के शरीर को नष्ट कर रहा है, इसके बारे में आप कुछ नहीं सोचते हैं? तो यह एक मानसिकता बन गई है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप ऐसा प्रावधान करिए कि हर आदमी को एक दुधारु जानवर पालना पड़ेगा। आप इसके लिए कानून बना दीजिए कि हर परिवार को एक दुधारु जानवर पालना पड़ेगा। यदि कॉलोनी है, तो कॉलोनी का नक्शा तभी पास करिए जब उसमें डेयरी फॉर्म खोलने की भी व्यवस्था हो...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राहुल बजाज (महाराष्ट्र): क्या अपने BJP join कर ली है?

श्री गंगा चरण : अब इसमें BJP join करने की बात कैसे आई? आप नकली दूध पी लेंगे, यूरिया वाला दूध पी लेंगे, लेकिन इसके लिए आप मुझे सांप्रदायिक कहेंगे? बजाज साहब, कम से कम आपको तो ऐसा नहीं कहना चाहिए...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : गंगा चरण जी, आप चेयर को address कीजिए।

श्री गंगा चरण : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमें ऐसे कानून बनाने पड़ेंगे, जिनसे हम दुधारु जानवरों की रक्षा कर सकें। यह कोई धर्म का मामला नहीं है, यह किसी पार्टी का मामला नहीं है, यह हमारे स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ा हुआ सवाल है।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि जो मिलावटखोर हैं, उनके लिए हमें सख्त कानून बनाना पड़ेगा। जो दवाइयों और खाद्य सामग्री में मिलावट करते हैं, उनके लिए फांसी की सज़ा का प्रावधान होना चाहिए, इससे कम सज़ा का प्रावधान नहीं होना चाहिए और इन मामलों के निपटारे के लिए Fast Track Courts का प्रावधान होना चाहिए, ताकि 3 महीनों या 6 महीनों के अंदर ऐसे केसेज का फैसला हो जाए।

मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जहां वह sample जांच के लिए जाता है, वहां घोर भ्रष्टाचार है, इसलिए वहां सारी रिपोर्टें सामान्य हो जाती हैं। मेरी रिश्तेदारी मैं एक Food Inspector थे, उन्होंने सिंथेटिक दूध बनाने वाली एक डेयरी का sample लिया। चूंकि उस डेयरी का मालिक, एक बहुत बड़ा आदमी था, इसलिए उसने पुलिस से मिलकर, उस inspector को ही बंद करवा दिया। यह दिल्ली की घटना है। आज जो ईमानदारी से काम करे, उसे जेल हो जाती है और बेईमानों को पुरस्कार मिलता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : हमें जल्दी समाप्त करना है, इसलिए अब आप समाप्त कीजिए। मैं आपको 2 मिनट का समय और दे रहा हूँ।

श्री गंगा चरण : अब मैं PDS पर आता हूँ। मैं अपने महान नेता, शरद पवार जी से यह कहूंगा कि वे कुछ महान काम और कर दें। वैसे कांग्रेसी बंधु तो आपको फंसाना चाहते हैं, वे लोग पीछे से कह रहे थे कि आपका तीसरा विभाग IPL का है। यह हम लोग नहीं कह रहे थे, आपके पीछे से ही आवाज़ आ रही थी...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो पेट की आग है, यदि यह नहीं बुझी और दिमाग में लग गई, तो यह सब कुछ जलाकर राख कर देगी। मैंने पहले ही कहा था कि आज माओवाद और नक्सलवाद बढ़ रहा है और आज़ादी के 60 सालों के बाद भी यदि हम गरीब को 2 जून की रोटी नहीं दे सकते हैं, तो हमारा सरकार चलाना व्यर्थ है।

उसके एक सप्ताह के बाद दंतेवाड़ा में इतनी बड़ी घटना घटित हुई थी। हम लोग अभी भी सचेत नहीं हो रहे हैं। अपार दौलत स्विस् बैंक में जमा कर रहे हैं और अपार दौलत अपने खजानों में भर रहे हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यदि गरीब को आपने दो जून की रोटी नहीं दी, तो यह दौलत बचने वाली नहीं है। यदि आप इसकी सुरक्षा चाहते हैं, तो गरीब के लिए दो जून की रोटी की व्यवस्था करें।...(समय की घंटी)... जो Food Security Bill आ रहा है, इसको जल्दी लागू कीजिए। Food Security Bill के लिए मेरे पास कुछ सुझाव हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : आपका समय समाप्त हो चुका है। आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री गंगा चरण : सर, मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। जो बीपीएल कार्डधारक हैं, उनके लिए District Headquarter पर, तहसील हेडक्वार्टर पर और ब्लॉक हेडक्वार्टर पर मुफ्त भोजन की व्यवस्था करवाइए। इसके लिए आप NGOs की मदद लीजिए। यह सरकारी और NGOs की मिलीजुली व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, जिससे कोई आदमी भूखा नहीं रह सके। गांव की न्याय पंचायत में जो स्कूल होता है, वहां भी बच्चों के साथ-साथ गरीब के लिए भोजनालय खुलना चाहिए। अभी जिस प्रकार शान्ता कुमार जी ने अपनी बात रखी कि कूपन सिस्टम होना चाहिए और दो रुपए प्रति किलो गेहूं, दो रुपए प्रति किलो चावल, दस रुपए प्रति किलो दाल उनको उपलब्ध कराई जानी चाहिए और सबसे बड़ी जो चीज है, वह यह है कि आप किसानों की सुविधाएं घटाते जा रहे हैं। Food Subsidy के लिए 55 हजार करोड़ रुपए हैं, FCI के लिए 10 हजार करोड़ रुपए हैं, इसी तरह Public Enterprises के लिए 56 हजार करोड़ रुपए हैं ...**(समय की घंटी)**... मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप सारा पैसा, एक लाख करोड़ रुपए, किसानों को दे दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : आप conclude कीजिए।

श्री गंगा चरण : सर, मैं conclude कर रहा हूँ। उसको अपनी बागवानी के लिए, अपने खेत की barricading के लिए, tube well लगाने के लिए, बिजली के कनेक्शन के लिए, मछली पालन के लिए, कृषि क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आप सब्सिडी दे दीजिए और उस पर लेवी फिक्स कर दीजिए कि हम आपको दस हजार प्रति हेक्टेयर दे रहे हैं, लेकिन आपको हमें 25 परसेंट गेहूं पांच सौ रुपए प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से देना पड़ेगा। आप उनसे सस्ते दर पर अनाज, दाल, फल और सब्जी लीजिए और उनको गरीबों में बांटिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : गंगा चरण जी, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री गंगा चरण : आप जब तक एग्रीकल्चर सैक्टर को develop नहीं करेंगे, तब कि इस देश की भूख मिटने वाली नहीं है। आप कृषि योग्य भूमि का अधिग्रहण करते चले जा रहे हैं और उस पर फैक्ट्रियां खड़ी करते जा रहे हैं। मैं कहता हूँ कि आप इसके लिए कानून बनाइए कि जो नदियों के किनारे की ravines वाली जमीन है, जो पथरीली जमीन है, जहां खेती नहीं होती है, जो उसर जमीन है, वहां फैक्ट्रिया लगाइए, वहां Colony बनाइए, लेकिन कृषि योग्य भूमि, जहां खेती होती हो, उसकी एक इंच भी जमीन का अधिग्रहण नहीं होना चाहिए। अगर आपने इसे नहीं रोका, तो आनेवाले दिनों में इस सवा सौ करोड़ की आबादी वाले देश को भूखमरी से कोई रोकने वाला नहीं है और नक्सलवाद तथा माओवाद को रोकने वाला कोई नहीं है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for permitting me to participate in the Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Sir, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal Ministry for taking corrective steps and containing prices of commodities such as foodgrains, pulses, edible oil, sugar, milk and vegetables. Market prices of all these commodities have sky-rocketed in the recent time. My question is: Should the Government not take steps to cut down the price of essential commodities? What is the reason, I don't know.

There is a Price Monitoring Cell in the Ministry which merely watches the price rise of essential commodities while people are facing severe hardship. Functioning of this Cell should

be thoroughly reviewed and corrective steps should be taken by the Ministry. The present situation of price rise of food items benefits neither the farmers nor the consumers. Big traders are the only beneficiaries of the prevailing situation. In the name of liberalization, fixation of prices of even the essential commodities has been left to the market forces. The Government has systematically diluted the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, which has given free hand to the middle men, such as wholesale traders and retail merchants to arbitrarily fix the prices of the essential commodities, such as foodgrains, pulses, edible oils, sugar, milk, vegetables etc. I request this House to look into the matter and make the Essential Commodities Act an effective instrument in controlling the prices of essential commodities.

In the Demands for Grants of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, a provision of Rs. 200 crores has been made for giving subsidy to the sugar mills for maintenance of buffer stocks of sugar. Last year, the sugar production in the country was less and large quantity of sugar was imported to meet the demand. In such a situation, how were the buffer stocks maintained by the sugar mills? This should be explained by the Ministry. Moreover, there are complaints that the sugar mills could not properly maintain the stocks of levy sugar. If it is the case, why should they be given the responsibility of maintaining buffer stocks of sugar? The sugar production in the country witnesses periodic highs and lows as a cycle. During the years of bumper production, the Union Government encourages the export of all the excess sugar. No buffer stock is maintained, as is done in the case of wheat and rice. This is one of the main reasons for the abnormal price rise of sugar in the country. My request is that buffer stocks of sugar should be maintained by the Government agencies, such as, the Food Corporation of India.

A provision of Rs. 40.40 crore was made in 2009-10 for monitoring and research in foodgrains management and strengthening of the Public Distribution System. However, it was reduced to Rs. 14.60 crore at the revised estimate stage. I would like to know the actual expenditure in this regard. Again, a provision of Rs. 29.69 crore has been made for this purpose during this financial year as well. Strengthening of the PDS is an important area where the Government has to work with full vigour. They are unable to spend funds even on research in this area. Such a situation raises serious doubts about the credibility of the efforts made in this regard. I urge the Ministry to make concerted efforts for strengthening this system in the country.

Sir, a concept note on the proposed National Food Security Act was circulated in the month of June last year. This Act is very essential to entitle by law each BPL family to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices. I urge the Government to act expeditiously in the matter and introduce the Bill in the Parliament at the earliest.

Sir, there is another important point. The enumeration of BPL families has not been done with right parameters. The present outdated parameter which is being applied to select BPL families should be dropped so that the gains of PDS can reach the targeted poor, Sir. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Thank you very much, Mr. Anbalagan. Shri N.K. Singh.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Thank you, Sir. A lot of what I have to say today is more descriptive than prescriptive.

Let me begin by conceding really that the mismanagement of the overall price economics in this country may not be as salacious as the IPL scandal or, perhaps, as suspicious as the telephone-tapping scandal, but, certainly, in terms of its impact, it affects vastly a greater number of people than the other two issues on which the House has been engaged.

Let me also say, Sir, that when the hon. Minister, for whom I have great respect, assumed the office of the Minister in charge of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, I felt that at long last, these issues would get a holistic attention. I had, for a long time, Sir, when I was in Government, felt that, perhaps, the absence of an integrated approach, really, was one of the principal factors behind why the issue of price rise and consumer distribution could not get the kind of overall integrated attention which that Ministry needed. Unfortunately, whatever that expectation may have been, the fact remains, in line with what some of my other preceding speakers have said, that the issue of price rise has not received the kind of an integrated attention which the Prime Minister had enabled the Ministry to take considering that he joined together all fragmented parts of responsibilities for one unified approach. I concede, Sir, there is a Committee of Secretaries, under the Cabinet Secretary, which meets quite frequently and monitors prices. There is also a Cabinet Committee under the Prime Minister, which meets often. The Minister has created a Cell in the Consumer Affairs Department to do it. There is also a Board which does it. I do not want to go into the statistics of how many times each has met, whether the meetings have been coordinated or not, but the fact remains, Sir, that the Cell which the Minister created has become a statistical Cell. It had little ability to do long-term demand-supply projections; it has not been able to marry and symmetrise really domestic trends of production, international trends of production, and, in any case, Sir, unfortunately, is not empowered to take the vital decisions which are needed for the price management behaviour.

So, my first plea with him, Sir, is, looking at the fact that he has now integrated responsibility — and I totally agree with Brindaji who paid compliments to his great ability to try and mismatch many multifarious responsibilities — would you want to have a look that the

country should buy at the right time, you should sell at the right time, not buy when international prices are misallowing and not sell when the long-term or the medium-term trends in production do not allow. How can we have a better harmonization of food intelligence and management of short-term food economics where you maximize the gains with the viewpoint of the country? The Minister is fully capable of this.

My second broad point is, urge him, Sir, to decide. Decide on what? Decide on five important things: decide in respect of the Food Security Bill, which is an overarching consideration for the Social Securities Programme on the five important things which need to be decided. One, number of BPL families. Now, Wadhwa Committee - 20 crores; State Government estimates - 10.5 crores; Tendulkar Committee, which Planning Commission likes, - 9.25 crores; World Bank - 7.5 crores; Arjun Sengupta - 20 crores; N.C. Saxena - 12.5 crores; Planning Commission - 7 crores.

Mr. Minister, please decide.

As regards the estimated bill on food subsidy, it is Rs.1,17,000 crores as per Wadhwa Committee, Rs.61,000 crores as per State Governments, Rs.54,000 crores as per Tendulkar Committee; Rs.44,100 crores as per the World Bank, Rs.1,17,000 crores as per the Arjun Sengupta Committee, Rs.73,500 crores as per the N.C. Saxena Committee and Rs.41,000 crores as per the Planning Commission. Please decide, Sir.

As regards the current allocation as per all these five parameters, a mere Rs.35,000 crores.

As regards the additional cost to meet the food requirements, Rs.82,000 as per the Wadhwa Committee, Rs.26,000 as per the State Governments, Rs.18,000 crores as per the Tendulkar Committee, Rs.8,600 crores as per the World Bank, Rs.82,000 crores as per the Arjun Sengupta Committee, Rs.38,000 crores as per the N.C. Saxena Committee and Rs.5,660 crores as per the Planning Commission. Please decide, Sir.

The next big issue which you have to decide is: What do you mean by poverty? It is as old, Mr. Minister, as the first time when this word was used by the Dadabhoy Naoroji Committee. When the first time the Congress used the word "poverty" it meant the minimal amount of nutrition which a person needs for survival. Since then all over the world it has been a trend of sophistication. The Supreme Court feels that the right to live is fundamental and if the people are healthy enough to be able to absorb the food, the food security does not mean anything. So, should food security imply a mere calorie intake or should it include vitamins, minimum amount of health, minimum access to clean drinking water and sanitation facility to be able to give a minimum dignity to life? What constitutes poverty? Please decide, Sir.

The next big thing for you to decide, Sir, is this. As we move on, apart from the scope of the Bill which, of course, we hope will be universal because the right to food is a universal right — I agree in this with some of the critiques which you have made — if you certainly wish to restrict it, please don't restrict the access to the public distribution system. Please make that universal even when you begin to circumscribe your methodology and your definition to include one of your preferred models on which there has been so much debate.

The next thing, apart from poverty numbers and all that, which you need to decide is differentiated modality. There is a lot of debate on whether you are going to have a differentiated modality, treat some people who are getting a minimum access to food and people who are much poorer have got much larger access to food. There is a lot of public debate on it. Please decide, Sir.

The next big thing which you need to decide is revamping the Public Distribution System versus trying more innovative methods to be able to administer the food programme. I agree that you can't dismantle today's Public Distribution System (PDS) and that needs to be strengthened. That includes a whole slew of things. I need not go into it. It needs better laws. For instance, my good friend here has pointed out that at a time when the prices were going up, the conviction rates under the Essential Commodities Act were coming down. At a time, for instance, when the people were facing hardships, black-marketeering, hoarding and such kind of things were really going up. It is not merely the responsibility of the State Government. If for debt recovery we can have a Fast Track Court, why can't we have a Fast Track Court when it comes to the administration of the Essential Commodities Act? So, I think, certainly the regulatory culture there needs to be substantially strengthened.

Beyond this, this is a slight variation of what Shrimati Brinda Karat, whom I admire, had spoken. I do believe that a time has come when we need to experiment with different models. I think, we certainly need to experiment on the issue of food coupons which can give the consumer a greater diversity of choice, which can build a degree of competition when he goes to fair price shop and which enlarges the bouquet of the consumer choice. A time has come, Mr. Minister, when you may consider experimenting with the food coupon system like the Brazilian model about which Shanta Kumarji mentioned. The Brazilian programme is not only a familiar programme which covers the entire ambit of the anti-poverty programme but also hunger programme which is making a conditional availability of cash for purposes of buying food in a manner which we consider suitable. Brazil has found that it has been a very successful model. A time has come to do the treble things for strengthening the public distribution system by improving the regulatory framework and structure and being able to experiment more innovative ways to be able to bring in the fresh window and fresh culture based on best international practices.

These are challenging responsibilities. They have, Mr. Minister, remained in public domain and discussed for too long. The time has come and the compulsions have come to decide on the broader issue of poverty in which, in a country, which is deeply stripped of social security measures, a country where the social safety net is next to negligible, the only big social safety net which we are looking for is the Right to Food Programme. These six important critical decisions are pending. Please decide. Thank you.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, एक बात मैं समझ नहीं पाता हूँ कि मेरी पार्टी का समय पांच मिनट ही क्यों होता है?

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (बिहार) : पार्टी के हिसाब से टाइम मिलता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : आपकी पार्टी छोटी है।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सर, हमसे छोटे दल का समय ज्यादा होता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : ऐसा नहीं है। पार्टी की स्ट्रेंथ के हिसाब से समय मिलता है। आपकी पार्टी का समय पांच मिनट का है।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सर, चाहे तेंदुलकर जी की कमेटी हो, चाहे सक्सैना जी की कमेटी हो, चाहे अर्जुनसेन गुप्ता जी की कमेटी हो, विभिन्न कमेटियों के माध्यम से, विभिन्न समय गरीबों का पैमाना अलग-अलग तरीके से आया हुआ है। लेकिन मैं आपको माध्यम से एक बात माननीय मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो हमारा पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम था, उसके माध्यम से भी, अगर थोड़ी राहत लोगों को मिलती थी, तो उसको भी डिसेप्ट कर दिया गया। कुछ ऐसे लोग हैं, जो गरीबों में भी गरीब हैं, सक्सैना जी के हिसाब से करीब 20 प्रतिशत लोगों का राशन कार्ड नहीं है, इसलिए उनको न एपीएल की सुविधा है और न बीपीएल की सुविधा है। इसके लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं कि उनको भी राहत मिल सके, जिनके पास अभी तक राशन कार्ड नहीं है।

सर, मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार अपनी इकनॉमिक लिबरल पॉलिसी के अंतर्गत सारी कार्यवाही कर रही है। जो फूड सिक्योरिटी लोगों को देने की बात है, सरकार उससे दूर भागती जा रही है, अर्थात् उसे धीरे-धीरे अस्वीकार कर रही है, लेकिन मैं चाहूंगा कि यह बुनियादी जरूरत है और इस पर आपको विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। जो बीपीएल कार्ड होल्डर्स हैं, वे भी इससे महरूम रह जाते हैं, उनको राशन नहीं मिल पाता है, इसकी व्यवस्था भी सरकार की ओर से होनी चाहिए।

सर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो बड़े हाउसेज हैं, सरकार उनको पांच लाख करोड़ का रिलीफ दे सकती है, लेकिन इस पीडीएस सिस्टम को सभी तक पहुंचाने के लिए एक लाख करोड़ रुपये बजटरी सपोर्ट में, इमदाद में सरकार नहीं दे रही है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि पीडीएस सिस्टम में उनको एक लाख करोड़ रुपये की सहायता मिले और पीडीएस सिस्टम को सबके लिए चालू कर दिया जाए, जिससे आम लोगों को राहत मिल सके।

सर, मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश में फूडग्रेन्स की कमी नहीं है, लेकिन इसकी वायदा बाजार के चलते आर्टिफिशियल कमी है। अगर वायदा बाजार को रोका जा सके, तो इस देश में फूडग्रेन्स की कोई कमी नहीं है, फूडग्रेन्स को कंट्रोल रेट पर आम लोगों तक पहुंचाया जा सकता है, इसलिए इस पर सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी ने केरल की बात कही कि 85 परसेंट उनको जो राशन मिलता था, उसमें कटौती की गई। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस तरह की कटौती नहीं की जानी चाहिए, क्योंकि वहां पर सरकार कंट्रोल रेट पर दो रुपये किलो के हिसाब से राशन देती है, जो कि आम लोगों को मिलता है।

मैं एक बात शुगर के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा fair remunerative price of sugar के जरिए यह उनको दी जाए और इसकी दर को ठीक किया जाए और उनसे लेवी सिस्टमेटिकली ले ली जाए और पीडीएस सिस्टम के माध्यम से इसकी सप्लाई की जाए, तो इससे आम लोगों को राहत मिल सकती है। सर, सरकार ने यह ठीक निर्णय लिया था कि गांव में ग्रामीण बैंक खोलेंगे और विशेषकर ट्राइबल क्षेत्रों में स्थापित करेंगे। उस समय 4845 ग्रामीण बैंक खोलने की बात थी, जिसके माध्यम से लोगों को रिलीफ दी जा सकती थी या वहां पर प्रोक्योरमेंट की व्यवस्था की जा सकती थी।

यदि सरकार इस बारे में ध्यान दे, तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह काम काफी आसान हो सकता है। आज शुगर के दाम इतने ज्यादा बढ़ रहे हैं, जब मंत्री महोदय कहेंगे तो कहीं फिर दाम न बढ़ जाएं, इस बात का डर लगता है। इसलिए इसको ज्यूटी फ्री इम्पोर्ट किया जाए और आम लोगों का पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम, PDS द्वारा दिया जाए। इन्हीं चंद बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Dr. Barun Mukherjee. Not present.
Shri Kumar Deepak Das.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts in this important discussion on the working of the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The prices of essential commodities are increasing high day by day. The Central and State Governments, like the Assam Government, has failed to prepare an effective road map for the arrest of future hike. It is due to the absolute lethargic attitude of the Government to Public Distribution System. The businessmen often go in for hoarding of PDS items. The Fair Price Shops are not under control. They are having their quotas of sugar and kerosene; they hoard them to earn more. There are not even any periodical checking systems of Fair Price Shops by the departmental officers concerned. Ration card holders never get information about the availability of PDS items. Again, most of the traders, who are approved by the Government, do not display the stock position of such items. In every district, authorities are getting short supply of the items of the Food Corporation of India. And, whatever it supplies, it is not timely. There must be a system of buffer stock of PDS items in every FCI godown. The concerned Ministry has failed to understand that PDS is an important measure to protect the poor against inflation and to keep the price of essential commodities under check. It must ensure regular supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices. The Government arranges import of edible oils for their distribution through Fair Price Shops, because production of such items is not adequate. The Government should also take more effective steps to promote and support PDS and strengthen the consumer protection movement.

An estimated population of 30.17 crores is living below the poverty line, out of which 22.09 crores of people are in rural areas. Assam's position in terms of BPL population stands at 36.09 per cent against the national average of 26.1 per cent in 1999-2001. On the other hand, Assam's per capita income is the lowest. In 1998-99, Assam had a per capita income of Rs.8,700 against the national average of Rs.14,712. We need special attention from the Centre in this regard so that the common people get more facilities and more opportunities to lead their lives perfectly.

In order to provide support to the farmers in marketing their produce, the Government should address the issue of opening of retail trade. It will help in bridging down the considerable difference between farmgate, wholesale and retail prices. But the Government, on the other hand, has given an opportunity to engage the multinational companies in the retail trade.

That is not understandable to us. Sir, what I feel is, the Government has failed to understand better the nature of the problems and respective roles to be played by the Government of India and the State Governments in containing the price increase. The Government has failed to better targeting and strengthening the PDS, better procurement, and better off-take of the commodities.

Sir, there is need to implement agricultural market reforms. The Government has failed to involve cooperatives and other institutions to reduce the gap between wholesale and retail prices, in true sense to stabilize prices. Sir, there is a need to amend the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 and properly implement it. There is also a need to take some effective steps to stop illegal hoarding. Sir, I urge upon the Government to take steps to bring out the hoarded stocks, and make it available to the common people at reasonable prices. Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech. Sir, I thank you very much for having given me the opportunity to speak on this subject.

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव (आंध्र प्रदेश) : सर, कल भी सात बजे तक बैठे थे, अभी छह बज रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : खाली बेंचेज के सामने बात करने का क्या फायदा।...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारीक अनवर) : अभी पांच-छह स्पीकर्स हैं।

डा. राम प्रकाश : सर, पांच-छह स्पीकर का क्या मतलब है, अभी सदन एक हफ्ता चलेगा ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारीक अनवर) : आज सभी स्पीकर्स बोल लेंगे, मिनिस्टर का रिप्लाय मंडे होगा। चार-पांच स्पीकर्स हैं, ये खत्म कर लेंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठिए। डा. राम प्रकाश जी।

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : श्रीमन्, खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पी.डी.एस.) आरंभ की गई थी। केंद्रीय सरकार पी.डी.एस. के माध्यम से गरीबों को सस्ता अनाज मुहैया कराने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को भारी सब्सिडी देती है, लेकिन फेयर प्राइस दुकानों के बेईमान मालिकों, भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों, इन दुकानों तक माल ढोने वालों, तंग करने वाले ट्रांसपोर्टर्स और सिद्धांतहीन मिल मालिकों ने इस सिस्टम को तहस-नहस कर दिया है। भारी मात्रा में खाद्यान्न ब्लैक मार्केट में बिक रहा है। एफ.पी.एस. डीलर, पी.डी.एस. डीलर और खाद्य विभाग के कर्मचारियों में मिली-भगत है। सही रिकॉर्ड नहीं रखे जाते हैं, रजिस्टर में झूठी एंट्रीज होती हैं तथा राजनैतिक लोग भी दखलंदाजी करते हैं। इस प्रकार उपभोक्ता तक न अच्छा खाद्यान्न पहुंचता है और न ही पूरी मात्रा में पहुंचता है। उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा गठित न्यायमूर्ति वधवा पैनल के अनुसार पी.डी.एस. पूरे तौर पर चरमरा चुका है। राजस्थान, झारखंड में स्थिति बहुत नाजुक है, बिहार में महीने का राशन तीन-चार महीने के बाद मिलता है, गुजरात में एफ.पी.एस. डीलर्स को अफसरों को रिश्वत देनी पड़ती है, उत्तराखंड में अनाज महंगे भाव पर दिया जा रहा है तथा उड़ीसा में राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप है। जस्टिस वधवा के अनुसार ऐसी स्कीम को जारी रखना अपराध है, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : राम प्रकाश जी, दिल्ली और अन्य प्रदेश, जो कांग्रेस शासित राज्य हैं, उनका नाम भी लेंगे तो अच्छा लगेगा।

डा. राम प्रकाश : सभी का नाम लेंगे, मैंने आपको कुछ नाम दिए हैं, जो उन्होंने कहे हैं। क्योंकि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा सब्सिडी के रूप में दिया जाने वाला हजारों, करोड़ों रुपया बी.पी.एल. परिवारों को न मिलकर काला बाजारियों, बिचौलियों और भ्रष्ट अफसरों की भेंट चढ़ रहा है। इसमें आमूलचूल सुधार की आवश्यकता है, अन्यथा खाद्यान्न सुरक्षा का लक्ष्य पूरा नहीं हो सकेगा। इस नाते मेरे कुछ सुझाव हैं। सर्वप्रथम डिपो होल्डर्स की स्थिति सुधारनी चाहिए, क्योंकि यह गरीब तक पहुंचने का माध्यम है। अकेले हरियाणा में लगभग दस हजार डिपो होल्डर्स हैं। सारे भारत में लाखों हैं। तमिलनाडु और त्रिपुरा में वितरण भत्ता, अन्न भंडारण में लिए मकान का किराया आदि लगभग दस हजार रुपया इन लोगों को मिलता है।

लेकिन कई प्रदेशों में यह केवल कमीशन एक हजार रुपए है। अलग-अलग प्रदेशों में गेहूं, मिट्टी के तेल, आदि पर कमीशन अलग-अलग है। इसे एक समान नहीं, तो तर्कसंगत जरूर बनाया जाए, अन्यथा खाद्यान्न ब्लैक में बिकता रहेगा और डिपो होल्डर उससे अपनी रोजी रोटी नहीं कमा सकेगा।

दूसरा सुझाव यह है कि इस विषय पर एक अध्ययन कमेटी बनाइए, जो सब प्रदेशों के PDS का अध्ययन कर सिस्टम में कमियां और अच्छाइयां बताए। जो healthy practices हैं, वे लागू किए जाएं।

तीसरा सुझाव है कि खाद्य सामग्री प्रति व्यक्ति के हिसाब से दीजिए, न कि प्रति परिवार के हिसाब से। गेहूं के बजाय आटा देने पर विचार किया जा सकता है। ब्लैक का गेहूं स्टोर हो सकता है, आटा स्टोर नहीं हो सकता। भण्डारण की क्षमता बढ़ाने पर भी विचार करने की जरूरत है। भण्डारण के नए तरीके इस्तेमाल करने चाहिए, ताकि गेहूं तीन साल के बाद भी खाने के काबिल रहे सके। हरियाणा और पंजाब में गेहूं और धान की खरीद पूरे देश का लगभग 80 प्रतिशत है। उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, बिहार में भी कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है। पंजाब और हरियाणा का पूरा माल नहीं उठ रहा है। इसलिए सर्वत्र भण्डारण क्षमता बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है। इस समय पंजाब की भण्डारण क्षमता 184 लाख मीट्रिक टन है और हरियाणा की 94 लाख मीट्रिक टन है। पी.डी.एस. के अधीन जितना खाद्यान्न प्रान्तों को देना तय हुआ है, प्रान्तों ने उससे कम उठाया है। 20 अप्रैल को लोक सभा में जो आंकड़े दिए गए, वे इस बात को स्पष्ट करते हैं कि आवंटन अधिक और उठान कम रहा है।

मेरा अगला सुझाव यह है कि उपभोक्ता की पहचान के लिए biometric system लागू किया जाए। खाद्यान्न बांटने के लिए biometric system, अर्थात् जैवगुण प्रणाली के जरिए राशन की वस्तुएं देने पर गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करना चाहिए। दिसम्बर, 2008 से हरियाणा में स्मार्ट कार्ड आधारित सुपुर्दगी प्रणाली को मंजूरी दी गई है। इसमें राशन कार्ड धारक परिवारों के वयस्क सदस्य जैविक गुण smart card में होंगे। The smart card will contain biometric features of adult members of the ration card holder families. इसके ऊपर गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिए।

अगली बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि बी.पी.एल. परिवारों की पहचान का तरीका बदलिए। देश की जिस तरह की भद्दी तस्वीर देने का प्रयास किया जाता है, न तो उतनी गरीबी है और न स्थिति संतोषजनक है। स्थिति दोनों के बीच में है। ऐसे मकान, जिन पर बी.पी.एल. परिवार लिखा हुआ है, उनके अन्दर ट्रेक्टर खड़े हैं। मैं आपको दिखाने के लिए तैयार हूं। पक्के मकान हैं। इसलिए कैलोरी के आधार पर बी.पी.एल. परिवार को निश्चय करने के मापदण्ड को बदल कर आप कोई और मापदण्ड बनाइए। मैं उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। जिसका मकान पक्का हो, जिसके दो कमरे पक्के हों, उसका नाम बी.पी.एल. से काट दीजिए। जिसके पास मोटरसाइकिल हो, ट्रेक्टर हो, उसे काट दीजिए। आपके आंकड़े पूर्ण तौर पर भ्रान्ति पैदा करने वाले हैं, जिनकी वजह से सारी स्कीम तहस-नहस हो रही है। यदि प्रयास करने पर भी सिस्टम न सुधरे, तो इस सिस्टम को समाप्त कर उपभोक्ता को फूड कूपन्स या सीधे सब्सिडी दी जानी चाहिए ताकि वह हर महीने निर्धारित दुकानों या ओपन मार्केट से अनाज खरीद सके। इससे बिचौलियों से छुट्टी मिलेगी। इस प्रकार

पी.डी.एस. को दुकानदार subsidized भाव पर खाद्यान्न नहीं मिलेगा, बल्कि पी.डी.एस. स्टोर कूपन ले लेंगे और फिर स्थानीय बैंक में जमा करा कर उसके बदले में धनराशि लेंगे। उपभोक्ता किसी भी स्टोर से खाद्यन्न लेने के लिए स्वतंत्र होगा। इससे पी.डी.एस. स्टोरों को अच्छा अन्न उपलब्ध करना पड़ेगा, नहीं तो वे इस दौड़ के अन्दर पीछे रह जाएंगे।

मैं एक बात इस देश में अन्न के उत्पादन के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। जीन संवर्धित बीजों की जो बात की जा रही है, उससे हमारी जैव सम्पदा पूर्ण तौर पर नष्ट हो जाएगी। हमारे अपने बीज नहीं रहेंगे। हम मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों पर आश्रित हो जाएंगे। जब हमारे पास अपने बीज नहीं होंगे, हमें बाहर की कंपनियाँ बीज देंगी, ऐसे में अगर वे गेहूँ का बीज समय पर नहीं देंगे, तो हम गेहूँ की फसल नहीं बो पाएंगे। हमारा किसान केवल मजदूरी करता रह जाएगा। हमारे यहां अनाज का संकट पैदा हो जाएगा। मैं एक बात समझता हूँ कि कुछ चीजों का इस्तेमाल विदेशी लोग अपने खाद्य पदार्थ के तौर पर नहीं करते, जैसे बीटी बैंगन है। अमरीका में इसे इन्सान नहीं खाता, यूरोप में इसे इन्सान नहीं खाता, यह केवल मात्र उन पशुओं को खिलाया जाता है, जिसको मार कर वे उसका मांस इस्तेमाल करते हैं। अगर हम हिन्दुस्तानियों को भी वे गिनिपिग मान कर उनके ऊपर एक्पैरिमेंट करना चाहेंगे, तो यह गलत होगा।

अभी बिहार में क्या हुआ? एक कंपनी ने मक्का का बीज दिया, उससे हरा पौधा तो खड़ा हो गया, लेकिन उस पौधे के ऊपर दाना नहीं आया। वहां की सरकार ने किसानों की भरपाई की, लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि सरकार उसकी भरपाई क्यों करे? जिस कंपनी ने बिना तजुर्बा और बिना प्रयोग किए लोगों को वह बीज दिया है, उस कंपनी के ऊपर इस बात की सजा होनी चाहिए। हम उसे सजा देते नहीं हैं, उसे तो बचा लेते हैं, लेकिन जिस गरीब आदमी का पैसा हमारे टैक्स के रूप में आता है, वह सजा पाता है। हम नये बीजों का अनुसंधान करें, हिन्दुस्तान की एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटीज अनुसंधान करें, ताकि बीज के बारे में हमारी आत्मनिर्भरता बनी रहे।

मैं अपनी बात लम्बी नहीं करना चाहता हूँ। यहां पर शुगर के बारे में भी काफी बात हो रही है। पहले इस देश में शंकराचार्यों की चर्चा होती थी, लेकिन आज इस देश में शक्कर आचार्यों की चर्चा होती है। गरीब के साथ जुड़ा हुआ जो महकमा है, उससे गंभीरता के साथ हमें आमूलचूल परिवर्तन करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए। आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, उसके लिए मैं आपके प्रति आभार प्रदर्शित करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी जी, आप कम समय लें क्योंकि हम 6.30 बजे तक समाप्त करना चाहते हैं।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : आप जैसी आज्ञा दें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री तारिक अनवर) : अपनी बात कुछ संक्षेप में रखें। हम यह नहीं कह रहे हैं कि आपके पास समय नहीं है, लेकिन जितना जल्दी समाप्त कर सकें, उतना अच्छा है।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : महोदय, सदन में सभी सदस्यों ने बहुत विस्तार से जन वितरण प्रणाली, विपणन व्यवस्था और इस मंत्रालय के बारे में भी चर्चा की। मैं इससे थोड़ा हट करके कुछ भिन्न बोलना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, पिछले कई माह से हम लगातार महंगाई के बारे में चर्चा करते रहे हैं। पता नहीं क्यों मुझे लगता है कि आजकल इस देश के लोगों या राजनेताओं में महंगाई के प्रति कोई संवेदना ही नहीं रही है, एक प्रकार से सब कुछ समाप्त हो गया है। इसलिए आवश्यक हो गया है कि हम लोग उस परिभाषा को अब कुछ दूसरी दिशा में लेकर जाएं। जब हम महंगाई की बात करते हैं तो देश के लोगों को सामान्य प्रतीत होता है कि महंगाई तो जीवन का एक भाग है और एक सामान्य सी बात है। महंगाई के प्रति जो पीड़ा दिखनी चाहिए, वह नहीं दिखती है। तब आखिर इस विषय को हम लोग कैसे आगे लेकर जाएं? इसी चर्चा के साथ आज आपके सामने मैं कुछ विषय रखना चाहूंगा।

कहीं न कहीं महंगाई, गरीबी और विपणन आपके विभाग के ही अंग है। इस विषय को मैं इसलिए रख रहा हूँ, क्योंकि मुझे लगता है कि लगातार हम लोग गरीबी के बारे में यह बात करते हैं कि इस देश में कौन गरीब है। कई बार हम सभाओं में जाकर या पढ़े-लिखे लोगों के बीच भी इस विषय पर बात करते हैं। अभी थोड़े समय पहले मैं कुछ आईपीएस प्रोबेशनर्स के बीच बैठकर उनको कुछ लैक्चर दे रहा था, उस समय मैंने उनसे गरीबी की चर्चा की। मैंने उनसे पूछा कि हम लोग रोज़ यह चर्चा करते हैं कि गरीब कौन है और रोज़ हम यह कहते हैं कि देश में गरीबी है, लेकिन आखिर गरीबी है क्या? उस चर्चा में सरकार की परिभाषाएं भी आईं। हम गरीबी की बात करते हैं, तो हम उस गरीब के मकान की बात नहीं करते हैं, उसके स्वास्थ्य की बात नहीं करते हैं, उसके यातायात की बात नहीं करते हैं, उसकी छत की बात नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन यह बात करते हैं कि वह कितना पेट भर करके जीवन चला सकता है। इसके अलावा कुछ और बात नहीं करते हैं। उसमें भी जब जोड़-तोड़ कर यह देखते हैं कि एक इंसान कैसे जी सकता है, तो सरकार ने आंकड़ा लगाकर बताया कि जिसे ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में दिन भर में 2400 कैलोरी खाने को मिल जाए और शहरी क्षेत्र में 2100 कैलोरी मिल जाए, वह गरीबी रेखा के नीचे है और इससे ऊपर कैलोरी पाने वाला व्यक्ति गरीबी रेखा के ऊपर है।

सर, इस 2400 कैलोरी की कीमत क्या है, यह सबसे बड़ी बात है। अगर हम इसे देखें तो पाएंगे कि इस 2400 कैलोरी की कीमत शहरी क्षेत्र में 19 रुपए और ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में 15 रुपए है। सरकार स्वयं वर्षों से यह कहती आ रही है कि इस देश में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले 25 करोड़ लोग हैं। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि लगभग एक-चौथाई लोग 15 रुपए या 17 रुपए से कम में जीते हैं। महोदय, यह उतना महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है, क्योंकि 25 करोड़ लोगों में बहुत से लोग ऐसे भी हैं जो एक रुपया, दो रुपए, तीन रुपए या पांच रुपए में भी जीते हैं। यह संख्या उन 25 करोड़ लोगों की है, जिनकी चर्चा हम नहीं कर पाते हैं। महोदय, हम तो सिर्फ इसको परिभाषित कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि जब हम रोज़ गरीबी की बात करते हैं और जब 15 रुपए में आधा लीटर दूध भी ढंग से नहीं मिल पाएगा, तो एक इंसान अपने परिवार को 12 रुपए, 15 रुपए या 10 रुपए में कैसे चलाएगा? इस देश में आजादी के 60 वर्ष बाद भी आज 25 करोड़ लोगों में से बहुत से लोग ऐसे हैं जिनकी आमदनी 15 रुपए, 12 रुपए, 10 रुपए, 5 रुपए या 2 रुपए होगी। इनमें कुछ लोग तो ऐसे भी होंगे जिन्हें एक रुपया की भी आमदनी नहीं होती होगी। ये वही लोग हैं, जिनके बारे में हमारे पुराने मंत्री श्री शान्ता कुमार जी ने कहा कि वे स्लेट खाते हैं और उनमें से बहुत से गरीब लोग ऐसे भी हैं जो पत्ते खाते हैं। मैं नहीं समझता कि इस सदन में हमारे जैसे लोगों के बोलने से कितना प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

सर, सारी दुनिया इसको परिभाषित करती है। हम लोगों ने एक गरीब की आमदनी शहरी क्षेत्र में साढ़े चार सौ रुपए महीना और देहाती क्षेत्र में सवा तीन सौ रुपए महीना निर्धारित की। सरकारी आंकड़ों के हिसाब से ऐसे 25 करोड़ लोग हैं। अब हम इससे आगे बढ़ें। इस बारे में विश्व बैंक क्या कहता है? वह पहले इसके लिए एक डॉलर कहता था। एक डॉलर का मतलब 42 से 45 रुपए हुआ। यानी जिसकी आमदनी 42 से 45 रुपए से कम हो तो वह गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे है। विश्व बैंक ने भी उस परिभाषा को बदल कर कहा कि अब यह एक डॉलर 20 सेंट है। उस हिसाब से अब इस देश में 60 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। उनकी जो नई परिभाषा आने वाली है, वह 2 डॉलर की है। अगर इसे दो डॉलर कर दिया जाए तो इस देश के 80 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं।

महोदय, इस देश में गरीबी की परिभाषा क्या है? दूसरे देशों में जब हम गरीबी की बात करते हैं, तो वह गरीब कौन है? वहां गरीब एक ऐसा व्यक्ति है जिसके घर में गरम पानी जाता है, जिसके सर के ऊपर छत है, जिसके पास इंश्योरेंस का पैसा है, जिसके पास शौचालय है, जिसके पास स्वास्थ्य की सुविधाएं हैं और इन सब सुविधाओं रहने के बाद भी उस देश के लोग आकलन करते हैं कि इसके बाद गरीब कौन है। हमारे यहां इस प्रकार का कोई मानक नहीं है। यहां गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वालों में vulnerable section कौन है? वे

शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के लोग हैं। इन 25 करोड़ लोगों में सबसे vulnerable section कौन हैं? इसमें 51 प्रतिशत लोग शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के हैं, 47 प्रतिशत लोग शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स के हैं, 50 प्रतिशत शहरों में काम करने वाले urban labourers हैं और 47 प्रतिशत देहात में काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं। इस प्रकार अगर इन आंकड़ों से गरीब के भीतर गरीब की पहचान की जाए तो आज इस देश में कोई भी सामान्य राजनेता सर उठा कर नहीं चल सकता।

महोदय, अब जिस तरह से हमारे देश की आबादी बढ़ रही है, उसको देखते हुए 2020 तक हमारी संख्या लगभग 1.5 बिलियन के आसपास पहुंच जाएगी और उसके बाद 2050 तक दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा आबादी हमारे देश की हो जाएगी। एक तरफ यह तो हो ही रहा है। हमारा देश कमाल का है। शरद पवार जी मुम्बई में रहते हैं। आज दुनिया का चौथा सबसे अमीर व्यक्ति भारत का मूल निवासी है। इस संबंध में हम मित्तल साहब की भी चर्चा करते हैं। दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे अमीर आदमी, मुकेश अंबानी, हमारे भारत का ही निवासी है। दुनिया का छठा सबसे अमीर आदमी, अनील अंबानी, भारत का ही है। अगर उसके बाद इसकी सूची देखी जाए तो दुनिया का छठा सबसे अमीर आदमी, भारत में, के.पी. सिंह जी हैं। दुनिया के 52 सबसे अमीर लोग ऐसे हैं, जो billionaires हैं। उस चित्र के लिए कई बार सदन में चर्चा भी होती है। यहां कई लोग उनकी बात करते हैं, लेकिन इन 25 करोड़ लोगों की आवाज उठाना और इस सदन की संवेदना जगाना बड़ा कठिन है। अगर उन्हें कोई पीड़ा हो, उन पर टैक्स की कोई कटौती हो, उनके विस्तार का कोई कार्यक्रम हो या उनके लिए सरकार में — मैं उस पर अधिक चर्चा करना नहीं चाहूंगा। इस सब के बाद अगर इस परिभाषा को छोड़ भी दिया जाए, क्योंकि यह परिभाषा तो सरकार मान कर चलती है। यदि इस परिभाषा पर 19 प्रतिशत महंगाई लाद दी जाए तब इस देश का क्या होगा, इस देश के गरीब का क्या होगा और इस देश के गरीब के बारे में चर्चा कौन करेगा?

माननीय मंत्री जी, आप तो हमसे बहुत बड़े हैं। अभी सदन में पीठासीन उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय जिस पार्टी से हैं, उस पार्टी के आप अध्यक्ष हैं। आपका बड़ा अनुभव है। आप जिस उम्र में हैं, उसे देखते हुए मैं आपका बेटा-तुल्य होऊंगा और आपके परिवार के लोग मेरी ही उम्र के होंगे।

पता नहीं आपको इन 60 वर्षों में इस देश की राजनीति देखने के बाद कैसा लगता है। मैं तो बिहार में विधायक था और विधायक के बाद सांसद बना। मेरा लगभग 22 वर्षों का active political career है। हालांकि मैं कुछ अंग्रेजी टीवी चैनल्स पर जाकर बोलता हूं, लेकिन मैं ठेठ बिहार से आता हूं और उस माहौल में ही पल-बढ़ कर यहां आया हूं। इस देश में 40-50 वर्षों की राजनीति को देख कर पता नहीं आपको कैसा लगता है, मैं तो अब अपने आपको नाकामयाम मानता हूं। इस देश के प्रत्येक दिन की घटना को देख कर मुझे यह लगता है कि हमारे जैसे लोग अब इस देश में कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं। पता नहीं आपको कैसा महसूस होता है, क्योंकि इस देश की विफलता के बड़े कारण इस देश के राजनेता और राजनीति हैं। We have failed the nation. Irrespective of what we may talk today, the country has been failed by the political set-up. मैं बीजेपी या कांग्रेस पार्टी की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं। But the country at some point of time has to realize that this political set-up, this political system, we as politicians, have certainly failed. आज इस देश में जहां 60 करोड़ लोग खाना खाने को मोहताज हों, वहां इस लोकतंत्र पर एक बड़ा प्रश्नचिन्ह खड़ा होने वाला है। वह प्रश्नचिन्ह खड़ा हो चुका है, चाहे वह हमें दिख नहीं रहा हो, लेकिन आने वाले दिनों में इन सारे सवाल के जवाब इस देश की जनता निश्चित रूप से मांगेगी। हम यहां इस सदन में बैठकर अगर इस विषय पर आंसू न बहाते हों तो यह आश्चर्य का विषय है। आज कितने घरों और जगहों में गरीबी की अलग-अलग परिभाषा है। महोदय, मैं गरीबी पर ही बात करूंगा। मैं महंगाई को छोड़ देता हूं, उस पर आपको जो भी करना

है करें। मैं गरीबी की बात कर रहा हूँ। गरीबी इस देश के लिए संकट है। यह दूसरी बात है कि हमारी जो भी नीतियाँ हैं, सरकार में रह कर हम लोग जो भी नीतियाँ बनाते हैं, आज हम गरीबों को लगभग 52000 करोड़ रुपये सब्सिडी के रूप में देने की व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं, लेकिन यह चलने वाला नहीं है। हम यह कब तक चलाते रहेंगे?

अब आप यह देखिए कि वर्ल्ड बैंक ने famine का किस तरह से definition दिया है। Famine की परिभाषा के रूप में वह कहता है कि अगर शरीर का BMI 18 प्रतिशत से कम हो और जिस देश में ऐसे 40 प्रतिशत लोग हों, वह देश गरीब है और भारत उस परिभाषा में आता है। यहां BMI इतना कम है कि देश की 90 प्रतिशत जनता को हम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परिभाषा में गरीब मानते हैं। इन 60 वर्षों में हमारी यही उपलब्धि रही है। आप इस देश की विडम्बना, गरीबी, के आंकड़े को देखिए। प्लानिंग कमीशन कहता है कि हमारे यहां 28 प्रतिशत, यानी लगभग 28 करोड़ लोग गरीब हैं। इस सदन में एन.सी. सक्सेना की जो रिपोर्ट आयी थी, वह कहत है कि इस देश में 50 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। अर्जुन सेनगुप्ता की जो रिपोर्ट थी, जिसमें 20 रुपये को मानक माना गया था, वह कहती है कि इस देश में 77 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। तेंडुलकर समिति की रिपोर्ट कहती है कि 37 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। अगर हम सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश पर गठित वाधवा समिति के विषय पर जाएं तो उसने यह कहा कि लगभग 70 प्रतिशत लोग इस देश में गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं। आखिर हम क्या मानें? गरीबी की कितनी परिभाषाएं हैं? दुनिया भी यह मानती है कि हम गरीब हैं, लेकिन इसके लिए हम क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं, यह अपने-आप में एक बड़ी चिन्ता का विषय है।

मैं सरकार के बारे में कोई टिप्पणी नहीं करना चाहूंगा, लेकिन यूपीए-1 से यूपीए-11 के बीच में, पिछले मात्र पांच वर्षों में खुद सरकार के जो आंकड़े हैं, चाहे हम उसे यह कहें कि आपने गरीबी की परिभाषा बदल दी है, इसलिए यह परिवर्तन है, लेकिन पिछले मात्र पांच वर्षों में देश के 10 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे चले आये हैं। हम जिस 7 प्रतिशत और 9 प्रतिशत के विकास की बात कर रहे हैं, पिछले पांच वर्षों में आपके आंकड़ों के अनुसार इस देश में लगभग 100 million people have come below the poverty line. Who is going to answer all this? And this is happening. Irrespective of Governments, it is happening again and again, and there is no check on it.

महोदय, आप कृषि मंत्री हैं, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि एक तरफ जहां भूख की बात हो रही है, जहां उत्पादन की बात हो रही है, जहां कृषि क्षमता विस्तार करने की बात हो रही है, हमारा विस्तार लगभग 7 प्रतिशत है, लेकिन कृषि क्षेत्र में हमारा विकास केवल एक से दो दशमलव में होता है। गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री की चर्चा करने में हमें कठिनाई होती है। पता नहीं आपके मन में क्या भावना है, लेकिन इस देश में एक राज्य का मुख्य मंत्री ऐसा भी है जिसने अपने यहां कृषि की विकास दर को 9 प्रतिशत पर पहुंचा दिया है। हमें इस नमूने को स्वीकार करना चाहिए, उस व्यक्ति से बात करनी चाहिए और उससे पूछना चाहिए कि आपने यह कैसे कर दिया है? यदि इस देश की भूख को मिटाना है तो आखिर उससे बात करने में क्या कठिनाई है? उससे बात करके पूछने में क्या कठिनाई है कि साहब, आपने तो वह कर दिखाया जो हमने पिछले 60 वर्षों में नहीं किया। यह मैं इसलिए नहीं कर रहा हूँ कि मैं कोई उपदेश दे रहा हूँ, लेकिन इस देश में जहां सच्चाई देखने को मिले, उसे स्वीकार करना चाहिए।

महोदय, हम चीन से तुलना करें। चीन में लगभग 100 मिलियन हेक्टेयर कृषि क्षेत्र है।

वहां का उत्पादन 400 मिलियन टन है। हमारे यहां कृषि क्षेत्र का भौगोलिक क्षेत्रफल लगभग 146 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है और हमारे यहां उत्पादन 250 मिलियन टन है, आखिर ऐसा क्यों है? चीन के पास ऐसा कौन सा हुनर है, वहां के लोग हमसे किस मामले में बेहतर हैं कि वहां की उत्पादकता और हमारी उत्पादकता में इतना फर्क है? उनके सामने भी वैसी ही चुनौतियाँ हैं, जो हमारे सामने हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि मंत्री महोदय इन विषयों को जरूर देख रहे होंगे।

उपासभाध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री जी हमेशा FCI के बारे में बात करते हैं। FCI के बारे में लगातार चर्चा हो रही है। अभी हमारे पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष ने पंजाब और देश के विभिन्न स्थानों पर जाकर देखा कि 72 लाख टन खाद्यान्न बाहर पड़ा हुआ है। इस देश में गेहूं का भंडारण लगभग 183 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, उसमें से 80 लाख टन गेहूं खुले आसमान के नीचे पड़ा हुआ है। आज़ादी के 60 वर्षों के बाद, भुखमरी के सवाल पर, गरीबी के सवाल पर, भंडारण की व्यवस्था के सवाल पर यह हाल सामने दिखाई दे रहा है, लेकिन हम इस पर चर्चा करने की स्थिति में नहीं हैं। जो पुराना खाद्यान्न सड़ जाता है, खराब हो जाता है, उसको हटाने के लिए, उसको dispose off करने के लिए ही सरकार को 3 करोड़ रुपया खर्च करना पड़ता है। आखिर इन सब बातों का जवाब कौन देगा? हमें लगता है कि मंत्री जी भी इन चीजों को महसूस करते होंगे।

महोदय, कलकत्ता के बंदरगाह पर तथा Tuticorin Port पर दालें पड़ी हुई हैं। करीब 40,000 क्विंटल दालें कलकत्ता के बंदरगाह पर पड़ी हुई हैं, इसी प्रकार से Tuticorin Port पर 40,000 क्विंटल pulses पड़ी हुई हैं। मैं यह कहना चाह रहा हूँ कि 1997 से लेकर 2007 तक इस देश में लगभग 10 लाख टन खाद्यान्न सड़ गया और यह 10 लाख टन खाद्यान्न एक वर्ष तक, एक करोड़ लोगों को खिला सकता था। यह तो निरंतर हो रहा है कि एक तरफ हम भुखमरी की बात कर रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ इस प्रकार से अनाज सड़ रहा है, चाहे इसके जो भी कारण हों। आज सरकार के अपने आंकड़े हैं कि लगभग 50,000 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान केवल खाद्यान्न के सवाल पर हो रहा है - खाद्यान्न के रख-रखाव में, खाद्यान्न के transportation में, खाद्यान्न की सुरक्षा में खाद्यान्न को preserve करने में। हमारे देश का बजट साढ़े सात लाख करोड़ रुपए का है और उसमें से लगभग 50,000 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान केवल खाद्यान्न के मामले में हो रहा है। अगर सरकार इसे स्वीकृति देती है, इसे चलने देती है, तो कभी न कभी देश के लोग इस पर सवाल उठाएंगे, यह राजनीतिक पार्टियों का काम नहीं है।

महोदय, मैं दो-तीन बातों की ओर आपका ध्यान केन्द्रित करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा कि आप बजट बनाते हैं, उसमें सभी चीजों का ध्यान रखते हैं और जहां तक आपके मंत्रालय के बजट का सवाल है, जो आपके मंत्रालय का बजट था, food production से संबंधित बजट था, उसमें जो total subsidy थी, अभी तक वित्त मंत्रालय ने जो total subsidy स्वीकृत की थी, वह लगभग 1 लाख, 30 हजार करोड़ रुपए के आस-पास थी, लेकिन आपने इसे घटाकर 1,16,000 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया है। आखिर इसे घटाने का क्या औचित्य था? उसमें जो food subsidy थी, यह लगभग 56,000 करोड़ रुपए थी, लेकिन इस वित्तीय वर्ष में आपने इसे घटाकर 55,000 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया है। अगर एक वित्तीय वर्ष में आपने एक हजार करोड़ रुपए की सब्सिडी घटा दी है, तो न जाने इससे कितने पेट प्रभावित होंगे और न जाने कितने गरीब मारे जाएंगे? यदि यह करना था, तो इसका आधार क्या था? आज इस देश में सभी गरीबों के पेट को भरने के लिए आपको इस 55,000 करोड़ रुपए के अलावा, कम से कम 86,000 करोड़ रुपए की आवश्यकता है। मुझे विश्वास है कि आप जरूर इस पर विचार कर रहे होंगे।

महोदय, आपने Food Security Bill की बात की है। उसमें आपका मानक क्या है? आप 25 किलोग्राम देना चाहते हैं या 35 किलोग्राम देना चाहते हैं? क्या वह पर्याप्त है? मैं इस बात से निश्चित रूप से प्रसन्न हूँ कि सरकार इस पर विचार कर रही है कि यह सिर्फ भूख मिटाने की बात नहीं है। आप Food Security Act में सिर्फ चावल, दाल और गेहूं की बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन आज उससे अधिक की आवश्यकता है। यदि सरकार इस पर विचार कर रही है, तो यह अच्छी बात है।

महोदय, अपनी बात समाप्त करते हुए मुझे सिर्फ इतना ही कहना है कि जब मैं विधायक था, तो एक बार मैं अपने गांव जा रहा था। शाम का समय था। मेरा विधान सभा क्षेत्र तरैयां था, वहां एक हाट के बाहर, मैं गाड़ी

लगाकर चाय पी रहा था। मैंने देखा कि एक छोटी सी लड़की आई, उसने मैले-कुचैले कपड़े पहने हुए थे, चोटी बांध रखी थी और अपने बालों में तेल पोत रखा था।

उसके हाथ में एक झोली थी और वह बाजार में जो हाट लगा था, वहां से कुछ साग-सब्जी खरीद कर वापस आ रही थी। मैंने उस बच्ची को रोक लिया और उससे पूछा कि इस झोली में क्या है? मैंने उससे वहां की भाषा, भोजपुरी, में पूछा कि “एकरामे देखावा कि का बा, दिखावे के चाहतनि कि एकरामे का बा/” उस बच्ची ने बड़े प्रेम से झोली खोल कर दिखाया। छोटी-सी झोली थी और उसमें तीन-चार आलू, कुछ भिंडी, एक-दो प्याज और एक छोटी-सी बेनीझील की शीशी थी। मैंने पूछा कि इस शीशी में क्या है, तो उसने बताया कि इसमें तेल है। उस बेनीझील की शीशी में आधी शीशी सरसों का तेल था। मैंने पूछा कि यह कितने का बाजार हुआ है, तो उसने कहा कि बाबूजी ने मुझे दस रुपए दिए थे, मैं उनमें से आठ रुपए खर्च करके जा रही हूँ।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि कभी मौका मिले, तो इस छोटी-सी लड़की को तलाश कीजिए और इस छोटी-सी लड़की की झोली में झांक करके देखिए। उसकी झोली में जो सामान था, वह तीन दिन के लिए था। संभवतः वह किसी मल्लाह की बेटी थी या किसी मछुआरे की बेटी थी। वह दीयरा क्षेत्र से सामान खरीदने आई थी। उस छोटी-सी लड़की की झोली में देखने के बाद साफ पता चल जाएगा कि इस देश में गरीब कैसे जीते हैं। वह दस रुपए में तीन दिन अपना घर चला रही है। मंत्री महोदय, आप जिस दिन इस छोटी-सी लड़की को पहचान कर उसकी झोली को खोल कर देख लीजिएगा, तो इस देश की समस्याओं का निदान हो सकता है। यही मेरा आपसे आग्रह है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री किशोर कुमार मोहन्ती (उड़ीसा) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यहां पर विशेष उल्लेख नहीं करना चाहूंगा। मैं कुछ ही शब्दों में अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। सर, मैं जहां से आता हूँ, वह अन्न का क्षेत्र है। कहा जाता है कि उड़ीसा में एक ही भगवान अन्न खाते हैं और वह है जगन्नाथ भगवान। हमारे पैराग्राफिक हिसाब से अन्न का जन्म उड़ीसा में ही हुआ था। कोरापुट के सबरी क्षेत्र में अन्न की पैदाइश हुई थी, ऐसा कहा जाता है। इसलिए मैं उस क्षेत्र से आया हूँ, जहां अन्न का ज्यादा उत्पादन होता है। मंत्री महोदय का नाम शरद पवार है, शरद तो ऐसे भी greenery का नाम है और पवार शक्ति का नाम है। हम चाहेंगे कि आज देश के सामने जो कठिनाई है, देश उस कठिनाई को आराम से पार कर सके, भगवान उनको इसके लिए शक्ति दे। मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि कम से कम हमारे क्षेत्र में जो धान की उपज होती है, उसमें उतनी ही मेहनत होती है, जितनी मेहनत यहां पर गेहूं उपजाने में होती है। मगर गेहूं के न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य से एक सौ या डेढ़ सौ रुपए कम धान का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य होता है। जब कि प्रति एकड़ गेहूं उपजाने में धान उपजाने से कम खर्च लगता है। हम लोग बार-बार आपसे गुजारिश करेंगे कि जो आदमी या जो मजदूर खेत पर जाकर जमीन की मिट्टी के साथ एक होकर 6 महीने में एक फसल उगाता है, वह किस तरीके से उस फसल पर अच्छी आमदनी पा सके, इस पर हमारी सरकार को ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। हमारे उड़ीसा में आपका जो FCI है, उसमें वहां बीते सालों में खेती करने वाले मजदूरों से बहुत कम न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर धान खरीदा। इसी कारण वहां पर धान के बारे में distress sale हुआ था। आप यहां पर न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य फिक्स करते हैं और वहां पर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट जो खरीद करती है, उनके पास खरीदने की जो capacity होनी चाहिए, जितने market yard होने चाहिए, उतने market yard या खरीदने की उतनी शक्ति सामर्थ नहीं है, इसी कारण वे लोग खरीद नहीं सकते हैं और बहुत सारे paddy गोदाम के बाहर पड़े रहते हैं।

बरसात में बरबाद होते हैं, उसके कारण कई मजदूर आत्महत्या भी करते हैं, यह भी आपकी नज़र में आया होगा। इसीलिए हम चाहते हैं कि केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से उड़ीसा सरकार को वहां पर्याप्त सुविधाएं दी जाएं, ताकि वहां पर जब वे paddy procure कर रहे हैं, अगर वहां sufficient godowns रहेंगे, तो उसको

रखा जा सकेगा। मेरा यह भी आग्रह है कि जो गेहूं और धान में difference है, उसको एक ही किया जाए, ताकि गेहूं और धान का जो procurement है, उसमें कोई फर्क न हो।

सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से एक बात और कहूंगा। आप जानते हैं कि उड़ीसा में रायगडा में जो कॉटन होती है, वह बहुत top quality की होती है, लेकिन उसकी मार्केटिंग का वहां पर आज तक कोई प्रबंध नहीं हुआ है। अगर आप उसमें भी Minimum Support Price (MSP) करते और जो उसकी खेती कर रहे हैं, उनको अगर सुविधा दी जाती, तो शायद वहां कॉटन की खेती करने वाले मज़दूर आत्महत्या न करते। सर, रायगडा का जो कुठबानी जिला है, जो आदिवासी बहुल एरिया है, उस एरिया में जो मज़दूर मेहनत करके कॉटन का उत्पादन करते हैं, वे sufficient price न मिलने के कारण आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि यह जो Minimum Support Price है, आप इसको केवल दो-तीन चीजों, जैसे गेहूं या चीनी तक सीमित न रखते हुए, जो 26 items हैं, जो 26 selected essential commodities हैं, अगर उन सबमें Minimum Support Price करने का प्रबंध करें, तो जो हमारे गरीब आदमी हैं, निचले तबके के आदमी हैं, जो खेती करते हैं, जिनकी वजह से आज 120 करोड़ आदमी अन्न पाते हैं, इनको सुविधा हो सकेगी। आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूं।

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the House today on this important subject which concerns the common people. The Budget allocation for the Department of Consumer Affairs has been increased to about 14 per cent compared to that of the last year, and I think, it is a good measure.

Identification of beneficiaries is an important aspect. Regarding Public Distribution System, the State Governments are adopting their own norms for the identification of BPL families for distribution of foodgrains. For example, the Planning Commission has estimated that the BPL families eligible for Public Distribution System in Andhra Pradesh are 40 lakh. But, as per the estimation of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are 140 lakh such families. So, there is a difference of 100 lakh eligible families who are suffering very much in getting the PDS items. Most of them are the tribals who are losing their genuine right in availing the PDS items. Hence, I request the Government to properly identify the eligible BPL families in future.

There are so many irregularities in the issue of ration cards to BPL families, especially the tribals living in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. Sometimes, the officials do not issue ration cards as per the existing guidelines, or sometimes, they issue the ration cards with incomplete information. This is causing a lot of problems to the uneducated people, especially the tribal people who do not have proper knowledge about their rights. This situation needs to be addressed immediately to protect the innocent tribals and other people in our country, especially in Andhra Pradesh.

Then, I would like to mention about operation of Fair Price Shops. As per the rules, the owners of the Fair Price Shops are required to display the items available on a day-to-day basis

on the notice Board. But, it seems that majority of the Fair Price Shops are not following the existing guidelines and thereby, the people are put to many hardships and are forced to purchase the items from the market.

I request the Government to strictly monitor the fair price shops regularly to ensure that the people, especially the tribals get the items as per their eligibility, especially in the scheduled areas. I also request the Government to take strict action against the guilty, those who violate such existing guidelines like irregularity in maintaining of registers at the fair price shops.

I suggest that cooperative societies or self-help groups should be given preference in the allotment of licenses of fair price shops in future.

Sir, there is a demand from the scheduled areas to set up adequate number of godowns to cater to the genuine needs of the tribal people. They demand for setting up of more fair price shops, that is, at least one fair price shop for every two kilometers in the scheduled areas and other areas also with proper transportation system. To ensure this, adequate godowns are to be set up more in the nearby areas of fair price shops. This is the need of the hour to remove the difficulties of the tribals, especially in Andhra Pradesh.

There is abnormal diversion of food items, of more than 75 per cent of the total off-take of BPL quota in some States like Bihar and Punjab and it is nearly up to 25 per cent in Andhra Pradesh. This needs to be stopped immediately by implementing strict laws in each and every State especially in the scheduled areas including Andhra Pradesh. To avoid this, the Government should take steps to make the details of the items available online so that the misuse and diversion of food grains will be stopped in future.

The ration items carried by the trucks to fair price shops should be tracked and monitored by the global positioning system to ensure that the goods reach the shops where they are designated for a particular purpose. Strict action should be taken on the spot by monitoring with the global positioning system.

If there is a delay in delivery of stocks, the stage at which the delay has occurred must be identified and responsibility must be fixed and action should be taken through the global positioning system immediately to arrest the misuse of ration items. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. At the outset, I appreciate the Congress-led UPA Government for keeping up their promises to the farmers like agriculture loan waiver, extending the time to repay their loans and also increasing the interest subvention for prompt repayment of crop loans from 1 per cent to 2 per cent. This has definitely resulted in increase in production of agriculture. I am really happy to note that, as per the annual report, page 44, the stocks in the central pool is 476.95 lakh tonnes. This is the first time when this has

reached this much in the last seven years. The procurement has gone up substantially and the stocks have also increased to double. I just wonder whether the FCI godowns have the capacity to hold and manage such huge stocks because they often prefer to go for the private godowns. Sir, if not properly managed, it will go to the rodents, I mean, to the rats, but not to the human beings. So, Sir, a better stock management policy of central pool and PDS is required.

As per your annual report again, the quantum of food grains in excess of the BPL families was provided to the States as transitory allocation. This is to the tune of 103 lakh tonnes last year. But the annual report does not contain the State wise details of what are the commodities given to which States. That detail is not found. So, I am not in a position to know what Tamil Nadu has received as per your report. In this context, I have collected some reports of Tamil Nadu. Very often when we talk about price rise here, the hon. Minister shares his views saying that the State Governments have to share responsibility in curbing price rise through better management of the PDS and all that. I would like to mention very proudly here that in Tamil Nadu we are giving rice at Re. one per kg. Not only that, I would also like to share some other facts with you. The quantity ordered for Urad dal was 29,590 tonnes; procurement was only 19,580 tonnes; and Tamil Nadu has distributed 62,184 tonnes through the PDS. The quantity ordered for toor dal was only 2,250 tonnes; procurement was 2,260 tonnes; and through the PDS Tamil Nadu distributed 1,27,267 tonnes. In case of palm oil, we distributed 1,30,000-odd litres. In case of fortified atta, we distributed 38,842 tonnes; in case of sooji, we distributed 5,675 tonnes; and in case of maida, we distributed 19,812 tonnes. We procured it from open market; and we are giving it to the poor people at subsidized rate. I hope that the Central Government under the able Ministership of Pawarji will take into consideration the States which are doing very well like Tamil Nadu. The supply through the Union Government to the States is inadequate. I hope you will do the needful for the States.

I would like to share my views on computerization of ration cards. It is hundred per cent in Tamil Nadu, and no extra card is being issued unnecessarily to anybody to avoid wastage under the PDS. I wish this could be extended to all over India under your able Ministership.

My next appreciation goes to the Government for increasing the allocation of rice or wheat from 10 kg to 20 kg for the BPL family. If you divide this 20 kg per month per family of 6 persons it comes to 280 gm per person.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Please conclude.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: It is not at all adequate for BPL families who do manual labour to earn their livelihood. Sir, I will take two more minutes.

As per your report, conviction rate under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, was 15 per cent in 2006; 20 per cent in 2007; 12 per cent in 2008; and only 1.4 per cent in 2009. Is there no

black-marketing of essential commodities? Or is your Department not taking proper care of this? I want to highlight this point so that the Essential Commodities Act is taken seriously and State Governments are induced to make more raids to curb black-marketing.

My next concern is that the Minimum Support Price should be not just for sugarcane and rice. It should be given for dal also. It should be on a par with changing market rates, so that poor farmers are not left as goes a song from Tamil cinema.

It means whatever they may produce on their farm, they will be left with their legs and hands if they are not properly taken care of. The Minimum Support Price should be fixed for dal and other agricultural commodities also.

Last but not least, I am really very surprised to see from your Annual Report about the export of edible oil and rice. As per the diplomatic decision of the Government, they are exporting very large quantity of rice and oil to countries like Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire. We have not even heard of such nations. More diplomatic thing would be to save your own skin. That should be the policy. I hope the Minister will reconsider this export policy or, at least, reduce the quantum of rice being exported to such countries and see that food subsidy is raised and there is complete food security in the country. Thank you.

श्री साबिर अली (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया कि आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का समय दिया। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी को यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ 220 मिलियन टन की पैदावार की जाती है और इससे पहले भी माननीय सदस्यों ने आंकड़े पेश किए हैं। कमोबेश 30 परसेंट अनाज खराब हो जाता है, जिसका रख-रखाव ठीक तरह से नहीं किया जाता है। करीब 70 मिलियन टन हमारे देश का अनाज खराब हो जाता है और उन तक नहीं पहुँचता है, जो इसके हकदार हैं। साथ ही साथ 1980 में ब्लैक मार्केटिंग के लिए प्रिवेंशन एक्ट आपने बनाया। मैं समझता हूँ कि एक्ट बना, लेकिन इस पर रिएक्शन नहीं होता, एक्ट पर कोई एक्ट नहीं होता और यही वजह है कि हमारे यहाँ ब्लैक मार्केटिंग दिन पर दिन बढ़ती जा रही है और उसमें किसी तरह की कोई रूकावट नहीं है। मेरे से पहले भी सदस्यों ने कहा कि हमारे देश में जो एफसीआई के गोदाम हैं, वे नाकाफी हैं, आपके द्वारा खरीदा गया अनाज आसमान के नीचे सड़ जाता है, उसको सही जगह तक नहीं पहुँचाया जाता है, उसको सही लोगों तक नहीं पहुँचाया जाता है। आपके यहाँ से हर साल आंकड़े आते हैं, लेकिन उन पर कोई अमल नहीं किया जाता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री आते हैं, जाते हैं, बनते हैं और पिछले 62 साल में बहुत से मंत्री बने होंगे, एक्ट बनाए जाते हैं, दोबारा एक्ट लाया जाता है, लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी को कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज सबसे सख्त जरूरत इस बात की है कि इस देश में जो बाबू लोग हैं, जिन लोगों के जरिए डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन से अनाज को गांव तक पहुँचाने की जिम्मेदारी है, जो सरकार के नौकर हैं, जो सरकार से तनख्वाह लेते हैं, उनके खिलाफ आपकी तरफ से क्या कार्यवाही की जाती है, क्या कदम उठाए जाते हैं कि वे लोगों तक, गांव तक अनाज को पहुँचाएं, लेकिन हम लोग मंत्री जी को दोष दे देते हैं। मैं जानता हूँ कि इस सरकार में आपसे सक्षम मंत्री कोई और नहीं है, आप जैसा अनुभवी कोई नहीं है, आप प्रदेश के मुखिया रहे हैं, आपने इस देश की डिफेंस को देखा है, आप दोबारा कृषि मंत्री बने हैं, आपकी तरफ पूरा देश देख रहा है। इस समय देश के

गांव-गांव में महंगाई की आग लगी हुई है। आप जानते हैं, आपने मुम्बई शहर को नजदीक से देखा है, वहां पर करीब-करीब 80 लाख लोग गांव से इसलिए आते हैं कि वे दो-तीन हजार रुपये महीने कमाई करके कुछ पैसे बचाकर अपने परिवार के लिए गांव में भेज देंगे, लेकिन आज स्थिति बहुत खराब है। चाहे दिल्ली शहर हो, चाहे मुम्बई शहर हो, चाहे मेट्रो शहर हों, इनमें गांव से लोग मजदूरी करने के लिए आते हैं, छोटे-छोटे काम करने आते हैं, लेकिन उनकी आज यह स्थिति है कि वे अपने लिए खाने का और रहने का इंतजाम ठीक तरह से नहीं कर सकते हैं, गांव में परिवार के लिए पैसा बचाकर भेजना तो दूर की बात है।

उपसभाध्याक्ष महोदय, यहां पर सदस्यों ने खाद्य पदार्थों में मिलावट की बात भी कही है, मैं उनकी बात से सहमत हूं। हम दिल्ली शहर में हैं, दिल्ली इस देश की राजधानी है, इसके अगल-बगल में यू.पी. है, हरियाणा है, वहां पर कितने हजारों किंटल टन नकली दूध पकड़ा जाता है, नकली दवाइयां पकड़ी जा रही हैं, सब्जियों में मिलावट पकड़ी जा रही है, लेकिन उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं होती है। सिर्फ एक्ट बना दिया गया है, मिलावट करने वालों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती है। मैं समझता हूं कि यह हमारी कमजोरी है। हम लोग कह तो देते हैं, बहस तो कर लेते हैं, लेकिन जब उसको अमलीजामा पहनाने की बात आती है, तो उसको अमलीजामा नहीं पहनाते हैं। मैं इस बात को फिर दोहराना चाहता हूं कि आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि सरकार बाबू लोगों पर कड़ाई करे, क्योंकि करने वाले वे लोग हैं और भ्रष्टाचार वहां ज्यादा है। नेताओं के लिए कहा जाता है कि ये लोग भ्रष्ट हैं, लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि नेताओं से ज्यादा बाबू लोग भ्रष्ट हैं, इसलिए उन पर कड़ी निगरानी रखने की जरूरत है। यहां पर वरिष्ठ MP बोल रहे थे और शुक्ल जी कह रहे थे कि इस बार मंत्री जी ने सुझाव दिया था, सुबोध कांत सहाय जी ने सुझाव दिया कि आप corporate लोगों को दे दो। यहां शुक्ल जी मौजूद नहीं हैं, लेकिन मैं इस सदन में यह कहना चाहता हूं कि corporate की बात क्यों करते हो, क्या इस देश के किसानों को corporate का गुलाम बनाना चाहते हो? जितने भी इस देश के corporate हैं, आज वे अपने हर काम पर जाल बिछाए हुए हैं और यह उन्हीं की देन है, जो इस बार IPL में पांच लाख करोड़ की हेराफेरी हुई है। मुझे यह कहने में कोई संकोच नहीं है कि...(व्यवधान)... महोदय, अभी दो मिनट बाकी हैं और मैं अपने समय पर खत्म कर दूंगा। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि एक्ट चाहे जितने भी बनें, लेकिन एक्ट पर एक्शन होना चाहिए। उसको अमलीजामा पहनाने की जरूरत है, चाहे हम जितने भी एक्ट बना लें।

सर, मैं आपको एक छोटे जिले का उदाहरण देता हूं। जब मैं आपके मंत्रालय के एक छोटे व्यक्ति को फोन करता हूं कि आपके इस प्रखंड में गोदाम नहीं हैं। वह कहता है, हैलो। जी, हां बोलिए। मैंने कहा कि मैं साबिर अली, Member of Parliament बोल रहा हूं। हां, बोलिए। मैं कहता हूं कि भैया आपके इस-इस प्रखंड में अभी तक गोदाम नहीं बने हैं। वह बोलता है कि मैं कुछ नहीं कर सकता हूं और फोन ठप्प करके रख देता है। जो आपके आफिसर लोग हैं, उनका यह रिएक्शन है। उनकी इस तानाशाही को तोड़ने की जरूरत है और उनके ऊपर कड़ी निगरानी रखने की जरूरत है। मैं जानता हूं कि जहां से आप चुनकर आते हैं, वह शहर इस देश का नमूना शहर हो सकता है। आप बारामती से आते हैं। आप अपने प्रदेश को इतनी उन्नति पर लेकर गए हैं, जो आपके एक्सपीरिएंस हैं, उनको दूसरे शहरों में भी इम्प्लीमेंट करने की कोशिश कीजिए, ताकि हमारे बिहार जैसा प्रदेश, उड़ीसा जैसा प्रदेश और बंगाल जैसा प्रदेश भी तरक्की के रास्ते पर आए। मैं समझता हूं कि जो आपका एक्सपीरिएंस है, इस देश को उसका जरूर फायदा मिलेगा, इसी के साथ मैं अपनी बात को खत्म करता हूं। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Discussion is over. The hon. Minister will reply on Monday. Now, Message from the Lok Sabha.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA—*Contd.*

The National Green Tribunal Bill, 2010

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.

In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2010, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th April, 2010.

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday the 3rd May, 2010.

The House then adjourned at fifty-eight minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 3rd May 2010.